

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

Date: January 11, 2022

Time: 9:01 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. Mr. Michael Pillion

Members absent: Dr. Jodi Moore, Dr. Lisa Parker and Mr. Chuck Schneider

Also present

1. Mrs. Kathy Fox, Executive Director
- 2.

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 7, 2021; November 2021 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: Mr. Pillion

Motion: To approve the open session minutes and closed session minutes from the board meeting held on December 7, 2021, to approve the November 2021 bank reconciliation and to approve the bills and financial report. There are no tape-recorded closed session minutes to destroy.

Motion seconded by: Mr. Craven

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Pillion, Craven, Cushing and Eager

"Nays" – none

Action: Passed

Remaining Agenda Items

Agenda item: Authorize the Director to prepare the 2022-2023 budget.

Summary of discussion: The resolution was included in the packet to authorize the budgeting and grant process for FY 2023. This is an annual requirement so that Mrs. Fox can submit the IDPH grant proposals when/if it becomes available.

Motion made by: Mr. Craven

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: Mrs. Eager

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Craven, Eager, Craven and Cushing
"Nays" – none.

Action: Passed

Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting

Date: Jan. 11, 2022

Time: 9:03 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 appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees and to discuss the possible review of unreleased closed session minutes.

Motion seconded by: Dr. Cushing

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Craven, Cushing, Eager and Pillion
"Nays" – None

Action: Passed

Time of adjournment of closed meeting and return to open meeting: 9:33 a.m.

Motion to Return to Open Meeting

A motion was made by Dr. Cushing

Motion: To return to open session meeting

Motion seconded by: Mr. Pillion

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Cushing, Pillion, Craven and Eager

“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 3, 2021, June 1, 2021, August 10, 2021*, 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 and Nov. 2, 2021*, due to the need to protect the privacy of individuals and the public interest with regard to the unresolved issues discussed.

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Eager

Roll Call: “Yays” – Cushing, Eager, Craven and Pillion
“Nays” – none.

Action: Passed

Agenda item: To accept the resignation of Mr. Chuck Schneider

Summary of discussion: Mrs. Fox announced that Mr. Chuck Schneider submitted a Letter of Resignation regarding his position as Executive Committee board member. Discussion was held on replacement candidates and Mr. Michael Pillion will reach out to these candidates.

Motion made by: Dr. Cushing

Motion: To accept the resignation of Mr. Chuck Schneider from his position on the L.E.A.S.E. Executive Committee

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Eager

Roll Call: “Yays” – Eager, Cushing, Craven and Pillion
“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 the school is short staffed due to Covid and that she, Mrs. Salazar, along with L.E.A.S.E. coordinators, have been stepping in to help fill in. Mrs. Fox also informed the board that testing has grown since the last meeting. There are now 38 people testing weekly.

Report on the December 1, 2020 Child Count

A child count spreadsheet was presented to the board. The cooperative has seen a minimal decline of 35 students from last year. Mrs. Fox explained that the reason for this is most likely due to Covid and home schooling.

Report on LaSalle County ARP Money for Education:

Mrs. Fox reported that there are a number of repair projects needed at Circuit Breaker School, (i.e. boiler). New playground equipment is also needed. Mrs. Fox further explained that Mr. Chris Dvorak, R.O. E. #35 Executive Director, notified her that LaSalle County wanted to use a portion of their ARP Money for Education and he would like to submit the grant on behalf of L.E.A.S.E. for the replacement of the heating system and the addition of air conditioning at CBS.

Excess Cost Worksheets:

Mrs. Fox reported that the worksheets are being revamped to due ARP Funds. More information will be forthcoming.

Leland Intent to Withdrawal

Lisa Callaway, L.E.A.S.E. attorney, presented information to the board regarding the possible consolidation of the Leland School District #1 with Somonauk District #432. Discussion was held on the withdrawal procedure of Leland from our co-op based on the L.E.A.S.E. by-laws. Ms. Callaway advised the board on her recommendations and will provide the board with a time line along with procedures and letter to send to each district. If the consolidation moves forward, Leland would no longer be a part of the L.E.A.S.E. co-op starting July of 2023.

Approval of Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Craven

Motion seconded by Mr. Pillion

A voice vote indicated all ayes

Action: Passed

Time of adjournment: 10:21 a.m.

Post Meeting Action

Date minutes approved: Feb. 1, 2022

Date minutes were available for public inspection: Feb. 1, 2022

Date minutes were posted on Alliance website: Feb. 1, 2022