

Christian Region of
Mid-State Special Education
Executive Committee Special Meeting
January 4, 2019
Morrisonville, IL 62546

Mr. Fred Lamkey, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. at the Mid-State Special Education Office, 202 Prairie, Morrisonville, Illinois.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Jason Bauer, Pana; Dr. Scott Doerr, Nokomis; Mr. Ron Graham; Dr. Gregory Fuerstenau, Taylorville; Mr. Fred Lamkey, Edinburg; Mr. Dave Meister, Morrisonville

PRESENTATION OF PROXIES:

None

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ms. Angela Armour, Director; Ms. Lyn Becker, Administrator of Special Education Services; Ms. Michelle Rexroad, Business Manager; Ms. Diane Wilham, CREATE; Ms. Shera Hunt, Secretary

Recognition of Visitors: Dr. Jennifer Garrison, Vandalia; Mr. Aaron Hopper, Panhandle; Mr. David Powell, Hillsboro

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion made by Mr. Meister and seconded by Mr. Graham to approve changing the order of New Business by moving item B before item A, carried by a roll call vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays.

Ms. Armour asked Mr. Hopper, Chair of the Finance Committee to lead the discussion of reviewing the documentation that the Finance Committee has been working on. Mr. Hopper reported that there was a meeting held on December 6th and discussion occurred regarding whether percent of IDEA generated should be continued as the determining mechanism for the assessments for Mid-State. The Finance Committee also reviewed projections using Special Education Child Count and District Total Enrollment, as possible assessment options, with concern being noted as the increases or decreases for districts were significant. Mr. Hopper reported that when the Committee met on December 19th, after reviewing the possibility of using the Special Education Child Count or the Total District Enrollment Count as a whole, other methods were discussed and determined. The Committee's focus is to update the assessment method so that it is more equitable taking into account the differences in services that decentralized districts and centralized districts receive from Mid-State. The Committee reviewed information prepared by Ms. Armour, discussed and reached consensus looking at categories of employees and services that assigns an equitable assessment method to each. For many categories of employees, they would be in a pool by discipline and then divided out by the percent of the time that they are assigned within a district in order

to provide a more accurate cost or for some categories divided by District Total Enrollment for districts using the service. Some categories of staff are split 85/15% or 15/85%, based upon the current percentage of MSSE Central versus total MSSE and Region employees, due to the fact some provide more service to all districts while others provide more service to the non-decentralized districts. Mr. Hopper explained that they will be looking further into how to cost out a couple of categories including the legal expenses. Mr. Hopper then referred to option 4 on the spreadsheet which shows the financial assessment proration using the previously discussed methods for all 16 districts using FY19 costs. Mr. Hopper reminded others that IDEA will be going back to the districts in FY20 while explaining how currently there is considerable offset. In review of the projections, he noted that there are districts that fare better in option 4 and some that fare better under option 2 or 3. Mr. Hopper stated that three of the four on the Finance Committee will pay more under option 4, but the Committee believes this option is most equitable so it will be recommended at the January 16, 2019 MSSE board meeting.

Dr. Doerr asked for clarification if his district would still have to pay into the pooled costs if they were to hire their own program coordinator, social worker and psychologist. It was explained that his district would not pay into the pool.

Dr. Doerr had questions regarding the FACeS and CBI programs which are currently housed at Taylorville. Dr. Doerr asked if decentralization occurs, will Taylorville or Mid-State own those programs and who can access them. Ms. Armour referred to one example of the Bond/Fayette Region when they went through the decentralization progress; she stated that Vandalia is the owner of those programs. Dr. Garrison gave a brief explanation on how the programs work in the Vandalia District.

Ms. Armour moved onto the next agenda item of reorganization, including the dissolution of, the Christian Region Joint Agreement. Ms. Armour provided a copy of the Christian Region Joint Agreement and a timeline referring to the Region Joint Agreement that states that there will need to be an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Member Districts and subsequently ratified by a majority vote of the entire membership of the Governing Board after providing a one year notice related to dissolving the Region. Ms. Armour stated that her perception is that districts are ready to make the change to one organization and move forward with a July 1, 2019 date. In order to use an effective date earlier than a year from now, all of the member districts in a Region will need to vote to approve waiving the one year timeline at their Region Board meeting. Discussion occurred amongst the board regarding the benefits of maintaining or dissolving Christian Region. Ms. Armour referred to the timeline that was distributed noting that if all member districts agree to waive the one year timeline the next step would be for one region member district to present a resolution to the Region President proposing to voluntarily dissolve the Region. Then, notice to and action by each local school board would occur.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

ACTION OF BUSINESS ITEMS:

A motion made by Dr. Doerr and seconded by Dr. Fuerstenau to recommend approving waiving the one year requirement to dissolve Christian Region as in the Joint Agreement, carried a roll call vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays.

DISCUSSION:

The next Christian Region Board meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2019 at 9:15 a.m. at the Mid-State Special Education office in Morrisonville.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn at 2:47 p.m.: by Mr. Bauer, Pana; second, Mr. Graham, South Fork. Voice vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Shera Hunt, Recording Secretary

Chairperson

Date

Secretary

Date