

BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT NO. 13 (ESU 13)

Tuesday - March 16, 2021

Location - ESU 13 Main Office, 4215 Avenue I, Scottsbluff, NE

In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order No. 21-02 (Coronavirus - Continued Limited Waiver of Public Meetings Requirements), some members of the Board will be participating in the meeting by Zoom connection.

Regular Meeting - 7:00 PM

A. Call to Order

1. Meeting is governed by the Nebraska Open Meetings Act as posted.
2. The ESU 13 Board reserves the right to rearrange the order of the agenda.
3. The ESU 13 Board reserves the right to convene an executive session in accordance with § 84-1410.

B. Excuse Absent Board Member(s) (Motion Necessary for Approval)

C. Approval of Agenda (Motion Necessary for Approval)

Consent Action Items (Motion Necessary for Approval)

- Minutes of Meeting (February regular meeting, March 8th special meeting)
- Treasurer's Report
- Fund Balance
- Budget Report
- Claims for Disbursement
- Approval of attendance for educational workshops, conferences, training programs, official functions, hearings, or meetings

Calendar

- **March 19, 2021** - Staff In-service
- **March 26, 2021** - Offices closed
- **April 7, 2021** - Budget & Finance Workshop, Gering Civic Center - 5:00 PM
- **April 12, 2021** - NASB Legislative Lunch - 12:00 PM (CST), Virtual
- **April 16, 2021** - Meridian Spring Fling, 6:00-10:00 PM (dancing and movie)
No prom this year.
- **April 20, 2021** - Regular Board Meeting and Ribbon Cutting in Sidney
 - 3:30 PM - Ribbon Cutting and Open House
 - 5:00 PM - Dinner
 - 5:30 PM - Board Meeting
- **April 28, 2021** - ESU 13 Administrative Advisory Council Meeting; 11:30 AM -2:00 PM (lunch provided)
- **April 28, 2021** - Panhandle Beginnings Ribbon Cutting and Open House; 3:00-4:30 PM

Public Forum:

- Time limit for each person is three (3) minutes; no response or action taken by the Board.

Reports

- Strategic Plan Goal #5 Update - Nici Johnson and Donna Jenne
- Head Start Director's Report and Policy Council Report for February (uploaded to the Board Material webpage)
- Administrator's Report (Appendix A)
- Board Member Comments

D. Old Business - None

E. New Business

1. Interim Administrator

After several meetings and exploring options, the Personnel Committee is recommending to the Board the appointment of Dr. Laura Barrett as Interim Administrator for ESU 13 effective July 1, 2021, and to allow the President of the Board to negotiate a contract for such period of time of July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022.

Recommendation: Move to approve the Personnel Committee's recommendation to appoint Dr. Laura Barrett as ESU 13's Interim Administrator for the period of July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022, and to allow the Board President to negotiate the contract for said period of time.

2. Revision and Updated Head Start Policies and Procedures

As per the Performance Standards, we need Board approval of revised Policy and Procedures. The revised Fiscal Written Plans have been uploaded to the Board Materials webpage. Policy Council approved these items at their meeting on February 23, 2021.

Recommendation: Move to approve the revised Head Start Fiscal Written Plans.

3. Certified Employee Contract

We have offered a 2021-2022 certified employee contract to Deirdre Amundsen as a Professional Learning Coordinator. Deirdre earned her MS in Education degree from Chadron State College. Since June of 2015, she has been employed as the Principal at Community Christian School in Scottsbluff. Prior to this role, she was a teacher at Westmoor Elementary School.

Recommendation: Move to approve the certified employee contract with Deirdre Amundsen.

4. Certified Director Contract

We have offered a certified Director contract to Tom Peacock for 2021-2022 as the Director of Alternative Education. Mr. Peacock is currently the Junior-Senior High School Principal at Morrill Public Schools and has been in that role since August 2015. He earned his MS in School Administration from Chadron State College.

Recommendation: Move to approve the certified Director Contract for Tom Peacock.

5. Certified Employee Resignation

Stephanie Reynaga, Head Start Early Childhood Teacher, submitted her resignation effective at the end of this school year.

Recommendation: Move to accept the resignation of Stephanie Reynaga, certified Head Start teacher.

6. Sale of Former Sidney Property

Bid responses for the sale of the former ESU 13 Sidney building, address being 1114 Toledo Street, Sidney, Nebraska, were reviewed on Thursday, March 11 at 2:05 PM at the ESU 13 Main Office, 4215 Avenue I, Scottsbluff, Nebraska. The minimum bid was set by the Board at \$65,000. The highest bidder was Chad Hrbek in the amount of \$105,000.00.

Recommendation: Move to accept the bid from Chad Hrbek for the sale of the former ESU 13 Sidney building, address being 1114 Toledo Street, Sidney, Nebraska, in the amount of \$105,000.00. Purchase Agreement will be prepared for Board approval at the April meeting.

F. Approval of Minutes (Motion necessary for Approval)

G. Adjournment

Appendix A

Administrator Notes March 2021

2019-2020 Audit Report

Desira mailed the final audit report to all Board members.

Search for New Auditor

Jessica Dailey, our auditor from KSO CPAs + Advisors called and informed me that they would not be able to continue doing our audits in the future. Jodi and Desira are in the process of gathering names of auditors from other ESUs and will be sending out requests for bids. The list of auditors has been uploaded to the Board Material webpage for your review. If you have any other companies you think would be interested in doing our audit, please let Jodi or Desira know.

HVAC and Computer Lab Project Update

Anderson & Shaw Construction has provided the following startup construction schedule, please keep in mind that the schedule is subject to change.

- May 3 – Construction work will begin in the Computer Lab and Conference Room D
- May 17 – Construction work will begin in Conference Rooms B/C
- June 1 – Construction work will begin in the Learning Library and Foyer

** Early access to spaces has been provided to accommodate a projected completion date of August 1.

May and June Board Meetings

As a result of the HVAC and Computer Lab project, we will need to move our May and June Board Meetings to the Harms Center. If the Board chooses to meet in July, this meeting would also need to be moved.

VALTS Update

At the VALTS Board Meeting on March 9th, an update was provided regarding potential changes to the allocation of educational slots for the 2021-2022 school year. All changes are subject to the approval of the VALTS Board of Education.

- Bridgeport has verbally committed to add one slot.
- Creek Valley has verbally committed to acquire two slots.

Community Engagement and Marketing Specialist

JaLee Pilkington submitted her resignation on March 3rd. She was approached by her former employer and received the “offer of a lifetime” as a VIP Relations Specialist for the Western Region of the U.S. The process to find a replacement has begun.

Temporary Special Rules for Health and Dependent Care FSAs in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA)

Regional Care, Inc. (RCI) handles our Flexible Spending Account. Recently, RCI sent voluntary rules for plan sponsors that will benefit participants with unused FSA funds. These include

carryover for plan years ending in 2020 or 2021, Grace Period, Dependent Age, Elections, and Amendments. Barring any objections from the Board, ESU 13 intends to participate in this temporary benefit for our employees. A copy of these Special Rules have been uploaded to the Board Materials webpage.

International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)

Craig Hicks and Lori Biesecker were approached by Andrew Easton, BlendEd Coach for ESUCC, to apply for a K-12 STEM Education collaboration between ISTE and General Motors (GM) to promote artificial intelligence (AI) explorations and their practical use in school environments. On March 1st, they found out that they were accepted to participate in the team consisting of staff members from ESU 5, ESU 4 and ESUCC.

Harms Center Cameras

WNCC contacted me on March 11th. They are putting together an RFP for new cameras in the Harms Center. I was asked if they included the ESU 13 side of the building as an alternate if we would be willing to pay for the cameras. My response was that we would be interested in cameras for our side of the building; however, we would like input on the placement and an opportunity to review the costs.