

**EAST CENTRAL KANSAS COOPERATIVE IN EDUCATION
January 10, 2023, BOARD MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the East Central Kansas Cooperative in Education Board of Directors was held January 10, 2023, at the ECKCE Office, 600 High Street, Baldwin City, Kansas.

Members Present: Chris Perry, Tony Brown, Becky Plate, Amanda Donovan (joined via Google Meet), Daniel Wray, Director, and Shelly McCart, Clerk of the Board.

Members Absent: Dawn Whalen, Lynn Reazin, Lorelea Hubert, Asst Director

Chris Perry, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Opening Business

Agenda Approval

Tony Brown made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Becky Plate seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Approval of Minutes

Tony Brown made a motion to approve the December 13, 2022, regular meeting minutes. Becky Plate seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Approval of the Financial Reports and Disbursements/Ledger Report

Becky Plate made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented. Tony Brown seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Old Business

Strategic Plan Update

Continued progress; The potential Life Skills curriculum, Styer-Fitzgerald, is still under discussion, however, positive feedback was received from some of the other districts utilizing it. The Lawrence curriculum fair was not as promising as hoped for in the social skills area.

Dan and Lorelea held a Professional Development in Baldwin on January 4th to train on and discuss IEP files and compliance. The goal is to review at least one for each case manager by March.

Director's Evaluation Discussion-Director goals were added to the form and emailed to Dan to confirm. Board President Chris Perry will then distribute to the members for their input.

New Business

Covid Leave Policy-Becky Plate made a motion to update the Covid Leave Policy to include offering up to 5 additional days of discretionary leave that may be granted during the 2022-2023 school year specifically for the employee's Covid isolation if they provide evidence of Covid infection. This policy will sunset at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. Tony Brown seconded. Motion approved 4-0.

Informational Items

Meeting Dates will be changed as follows:

February 21st, 2023

March 21st, 2023

Director's Report

Personnel – We have added to the paraprofessional staff but are still just a few positions short due to resignations.

Still in search of an ASL interpreter to fill the position vacated in late October. We can meet this student's needs in a more effective fashion through a signing para in lieu of a licensed interpreter, we are doing our due diligence to try and locate one.

Legislative Update – I have held meetings with several of our representatives. In discussion with some on the budget committee, it appears there is a bill on the floor to remove the statutory obligation to fund special education at 92% of excess costs. I have made clear that regardless of how they vote on that measure, the need will remain. I have it on good authority that it WILL pass, but the governor will most assuredly veto, and the legislature will not have the requisite votes to override.

Career fairs - I have signed up for a pair of virtual career fairs this year to recruit potential candidates for any open or anticipated positions for the next school year. Lorelea and I will also be attending the KU career Fair on February 28.

MOE – The Maintenance of Effort Application, due January 15, was submitted ahead of deadline; we passed the requisite one test. We are used to passing multiple tests, but the pandemic caused a shortage of staff as you are aware, making it nearly impossible to meet the other tests.

Negotiations Training – The annual negotiations training required by Kansas statute is being done virtually again this year. We will need a couple of members to complete the training. Lorelea and I will complete it as required sometime in January.

SEAC Update – We had a holiday gathering December 15 at the Baldwin IC from 6:00-7:30, designed to be a social gathering to network and fellowship. Attendance was light, but conversation was lively. We will be scheduling another meeting soon.

Dan Wray shared a PowerPoint presentation with the members that he will present at Eudora's board meeting on Thursday the 12th. He has asked to be added to the upcoming agendas for Baldwin and Wellsville also. The slides highlight the following:

- Programs
- Teams/Roles/Why the Interlocal?
- Employees-the who and what
- Initiatives
- Compliance
- Strategic Plan
- Increases of Past 10 years
- Revenue Sources
- Kansas Statute

- District Breakdown/ECKCE %
- Disabilities
- Universal Terms

The members gave feedback regarding additional items to discuss or explain.

Board Member Input

Board President Chris Perry spoke about the recent decision by the Kansas Board of Tax Appeals and effects it will have on the Baldwin school district.

Executive Session

Tony Brown made a motion to enter executive session with the Board Members and Dan Wray, to discuss personnel matters pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in the Boardroom at 8:32 p.m. Chris Perry seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

The Board reconvened into open session.

Becky Plate made a motion to give Director Dan Wray the authority to pursue the renewal of the H1B for Ruo Chen Shen. Tony Brown seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Action on Personnel

Tony Brown made a motion to accept the Personnel Report as presented. Amanda Donovan seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Amanda Donovan made a motion to adjourn. Becky Plate seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

These minutes are subject to final approval at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Shelly McCart,
Clerk of the Board

Action on Personnel

Resignations

Paras:

Tiffany Nixon, EES

Hirings/Changes

Paras:

Jaiden Michael, BPC

Makenna Lindsay, EES