

MID-STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Regular Board Meeting
Official Minutes
August 1, 2025

PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

Ms. Melissa Ritter at 9:00 a.m., called the meeting of the Mid-State Special Education Executive Committee to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mulberry Grove: Ms. Casie Bowman; Panhandle: Mr. Aaron Hopper; Brownstown: Mr. David Lund; Hillsboro: Ms. Hope McBrain; Litchfield: Dr. Kelly McClain; Morrisonville: Mr. Patrick Murphy; Bond: Dr. Wes Olson; Ramsey: Ms. Melissa Ritter;

MEMBERS ABSENT

South Fork: Mr. Chris Clark; Edinburg: Ms. Ashley Francis; Vandalia: Dr. Jennifer Garrison; St. Elmo: Mr. Travis Portz; Carlinville: Dr. Becky Schuchman

OTHERS PRESENT

Ms. Bobbi Fisher, Director; Ms. Liz Holcomb, Business Manager; Ms. Ingrid Watkins, Executive Secretary; Ms. Keri Buscher

CONSENT AGENDA

The following were presented as part of the Consent Agenda for approval:

- Approval of Regular Session and Executive Session Minutes from June 4, 2025 Board Meeting.
- Semi-Annual Review of Closed Minutes – February 10, 2025, recommending to open minutes, March 19, 2025, recommending to open minutes.
- The FY25 Balance Sheet and Receipts vs. Expenditures reflects the May expenditures totaled \$486,457.48 and the revenue totaled \$212,404.78. May 30th fund balance totaled \$2,125,408.09. June expenditures totaled \$617,918.10 and the revenue totaled \$167,615.97. The June 30th fund showed a balance of \$1,675,105.96. The July Balance Sheet and Receipts vs. Expenditures reflects the July expenditures totaled \$155,777.42 and the anticipated revenue totaled \$1,095,073.81 (includes first assessment). July 31st fund projected balance totals \$2,307,914.04. MSSE had the last EBF payments, which resulted in two payments during the month of June. MSSE ended the year with the revenue at 99.03% and expended 98.75% of the adopted budget.
- Accounts Payable Review, Approval, and Order for Immediate Payment- June, July, and August payables were pre-approved at the May board meeting. June bills were in the amount of \$143,696.53, July bills totaled \$155,777.42 and the August payables list will be provided at the September meeting. Expenses included a \$4,500 for painting at Thrive, \$7,172.48 was paid to Security Alarm for half of the camera and door camera costs for Thrive, two payments for EBF flow through, routine bills, professional development and several annual expenses including IEP program which totaled \$30,454.32, AED purchase \$4,109 for Thrive and MSSE, CPI certification costs totaled \$4,989.28, Treasurer's Bonds \$1,318, PRESS \$3,657.50, PSIC \$67,477.90, Interactive boards \$6,396 for Thrive, and assessment materials \$7,075.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion made by Ms. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Lund to approve the Consent Agenda. Roll Call Vote: Ms. Bowman, yes; Mr. Hopper, yes; Mr. Lund, yes; Ms. McBrain, yes; Ms. McClain, yes; Mr. Murphy, yes; Dr. Olson, yes; Ms. Ritter, yes; Motion carried 8 yea, 0 nay.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

Mrs. Fisher started the meeting by welcoming Ms. Hope McBrain to the committee as the new superintendent for Hillsboro School District. She then provided an update on the staff for FY2026. The Day School is now fully

staffed. A new speech therapist has been hired. There is still an open Speech Language position for the Litchfield school district. Ms. Fisher is still looking for a full time replacement but she is also looking in to virtual options as needed. Caitlin Gomez has also been hired to replace Barb Daugherty as Program Coordinator for Brownstown, Mulberry Grove, St. Elmo, and Ramsey. Ms. Fisher also provided an update on completed summer task. Grant and Period Reports were completed as well as final tuition cost billing and Youth-in-Care/Private Facility claims. There was an increase in claims compared to the previous year. There has also been preparations for the new school year including calendar, professional development, new employee training, ordering, hiring, plus additional task. There have also been preparations for Thrive MSSE Public Day School that took up most of the summer. Mrs. Fisher noted that for Professional Development the following has been scheduled. DTI, CPI, Brandon Wright with legal, mentoring for teachers and new staff scheduled in August. Jessica Minihan will also provide two trainings virtually to staff this year. The FY2023 Cost Settlement was received for \$367,804 after Embrace's fee was removed. This amount will offset assessments.

Mrs. Fisher provided the following legal updates.

- 226.180 allows a parental request for an IEE to be submitted either to the superintendent or to a "district special education administrator"
- 226.220(a) requires that the copy of the IEP be given "immediately" to the parent unless a later date is agreed upon by the parent and documented in the IEP
- 226.300 was amended related to homebound services in a few ways, including removing the ability of the IEP team to consider the need for home or hospital services, and replacing it with merely determining the "type and amount" of such services. Also, the provision about providing instruction by "telephone or other technological device" was deleted and replaced with a statement that simply states that "instruction may be delivered in-person or via an online platform, as determined by the IEP team"
- 226.330 and 401.20 were amended to require residential placements to convene an IEP meeting to discuss the situation before providing notice of dismissal from the program, except in cases where the health and safety of any student are endangered.
- 226.520 was amended to change the timeline for PWN from 10 calendar days to 10 school days. That means a change in placement, etc. is not effective until 10 school days from the PWN- effectively expanding the time period during which a parent can request due process or mediation to invoke stay put.
- House Bill 2337 is the final version of this bill amends the school code by adding language that permits due process mediation, resolution, or settlement agreements to include, as a condition of settlement, prospective waiver of legal rights or claims if the waiver relates only to the student, if it is related to the claims being settled, and if the waiver is for a reasonable duration.
- SB1231 Independent Education Evaluations previously gave districts 5 calendar days to respond to an IEE (file due process or grant the IEE). This will change that time frame to 7 school days, which will give districts longer to respond, work with the families, or to file due process. This also extends the 30 days to complete the eval to the typical 60 days that we have for other evaluations.
- HB3500 ABLE (achieving a better life experience) information must be given to parents of 504 students. The information must also be added to the school website. The information must include an overview of the program, eligibility criteria, and other necessary enrollment information. We currently give a handout to all parents of IEP students. However, if signed, we will need to review the handout and ensure it meets requirements.
- HB2390 Amends any membership fees, annual fees, up-front fees, or costs of fees assessed by virtue of being a party of a joint agreement- not for use of services- must take into account a district's actual use of services and may not be solely based on population. Also, if a district withdraws, all member districts are entitled to appropriate allocation of assets and liabilities, provided that forfeiture of a member district's tax payer assets intended for its students is prohibited from being required.
- HB1366 Amends school code- schools shall provide written notice that parents have the right to ask for an IEP facilitator. Notice of conference must tell parents they can invite an advocate.

Mrs. Fisher gave a reminder that the Governing Board meeting will be on August 20th and a representative from the school districts is important to meet the required quorum of seven.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation and approval of membership, contracts, and service agreements

- Region III Special Education Cooperative
- Schmedeke Lawn
- Farmers Environmental
- PSIC Renewal
- Ponte Pest formerly Garella Pest
- Aurora University Affiliation Agreement
- Jessica Minihan
- Franczek P.C.
- Golden Apple Agreement

Also presented in new business for approval:

- First Reading of Policy Updates- Press 119
- Approval of Administrative Procedures to add to Press Policy 4:190 to approve the Threat Assessment Procedure (4:190- AP1; AP 2; AP2, E1; AP2, E2; AP2, E3; AP2, E4; AP2, E5
- Approval of Student Handbook
- Public Day School Name- Approval to name the school *Thrive MSSE Public Day School*
- Approval of Principal Job Description and Goals
- Approval of Cardiac Response Plan
- Thrive Curriculum- Approval of a one-year contract with HMH for Into Reading, Into Math, and digital K-12 core curriculum
- Discussion and Recommendation to present the FY26 Mid-State Budget at the Budget Hearing scheduled for August 20, 2025

ACTION ITEMS

A motion made by Mr. Lund and seconded by Ms. Bowman to approve the FY25 Region III, Schmedeke Lawn, Farmers Environmental, PSIC, Garella Pest, Aurora University, Jessica Minihan, Franczek P.C. and Golden Apple Agreement contracts to be retroactively approved for July 1, 2025, approve the first reading of Press 119, approval of the Threat Assessment procedures, approval of the student handbook, approval of the name Thrive for the new school, approval of the Principal job description and goals, approval of the cardiac response plan, HMH curriculum, and lastly recommend presenting the proposed FY26 Mid-State Budget at the budget hearing scheduled for August 20, 2025, all as presented. Roll Call Vote: Ms. Bowman, yes; Mr. Hopper, yes; Mr. Lund, yes; Ms. McBrain, yes; Ms. McClain, yes; Mr. Murphy, yes; Dr. Olson, yes; Ms. Ritter, yes; Motion carried 8 yea, 0 nay.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion made by Ms. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Lund to accept the resignation of Christine Harms, recommend hiring Nichole Robbins, Melissa Briggs, and Ricky Lockhart (pending all requirements are met), and recommend approving the 2025-2027 Principal Contract for Barb Daugherty, all as presented. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Clark, yes; Ms. Bowman, yes; Dr. Garrison, yes; Mr. Hopper, yes; Mr. Lund, yes; Mr. Portz, yes; Ms. Ritter, yes; Dr. Schuchman, yes; Motion carried 8 yea, 0 nay.

DISCUSSION

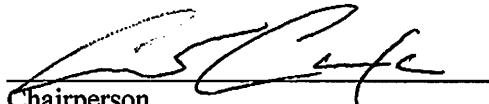
The FY26 Budget Hearing and Governing Board are scheduled for Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the Mid-State office in Morrisonville. Please make sure you have a board member planning to attend; a dinner will be served at 6:00. The Executive Committee Board will meet next on Wednesday, September 17th at 9:00 a.m. in Morrisonville. There is also a Buildings & Facilities committee meeting along with a Thrive Committee meeting that day. Times are to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

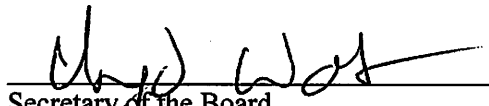
A motion made by Mr. Hopper and seconded by Mr. Murphy to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 a.m. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 8 yea, 0 nay.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Bobbi Fisher, Director


Chairperson

9-17-25
Date


Secretary of the Board

9/17/25
Date