

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

Date: April 13, 2021

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: Mr. Carl Carlson

Members in attendance:

1. Mr. Carl Carlson
2. Dr. Mike Cushing
3. Dr. Jodi Moore
4. Mr. Michael Pillion
5. Dr. Kristen School

Members absent:

1. Mrs. Kristi Eager
2. Mr. Chuck Schneider

Also present

1. Ms. Mary Jane Chapman, Director

Reception of Guests and Visitors & Opportunity for Public Comment

None

Approval of Items on Consent Agenda (Open Session Minutes and Closed Session Minutes from the Board meeting held on March 2, 2021; February 2021 Bank Reconciliation; Bills and Financial Reports).

Summary of discussion: All information was included in the board packets. An additional bill list was emailed out all board members prior to today's meeting.

Motion made by: Dr. Moore

Motion: To approve the open session minutes and the closed session minutes from the board meeting held on March 2, 2021, to approve the February 2021 bank reconciliation report, the bills and financial reports.

Motion seconded by: Dr. School

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Moore, School, Carlson, Cushing, and Pillion.

"Nays" – none.

Action: Passed

Remaining Agenda Items

Agenda item: Approve the 2020-2021 Agreement with Peru Public Schools to provide breakfast and lunch for C.B.S. Students.

Summary of discussion: Ms. Chapman told the board that Circuit Breaker has been happy with the quality of the food Peru Elementary has provided for the breakfast and lunch programs, and that the agreement is the same as we have had in the past with rates staying the same since FY18.

Motion made by: Dr. Cushing

Motion: to approve the 2021-2022 agreement with Peru Public Schools to provide breakfast and lunch to C.B.S. students

Motion seconded by: Mr. Pillion

Roll Call "Yeas" – Cushing, Pillion, Carlson, Moore and School

"Nays" – none.

Action: Passed

Agenda item: Approve the addition of a 30% Coordinator of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing position

Summary of discussion: Ms. Chapman informed the board that this position is to replace Kathy Fox. Ms. Chapman also told the board that she has talked with Mike Matteson and believes we may be able to share one of his current employees for this position.

Motion made by: Mr. Pillion

Motion: to approve the hiring of a 30% Coordinator of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Motion seconded by: Dr. School

Roll Call "Yeas" – Pillion, School, Carlson, Cushing and Moore

"Nays" – none.

Action: Passed

Agenda item: Approve the resignations of staff

Summary of discussion: Ms. Chapman shared a letter from Kim Payton, who is asking to retire at the end of this fiscal year. Ms. Payton is a L.E.A.S.E. coordinator. Ms. Chapman also shared a letter of resignation from Ted Stasik, who is a part-time custodian at C.B.S.

Motion made by: Dr. Cushing

Motion: to accept the retirement of Kim Payton and the resignation of Ted Stasik

Motion seconded by: Mr. Pillion

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Cushing, Pillion, Carlson, Moore and School

"Nays" – none.

Action: Passed

Adjourn to Closed Meeting

Date: April 13, 2021

Time: 9:08 a.m.

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

A motion was made by Dr. Moore

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: Dr. School

Roll Call: “Yeas” – Moore, School, Carlson, Cushing and Pillion

“Nays” – none.

Action: Passed

Time of adjournment of closed meeting and return to open meeting: 9:15 a.m.

Motion to Return to Open Meeting

Motion made by: Dr. School

Motion: To return to Open Meeting

Motion seconded by: Dr. Moore

Roll Call: “Yeas” – School, Moore, Carlson, Cushing and Pillion

“Nays” – none.

Action: Passed

Anticipated Action items

Agenda item: Approve hiring schedules for various L.E.A.S.E. positions

Summary of discussion: As discussed in Closed Session

Motion made by: Dr. Moore

Motion: to approve the hiring schedule for various L.E.A.S.E. positions as presented

Motion seconded by: Dr. School

Roll Call: “Yeas” – Moore, School, Carlson, Cushing and Pillion

“Nays” – none.

Action: Passed

Agenda item: Approve resolution related to the employment of staff

Summary of discussion: As discussed in Closed Session

Motion made by: Dr. School

Motion: to adopt the following resolution

WHEREAS a vacancy exists for a L.E.A.S.E. Coordinator and . . .

WHEREAS a suitable and fully qualified applicant has now been found for this position, therefore be it ...

RESOLVED to employ Kelly Collins for the 2021-22 school year at the salary indicated in step 12 of the coordinator hiring schedule.

Motion seconded by: Mr. Pillion

Roll Call: "Yeas" – School, Pillion, Carlson, Cushing and Moore

"Nays" – none.

Action Passed

Information Items

Circuit Breaker Monthly Report

Ms. Chapman shared with the board that the C.B.S. report was included in the board packets. Ms. Chapman shared with the board members that it is difficult finding teachers. There is also a vacant part-time maintenance position and Ms. Chapman announced that interviews will start next week.

Review Preliminary budget amendment for FY21 and Preliminary budget for FY22

Ms. Chapman shared the preliminary F21 budget amendment information, along with FY22 preliminary budget. The FY 21 budget amendment hearing is scheduled for the May meeting, and the FY 22 budget hearing is scheduled for the June meeting. Ms. Chapman explained that currently the budget amendment is \$172,000 lower than the initial budget due to vacant positions. Currently the preliminary budget for FY22 is around \$200,000 lower than last year. Both may change as the figures presented are preliminary.

Elevating Special Educators Program

Ms. Chapman attached information in the board packets for an ESE grant program. We have had a preliminary inquiry from the R.O.E. in Bloomington, IL to rent space in our office to serve the surrounding region. Ms. Chapman explained that the co-op would need to replace the carpet in that rental space area and that L.E.A.S.E. would be responsible to for all cleaning services.

Review of Central Office Coordinator calendar for 2021-2022

A copy of the coordinator calendar was included in your packet. Ms. Chapman announced the start-up day would be Aug. 2, 2021. Ms. Chapman explained that the calendar is geared to have coordinators available to provide services when districts are back in session. It was also mentioned that days for autism training is included in the schedule.

L.E.A.S.E. Office and Circuit Breaker summer hours

This is an annual memo that is sent out to member districts in early May. The offices will be open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. starting Tuesday, June 1, 2021. The offices will be closed on Fridays. The offices will resume normal hours starting on Monday, August 9, 2021.

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

- a. Ms. Chapman informed the board that food baskets were distributed to CBS students before leaving for spring break.
- b. Ms. Chapman shared with the board that new IMRF rate next year will drop to 8.72% It was previously at 12.44%.
- c. Ms. Chapman told the board that Illinois Medicaid issued a notice proposing the following: allowing reimbursement for direct services provided under a Section 504 plan and allowing reimbursement for direct services “otherwise medically necessary”. Ms. Chapman said that the proposed start up date would be July 1, 2021.

Approval of Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by: Dr. Moore

Motion seconded by Mr. Pillion

Voice vote: Yeas all

Nays none

Action: Passed

Time of adjournment: 9:35 a.m.

Post Meeting Action

Date minutes approved: May 3, 2021

Date minutes were available for public inspection: May 3, 2021

Date minutes were posted on Alliance website: May 3, 2021