

**MID-STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
March 22, 2023
Mid-State Special Education
Morrisonville, Illinois
Minutes**

PROCEDURAL BUSINESS:
PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

The regular meeting of the Mid-State Special Education Executive Committee was called to order by Chairman, Ms. Melissa Ritter, at 6:30 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>
Bond County		
Brownstown	Mike Shackelford (Remote)	Kent Kistler (Remote)
Carlinville	Becky Schuchman (Remote)	Martha Armour (Remote)
Edinburg		Adam Swinger (Remote)
Hillsboro	David Powell (Remote)	Matt Lentz (Remote)
Litchfield		Val Cain (Remote)
Morrisonville		Dale Brockamp
Mulberry Grove		Brooke Earnest (Remote)
Panhandle	Aaron Hopper (Remote)	Terri Payne (Remote)
St. Elmo		
South Fork		Bob Brandon (Remote)
Ramsey	Melissa Ritter (Remote)	Katie Hayes (Remote)
Vandalia		Theresa Tate (Remote)

Others Present:

Angela Armour, Director
Lyn Becker, Assistant Director
Bobbi Fisher, Director Elect
Vickie Throne, Executive Secretary

Presentation of Proxies:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Presented for review and approval:

- Minutes from August 24, 2022 MSSE Consolidated Budget Amendment Hearing
- Minutes from August 24, 2022 Governing Board Meeting
- Recommendation for destruction of Executive Session audio recordings older than 18 months – none to destroy

A motion made by Mr. Brockamp, Morrisonville and seconded by Mr. Schaub, Brownstown to approve all items on the consent agenda. Roll Call Vote: Brockamp, yes; Swinger, yes; Brandon,

yes; Earnest, yes; Schaub, yes; Tate, yes; Hayes, yes; Armour, yes; Payne, yes; Lentz, yes; Cain, yes. Motion carried 11-0.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION:

Mrs. Armour welcomed all of the returning board members and to those who are newly appointed to represent their district on the Governing Board and our superintendents who act on behalf of the Governing Board monthly as members of our Executive Committee.

Mrs. Armour reported that the collective efforts of our 13 school districts provide for and ensure the education of ALL children in our schools. Your organization has evolved over the past 56 years since its inception in January 1967 when 22 charter member districts founded Mid-State Special Education. While districts have consolidated and changed, with some coming and others going, the field of special education has also grown and changed significantly including the numbers of children, requirements, and needs of our students eligible for an IEP and special education services. Our recent Dec. 1, 2022 IDEA Child Count recorded that we are serving 2,105 students with disabilities across the 13 school districts.

Mrs. Armour noted this is her last Governing Board meeting and thanked this Board and the Executive Committee of superintendents for the opportunity to serve this organization for the past 32 years as a teacher, program coordinator, assistant director, and for the past six years as director. She thanked the many talented and passionate administrators both within Mid-State and also our member districts who have invested in Mrs. Armour through mentoring or simply setting examples of dedication and excellence in education. She recognized and thanked our team of professionals—program coordinators, school psychologists and social workers, behavior and transition specialists, teachers of the deaf, hard of hearing, and visually impaired, speech language pathologists, occupational and physical therapists—and all those who directly serve students, families, and staff in our schools as well as the few in our office who are behind the scenes serving as the hands and feet of the organization noting we are incredibly blessed to have such expertise serving our students and schools.

Mrs. Armour reported that Lyn Becker who has served Mid-State for 20 years as a teacher, program coordinator, and during the past 6 years as our assistant director is also retiring in June is. Mrs. Becker and Mrs. Armour have chosen to dedicate 52 years of their collective 67 years in education to students within our member districts and to our “Mid-State family.” As Mrs. Becker and Mrs. Armour close this chapter, their success is hoping they made a positive impact for children by leading, sharing knowledge and expertise, supporting and preparing future educators and leaders, and by prioritizing our mission of service knowing that we are “stronger together supporting all students.”

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Armour reported that, as per the Articles of Joint Agreement, our purpose this evening is for the Governing Board, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, to appoint a Special Education Director who shall head the Joint Agreement as the chief administrative officer.

Mrs. Armour reported that the Mid-State Personnel and Search Committee conducted an extensive search of candidates for the Director of Special Education position making a recommendation to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee unanimously approved the recommendation and two-year contract of Bobbi Fisher at the December 14, 2022 meeting. Since that time, we have prioritized working together regularly in preparation of a smooth transition.

Mrs. Armour introduced, Mrs. Fisher, who will be replacing both Mrs. Becker and herself beginning July 1st asking her to introduce herself to all members of the board. Mrs. Fisher reported that she lives in Staunton with her husband and three boys, where they have some property in the country. Mrs. Fisher and her family enjoy camping, spending time with family,

and taking trips. Mrs. Fisher's youngest son has an intellectual disability so she has the parent perspective of having a child with a disability. Mrs. Fisher taught for 10 years in Hillsboro as a special education teacher, which she enjoyed greatly. Her entire career has been with her MSSE family, and she has been very happy over the course of her 15 years that she has worked at Mid-State Special Education. Mrs. Fisher reported that she is in her sixth year as a program coordinator serving in five of the current 13-member districts. While serving as a program coordinator, Mrs. Fisher has led mentoring for teachers, served as editor of the Mid-State Messenger, and has overseen programming and provided legal guidance for the districts she serves among other hats that she has worn. Mrs. Fisher noted she is very excited to serve all 13 districts in her new role as director and she assures the board that she will work hard, learn as quickly as possible, and work to fill the shoes of the wonderful women that have come before her.

Mrs. Armour thanked Mrs. Fisher noting that she knows her dedication to Mid-State will continue and wishing her the best in her new role leading the organization.

Mrs. Armour reported two additional employment recommendations were approved by the Executive Committee since our last Board meeting in August which were included in the revised advanced packet.

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.

- o Certified (Full-time) – Bobbi Fisher, Director and Amy Knodle, Program Coordinator
- o Non-Certified (Intern) – Kristen White, Psychologist Intern

A motion made by Ms. Earnest and seconded by Mr. Brandon to approve certified and non-certified personnel action items, as presented. Roll Call Vote: Earnest, yes; Schaub, yes; Tate, yes; Hayes, yes; Brockamp, yes; Swinger, yes; Brandon, yes; Armour, yes; Payne, yes; Lentz, yes; Cain, yes. Motion carried 11-0.

DISCUSSION:

The next Governing Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Mid-State Special Education office in Morrisonville. Please keep in mind that it is anticipated that we will need in-person attendance which is required for a quorum of the board at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Ms. Armour and seconded by Ms. Hayes to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m. Roll Call Vote: Tate, yes; Hayes, yes; Armour, yes; Payne, yes; Lentz, yes; Cain, yes; Brockamp, yes; Swinger, yes; Brandon, yes; Earnest, yes; Schaub, yes. Motion carried 11-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Vickie Throne, Board Secretary

Kate Hayes
Governing Board President

8/23/23
Date

Vickie Throne
Governing Board Secretary

8/23/23
Date