

EAST CENTRAL KANSAS COOPERATIVE IN EDUCATION

January 11, 2022, BOARD MINUTES

The regular meeting of the East Central Kansas Cooperative in Education Board of Directors was held January 11, 2022, at the Baldwin High School Cafeteria, 415 Eisenhower Street, Baldwin City, Kansas.

Members Present: Chris Perry, Susan Schiffelbein, Becky Plate, Dawn Whalen (joined via zoom), Amanda Donovan, Lynn Reazin, Daniel Wray, Director, Lorelea Hubert, Asst. Director, (joined via zoom), and Shelly McCart, Clerk of the Board.

Members Absent:

Additional Attendees:

Chris Perry, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Public Comment

Opening Business

Agenda Approval

Chris Perry made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Lynn Reazin seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of the December 14, 2021, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Susan Schiffelbein made a motion to approve the December 14, 2021, regular board meeting minutes. Amanda Donovan seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of the Financial Reports and Disbursements/Ledger Report

Lynn Reazin made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented. Amanda Donovan seconded. Motion approved 6-0.

Old Business

Vision and Mission of ECKCE/Strategic Planning Update:

Board President Chris Perry reviewed the Strategic Planning to Becky Plate, as she is the newest member of the Cooperative Board.

The updated version of the survey was emailed to the Board Members.

- Send the survey to ALL staff, not just SpEd.

- Discussion on how to “publish” the community survey-email, social media, websites, etc.

- Timeframe for leaving the survey open.

- How to avoid confusion/overlapping of Baldwin’s survey.

- Possibly have Michael Koonce from Greenbush at the February meeting for input.

New Business

None

Director's Reports

- Personnel - An additional resignation was received in the Eudora Middle School which is presented to the board for acceptance along with a liquidated damages check. Additionally, a few para resignations and hires, but are still understaffed in a few buildings, although we continue to search.
Because of our lack of paraprofessional candidates, I posted for an additional teacher position in the WEBS program. A request (in arrears) for approval of both the position and the candidate, which was graciously referred by a board member. Miraculously and despite having 2 last minute mid-year resignations, we have all of our certified positions filled, sans .5 of the SLP position vacated by Jean Bouse.
Despite requesting help from 6 different staffing agencies, we have been unable to find coverage for our SLP maternity leave in Eudora. I notified the teachers of all students that those in their classrooms who typically receive services will be getting them on a more limited basis until we can find someone to cover. I also emailed all parents with notification that their students' services may suffer a periodic interruption but that we would do our best to get them a portion of their services and address any regression of skills through compensatory services in the summer, considered on a case-by-case basis depending on how many sessions were unable to be delivered.
- Gifted File Review - Gifted file review The DCAP for the insufficient measurable goal on a gifted IEP was written and submitted. We have already arranged for training of staff to address the improvement of goal writing.
- Accreditation Waivers - The deadline for waivers is February 1st. We need a few more than in past years but anticipate all will be approved.
- Budget - No new news as we await word on Categorical Aid reimbursement. The state anticipates that categorical aid will decrease by approximately \$500, I anticipate that it will rise by at least twice that amount. Regardless, the ARP monies that we receive this year will help to keep assessments between 1 and 2% increase.
- MOE - The Maintenance of Effort application was delayed this year to January 15th. Calculations have begun based upon the submission of the district MOE numbers which were completed on Friday January 7.
- Negotiations Training – The annual negotiations training required by Kansas statute is being done virtually. We will need to replace one member of our negotiations team this year with Mike Kelso's departure.
- High School Peer Mentor program – I have submitted a curricular framework for a peer mentor program at BHS to help alleviate the need for additional para support as well as providing a best practice inclusive atmosphere and an interest pipeline for students considering going into education as a career.
- Mask mandate for Douglas County – The new mandate went into effect on January 7. I would like to have a discussion as to whether policy language needs to be in place to address employees who request exemptions which may have questionable veracity due to the ambiguity of the mandate language.

- SEAC Update - Meetings are on hold until the health department is in support of in person meetings, but we hope to have one on January 24th.

Board Member Input:

Becky Plate introduced herself and gave the other Board Members some of her background information. She is an RN at an Urgent Care Clinic in Lawrence. Her children graduated from Eudora schools, and she has several family members involved in education.

Director Dan Wray presented a certificate, cookie, and gift card to the Board Members in honor of Board Appreciation Month.

Discussion regarding adding a new position in the Interlocal and hiring staff for it and how not to break policy in times of high need and open positions. The ability to hire someone asap if they are available is of concern. The Board suggested utilizing a last-minute zoom for these occasions.

At the next meeting Director Dan Wray would like to discuss the possibility of a sign-on bonus.

Action on Personnel

Lynn Reazin made a motion to accept the Paraprofessional resignations and hires and Certified resignations and hires as presented. Amanda Donovan seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Lynn Reazin made a motion to adjourn. Susan Schiffelbein seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 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:

Heather Copeland-Gassert, EMS
Dylan Mathern, EHS

Certified:

Shelly Haug, EMS 6th

Hirings/Changes

Paras:

Lois Misegadis, BHS
Ella Scoby, BIC
Halley Flory, BIC
Lexi George, BPC
Sarah Reynolds, Bridges/Job Coach

Certified:

Carl Springer, EMS 6th
Bryce Wiedemann, WEBS