

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

Date: December 7, 2021

Time: 9:00 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: 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. Mike Pillion

Members absent:

1. Mr. Chuck Schneider

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 and Closed Session Minutes from the board meeting held on November 2, 2021, and Open Session Minutes from the special meeting held on November 15, 2021; Bank Reconciliation, Bills, Financial Reports and the destruction of the June 2, 2020, tape recorded closed session minutes.)

Summary of discussion: Mrs. Fox shared an additional bill list.

Motion made by: Dr. Cushing

Motion: To approve the open and closed session minutes from the board meeting held on November 2, 2021, and the open session minutes from the special meeting held on November 15, 2021; October 2021 Bank Reconciliation; and to approve the bills and financial report; approve the destruction of tape-recorded closed session minutes from June 2, 2020.

Motion seconded by: Mr. Pillion

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

"Nays" – none.

Action: Passed

Remaining Agenda Items

None

Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting

Date: December 7, 2021

Time: 9:01 a.m.

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

Motion made by Mr. Craven

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 Dr. Cushing

Roll Call: “Yeas” – Craven, Cushing, Eager, Moore, Parker and Pillion

“Nays” – none.

Actions: Passed

Time of adjournment of closed meeting and return to open meeting: 9:02 a.m.

Motion to Return to Open Meeting

A motion was made by Dr. Cushing

Motion: To return to Open Meeting

And seconded by Mr. Pillion

Roll Call: “Yeas” – Cushing, Pillion, Craven, Eager, Moore and Parker

“Nays” – none.

Action: Passed

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 Rachel Ramirez, Speech and Language Pathologist. Mrs. Fox also explained that a substitute SLP has already been found.

Motion made by: Dr. Parker

Motion: to approve a formal resolution

WHEREAS Rachel Ramirez, 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 Rachel Ramirez's request for the use of up to 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 April 4, 2022.

Seconded by: Mr. Craven

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

"Nays" – none.

Action: Passed

Information Items

C.B.S. monthly report;

Mrs. Fox announced that the C.B.S. monthly report was in the board packets. Board members were made aware that there has been a decrease in incidents at the school. There is one new students and six students starting C.B.S. in January of 2022. Overall, Mrs. Fox reported that it was a positive month for C.B.S.

Covid testing is up and running smoothly, with the first tests administered last week. There are seven students testing weekly. Testing will take place weekly at both C.B.S. and the L.E.A.S.E. central office. Mrs. Fox reported that there are some Covid-related issues that is affecting our attendance numbers for November.

Review the 2021-2022 L.E.A.S.E. "Cooperative Status/Needs Assessment Report;

Mrs. Fox told the board that the report is not quite ready to send, as we need to update the December 1, child count information. Mrs. Fox reported that there has been a greater need for assistance this year compared to last year. There is a need for more psychologists, social workers, counselors, SLD's, and areas in Early Childhood. Due to Covid, there has been a lack in professional development, and Mrs. Fox believes this is the reason for the significant changes this year. The report is also set up so that each superintendent will get district specific information. The report also is an overview of different L.E.A.S.E. services.

RIF Joint Committee Annual Review;

The L.E.A.S.E. Reduction in Force Joint Committee met on November 19, 2021 and completed an independent review of the RIF document. Mrs. Fox explained that this is an annual requirement and that board members received documentation of the meeting in their board packets.

Centralized Hiring by L.E.A.S.E.;

Mrs. Fox shared that the memo is an annual requirement and will go out to all superintendents to help gather the necessary information to make employment recommendations in the spring for speech/language pathologists or school psychologists employed by L.E.A.S.E. for districts. Mrs. Fox stated that she is anticipating that an additional psychologist may be needed for the next school year. Mrs. Fox stated that she does not anticipate the need to hire any additional speech language pathologists for next year.

Non-Agenda Items

Replacement of C.B.S. door;

Mrs. Fox explained that she found someone to replace the door at C.B.S.

Leland Consolidation Update;

Dr. Moore informed the board that the vote to consolidate with the Somonauk School District #432 will occur on the June 2022 ballot. If approved, the district will merge with Somanauk starting with the 2023-24 school year. Discussion was held on the process to withdrawal from the L.E.A.S.E. cooperative. It was noted that Leland would be leaving the co-op due to the district dissolving, not because they are opting for another co-op. Mrs. Fox and Dr. Moore are both working with their attorneys on moving forward should the consolidation occur.

Dr. Moore also will send information from her attorney on details regarding the possible consolidation.

Approval of Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Cushing

Motion seconded by: Mr. Craven

Action: Passed

Time of adjournment: 9:18 a.m.

Post Meeting Action

Date minutes approved: Jan. 11, 2022

Date minutes were available for public inspection: Jan. 11, 2022

Date minutes were posted on Alliance website: Jan. 11, 2022