

**LASALLE/PUTNAM COUNTY EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION**  
**1009 Boyce Memorial Drive Ottawa, IL 61350**  
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**Open Meeting Minutes**

Date: December 6, 2022

Time: 9:02 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. Mr. Jamie Craven
2. Dr. Mike Cushing
3. Mrs. Kristi Eager
4. Mrs. Lisa Gifford
5. Mr. Ryan Linnig
6. Mr. Dan Stecken

Members absent:

Also present

1. Mrs. Kathy Fox, Executive Director

**Reception of Guests and Visitors & Opportunity for Public Comment**

Dr. Clayton Theisinger, Superintendent of Putnam County School District #535.

**Approval of Items on Consent Agenda (Open Session and Closed Session Minutes from the board meeting held on November 1, 2022; Bank Reconciliation, Bills, Financial Reports and the destruction of the April 13, 2021, tape recorded closed session minutes.)**

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

Motion made by: Mr. Linnig

Motion:  To approve the open and closed session minutes from the board meeting held on November 1, 2022; October 2022 Bank Reconciliation; and to approve the bills and financial report; approve the destruction of tape-recorded closed session minutes from April 13, 2021.

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Gifford

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

Action:  Passed

## Remaining Agenda Items

### **Agenda item: Approve the resignation of Executive Committee member, Dr. Lisa Parker**

Summary of Discussion: Mrs. Fox shared a resignation letter from Dr. Lisa Parker requesting her resignation from the L.E.A.S.E. Executive Committee.

Motion made by: Mr. Craven

Motion:  To accept the resignation of Dr. Lisa Parker from the L.E.A.S.E. Executive Committee effective immediately.

Motion seconded by: Mr. Linnig

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

Action:  Passed

### **Agenda item: Approve the appointment of Dr. Clay Theisinger as Executive Committee member to replace Dr. Lisa Parker due to her resignation**

Summary of Discussion: Mrs. Fox presented Dr. Clayton Theisinger for board approval to serve on the Executive Committee. Dr. Theisinger agreed to serve on the board, replacing the position vacated by Dr. Lisa Parker upon her resignation.

Motion made by: Mr. Craven

Motion:  To approve the selection of Dr. Clayton Theisinger to sit on the Executive Committee because of the vacancy left by the resignation of Dr. Lisa Parker.

Motion seconded by: Dr. Cushing

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

Action:  Passed

### **Dr. Theisinger now enters the meeting as a voting member on the Executive Committee**

### **Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting**

Date: December 6, 2022

Time: 9:06 a.m.

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

Motion made by Dr. Cushing

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. Linnig

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

Actions:  Passed

Time of adjournment of closed meeting and return to open meeting: 9:38 a.m.

### **Motion to Return to Open Meeting**

A motion was made by Dr. Theisinger

Motion:  To return to Open Meeting

And seconded by Mr. Linnig

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

“Nays” – none.

Action:  Passed

### **Anticipated Action Items After Closed Session**

None

### **Information Items**

#### **C.B.S. monthly report;**

Mrs. Fox announced that the C.B.S. monthly report was in the board packets. There was one out-of-school suspension and one in-school suspension for the month of November. There are also two students who are transitioning back into their home districts.

Mrs. Fox reported that the progress on the new playground equipment is moving along and that the cement has been poured and the mulch put down. The fence will be put up in the spring. The boiler was up and running however, a leak in the pipes resulted in a call to Chapmans for repair. The problem was fixed.

#### **Maintenance Grant**

Mrs. Fox reported to the board that the floor projects at C.B.S. starts on December 21<sup>st</sup> and should be completed by December 31, 2022. A quote was received for door entry and security from the Thompson Company. Mrs. Fox explained that the first quote from Thompson had to be revamped, due to including some specifics that are needed for the doors and some additional cameras. This quote came in significantly higher. TC Networks also submitted a quote. The quote is broken down as follows: camera system-\$24,464; door entry-\$2,649 and access control-\$5,000. This quote also needs some adjustments and a meeting is scheduled with them. Mrs. Fox is also working with the Veregy Company and representatives from this company will be attending our January Executive Committee meeting.

The board members encouraged Mrs. Fox to seek out a new architect, as we have been unsatisfied with our current one for quite some time.

The second maintenance grant that was submitted is still waiting to be approved by ISBE.

### **Esser III Grant**

Mrs. Fox told the board that the Esser Grant will be adjusted to reflect the funds allocated for a BCBA will now be budgeted for an additional paraprofessional at C.B.S. The grant funds will also be used for the new laptop devices for the teachers at the school.

Mrs. Fox said there is an agreement with an after-school service company, Aruka, to administer the after-school program, which starts on December 8<sup>th</sup>. There are some transportation issues and Mrs. Fox said that these issues will get taken care of. The program will be offering social-emotional counseling services and mind-body yoga. This program will be available this summer also.

### **Review the 2023-2024 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. After analyzing the results from the survey that was sent to the districts, there is a need for: support in hiring paraprofessionals, programming for students with Emotional disabilities, Autism, and Early Childhood, professional development for behavior management, positive behavioral interventions and supports, social-emotional learning, engaging and motivating students with disabilities, supporting general education teachers with accommodations and modifications, executive functioning and autism.

Mrs. Fox announced that there is 148 additional special education student this year as compared to this same time last year. There is a total of 2,926 students with I.E.P.s.

Each superintendent, district contact person, district social worker, and school psychologist will get district specific information from this report. The report also is an overview of different L.E.A.S.E. services.

### **Therapeutic Day Care**

Mrs. Fox, along with Mr. Craven and Mrs. Eager, met with the MENTA Group to discuss the implementation of a new facility here in LaSalle County. The meeting went very well and was very positive. The broker hired by MENTA is hoping to look for possible properties in both the Ottawa and LaSalle-Peru area before the Christmas holiday. Mrs. Fox told the board that there are currently 79 students being bussed to different facilities and that having this organization come to LaSalle County would be very cost effective for so many districts within our co-op. There are also seven students on a waitlist.

Mrs. Fox let the board know that there was a meeting with Chance Light as well. This organization would use a classroom at the home school, thus eliminating bussing times for students and costs of transportation for school districts. The problem, as Mrs. Fox explained, is that the continuum of that service is difficult as the students progress in age. It is also difficult to maintain a placement for some districts as the home district may need the spot eliminating a student from another district. And last, the district may not be able to maintain that space over the years as its population changes.

Mrs. Fox and Mr. Craven will be informing the superintendents of this program at the Superintendent's Meeting that will be held on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>

### **Juvenile Detention Center**

Mrs. Fox has started assisting coordinators in the process of getting home districts to provide the education services to detainees in the juvenile detention center. Mrs. Fox was contacted by "Break Free for Education", which is the organization hired by ISBE to implement a new plan and system for getting education services to the students held in detention centers. Mrs. Fox will meet with them on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>. The reps from this organization will also visit the detention center in order to interview the students. A meeting with "Equip for Equality" will be held in January of 2023.

Mrs. Fox reported that 60% of kids held at the juvenile detention center have IEPs with emotional disabilities and that there is no certified teacher currently that teaches the students at the centers.

### **RIF Joint Committee Annual Review;**

The L.E.A.S.E. Reduction in Force Joint Committee met on December 2, 2022, 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.

### **Medicaid Update**

Mrs. Fox reported that we are still working on the transition to Embrace. Currently, we are still working with Steve Koruna and Embrace. All Medicaid claims before July 1, 2021 are still being processed under Steve. Julie O'Brien-Smith is working with district personnel as each piece progresses.

### **Non-Agenda Items**

None

### **Approval of Motion to Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Linnig

Motion seconded by: Mr. Stecken

Action:  Passed

Time of adjournment: 10:31 a.m.

### **Post Meeting Action**

Date minutes approved: Jan. 10, 2023

Date minutes were available for public inspection: Jan. 10, 2023

Date minutes were posted on Alliance website: Jan. 10, 2023