

**MID-STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
August 24, 2022
Mid-State Special Education
Morrisonville, Illinois
Minutes**

PROCEDURAL BUSINESS:

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The regular meeting of the Mid-State Special Education Executive Committee was called to order by Chairman, Ms. Melissa Ritter, at 6:49 p.m. with remote participation as allowed during the current public health emergency, current Disaster Declaration, and extended Executive Orders. In-person attendance at this meeting was deemed not practical, prudent, or feasible. In complying with our revised policy related to Open Meetings Act, the Board Secretary completed the following requirements: kept a verbatim record of the complete meeting for no less than 18 months; ensured that any interested member of the public can hear discussion; verified that each Board Member could hear one another; verified the Board Members present and that a quorum was met; conducted all votes by roll call and recorded each Board Member's vote so that it is identified; and reported to the public following the Board's meeting with no physical presence of quorum.

Members Present:

<u>District</u>	<u>Superintendent</u>	<u>Board Representative</u>
Morrisonville		
Edinburg	Ben Theilen (Remote)	Adam Swinger (Remote)
South Fork		Bob Brandon
Mulberry Grove		Brooke Earnest (Remote)
Bond County		Amy Frey (Remote)
Brownstown		
St. Elmo		
Vandalia		
Ramsey	Melissa Ritter	Katie Hayes
Carlinville	Becky Schuchman (Remote)	Martha Armour (Remote)
Panhandle	Aaron Hopper (Remote)	Terri Payne
Hillsboro		
Litchfield		

Others Present:

Angela Armour, Director
Lyn Becker, Assistant Director
Liz Holcomb, Business Manager
Vickie Throne, Executive Secretary

Presentation of Proxies:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Presented for review and approval:

- Official Designation of Officers
 - Governing Board President – Ms. Hayes, Ramsey CUSD #204 Board of Education

- Governing Board Vice-President – Bob Brandon, South Fork CUSD #14 Board of Education
 - Governing Board Secretary – Ms. Throne, Mid-State Executive Secretary
 - Governing Board Treasurer – Ms. Armour, Mid-State Director
 - Executive Committee Chairperson – Ms. Melissa Ritter, Ramsey
 - Executive Committee Vice-Chairperson – Mr. Clark, South Fork
 - Finance Committee: Dr. Schuchman, Carlinville; Ms. Bowman, Mulberry Grove, Mr. Hopper, Panhandle Ms. Ritter, Ramsey; Mr. Clark, South Fork
 - Personnel/Search Committee: Dr. Schuchman, Carlinville; Ms. Ritter, Ramsey; Mr. Portz, St. Elmo; Mr. Clark, South Fork; Dr. Garrison, Vandalia
 - Policy Committee: Mr. Theilen, Edinburg; Ms. Ritter, Ramsey
 - Grounds & Facilities Committee: Mr. Shackelford, Brownstown; Mr. Theilen, Edinburg; Mr. Powell, Hillsboro; Dr. Fuerstenau, Litchfield; Mr. Hopper, Panhandle
- Minutes from August 26, 2020 MSSE Consolidated Budget Amendment Hearing
 - Minutes from August 26, 2020 Governing Board Meeting
 - Recommendation for destruction of Executive Session audio recordings older than 18 months – none to destroy
 - Annual Delegation of Duties to the Executive Committee
 - Annual Delegation of Duties to the Director of Special Education
 - Annual Approval of Joint Agreement Policies and the Revised Special Education Procedures Assuring the Implementation of comprehensive Programming for Children with Disabilities for MSSE and All Member Districts

A motion made by Ms. Payne, Panhandle and seconded by Ms. Hayes, Ramsey to approve all items on the consent agenda. Roll Call Vote: Swinger, yes; Brandon, yes; Earnest, yes; Frey, yes; Hayes, yes; Armour, yes; Payne, yes. Motion carried 7-0.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION:

Mrs. Armour thanked the board members for attending in person and remotely tonight and serving as their district's board representative on our Governing Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Armour thanked the attendees who are present and attending via Zoom for serving as their district's board representative on our Governing Board.

Mrs. Armour reported that although many responsibilities are delegated to the Executive Committee which is made up of our superintendents who meet monthly or to the director, a few responsibilities legally require action by an elected board at least annually. We appreciate you taking time to represent your school district by being present tonight so that we can hold our required Governing Board meeting and complete the tasks that are required of this body. It's good to see many familiar faces who faithfully participate in these meetings year after year.

Mrs. Armour reported that our organizational purpose is to provide specialized services, programming, therapies, expertise, and supports to our member districts' students, families, and staff. As you well know, across our state and nation, the shortage of educational specialists, teachers, and support personnel is very real. None of us can educate students without these key players. Mrs. Armour is publicly thanked each of MSSE's dedicated returning specialists. We are extremely blessed to be fully staffed

again for this school year which allows us to provide services to help meet the diverse needs of all learners with identified disabilities which number well over 2,000 students in our 13-member districts. And, we have also been successful in providing additional specialists to assist in our mission of serving students with an additional Teacher of the Deaf or Hard of Hearing, a School Social Worker, a Counselor, two Speech-Language Pathologists, and a Registered Behavior Technician who is assisting our Autism and Behavior Specialist in appropriate educational programming for the increasing number of children in need of behavioral supports. In reflecting, Mrs. Armour believes her most important contribution over the years has been in recruiting, mentoring, and retaining quality specialists. We value the expertise of each of our specialists and take good care of them so that they, in turn, are available and have what they need to serve the unique and individual needs of all students.

Mrs. Armour reported that this Governing Board will need to meet a second time this year which is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22nd to employ a new Director for our organization. As Mrs. Armour mentioned last year, she will be retiring in June after serving 32 years with Mid-State. Our Assistant Director, Lyn Becker, will also be retiring in June after serving 20 years with Mid-State. So, the Personnel & Search Committee, which includes five district superintendents, have focused recent discussions in planning for a successful administrative transition to ensure stability for the organization and security for the many specialists we employ. They will post the position September 1st and select the successful candidate this fall with Executive Committee action expected by mid-year, and final approval by the Governing Board in March. So please mark your calendar.

During the upcoming transition and in years to come, it is Mrs. Armour's hope and prayer that our school leaders and member district boards reflect and embrace the simple fact that we are "Stronger Together Supporting All Students" which exemplifies benefits for children, schools, and communities when cooperation and collaboration are priorities.

Finally, Mrs. Armour would now like to recognize Dr. Becky Schuchman with our "Making a Difference" award on behalf of the Governing Board, Executive Committee, and administration. Dr. Schuchman, Superintendent of Carlinville CUSD #1, served as the Chairperson of the Executive Committee during the 2020-21 and the 2021-22 school years. In fact, she realized the learning curve required in this role, volunteered to serve a second year, and established our new two-year rotation for the Chair and Vice-Chair offices. She exudes the spirit of the "stronger together" mentality and continues to work to gain consensus within the board as well as with various stakeholders. Dr. Schuchman is commended for her ongoing leadership, dedication, and support of the organization which has made a difference not only in her district, but also in all of the 13-member districts as we work together and strive to meet the educational needs of all children.

Again, Mrs. Armour thanked Dr. Schuchman for her service as a school board member in your local community, for also serving on the Mid-State Governing Board, and I wish only the best in the school year ahead.

Personnel Action Items and FY23 Consolidated Budget: The following personnel action items that occurred since the September 15, 2021 Governing Board Meeting, were previously approved by the Executive Committee, and were presented for approval.

- Certified (Full-time) – Chris Harms, Speech Pathologist (increase days from 100 to 180 days), Madelynn Williams Kane, Deaf/Hard of Hearing Teacher, Sarah Turner, School Social Worker, Andrea Cartright, Speech Pathologist, Amanda Fritcher, Transition Specialist, Megan Harley, School Social Worker, Chloe Foppe, Deaf/Hard of Hearing Teacher, Breeanna Henson, Speech Pathologist
- Certified Reassignment (Full-Time) – Barb Daugherty, Program Coordinator
- Certified (Part-Time) – Joan Saatkamp, Transition Specialist
- Non-Certified (Full-Time) – Dana White, Registered Behavior Technician
- Certified ESY – Brianna Herschelman, Speech Pathologist

A motion made by Ms. Payne and seconded by Ms. Hayes to approve certified and non-certified personnel action items and the FY23 Consolidated Budget, as presented. Roll Call Vote: Earnest, yes; Frey, yes; Hayes, yes; Swinger, yes; Brandon, yes; Armour, yes; Payne, yes. Motion carried 7-0.

DISCUSSION:

The next Governing Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Mid-State Special Education office in Morrisonville. It is highly anticipated that the March meeting will be held in person.

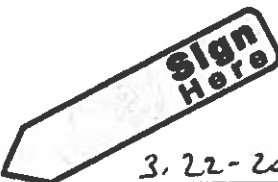
ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Mr. Brandon and seconded by Ms. Payne to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Roll Call Vote: Hayes, yes; Armour, yes; Payne, yes; Swinger, yes; Brandon, yes; Earnest, yes; Frey, yes. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Vickie Throne, Board Secretary

Kate Steyer
Governing Board President


3.22.2023
Date

Vickie Throne
Governing Board Secretary

3.22.2023
Date