

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT 17
207 N. Main St. – Ainsworth, NE 69210
November 13, 2023

Present: Jody Dexter, Jan Knispel, Jean Pinney, Mark Ormesher, Gerry Carr, Lisa Chohon, Bruce Ferguson, Roxie Lindquist, Geraldine Erickson, Jan Foster, and Marit Kaiser

President Roxie Lindquist 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 Schools, 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. Lisa Chohon made a motion with a second from Jan Knispel to approve the agenda as printed. Roll call vote was unanimous.
2. Jody Decter made a motion with a second from Jean Pinney to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2023, meeting. Roll call vote was unanimous.
3. Mark Ormesher made a motion with a second from Gerry Carr to approve the October 31, 2023, financial report with an ending balance of \$1,757,275.64. Roll call vote was unanimous.
4. The listing of bills and claims was reviewed. Gerry Carr made a motion with a second from Bruce Ferguson to approve payment of claims totaling \$435,709.12. Roll call vote was unanimous.
5. Becky LeZotte spoke about her job duties and employment progression at ESU 17. She began as SPED secretary 16 years ago and then moved to a position in the media department. She currently works in technology support with a focus at Rock County and Keya Paha schools. Additional duties include management of Adobe licensing and other software, online testing, and cyber security. She works closely with Ben as needed and will be responsible for the E-rate program along with Dawn Pierce.
6. Geraldine led a discussion regarding the administrative report. BCBS rates will increase 1.99% for 2024-25. The negotiations committee met prior to this meeting and discussed increasing the base pay to \$35,600 as well as covering the insurance increase. The committee is suggesting the board approve this increase. The results of the administrator staff survey were included in the board packet. The 2024 Legislative session and topics were discussed. Andrew Boell has been hired to manage/direct a federal cybersecurity grant. Two other positions may be added to help with the approved grant. Funding has not yet been received, despite grant approval. The Alicap cybersecurity questionnaire was re-sent last week after changes were made. We are waiting to see if we will be approved for cybersecurity coverage. Andy Boell will attend the Superintendents' meeting in November to discuss cybersecurity.

7. Jean Pinney made a motion to approve the negotiations agreement with a second from Jan Knispel. Roll call vote was unanimous.
8. Jody Dexter made a motion to approve and pay the bills and claims in the absence or delay of a December meeting with a second from Mark Ormesher. Roll call vote was unanimous.
9. Jody Dexter made a motion to approve and pay the bills and claims in the absence or delay of a meeting in January with a second from Gerry Carr. Roll call vote was unanimous.
10. Lisa Chohon made a motion to approve the contract and hire Andrew Boell with a second from Bruce Ferguson. Roll call vote was unanimous.
11. Lisa Chohon made a motion to approve revisions to Article V of the policy with a second from Gerry Carr. Roll call vote was unanimous.
12. Jan Knispel made a motion to have the next board meeting in Valentine on January 10, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. with a Zoom option. This motion was seconded by Mark Ormesher. Roll call vote was unanimous.
13. Jean Pinney made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

Secretary