

MID-STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Regular Board Meeting
Official Minutes
November 16, 2022

PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

The regular meeting of the Mid-State Special Education Executive Committee was called to order by Chairman, Ms. Melissa Ritter at 9:01 a.m. with remote participation as allowed during the current public health emergency, current Disaster Declaration, and Open Meetings Act. 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

Bond: Dr. Wes Olson (remote); **Brownstown:** Mr. Mike Shackelford (remote); **Carlinville:** Dr. Becky Schuchman; **Hillsboro:** Mr. David Powell; **Litchfield:** Dr. Gregg Fuerstenau; **Morrisonville:** Mr. Patrick Murphy; **Mulberry Grove:** Ms. Casie Bowman; **Panhandle:** Mr. Aaron Hopper; **Ramsey:** Ms. Melissa Ritter; **South Fork:** Mr. Chris Clark; **St. Elmo:** Mr. Travis Portz; **Vandalia:** Dr. Jennifer Garrison;

MEMBERS ABSENT

Edinburg: Mr. Ben Theilen

OTHERS PRESENT

Mrs. Angela Armour, Director; Mrs. Lyn Becker, Assistant Director; Mrs. Vickie Throne, Executive Board Secretary; Mrs. Liz Holcomb, Business Manager

Recognition of Visitors: None

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Regular Session Minutes from October 19, 2022
- Destruction of regular session audio recordings maintained to comply with OMA related to remote meetings from 4/21/2021 with no Executive Session Recordings.
- Financial Report - The FY23 Balance Sheet and Receipts vs. Expenditures reflects the October fund balance of \$2,623,254.84. The receipts of \$746,400.01 and expenditures of \$444,045.44. FY23 revenue is being received as anticipated. For November, projected revenue is \$875,623.25 with anticipated expenses of \$457,675.81. The resulting November 30th fund balance is projected at \$3,043,837.67.
- Accounts Payable Review, Approval, and Order for Immediate Payment of November 16th bills in the amount of \$167,378.20 is requested. Expenses include routine bills, GSA/EBF flow-through to districts, professional development, materials/assessments/mileage, legal, and contractual therapies.

A motion made by Dr. Fuerstenau and seconded by Dr. Schuchman to approve the Consent Agenda. Roll Call Vote. Dr. Fuerstenau, yes; Mr. Shackelford, yes; Dr. Olson, yes; Mr. Powell, yes; Mr. Portz, yes; Bowman, yes; Murphy, yes; Ritter, yes; Garrison, yes; Garrison, yes; Hopper, yes; Clark, yes; Schuchman, yes. Motion carried 12-0.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

Mrs. Armour reported that we celebrated National School Psychology Week last week November 7th through the 14th. The theme this year "Together We Shine" focuses on hope following several challenging years and the fact that reconnecting with others and how reestablishing the sense of being valued empowers students and adults to find purpose and possibility. Mrs. Armour recognized and noted

that we are blessed to have the expertise and dedication of Lucas, Kassi, Amanda, Kristy, Tricia, Meg, and Lisa on our teams serving students.

Mrs. Becker provided an update on the status of services Emma Reichert, Behavior Specialist, and Dana White, Registered Behavior Technician, provide. Mrs. Becker reported that there are a total of 66 students on their caseload with 35 receiving DTI, 8 EFL, 6 have BIP's and 23 served for general behavior needs. Ms. Becker reported that having Dana White helping with the caseload this year has been a huge benefit and has allowed both Emma and Dana the ability to provide preventative behavioral services and still have time to respond to crises. High needs students are being seen and supported up to three times a week instead of once every two to three weeks and teachers have been commenting on how much they appreciate the increased level of support.

Mrs. Armour reported on the School Report Cards that include special education data that is used to determine district State Performance Plan Indicators and the future district LEA Determination. Across the cooperative, the percent of special education ranges from 16.1% to 25.8%. Only one district was at or below the state average of 16.5%, five districts were under 20%, and seven districts are now over 20% with the highest nearing 26%. These are by far the highest identification rates we have ever seen and concerning for a number of reasons. Mrs. Armour recommended that related to district planning and resource allocation, it is worthy of reviewing the district disability identification rate, the universal curriculum, and the tiered RtI/MTSS interventions. In analyzing the percentage of total indicators met, the range is from 33% - 73% indicators met by districts. Seven districts met the graduation indicator of greater than 82.6% and nine districts met the drop-out indicator of less than 13.7%. Nearly every district met in the areas of assessment participation, least restrictive educational environment, and early childhood outcomes which we continue to focus on. Additionally, all districts met at 100% for EI transitions, evaluations with eligibility within 60 days, transition services for students 16 and older. Mrs. Armour shared that the district specific information is being discussed today during Leadership with Program Coordinators. She offered to review the detailed results with each superintended and assist in considering possible district specific recommendations.

Mrs. Ritter reported that the Personnel & Search Committee interviewed Director candidates on October 19th following the board meeting with second interviews scheduled today following this board meeting. Mrs. Armour reported that the Finance Committee met on November 9th for a presentation from a potential insurance provider.

Mrs. Armour shared as we approach Thanksgiving and she reflects on her many blessings, she extended her gratitude to this board for allowing her to serve in a variety of rolls and for the friendships that she has developed with so many board members over many years. Mrs. Armour wished everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with their families.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Armour provided information regarding the *Special Education Procedures Assuring the Implementation of Comprehensive Programming for Children with Disabilities*. Updates from the 2021 version made to this document by the Illinois Council of School Attorneys in late August are now available and included in the advanced packet. After consulting with Brandon Wright, it is noted on the front page that this Board is adopting on behalf of all member districts so that each district also meets the requirement. Changes in these procedures are being shared with Program Coordinators today during Leadership.

A motion made by Dr. Fuerstenau and seconded by Mr. Powell to approve the revised *Special Education Procedures Assuring the Implementation of Comprehensive Programming for Children with Disabilities*

for MSSE and on behalf of all member districts. Roll Call Vote. Dr. Olson, yes; Mr. Portz, yes; Mr. Powell, yes; Dr. Garrison, yes; Mr. Shackelford, yes; Mr. Hopper, yes; Dr. Schuchman, yes; Mr. Clark, yes; Mr. Murphy, yes; Dr. Fuerstenau, yes; Ms. Ritter, yes; Ms. Bowman, yes. Motion carried 12-0.

Mrs. Armour reported that documents regarding the insurance benefit and provider were included in the advanced packet with coverage details and costs. The Finance Committee met on Nov. 9 to receive a presentation through Loman-Ray on a level-funded insurance plan, Allstate self-funded plan with GAP coverage. All employees completed the required health questionnaire or declined if not interested in the insurance, so the rate quote is based upon our specific group. The PHCS network includes Springfield Clinic along with other local providers which is a plus since our current BCBS does not. This plan provides higher level of benefit than our current BCBS community-based plan at level costs for employees of an increase of 17.45 per month to savings of \$390.46 per month and a decreased board contribution to \$600 per month from \$675 per month. Dental and vision rates were matched with our current rates and the life insurance quote allows for an increase to \$25,000 per active employee, all through The Standard Insurance Company.

A motion made by Dr. Schuchman and seconded by Ms. Bowman to approve the health, dental, vision, and life insurance package through Loman-Ray Insurance Group, as presented, with a board contribution of \$600 per month toward single health insurance effective January 2, 2023 and providing 30 days' notice to TCOH.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ACTION ITEMS

None

DISCUSSION

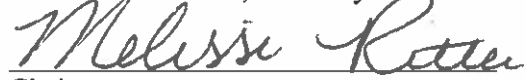
The Executive Committee Board will meet next on Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Ritter asked everyone to note that this is a week earlier than normal due to the holiday schedule in many districts.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Dr. Fuerstenau and seconded by Mr. Hopper to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 a.m. Roll Call Vote: Hopper, yes; Olson, yes; Portz, yes; Garrison, yes; Schuchman, yes; Murphy, yes; Shackelford, yes; Clark, yes; Ritter, yes; Powell, yes; Bowman, yes. Motion carried 12-0.

Respectfully submitted,

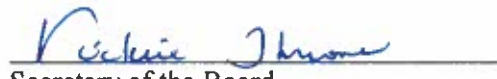
Mrs. Vickie Throne, Secretary of the Board



Chairperson

Date

12/14/22



Secretary of the Board

Date

12/14/2022