

MID-STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Regular Board Meeting
Official Minutes
February 21, 2018

PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

The regular meeting of the Mid-State Special Education Executive Committee was called to order by Chairman Mr. Fred Lamkey at 10:09 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Fred Lamkey, Edinburg; Mr. Ron Graham, South Fork; Dr. Scott Doerr, Nokomis; Mr. Jason Bauer, Pana; Mr. Brad Turner, Mulberry Grove; Mr. Mike Shackelford, Brownstown; Mr. David Powell, Hillsboro; Dr. Becky Schuchman, Carlinville; Mr. Dave Meister, Morrisonville; Dr. Wes Olson, Bond County; Ms. Melissa Ritter, Ramsey; Ms. Julie Healy, St. Elmo

OTHERS PRESENT

Mrs. Angela Armour, Director; Mrs. Lyn Becker, Administrator of Special Education Services; Mrs. Brandy Buske, Administrator of Special Education Services; Mrs. Michelle Rexroad, Business Manager; Mrs. Vickie Throne, Executive Secretary

Recognition of Visitors: Dr. Laura Mann and Ms. Barb Daugherty, Menta Group Representatives

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Nick Casey, Vandalia; Dr. Gregg Fuerstenau, Taylorville; Mr. Aaron Hopper, Panhandle; Ms. Debbie Poffinbarger, Litchfield

CONSENT AGENDA

The Balance Sheet for January 31, 2018 as well as the FY18 Receipts versus Expenditures Report reflects the January 31st fund balance of \$1,743,578.82 which included Revenue of \$334,232.30 and expenditures totaling \$654,434.68. The projected February expenses are \$807,787.94 and the projected revenue is \$314,669.86 resulting in a projected February 28th fund balance of \$1,250,460.74.

The payables list for February was provided for review. MSSE Central total \$588,676.21, Bond/Fayette Region total \$4,801.02, Christian Region total \$1,078.21 and MC/C Region total \$5,708.19 with notable expenses indicated.

The Regular Session Minutes of the January 17, 2018 meeting, the destruction of executive session audio recordings older than 18 months, the financial report and approval of payables were presented for approval.

A motion made by Mr. Graham and seconded by Dr. Olson to approve the Consent Agenda, carried by a roll call vote of 12 yeas, 0 nays.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Laura Mann and Ms. Barb Daugherty provided updates regarding Cornerstone programming at Nokomis and Taylorville. Ms. Daugherty provided each district with their individual data along with a description of their students and the program that they are currently enrolled in. Ms. Daugherty reported that a big bonus for the students is that at Cornerstone they are incorporating both English and reading in all of the classes as well as social emotional curriculum throughout the day. Ms. Daugherty invited the Superintends to join any of the activities at Cornerstone that are listed in the packet. Dr. Mann reported that judging at the Iron Chef competition is always a popular activity. Ms. Daugherty covered a few of the many activities that they students are participating in, Science Fair experiments, students are filming a

commercial and a group students created advertisements for the entrepreneur fair this year. Each year they take a handful of students to the State Capitol to meet with legislators and this is an for an overnight trip for the students. The students are able to explain the types of services they are receiving and explain the importance of this programming. The culinary students did get to meet with Governor Rauner this year and get their picture taken with him.

Ms. Daugherty reported that PBIS is embedded in everything they do throughout their day. Mr. Lamkey asked what type of ongoing professional development is provided to staff to help with the PBIS. Ms. Daugherty explained that Dr. Martin who is very knowledgeable in PBIS comes to Nokomis to provide onsite training to staff. She is on site at least once a week if not twice a week. If they see a spike in the behavior Dr. Martin will come in and provide one on one training with staff members as needed and review student the data. Dr. Mann explained that Dr. Martin attends all Regional meetings and attends the State Conference. Ms. Daugherty explained that Cornerstone became AdvancED. accredited. Dr. Mann explained that they applied at the educational level which means that all sites and were visited in our local area, Chicago area and Arizona and they were able to receive the accreditation which is really exciting.

Ms. Daugherty reported that Robin created an individual spreadsheet summary for all districts that have students at Cornerstone in Nokomis. This spreadsheet outlined the different curriculum that they have established in their program and shows that most students are increasing in their reading and math skills. The spreadsheet also lists the academic programs as well as the transition programs. They have descriptions of how the student will reintegrate back to the school setting or if they are on track to graduate. Mrs. Armour thanked Ms. Daugherty and Dr. Mann for attending and providing the detailed information.

Dr. Doerr reported that there is potential legislation being talked about that would cut the reimbursement districts receive for Private Facility students. At this time, our districts are reimbursed at a prorated amount of the cost that is over two times per cap. There is a group of people that run a special education public school up North that is trying to have the reimbursement changes made. At this time this particular group receives reimbursement that is over four times per cap. They want to change the funding to one pool of money and everyone would be reimbursed for the amount spent over 3 times per cap. At this time they are not proposing any new dollars to that fund. Dr. Doerr and a group of people will be meeting tomorrow with a facilitator to try and negotiate a possible way to get this bill removed or a way that will keep our districts from losing any funding. The majority of districts will lose money if the bill is passed.

Mrs. Armour reported that Excess Cost was submitted and approved by the deadline for all 16 districts so that the IDEA funds continued to flow. Mrs. Armour asked the board members to share her thanks with their staff in helping us meeting the deadline, and she recognized Shelly Rexroad for her hard work.

Mrs. Armour reported that the December 1st Child Count in the packet is the preliminary count. Mrs. Armour reported that all errors were corrected and students reported by January 31st as instructed by ISBE. ISBE is continuing to check this data through March 9th, so we are continuing to monitor and make sure our data remains error-free through the new March 9th deadline.

Mrs. Armour and Mrs. Becker attended a recruitment event at Eastern Illinois University featuring small and rural schools. There were three special education co-ops and nineteen school districts that attended. Mrs. Armour shared a spreadsheet including the names, graduation year and subject areas of current students that may help assist districts in their recruiting efforts.

Mrs. Armour reminded the board that the Governing Board Meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Armour asked that the board please complete the form with the name of their board member who will be attending.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Armour referenced PRESS Policy Issue 96 as well as additional dated policies that have been reviewed and are being presented for first reading:

- Policy 2:20 Powers and Duties of the Governing Board
- Policy 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure
- Policy 4:10 Fiscal and Business Management
- Policy 4:15 Identity Protection
- Policy 4:110 Transportation
- Policy 4:170 Safety
- Policy 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment
- Policy 5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited
- Policy 5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting
- Policy 5:100 Staff Development Program
- Policy 5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal
- Policy 5:240 Suspension
- Policy 5:290 Employment Termination and Suspensions
- Policy 6:140 Education of Homeless Children
- Policy 6:235 Access to Electronic Networks
- Policy 6:250 Community Resource Persons and Volunteers
- Policy 6:340 Student Testing and Assessment Program
- Policy 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities
- Policy 7:15 Student and Family Privacy Rights
- Policy 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited
- Policy 7:150 Agency and Police Interviews
- Policy 7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment
- Policy 7:190 Student Discipline
- Policy 7:250 Student Support Services
- Policy 7:260 Exemption from Physical Education
- Policy 7:270 Administering Medicines to Students
- Policy 7:340 Student Records

Three current policies refer to decisions about students where member district policies apply. Therefore, Ms. Rhoades recommends removing these policies.

- Policy 7:50 School Admissions
- Policy 7:60 Residence
- Policy 7:70 Attendance and Truancy

A motion made by Mr. Graham and seconded by Dr. Schuchman to approve the First Reading of policy revisions and removals carried by a roll call vote of 12 yeas, 0 nays.

Mrs. Armour referred to the FY18 MSSE Central & Consolidated Budget Amendments and thanked Mrs. Rexroad for all of her hard work. Mrs. Rexroad reported that IDEA expenditures are down by \$30,000.00. Originally we had budgeted a greater expense for a contractual social worker to be paid through purchased services. We are thankful that we found two part-time social workers to help fill the needs this year. State and local expenditures did increase since we received two FY17 personnel payments and the GSA payments which are all flowing to districts. We have a STEP contract and we were paying TRS Federal Projects on a portion of salaries of our transition specialists. We recently received word that the STEP funding is no longer considered a grant and we are now considered a vendor by the State. Therefore, we no longer have to pay the TRS penalty so we were able to lower everyone's assessments. Preschool IDEA expenditures did go up by \$10,000.00 due to an increase in the number of children requiring OT and PT services. The projected revenue balance for the end of the year will be up \$30,000.00 which is right on track for where we should be. Mrs. Rexroad reported that she hopes to be able to give everyone a check at the end of the year once we have completed the end of the year cost billing. Mr. Lamkey pointed out that Shelly has five budgets that she has to complete and let her know

how much they appreciate the work she does. Mr. Lamkey added that with the possibility of a re-organization, we should look at a way to streamline the number of budgets that have to be completed.

A motion made by Mr. Turner and seconded by Mr. Powell to approve the FY18 Amended Budget carried by a roll call vote of 12 yeas, 0 nays.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ACTION ON BUSINESS ITEMS

DISCUSSION

Mrs. Armour recommended approving the resignation for Samantha Wiegand, school psychologist in Nokomis, Morrisonville, and Panhandle effective at the end of the 2017-18 school year.

A motion made by Mr. Graham and seconded by Ms. Ritter to approve the resignation of Samantha Wiegand, school psychologist at the end of the 2017-18 school year carried by a roll call vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays.

Dr. Doerr provided an update regarding the withdrawal of Taylorville, Nokomis and possibly Pana. Dr. Doerr reported that Taylorville has indicated they are ready to withdraw. Dr. Doerr had discussion with his board last night as he finished his financial analysis of a potential withdraw. He reported that it is positive for Nokomis to do a complete withdraw, and they will be looking at this within the next month and a half as there are several steps that have to be taken for this to happen. The Nokomis board is 90 to 95% in favor of the withdrawal. Mr. Lamkey asked if they have a date in mind for notification to Mid-State. Dr. Doerr said that it would be June or July when they would notify Mid-State. Mr. Lamkey confirmed that by June 30, 2019, Nokomis will be withdrawn prior to the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Lamkey recommended that we put a committee together by this fall so that we have a plan in place for reorganization. Mr. Bauer reported that he and his board are still crunching numbers to see what a complete pull out would look like for Pana. Pana has a board meeting next week, and they will start discussion at that time. Mr. Lamkey stated that Mid-State has been great for many years and this is a process that occurs over time. Mr. Powell asked if Nokomis planned to go on their own or if they plan to do some type of organization with Taylorville. Dr. Doerr said it is looking more like they will have to form a new co-op with Taylorville to get ISBE approval.

Mr. Lamkey asked how many of the districts offered the tuition waiver for non-resident students of teachers. Several districts indicated that they do. Mr. Lamkey reminded them they have to give a one year notice. He also stated that he received a call from Rep. Sue Scherer stating that they voted 7 to 1 to not allow this to continue with Sue voting no. Mr. Lamkey asked for clarification on what they had to vote on, because he just knew he had to notify them. Rep. Pritchard has put this back in to get rid of this. The reason this is happening is because the NEA and NFT never took a stance on this.

The next Executive Committee Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 21, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. at the Mid-State office in Morrisonville. The Governing Board meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Dr. Olson and seconded by Mr. Meister to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Vickie Throne, Executive Secretary

Chairperson

Date

Executive Secretary

Date