

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

Date: February 1, 2022

Time: 9:06 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

Members in attendance:

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

Members absent: None

Also present

1. Mrs. Kathy Fox, Director

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

Mr. Ryan Linnig (Superintendent of Dimmick) and Mr. Dan Stecken (Superintendent of Seneca HS).

**Approval of Items on Consent Agenda (Open and Closed Session Minutes from the Board meeting held on January 11, 2022; December 2021 Bank Reconciliation; Bills, and Financial Statements,)**

Summary of discussion: One additional bill list was added to the board packet.

Motion made by: Dr. Cushing

Motion:  To approve the open and closed session minutes from the board meeting held on January 5, 2021; December 2020 Bank Reconciliation; Bills, and Financial Statements.

Motion seconded by: Mr. Pillion

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

Action:  Passed

**Remaining Agenda Items**

**Agenda item: Approve the appointment of Mr. Ryan Linnig as Executive Committee member to replace Mr. Charles Schneider due to his resignation**

Summary of Discussion: Mrs. Fox presented Mr. Ryan Linnig for board approval to serve on the Executive Committee. Mr. Linnig agreed to serve on the board, replacing the position vacated by Mr. Chuck Schneider upon his resignation. Mr. Linnig will complete Mr. Schneider's third and fourth year term.

Motion made by: Mr. Craven

Motion:  To approve the selection of Mr. Ryan Linnig to sit on the Executive Committee to serve Mr. Chuck Schneider's remaining third and fourth year term.

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Eager

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

"Nays" – none.

Action:  Passed

### **Mr. Ryan Linnig now enters meeting as a voting Executive Committee member**

#### **Agenda item: Approve the date for the 2021-2022 budget amendment hearing**

Summary of discussion: Mrs. Fox explained that presenting a motion to approve a budget amendment hearing must be done annually. The proposed formal public amended budget hearing date of May 2, 2022, is being presented to the board for approval.

Motion made by: Mrs. Eager

Motion:  To approve May 2, 2022, as the date for the 2021-2022 budget amendment hearing

Motion seconded by: Mr. Pillion

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

"Nays" – none.

Action:  Passed

#### **Agenda item: Approve the date for the 2022-2023 budget hearing**

Summary of discussion: Mrs. Fox explained that presenting a motion to approve a budget hearing must be done annually. The proposed meeting date of the formal public budget hearing being presented for approval is June 7, 2022.

Motion made by: Mr. Craven

Motion:  To approve June 7, 2022, as the date for the 2022-2023 formal public budget hearing

Motion seconded by: Mr. Linnig

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

"Nays" – none.

Action:  Passed

### **Adjourn to Closed Meeting**

Date: Feb. 1, 2022

Time: 9:16 a.m.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Pillion

Motion:  To adjourn to closed meeting to discuss the Collective Bargaining matters between the Alliance and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees and for 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.

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Eager

Roll Call: “Yeas” – Pillion, Eager, Craven, Cushing, Linnig, Moore and Parker  
“Nays” – none.

Action:  Passed

Time of adjournment of closed meeting and return to open meeting: 9:40 a.m.

### **Anticipated Action items:**

#### **Agenda item: Approve the retirement request resolution for Jean Gula**

Summary of discussion: As discussed in Closed Session

Motion made by: Mr. Linnig

Motion:  Adopt the resolution for retirement request from staff

WHEREAS: After 38 years of service to the L.E.A.S.E. Cooperative, Mrs. Jean Gula has officially indicated her intent to retire on June 30, 2025, and...

WHEREAS: Jean Gula is requesting the Executive Committee consider a 6% increase in creditable compensation for each of the periods of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024 of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, therefore be it formally...

RESOLVED: to approve a 6% increase to creditable earnings on July 1, 2022, July 1, 2023, and July 1, 2024 and to accept Mrs. Gula’s formal notification of pending retirement as a formal letter of resignation as of February 1, 2022.

Motion seconded by: Dr. Cushing

Roll Call: “Yeas”- Linnig, Cushing, Craven, Eager, Moore, Pillion and Parker  
“Nays” – none.

Action:  Passed

### **Information Items**

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

Mrs. Fox reported that the CBS report was included in the board packets. Mrs. Fox did announce that the school recently celebrated 100 days on January 28th. COVID was again an issue this month, with significant amount of students and staff absent. Mrs. Fox explained that because of this, behavioral issues saw a decrease. Mrs. Fox did tell the board that students absent because of COVID are on remote learning.

There are five new students, with two additional new students starting this week.

### **FOIA Request from Illinois Retired Teachers**

Mrs. Fox shared this FOIA request with the Executive Committee as required. A reply has been emailed back stating L.E.A.S.E. does not have any certified staff retiring this year.

### **L.E.A.S.E./V.O.I.C.E./Legislative/I.S.B.E./Medicaid initiatives**

- a. Maintenance Grant-Mrs. Fox informed the board that the grant was approved. The door needing replaced at C.B.S. has been installed and is waiting to be painted until spring 2022. The floor has also been slated for updating and Mrs. Fox announced that Midwest Commercial is working with her regarding this issue. Finally, the playground equipment was discussed and Mrs. Fox told the board that she will be submitting grant applications to help fund this project. Mrs. Fox also met with Dan Jenson regarding the HVAC and A.C. issues and possibly getting these updated.
- b. There are 48 people getting COVID tested weekly.
- c. Restraint - Time Out Guidelines-Mrs. Fox announced that the information has been emailed to all the districts.

### **Non agenda items from the Director/Executive Committee members**

#### **Horizon House/C.B.S. Collaboration**

- a. Mrs. Fox told the board that the two Horizon House clients have started working at C.B.S. this week.
- b. School Psychologist-Mrs. Fox announced that she has, and will continue, to post the vacancy for a School Psychologist position. She explained that there is a high demand for psychologists within our co-op. Mrs. Fox expressed the desire into hiring a psych intern as well. Mike Grenda, L.E.A.S.E. psychologist, has been active in the search by attending ISPA events and setting up a table to solicit applicants. A discussion was had on recruitment incentives and adjusting the current pay scale.

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

Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Parker

Motion seconded by Mr. Pillion

Action:  Passed

Time of adjournment: 10:10 a.m.

### **Post Meeting Action**

Date minutes approved: March 1, 2022

Date minutes were available for public inspection: March 1, 2022

Date minutes were posted on Alliance website: March 1, 2022