

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT 17
130 N. Hall Street – Valentine, NE 69201
January 11, 2023

Present in person: Roxie Lindquist, Bruce Ferguson, Mark Ormesher, Jan Knispel, Jean Pinney, Geraldine Erickson and Jan Foster.

Present via zoom: Lisa Chohon and Jeff McQuistan.

Absent: Jody Dexter and Gerry Carr.

Administrator Geraldine Erickson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The posting of the Open Meetings Act was acknowledged. The meeting notice was published on the ESU 17 website and on the front doors of ESU 17, Ainsworth Community Schools, Cody-Kilgore Unified School, Keya Paha County Schools, Rock County Public Schools, Valentine Community Schools and published in the Ainsworth Star Journal, Rock County Leader, Springview Herald and Valentine Midland News.

1. Jan Knispel made a motion to retain the slate of officers from 2022 as follows: President, Roxie Lindquist; Vice President, Jean Pinney and Secretary, Mark Ormesher. Lisa Chohon seconded the motion. Lisa Chohon made a motion that nominations cease. Roll call vote was unanimous. Absent: Jody Dexter and Gerry Carr.
2. A motion to approve the appointment of Bruce Ferguson to fill the vacancy of Election District #1 was made by Jean Pinney. Jan Knispel seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous. Absent: Jody Dexter and Gerry Carr.
3. Mark Ormesher made a motion with a second from Bruce Ferguson to approve the agenda as printed. Roll call vote was unanimous. Absent: Jody Dexter and Gerry Carr.
4. A motion to excuse the absences of board members Jody Dexter and Gerry Carr was made by Jan Knispel. Jean Pinney seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous. Absent: Jody Dexter and Gerry Carr.
5. Mark Ormesher made a motion with a second from Jan Knispel to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2022 and December 13, 2022 meetings. Roll call vote was unanimous. Absent: Jody Dexter and Gerry Carr.
6. A motion to approve the financial statements ending November 30, 2022 and December 31, 2022 with balances of \$1,599,480.01 and \$1,780,866.52 respectively was made by Jean Pinney. Mark Ormesher seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous. Absent: Jody Dexter and Gerry Carr.
7. The listings of bills and claims for December 2022 and January 2023 were reviewed. Jean Pinney made a motion with a second from Mark Ormesher to approve payment of claims totaling \$731,990.71. Roll call vote was unanimous. Absent: Jody Dexter and Gerry Carr.
8. Jeff McQuistan joined the meeting via zoom at 10:19 a.m. Jeff shared the 2022 external visit findings. The external review committee highlighted 5 commendations and 2 recommendations. Board members who participated felt well prepared and thought the external team members were appreciative of their comments. Jeff thanked the board members for their participation in the process.
9. The ESU 17 negotiations team shared the ESU 17 staff proposal.

10. Serving on the facilities committee for 2023 will be Mark Ormesher, Jean Pinney, Jody Dexter and Gerry Carr. Serving on the negotiations committee will be Jan Knispel, Bruce Ferguson, Roxie Lindquist and Lisa Chohon.
11. The board members discussed the administrator contract.
12. Geraldine discussed current vacation day payout protocol for the administrator and classified staff. She attended the Legislative Day in Lincoln on December 1. The Nebraska Legislature has convened and committee chairs have been elected. Geraldine attended the ESUCC meeting in Kearney on January 9 & 10. The Commissioner of Education position may not be filled until June. Sue Haskell has been filling in for ESU 17 staff members taking maternity leave. Geraldine will be leading an external review team at the Kimball schools in February. She asked for guidance on negotiations for non-certificated staff.
13. The Board discussed the 2023-2024 administrator contract agreeing to a 4.43% total package increase. Future contracts for the administrator and classified staff will be amended to read that upon separation, staff will be paid for unused vacation days at a rate of \$50 per day up to \$2000.00.
14. The Code of Ethics was signed by board members.
15. Geraldine reviewed the audit report.
16. Jan Knispel made a motion to approve the 2023-2024 ESU 17 calendar. Jean Pinney seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous. Absent: Jody Dexter and Gerry Carr.
17. A motion to approve payment of bills and claims in February in the absence or delay of a meeting was made by Lisa Chohon and seconded by Mark Ormesher. Roll call vote was unanimous. Absent: Jody Dexter and Gerry Carr.
18. Jan Knispel made a motion to approve the negotiated settlement with the local association which includes a 4.43% total package increase, adding a MA+27 column to the salary schedule and decreasing the additional compensation for school psychologists from 35% to 30.5%. The base salary for 2023-2024 will increase from \$34,000.00 to \$34,400.00. Bruce Ferguson seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous. Absent: Jody Dexter and Gerry Carr.
19. A motion to appoint Jeff McQuistan as Non-Discrimination Compliance Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator was made by Jean Pinney. Mark Ormesher seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous.
20. Mark Ormesher made a motion with a second from Bruce Ferguson to accept the 2021-2022 audit report from Romans, Weimer and Associates. Roll call vote was unanimous. Absent: Jody Dexter and Gerry Carr.
21. The next meeting will be held on February 14, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Ainsworth administrative office and via zoom.
22. Jean Pinney made a motion to adjourn at 11:43 a.m.

Secretary

