

Mid-State Special Education
Montgomery County/Carlinville Region
Region Special Board Meeting
January 4, 2019
OFFICIAL MINUTES

PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

The special meeting of the Mid-State Special Education, Montgomery County/Carlinville Region Board was called to order by Chairman Mr. David Powell, Hillsboro at 1:00 p.m. Present were Mr. Aaron Hopper, Panhandle; Dr. Becky Schuchman, Carlinville; Mr. David Powell, Hillsboro; Mr. John Mullett, Litchfield

OTHERS PRESENT

Mrs. Brandy Buske, Assistant Director; Mrs. Angie Armour, Director; Mrs. Michelle Rexroad, Business Manager; Mrs. Vickie Throne, Secretary

Recognition of Visitors: Dr. Scott Doerr, Nokomis; Dr. Jennifer Garrison, Vandalia

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

NEW BUSINESS

A motion made by Mr. Hopper and seconded by Dr. Schuchman to approve changing the order of New Business by moving item B before item A, carried by a voice vote of 4 yeas, 0 nays.

Mr. Powell asked that everyone review 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 a 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 Mrs. 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. Mr. Powell asked that some changes be made to the spreadsheet to show the outcome on each option instead of having it separated out at the bottom. He stated that there are winners and losers in all of the options and noted that there are some glaring issues that have been uncovered that need to be changed. One of the issues is the legal cost and another one is the behavior specialist. At this time the behavior specialist is an MC/C Region staff member and Bond/Fayette accesses the behavior specialist and is cost billed. He stated that this may need to be moved to MSSE. The biggest concern is how you cost out the time that is spent for in-services and trainings that are not things that are specific to one district. Mr. Powell reported that the question remaining is whether to use IDEA, child count or total student enrollment. Mr. Powell speaking on behalf of the Finance Committee shared that the Committee feels the best option is to use total enrollment when applying to the varying methods presented. Dr. Schuchman asked if there would be a shift to the 85/15 split if districts decentralized. Mr. Powell and Mrs. Armour both agreed that would have an impact on the 85/15 split and referred to how this percentage will change depending on the number of MSSE central staff compared to the total number of employees which included non-decentralized personnel in some districts. Mrs. Armour stated that they are going to set procedures including the timeline for notification from districts if they decide later to decentralize. At this time they are looking at a fall notification for the following school year with an exception for this upcoming year due to the timing of changes. Dr. Schuchman stated that she understands the need for the change and agrees that all districts should be paying for the services they receive.

Mr. Powell moved onto the next agenda item of reorganization, including the dissolution of, the Montgomery/County Carlinville Region of the Mid-State Special Education Joint Agreement. Mrs. Armour provided a copy of the MCC 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. Mrs. 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 MC/C Region. Mrs. 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. Mr. Hopper stated that he believes that communication with staff is the key to a smooth transition.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ACTION ON BUSINESS ITEMS

A motion made by Dr. Schuchman and seconded by Mr. Mullett to recommend approving waiving the one year requirement to dissolve MCC Region as in the Joint Agreement, carried by a roll call vote of 4 yeas, 0 nays.

DISCUSSION

The monthly MC/C Region board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at 9:15 a.m. at the Montgomery County/Carlinville Region office in Morrisonville.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Mr. Mullett and seconded by Mr. Hopper to adjourn the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Vickie Throne, Recording Secretary

Chairperson

Date

Administrative Secretary

Date