

LASALLE/PUTNAM COUNTY EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION
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Date: November 2, 2021

Time: 9:01 a.m.

Location: Circuit Breaker School, Peru, Illinois

Type of meeting: Public Hearing on the L.E.A.S.E. FY22 Amended Budget

Motion made by: Mr. Schneider

Motion: To call the public hearing to order

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Eager

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Schneider, Eager, Craven, Cushing, Moore, Parker and Pillion
"Nays" – none.

Action: Passed

Name of person taking the minutes: Colleen Stefan

Name of person presiding: Dr. Jodi Moore

Members in attendance:

1. Mr. Jamie Craven
2. Dr. Mike Cushing
3. Mrs. Kristi Eager
4. Dr. Jodi Moore
5. Dr. Lisa Parker
6. Mr. Michael Pillion
7. Mr. Chuck Schneider

Members absent

1. None

Also present

1. Mrs. Kathy Fox, Executive Director

Summary of discussion: There were no visitors. There were also no questions. Mrs. Fox told the board that there were no changes from the amended budget that was presented at last month's meeting.

Motion made by: Dr. Cushing

Motion: To close the public hearing

Motion seconded by: Mr. Pillion

Voice Vote: "Yeas" – Cushing, Pillion, Craven, Eager, Moore, Parker and Schneider
"Nays" – none.

Action: Passed

Open Meeting Minutes

Date: November 2, 2021

Time: 9:03 a.m.

Location: Circuit Breaker School, Peru, IL

Type of meeting: Regular

Name of person taking the minutes: Colleen Stefan

Name of person presiding: Dr. Jodi Moore

Roll call indicated

Members in attendance:

1. Mr. Jamie Craven
2. Dr. Mike Cushing
3. Mrs. Kristi Eager
4. Dr. Jodi Moore
5. Dr. Lisa Parker
6. Mr. Michael Pillion
7. Mr. Chuck Schneider

Members absent: None

Also present

1. Mrs. Kathy Fox, Executive Director
2. Ms. Jayme Salazar, Principal, Circuit Breaker School

Reception of Guests and Visitors & Opportunity for Public Comment

The Board welcomed C.B.S. Principal Jayme Salazar. Mrs. Salazar explained to the board that there has been a bigger variety of needs for students this year as compared to last year. School is in session for full days this year, while last year kids were in school for a half day and learning remotely for two hours in the afternoon. Mrs. Salazar informed the board that the school has completed its active shooter drill and fire drills. The school completes a PBIS activity each month, such as having pizza and an apple snack bar.

Mrs. Salazar then reviewed behavioral stats for the month of October and shared her thoughts on different reasons why these numbers, such as physical aggression and AWOL students, have been increasing this year. She stressed that she and her leadership teams are diligently working on ways to reduce these numbers.

There are two new students at the school and no students on a waiting list. One student has returned to his/her home district.

The board thanked Mrs. Salazar for her presentation.

Approval of Items on Consent Agenda (Open Session and Closed Session Minutes from the board meeting held on October 5, 2021; September 2021 Bank Reconciliation report; Bills and the Financial Report

Summary of discussion: Mrs. Fox told the board that an additional bill list is included in their board folder.

Motion made by: Mr. Chuck Schneider

Motion: To approve the open and closed session minutes from the Oct. 5, 2021, meeting, the September 2021 bank reconciliation report, bills, and the financial report.

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Eager

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Schneider, Eager, Craven, Cushing, Moore, Parker and Pillion
"Nays" – none.

Action: Passed

Remaining Agenda Items

Agenda item: Approve the L.E.A.S.E. FY22 budget amendment.

Summary of discussion: This was previously discussed during the Public Hearing. Mrs. Fox explained that the ISBE budget form was enclosed in the board packet and that there were no changes from the amended budget that was presented at last month's meeting.

Motion made by: Mr. Pillion

Motion: to approve the L.E.A.S.E. FY22 budget amendment.

Motion seconded by: Dr. Parker

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Pillion, Parker, Craven, Cushing, Eager, Moore and Schneider
"Nays" – none.

Action: Passed

Agenda item: Approve the renewal of employee health benefits effective 1/1/2022

Summary of discussion: Due to our insurance broker being unable to provide us with the updated 2022 insurance rates at the time of this meeting, no motion will be made at this meeting. An agenda item to discuss this issue is included in the Informational Items section of this month's agenda.

Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting

Date: November 2, 2021

Time: 9:40 a.m.

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

Motion made by: Mrs. Eager

Motion: To adjourn to closed meeting to discuss:

The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Alliance or legal counsel for the Alliance, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the Alliance to determine its validity.

And seconded by: Mr. Craven

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Eager, Craven, Cushing, Moore, Parker, Pillion and Schneider
"Nays" – none.

Actions: Passed

Time of adjournment of closed meeting and return to open meeting: 9:50 a.m.

Motion to Return to Open Meeting

Motion made by: Mr. Pillion

Motion: To return to Open Meeting

And seconded by Mr. Craven

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Pillion, Craven, Cushing, Eager, Moore, Parker and Schneider
"Nays" – none.

Action: Passed

Agenda item: Anticipated Action Items After Closed Session

Agenda Item: Approve Resolution for FMLA request.

Summary of discussion: Mrs. Fox explained that a resolution must be passed to grant FMLA leave to Cara Ludwick, Speech and Language Pathologist. Mrs. Fox also explained that a substitute SLP has already been found.

Motion made by: Dr. Cushing

Motion: to approve the following resolution

WHEREAS Cara Ludwick, Speech/Language Pathologist, has requested paid leave time and "Family Medical Leave Act" unpaid leave time for an anticipated absence associated with the birth of a child, and . . .

WHEREAS L.E.A.S.E. policy and the "Family Medical Leave Act" allows for the use of both paid leave and unpaid leave for an absence associated with childbirth, therefore be it . . .

RESOLVED: to approve Cara Ludwick's request for the use of 30 days of paid leave time and up to 30 days of unpaid "Family Medical Leave Act" time associated with the anticipated birth of a child, with no change in daily work hours, to begin on or around March 6, 2021.

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Eager

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Cushing, Eager, Craven, Moore, Parker, Pillion and Schneider
"Nays" – none.

Action: Passed

Information Items

Discuss the preliminary implications of the data received relative to the "Cooperative Status/Needs Assessment Report" used to determine the overall priority needs of the Cooperative.

Mrs. Fox announced that there were 164 responses from district staff members to the Needs Assessment survey. At least one person from each district responded. The survey results stressed the need more professional development in the area of behavior management. Districts also commented on the need of additional training opportunities for paraprofessionals and that 39.6% of staff surveyed would want an all-day workshop. Finally, most districts are using Infinitec, however, there are still some that do not use it. Mrs. Fox told the board that she received many comments and suggestions from district staff.

FOIA Request

Mrs. Fox told the board that she received, and replied, to one FOIA request from the Illinois State Treasurer for unclaimed funds. Mrs. Fox responded that there we had no unclaimed funds.

Discuss changing insurance brokers

Mrs. Fox explained to the board that although she has contacted Horton Group Insurance a number of times for updated 2022 health/dental/vision insurance rates, they have not presented any updated figures to us and have missed the deadline. Horton reps verbally informed Mrs. Fox an increase of anywhere from 9.9 % to 14.98% in health coverage premiums. Mrs. Fox also told the board that the current dental insurance company we have now, Guardian, is not paying dental claims and that staff is now carrying the expense of the huge dental bills. Previously we had BC/BS for our dental carrier.

Because of the timeline needed to process the new rates both within L.E.A.S.E. and with Horton, the board agreed to call a special meeting to approve new 2022 rates immediately upon receiving the rates and before the Dec. 7, 2021, scheduled board meeting.

Board members all agreed it is too late to switch insurance brokers for this year. Mrs. Fox can seek out a different insurance carrier next year.

L.E.A.S.E., Medicaid, I.S.B.E., legislative and legal updates

There was no report

Non-Agenda Items from the Executive Committee

Mrs. Fox told the board that seven Speech/Language Pathologists need to have evaluations this year, while three coordinators will also have evaluations completed. Mrs. Fox will also complete evaluations this year on Mrs. Salazar (C.B.S. Principal) and L.E.A.S.E. secretaries.

Mrs. Fox asked the board for any recommendations in finding a contractor for work needed to fix a metal door at C.B.S.

Mrs. Fox started the process of registering with Midwest Coordination Center for COVID testing. Although Mrs. Fox set up the account with just our staff and student's names, other student's names were listed and could be seen. Mrs. Fox explained that she contacted the company about this issue and won't use the website until this issue is resolved.

The consolidation involving Leland Dist. #2 is still being considered and Dr. Moore updated the board with information regarding this matter.

Approval of Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Parker

Motion seconded by Mr. Pillion

Voice Vote: "Yeas" – all

"Nays" – none.

Action: Passed

Time of adjournment: 10:17 a.m.

Post Meeting Action

Date minutes approved: December 7, 2021

Date minutes were available for public inspection: December 7, 2021

Date minutes were posted on Alliance website: December 7, 2021