

LASALLE/PUTNAM COUNTY EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION
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Open Meeting Minutes

Date: January 10, 2023

Time: 9:05 a.m.

Location: L.E.A.S.E. Office Board Room

Type of meeting: Regular

Name of person taking the minutes: Colleen Stefan

Name of person presiding: Mrs. Kristi Eager

Roll call indicated

Members in attendance:

1. Dr. Mike Cushing
2. Mr. Jamie Craven
3. Mrs. Kristi Eager
4. Mrs. Lisa Gifford
5. Mr. Ryan Linnig
6. Dr. Dan Stecken
7. Dr. Clayton Theisinger

Members absent: None

Also present

1. Mrs. Kathy Fox, Executive Director

Reception of Guests and Visitors & Opportunity for Public Comment

There were none.

Approval of Items on Consent Agenda (Open Session Minutes and Closed Session Minutes from the Board meeting held on December 6, 2022; November 2022 Bank Reconciliation; Bills and Financial Statements. There is no destruction tape-recorded closed session minutes to destroy).

Summary of discussion: Mrs. Fox shared that there is an additional bill list in each board member's folder.

Motion made by: Mrs. Gifford

Motion: To approve the open session minutes and closed session minutes from the board meeting held on December 6, 2022, to approve the November 2022 bank reconciliation and to approve the bills and financial report. There are no tape-recorded closed session minutes to destroy.

Motion seconded by: Mr. Linnig

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Gifford, Linnig, Craven, Cushing, Eager, Stecken and Theisinger

"Nays" – none

Action: Passed

Remaining Agenda Items

Agenda item: Authorize the Director to prepare the 2023-2024 budget.

Summary of discussion: The resolution was included in the packet to authorize the budgeting and grant process for FY 2024. This is an annual requirement so that Mrs. Fox can submit the IDPH grant proposals when/if it becomes available.

Motion made by: Dr. Theisinger

Motion: To adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS it has been the past practice of the L.E.A.S.E. Executive Committee to approve the preparation of the L.E.A.S.E. budget and grants annually, and ...

WHEREAS it is necessary to begin the budgeting and grant process for the next school year, therefore be it...

RESOLVED to authorize the Director to prepare the L.E.A.S.E. budget and make the necessary grant applications.

Motion seconded by: Mr. Craven

Roll Call: “Yeas” – Theisinger, Craven, Cushing, Eager, Gifford, Linnig and Stecken
“Nays” – none.

Action: Passed

Agenda item: Approve the hiring of a School Psychologist Intern for School FY24

Summary of discussion: Mrs. Fox explained to the board that the need for school psychologists continues to increase and that she would like to advertise for a school psychologist intern for the next school year (FY24). Mrs. Fox stated that the current intern is getting a \$16,000 stipend for FY23 and she hopes to recruit the intern into a position here at L.E.A.S.E.

Motion made by: Dr. Theisinger

Motion: To approve the hiring of a school psychologist intern for the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion seconded by: Mr. Craven

Roll Call: “Yeas” – Theisinger, Crave, Cushing, Eager, Gifford, Linnig and Stecken
“Nays” – None

Action:

Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting

Date: Jan. 10, 2023

Time: 9:08 a.m.

Location: L.E.A.S.E. Office Board Room

A motion was made by Mr. Craven

Motion: To adjourn to closed meeting to discuss the possible review of unreleased closed session minutes.

Motion seconded by: Mr. Linnig

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Craven, Linnig, Cushing, Eager, Gifford, Stecken and Theisinger
"Nays" – None

Action: Passed

Time of adjournment of closed meeting and return to open meeting: 9:11 a.m.

Motion to Return to Open Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Craven

Motion: To return to open session meeting

Motion seconded by: Mr. Linnig

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Craven, Linnig, Cushing, Eager, Gifford, Stecken and Theisinger
"Nays" – None

Action: Passed

Agenda Item: Anticipated Action Items After Closed Session

Agenda item: Approve a resolution regarding written closed session minutes for public release as recommended by the Executive Director.

Summary of discussion: As discussed in Closed Session.

Motion made by: Dr. Cushing

Motion: To adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: every six months the L.E.A.S.E. Executive Committee, as required by law, reviews all non-released, written closed session minutes for consideration of public release and . . .

WHEREAS: minutes of meetings closed to the public shall be made available to the public after the public body determines that it is no longer necessary to protect the public interest or the privacy of an individual by keeping them confidential and . . .

WHEREAS: several written closed session minutes are deemed to be acceptable for public release, therefore be it formally . . .

RESOLVED: to release for public review the closed session minutes from May 2, 2022, June 7, 2022, August 2, 2022, September 6, 2022, October 4, 2022 and November 1, 2022, and not release the closed session minutes from, *February 10, 2011, September 3, 2013, December 3, 2013 and March 1, 2016, February 7, 2017, April 4, 2017, May 2, 2017, July 11, 2017, August 7, 2017,*

September 5, 2017 and February 6, 2018, May 1, 2018, June 5, 2018, October 1, 2019, November 5, 2019, October 6, 2020, Sept. 7, 2021, Oct. 5, 2021, Nov. 2, 2021, March 1, 2022 and April 5, 2022, due to the need to protect the privacy of individuals and the public interest with regard to the unresolved issues discussed.

Motion seconded by: Mr. Linnig

Roll Call: “Yays” – Cushing, Linnig, Craven, Eager, Gifford, Stecken and Theisinger
“Nays” – none.

Action: Passed

Information Items

C.B.S. monthly report

The monthly report was presented in the board packet. Mrs. Fox told the board that in December, there were some discipline issues on one of the buses. Mrs. Fox explained they are working with the bus company, along with the home district superintendents, and asking for more training for the bus drivers and the bus aides. Discussion was held regarding the make-up of the students on the bus. The bus is a mix of students from both ROE Academy #35 and CBS K – 12. The board discussed creating a timeline to allow for improvement and if improvements aren't seen after the timeline given, move students to a different learning facility. Mrs. Fox also stated that she would like to see the kids divided up by age, with lower grade students on one bus and older students on a second bus.

Excess Cost Worksheets

Mrs. Fox reported that this information will be available soon on IWAS and she will send out a memo to districts. Also, 1% of the DLM Assessments came back denied, while deviations, after phone calls to ISBE, have now been approved.

Veregy

Mrs. Fox informed the board that representatives from Veregy will be at our board meeting in February.

CBS Floor

The new floor has been installed and Mrs. Fox reported that she is very happy with the result and how great the floor looks. She did report that there were a few issues that needed to be addressed.

The first issue was regarding our asbestos report. Our architect reported to Carpet Weavers that he had concerns about our original report. Mrs. Fox immediately contacted Midwest Environmental Consulting Services, who completed the asbestos inspection and requested additional testing. This testing again showed no asbestos. Once Carpet Weavers received this information, they proceeded with the project.

The second issue was an issues with the existing leveling compound in one classroom and a small area of the hall. New leveling compound was poured in those areas along with moisture mitigation. Finally, there were a three small areas that were not included in the quote. Mrs. Fox told the board that in order to have enough material to complete those areas, she actually eliminated re-flooring the copy room. A small amount of product will need to be purchased to complete the project during spring break.

Hiring of a School Psychologist Intern for FY24

Mrs. Fox reported that a memo will be sent to districts to see if any district needs to recruit a school psychologist or psychologist intern for the next school year. Currently, L.E.A.S.E. has a school psychologist intern on staff and it is our hope that this person can be recruited to stay with the co-op. Mrs. Fox discussed the high need for school psychologists and would like to start recruiting for interns for the next school year.

Meeting with Juvenile Detention Representatives

Mrs. Fox informed the board that “Break Free Education” advocate organization met and interviewed students at the detention center. Following those interviews, the reps met with Mrs. Fox. Mrs. Fox stated that she felt that reps from “Break Free Education” now have a better understanding of what is needed to develop a plan.

Mrs. Fox did report that there is an issue with the releasing of IEPs. Mrs. Fox will not release records to anyone until she is absolutely sure she can legally do so.

Finally, Mrs. Fox stated that she feels she is spending many hours dealing with this issue and that she is being asked to do all the “leg work”. At this point, she feels she needs to step back. The board members agreed and encouraged her to follow through and step back from this project.

Hiring of bookkeeper

Mrs. Fox reminded the board that last month she discussed that there was candidate she interviewed and thought was very qualified to be offered the position. The candidate did not accept the position. The position has since been re-posted.

Hiring/recruitment of paraprofessionals

Mrs. Fox explained that the position of a paraprofessional for C.B.S. has been ongoing. The position is posted.

Approval of Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Linnig

Motion seconded by Dr. Theisinger

Voice vote indicated all ayes

Action: Passed

Time of adjournment: 10:02 a.m.

Post Meeting Action

Date minutes approved: Feb. 7, 2023

Date minutes were available for public inspection: Feb. 7, 2023

Date minutes were posted on Alliance website: Feb. 7, 2023