

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

Date: August 10, 2021

Time: 9:03 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. Mrs. Kristi Eager
2. Dr. Jodi Moore
3. Mr. Michael Pillion
4. Mr. Chuck Schneider

Members absent: Dr. Mike Cushing

Also present

1. Mrs. Kathy Fox, Director

Reception of Guests and Visitors & Opportunity for Public Comment

There are none.

Agenda item: Approval of Items on Consent Agenda (Open and Closed Session Minutes from the Board meeting held on June 1, 2021, the May 2021 and June 2021 Bank Reconciliations; Bills and Financial Reports and the destruction of the January 7, 2020, tape recorded minutes.)

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

Motion made by: Mrs. Eager

Motion: To approve the open and closed session minutes from the board meeting held on June 1, 2021, to approve the May 2021 and June 2021 bank reconciliation, the Bills, the financial reports and the destruction of the January 7, 2020, tape Recorded minutes.

Motion seconded by: Mr. Schneider

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Eager, Schneider, Moore and Pillion

"Nays" – none.

Action: Passed

Agenda item: Administration Salaries and Benefits on L.E.A.S.E. website

Summary of discussion: Mrs. Fox explained that posting the salary and benefit information on the L.E.A.S.E. website is an annual requirement. Board members were given the information in their board packets.

Motion made by: Mr. Pillion

Motion: to post the administration salaries and benefits on the L.E.A.S.E. website as Required to do on an annual basis.

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Eager

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Pillion, Eager, Moore and Schneider

"Nays" – none.

Actions: Passed

Agenda item: Approve Executive Board Candidate to replace outgoing member and present to the Alliance Council

Summary of discussion: Mrs. Fox reminded the board that the seats previously held by Mr. Carl Carlson and Dr. Kristen School need to be filled. Dr. Lisa Parker (Streator Elementary Dist. #44) and Mr. Jamie Craven (Peru Elem. Dist. #124) have agreed to serve. Mrs. Fox explained that a motion must be made and approved by the executive committee to present Dr. Parker and Mr. Craven as new board members to the Alliance Council for final election.

Motion made by: Mr. Schneider

Motion: to present Dr. Lisa Parker and Mr. Jamie Craven to the Alliance Council for election as replacement board members for Mr. Carl Carlson and Dr. Kristen School.

Motion seconded by: Mr. Pillion

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Schneider, Pillion, Eager and Moore

"Nays" – none.

Actions: Passed

Agenda item: Approve L.E.A.S.E. resolution regarding COVID Guidance

Summary of discussion: Mrs. Fox informed the board that the resolution presented to the board follows the CDC, IDPH and ISBE guidelines. The resolution was included in the packet. The board was also told that staff at C.B.S. will screen students each day at the door as they enter the school. Masks will also be worn at C.B.S., by all central office employees and all visitors attending during all preschool and hearing screenings. Mrs. Fox further explained that only one parent/guardian will be allowed with each student that is getting screened or assessed.

Motion made by: Mr. Pillion

Motion: to approve the resolution regarding COVID guidance as recommended by the CDC, IDPH and ISBE.

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Eager

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Pillion, Eager, Moore and Schneider

"Nays" – none.

Actions: Passed

Agenda item: Approve Circuit Breaker School Return to Learn Plan

Summary of discussion: Mrs. Fox informed the board that the Circuit Breaker School Return to Learn Plan was included in the board packet. The document was presented to our lawyer for review and the plan was approved. Mrs. Fox told the board that this document will be uploaded on our

L.E.A.S.E. website. The Return to Learn Plan will also be made available for parents/guardians to view at C.B.S. Open House.

Motion made by: Mrs. Eager

Motion: to accept the Circuit Breaker School Return to Learn plan as presented.

Motion seconded by: Mr. Schneider

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Eager, Schneider, Pillion and Moore

"Nays" – none.

Actions: Passed

Agenda item: Approve the rental agreement with Illinois Elevating Special Education Network

Summary of discussion: Mrs. Fox explained to the board that IESE (Illinois Elevating Special Education Network) will be renting one of the basement offices at the L.E.A.S.E. central office for \$550 per month. Rent will be paid to L.E.A.S.E. quarterly. SaeHan Park will be the IESE representative using our space and will be working on supporting districts and teachers in recruiting and retaining special education teachers. Mrs. Fox reported to the board that new flooring was installed in this office area, along with adding new, updated phones.

Motion made by: Mr. Pillion

Motion: to approve the rental agreement with Illinois Elevating Special Education Network.

Motion seconded by: Mr. Schneider

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Pillion, Schneider, Eager and Moore

"Nays" – none.

Actions: Passed

Agenda item: Accept the resignations of staff

Summary of discussion: Mrs. Fox announced that Katherine Witek, a C.B.S. paraprofessional, has submitted her letter of resignation to begin immediately.

Motion made by: Mr. Schneider

Motion: to accept the resignation of Katherine Witek, C.B.S. paraprofessional.

Motion seconded by: Mr. Pillion

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Schneider, Pillion, Eager and Moore.

"Nays" – none.

Actions: Passed

Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting

Date: August 10, 2021

Time: 9:17 a.m.

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

Motion made by: Mr. Schneider

And seconded by Mr. Pillion

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.

Roll Call: “Yeas” – Schneider, Pillion, Eager and Moore
“Nays” – none.

Actions: Passed

Time of adjournment of closed meeting and return to open meeting: 9:35 a.m.

Motion to Return to Open Meeting

Motion made by: Mrs. Eager

Motion: To return to Open Meeting

And seconded by: Mr. Pillion

Roll Call “Yeas” – Eager, Pillion, Moore and Schneider

“Nays” – none.

Action: Passed

Agenda item: Anticipated Action Items After Closed Session

Agenda item: Approve a resolutions related to the employment of staff

Summary of discussion: As discussed in Closed Session

Motion made by: Mr. Schneider

Motion: to adopt the following resolutions:

WHEREAS a vacancy exists for a Circuit Breaker Teacher and . . .

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

RESOLVED to employ Samantha Monks-Folty for the 2021-22 school year at the salary indicated in step C16 of the Circuit Breaker hiring schedule (\$63,800).

WHEREAS a vacancy exists for a Circuit Breaker Para-educator and . . .

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

RESOLVED to employ Tina Musgrove for the 2021-22 school year at the hourly rate of \$18.75 as indicated in the Circuit Breaker hiring schedule.

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Eager

Roll Call: “Yeas” – Schneider, Eager, Moore and Pillion
“Nays” – none.
Action: Passed

Information Items

Summary of Professional Development Activities for the 2021-22 school year

Mrs. Fox informed the board that Ms. Nicole Butt, L.E.A.S.E. Coordinator, has been chosen to be the Personal Development Coordinator this year. This year’s focus will be on implementing the ENGAGE program, beginning with a paraprofessional training. Mrs. Fox also announced that C.P.I. training will be held in person this year with P.P.E. worn during the hands-on portion of the training. Finally, Monica Genta will be presenting at IVCC on student engagement and social emotional learning.

Summary of Coordinator Activity

Mrs. Fox told the board that all coordinators returned to the office as of August 2, 2021.

First Reading of updated/new policies

Mrs. Fox presented the following updated/new policies for first reading. They include: 2:10 *Special Educ Alliance Governance*; 2:130 *Board-Director Relationship*; 2:240 *Governing Bodies Policy Development*; 2:260 *Uniform Grievance*; 2:265 *Title IX Harrassment*; 5:10 *Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment*; 5:20 *Workplace Harassment*; 6:235 *Access to Electronic Networks*; 6:255 *Assemblies and Ceremonies*; 6:260 *Complaints about Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs*; 7:180 *Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment* and 7:280 *Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease*;

Alliance Council meeting update

Mrs. Fox reminded the board that the Alliance Council meeting will be held at Lodi Tap (in Utica, IL.) on Thursday, Sept. 23rd. Guest speaker will be SaeHan Park from IESE. More information on this event will be forthcoming in the next couple weeks.

V.O.I.C.E./legislative, legal, Medicaid, I.S.B.E. and L.E.A.S.E. initiatives updates

Mrs. Fox is working with Medicaid providers to get more people trained to file and process their Medicaid paperwork.

Non-Agenda Items

Mrs. Fox announced that the ESSER 3 grant has allocated \$160,000 for the Circuit Breaker School. Mrs. Fox explained that she and Ms. Salazar, Principal at C.B.S., have discussed different areas where they felt the funds would be most beneficial. A few ideas included looking into finding curriculums for C.B.S., along with the possibility of buying an additional van for transporting students home after school when staying for additional tutoring. Discussion was held as to the three different areas the funds had to be spent, which are learning loss, after school programs and summer school programs.

Mrs. Fox also announced that our maintenance director as the central office, Mark Sweet, will be retiring in December and that she will start to find a replacement for him soon.

Approval of Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Schneider

Motion seconded by Mr. Pillion

A voice vote indicated all ayes.

Action: Passed

Time of adjournment: 10:08 a.m.

Next meeting: September 7, 2021

Post Meeting Action

Date minutes approved: Sept. 7, 2021

Date minutes were available for public inspection: Sept. 7, 2021

Date minutes were posted on Alliance website: Sept. 7, 2021