

**MID-STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
August 25, 2021
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, Dr. Becky Schuchman, at 6:40 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		Dale Brockamp (Remote)
Edinburg	Ben Theilen (Remote)	Adam Swinger (Remote)
South Fork		Wes Aymer (Remote) in at 6:41
Mulberry Grove		
Bond County		Amy Frey (Remote)
Brownstown	Mike Shackelford (Remote)	Kent Kistler (Remote)
St. Elmo		
Vandalia		
Ramsey		Katie Hayes (Remote)
Carlinville	Becky Schuchman (Remote)	Martha Armour (Remote)
Panhandle	Aaron Hopper (Remote)	Terri Payne (Remote)
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. Armour, Carlinville CUSD #1 Board of Education

- Governing Board Vice-President – Ms. Hayes, Ramsey County #204 Board of Education
- Governing Board Secretary – Ms. Throne, Mid-State Executive Secretary
- Governing Board Treasurer – Ms. Armour, Mid-State Director
- Executive Committee Chairperson - Dr. Becky Schuchman, Carlinville
- Executive Committee Vice-Chairperson – Ms. Melissa Ritter, Ramsey
- Steering & Finance Committee: Dr. Schuchman, Carlinville; Ms. Ritter, Ramsey; Mr. Hopper, Panhandle; Mr. Clark, South Fork
- Policy Committee: Dr. Schuchman, Carlinville, Mr. Theilen, Edinburg; Mr. Koontz, Mulberry Grove (alternate)
- 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 Mr. Brockamp, Morrisonville and seconded by Mr. Kistler, Brownstown to approve all items on the consent agenda. Roll Call Vote: Brockamp, yes; Swinger, yes; Aymer, yes; Frey, yes; Kistler, yes; Hayes, yes; Armour, yes; Payne, yes. Motion carried 8-0.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION:

Mrs. Armour thanked the board members for remoting in tonight and serving as their district's board representative on our Governing Board. Mrs. Armour introduced staff that are part of the MSSE team who are in attendance this evening: Lyn Becker Assistant Director; Liz Holcomb, Business Manager; Vickie Throne, Executive Secretary. Mrs. Armour then provided the board with a brief description of her background with MSSE. Mrs. Armour has been the director since 2017. It is a privilege to have started her 30th consecutive year of service with Mid-State. In January, Mrs. Armour announced that she will be retiring in June of 2023 following the next school year. Mrs. Armour remains committed to the provision of quality services and ensuring a smooth transition for all stakeholders.

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 require action by an elected board. 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. And, we welcome several local board members who are new in this role or who are filling in for another board member tonight.

Our organizational purpose is to provide specialized services, programming, therapies, expertise, and supports to our member districts' students, families, and staff. Across our state and nation, the shortage of educational specialists is very real: including speech-language, occupational, and physical therapists, school psychologists and social workers, behavioral and transition specialists, teachers of the deaf, hard of hearing, or visually

impaired, and program coordinators. However, we are blessed to be fully staffed - again for this school year - and able to provide services to help meet the diverse needs of all of your learners. We value the expertise of each of our specialists and take good care of them so that the unique and individual needs of all students can be met.

We understand that 2021-22 school year is not necessarily off to the start that any of us would have hoped. And, at this time there are not many who envy the difficult decisions you have been faced with as you serve as school board members. Mrs. Armour finds comfort in knowing that the school leaders in our area, the superintendents of our school districts, recognize and embrace that “We Are Stronger Together” which exemplifies the benefits for children, schools, and communities when cooperation and collaboration are priorities. Hopefully, we will see more of this mentality across society as we are good models for young people who are our future leaders.

During the past very active legislative session, several new laws relating to special education are now in effect. We are responsible for leading and assisting with the implementation of all legal requirements related to special education as well as with district compliance. Not glamorous work, but an important contribution so that each district and school can accomplish its mission of educating all children as opposed to devoting limited resources, time, money, and personnel on legal challenges and due process hearings related to students with disabilities. It truly does “take a village” in order for all children to learn. Last Friday, we had the great pleasure of hosting all of our Mid-State staff to accomplish a number of goals including recognition of employees for years of service and having our legal counsel provide training regarding the many updates, changes, and best practices related to special education.

While addressing our specialists last week, Mrs. Armour reminded everyone of all that has been learned and accomplished in the past 18 months. Mrs. Armour shared that although there is A LOT of noise right now, we cannot let it interfere with our work that is very important to over 2000 students, their families, and our schools that we serve. Mrs. Armour’s advice to our Mid-State family:

1. There will be a lot of distractions, but always keep your focus on the kids.
2. Although this may be a continuation of difficult and challenging times, remember that we are experts at providing education differently – way before the pandemic-, and it is OK to lean on our strong and very experienced team—day or night.
3. And, we will continue to serve children, families, and schools with kindness, flexibility, and grace! (taking care to extend these same qualities to ourselves)

These words of wisdom likely apply to you too in your school board role. Again, Mrs. Armour would like to thank all of you for your service as a school board member in your local community and for serving as your district representative on the Mid-State Governing Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

Personnel Action Items: The following personnel action items that occurred since the August 26, 2020 Governing Board Meeting, were previously approved by the Executive Committee, and were presented for approval.

- Certified (Full-time) – Barb Daugherty, School Social Worker, Chris Harms, Speech Pathologist, Brianna Herschelman, Speech Pathologist
- Non-Certified (Full-Time) – Ingrid Watkins
- Non-Certified (Intern) – Sara Turner, School Social Work Intern

A motion made by Mr. Swinger and seconded by Ms. Armour to approve certified and non-certified personnel action items, as presented. Roll Call Vote: Frey, yes; Kistler, yes; Hayes, yes; Brockamp, yes; Swinger, yes; Aymer, yes; Armour, yes; Payne, yes. Motion carried 8-0.

FY22 MSSE Consolidated Budget:

A motion made by Mr. Kistler and seconded by Ms. Frey to approve the FY22 MSSE Consolidated Budget. Roll Call Vote: Frey, yes; Kistler, yes; Hayes, yes; Armour, yes; Payne, yes; Brockamp, yes; Swinger, yes; Aymer, yes. Motion carried 8-0.

DISCUSSION:

The next Governing Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at the Mid-State Special Education office in Morrisonville.

ADJOURNMENT:

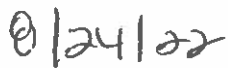
Motion made by Ms. Armour and seconded by Mr. Kistler Earnest to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m. Roll Call Vote: Hayes, yes; Armour, yes; Payne, yes; Brockamp, yes; Swinger, yes; Aymer, yes; Frey, yes; Kistler, yes. Motion carried 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Vickie Throne, Board Secretary




 Governing Board President



 Date



 Governing Board Secretary



 Date