MID-STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Regular Board Meeting
Official Minutes
September 17, 2025

PROCEDURAL BUSINESS
Mr. Chris Clark at 9:00 a.m., called the meeting of the Mid-State Special Education Executive Committee to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT
South Fork: Mr. Chris Clark; 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; St. Elmo: Mr. Travis Portz; Ramsey: Ms. Melissa Ritter; Carlinville: Dr. Becky Schuchman

MEMBERS ABSENT
Edinburg: Ms. Ashley Francis; Vandalia: Dr. Jennifer Garrison

OTHERS PRESENT
Ms. Bobbi Fisher, Director; Ms. Liz Reynolds, Business Manager; Ms. Ingrid Watkins, Executive Secretary; Ms. Shera Nail

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

- Approval of Regular/Closed Session Minutes from the Executive Board from August 1, 2025
- Approval of Destruction of Executive Session Audio Recordings Older than 18 Months-none.
- Financial Report- The FY26 Balance Sheet and Receipts vs. Expenditures reflects the July fund balance of $2,084,009.97 which includes the receipts $892,907.10 and expenditures $484,003.09. The August fund balance of $2,587,917.10 which includes receipts of $889,607.09and expenditures of $385,699.96. FY26 revenue received thus far includes district assessments, interest, EBF, Medicaid FFS, Admin Outreach, and FY23 Cost Settlement. For September, our projected revenue is $797,642.35 and projected expenses of $519,592.08. Our resulting September 30th fund balance is projected at $2,865,967.37.
- Payables – Review, Approval, & Order for Immediate Payment of September 17th bills in the amount of $167,978.24 is requested. Expenses include routine bills, resumed EBF flow-through to districts, professional development, Thrive costs, and several annual and routine expenses now that school has resumed. August payables was approved ahead of the August 20th bills. That amount was $93,008.46.
- Presentation of Administration and Teacher Salary Report from 2024-2025
- Presentation of Vendor Contracts Awarded over $25,000 for 2024-2025

ACTION ITEMS
A motion made by Ms. Ritter and seconded by Dr. Schuchman to approve the Consent Agenda. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Clark, yes; Ms. Bowman, yes; Mr. Hopper, yes; Mr. Lund, yes; Ms. McBrain, yes; Ms. McClain, yes; Mr. Murphy, yes; Dr. Olson, yes; Mr. Portz, yes; Ms. Ritter, yes; Dr. Schuchman, yes; Motion carried 11 yea, 0 nay.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION
Mrs. Fisher provided an update on Professional Development. The beginning of the year staff meeting took place on August 29th, in which Mid-State had their beginning of the year staff meeting to go over mandated trainings, new policies, employee handbook, welcomed new staff, Brandon Wright presented new legal updates. Mentoring for teachers and Leadership meetings continue. Mid-State continues to provide support to new and existing staff to ensure the school year starts successfully. The first virtual mentoring session takes place this afternoon and the second takes place on October 15th. A few program coordinators and Mrs. Fisher plan to attend the IAASE fall conference next month.

Mrs. Fisher noted that the Governing Board meeting went well. Two Superintendents and eight Governing Board members attended. The board approved the hires, the budget, approved officers, and set their annual delegations to the executive board and the director. Mrs. Fisher stated that the initial LEA Determinations were released. All thirteen districts met requirements, which meant they scored 80% on the performance indicators.

Mrs. Fisher provided an update on new laws that Brandon Wright presented to staff. Below is a recap of those laws.

- 226.180- now allows a parental request for an IEE to be submitted either to the superintendent or to a "district special education administrator"
- 226.220- 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- 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 services. Also, it is clarified that instruction may be delivered in-person or via an online platform, as determined by the IEP team.
- 226.300 and 401.20- 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- amended to change the timeline for Prior Written Notice from 10 calendar days to 10 school days. That means a change of 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.
- HB1316- signed by governor recently- IEP meeting notice will expand to include the parents/guardians right to invite other individuals to the meeting to assist (includes advocates). It shall also include a request that the parent or guardian inform the school prior to the meeting if the parent or guardian plans to bring others to the meeting. The IEP notice shall also include a one-page document created by ISBE that describes the process of and how to request IEP facilitation.
- HB2994- signed by governor recently- parents/guardians now have access to mental health records of minors regardless of their age if the student receives special education, and when it is for the purpose of inspecting and copying a record of the specific mental health or developmental services OR the designated representative of a student over the age of 18 involved in special education services.
- HB 3500- signed by governor recently- Beginning the 2026-2027 school year, school districts shall provide informational material on the ABLE account program on their school district websites.
- SB1231- signed by governor recently- Independent evaluations timeline changed from 5 calendar days to respond to a request to now 7 school days. Also, the timeline to conduct that evaluation is now 60 school days instead of 30.
- Aligning behavioral threat assessment and management with a multi-tiered system of support- MTSS for behavior and threat assessments. Brandon shared this. I included this in your board packet.
- Senate Bill 1400 (Act 103-0896)- (included in your packet) guidance to provide schools with evidence-based alternatives to exclusionary discipline. "Students with IEPs experienced nearly double the rate of exclusionary discipline per 10,000 students when compared to students without an IEP." This document provides alternatives to exclusionary discipline. Please share with your admin teams as you see appropriate.

Mrs. Fisher provided committee updates. The Public Day School Committee met prior to today's meeting. They discussed updates at Thrive, they discussed Thrive's billing structure that included start-up costs, regular costs, frequency of billing, and a plan for paying back the fund balance. They also considered the approval of the E-Learning plan, the approval of the evaluation rubrics for the custodian, paraprofessionals, and principal, the approval of the Vandalia nursing contract, and discussed setting a substitute daily rate.

<u>OLD BUSINESS</u>

Second Reading of Policy Updates- Press 119

<u>ACTION ITEMS</u>

A motion made by Ms. Ritter and seconded by Mr. Hopper to approve policy updates, as presented. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Clark, yes; Ms. Bowman, yes; Mr. Hopper, yes; Mr. Lund, yes; Ms. McBrain, yes; Ms. McClain, yes;

Mr. Murphy, yes; Dr. Olson, yes; Mr. Portz, yes; Ms. Ritter, yes; Dr. Schuchman, yes; Motion carried 11 yea, 0 nay.

NEW BUSINESS

- Approval of FY26 Organizational Goals, Director Goals, & Action Plan
- Approval of the Public Day School Recommendations
    - Approval of the Thrive E-Learning Plan. A public hearing was held on September 16, 2025 and there were no concerns addressed at that hearing.
    - Approval of the following billing structure items: Quarterly tuition invoices, startup cost divided equally among the six districts and billed separately
    - Approval of the custodian, paraprofessional, and principal evaluation rubrics. The PERA/RIF committee met on September 10th to approve the rubrics.
    - Approval of the 2025-2026 Vandalia nurse contract. Thank you again to Vandalia and Dr. Garrison for letting us share her nursing services.
    - Approval of $125 as the Thrive substitute daily rate.
- Approval of MSSE Evaluation Plan for Licensed Personnel- The PERA/RIF committee met for their annual duties and to also approve evaluation rubrics. They also met and revised the evaluation plan. The revisions to the plan are minimal.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion made by Dr. Schuchman and seconded by Mr. Lund to approve the FY26 Organizational Goals, Director Goals, Action Plan, Thrive billing structure recommendations, the E-Learning plan, the evaluation rubrics for the custodian, paraprofessionals, and principal, the Vandalia nurse contract for the 25-26 school year, and the Thrive substitute daily rate at $125 and approve the revisions to the evaluation plan, all as presented.. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Clark, yes; Ms. Bowman, yes; Mr. Hopper, yes; Mr. Lund, yes; Ms. McBrain, yes; Ms. McClain, yes; Mr. Murphy, yes; Dr. Olson, yes; Mr. Portz, yes; Ms. Ritter, yes; Dr. Schuchman, yes; Motion carried 11 yea, 0 nay.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion made by Dr. Olson and seconded by Mr. Lund to approve the retirement of Lorinda Jennings at the completion of the 2028-2029 school year. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Clark, yes; Ms. Bowman, yes; Mr. Hopper, yes; Mr. Lund, yes; Ms. McBrain, yes; Ms. McClain, yes; Mr. Murphy, yes; Dr. Olson, yes; Mr. Portz, yes; Ms. Ritter, yes; Dr. Schuchman, yes; Motion carried 11 yea, 0 nay.

DISCUSSION

The next MSSE Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at Thrive at 9:00 a.m..

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Dr. Olson and seconded by Mr. Hopper to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 a.m. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 1 yea, 0 nay.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Bobbi Fisher, Director

Chairperson — Date 10/14/25

Secretary of the Board — Date 10/23/25