

**EAST CENTRAL KANSAS COOPERATIVE IN EDUCATION  
December 13, 2022, BOARD MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the East Central Kansas Cooperative in Education Board of Directors was held December 13, 2022, at the ECKCE Office, 600 High Street, Baldwin City, Kansas.

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

**Members Absent:** Dawn Whalen, Lynn Reazin

Chris Perry, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**Public Comment**

**Opening Business**

**Agenda Approval**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Tony Brown made a motion to approve the November 8, 2022, regular meeting minutes. Amanda Donovan seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

**Approval of the Financial Reports and Disbursements/Ledger Report**

Tony Brown made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented. Chris Perry seconded. Motion approved 4-0.

**Old Business**

**Strategic Plan Update**

Lorelea shared updated information and a document showing specific points of the plan and the progress toward those targeted areas. This information will be added to the website.

Discussion points: Survey of students-has not been done before while the student is still attending school, only after, as Indicator 13 specifies. Maybe a pre/post survey to see if we did meet their wants/needs once they graduate.

Item 1f.-Lorelea mentioned that the use/allocation of space will evolve or happen naturally with the districts' bond issues and plans.

**New Business**

Director's Evaluation Discussion-The form was shared with the Board Members and dates discussed for the process. Board President Chris Perry will finalize the document and have it distributed to the members for their input.

**Informational Items**

Director Dan Wray discussed the fact that Baldwin is the only district of the 3 that is paying Covid leave (not requiring the employee to use their regular discretionary leave) to cover Covid.

## **Meeting Dates will be changed as follows:**

**February 21st, 2023**

**March 21st, 2023**

Dan and Lorelea presented the idea of hiring/having an Instructional Coordinator (Coach) for the Sped staff. They discussed one per district or one for elementary and another for secondary grade levels. This position would still follow the same salary schedule as the Certified staff and would assist in the Sped process to ensure all components of the IEP system are followed. A pilot program was suggested to see how it works. Dan and Lorelea will gather more specifics and revisit with the Board.

### **Director's Report**

- Personnel – We are still in search of a few key para candidates due to resignations and new student additions. We are in search of an ASL interpreter to fill the position vacated in late October. While I believe 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. We have reached out to 6 different staffing agencies as well as to the KU Dept. Chair in charge of their ASL program with no luck so far. Because of the shortage, I contacted the KSSD outreach coordinator to do a consultation with the program at EES to see what supports they would recommend for this student, since they have prior history with her and because they have the greatest knowledge base around in-school communication support. They are scheduled to come out on January 9.

- Significant Disproportionality – KSDE reached out to us on Dec 1 to let us know that their analysis of our December 1, 2021, count compared to audited enrollment figures submitted by our member districts indicates that we have a significant disproportionality in 3 areas. The greatest of these is our Caucasian students with OHI, where our risk factor is at 6.12. The risk formula cannot exceed 3.0% or we are found out of compliance. The second is with Caucasian students with SLD, and the third is with ALL disabilities of Caucasian students. Both categories barely eclipsed the 3.0% mark.

The good news is that the interlocal must exceed the threshold for three consecutive years to be found determined in violation of the significant disproportionality. This is the first year that we have exceeded the risk formula threshold in any category. The penalties for being found determined include having to set aside 15% of our federal funds to address the issue through CEIS allocation, which would amount to about \$125,000, and the forfeiture of our ability to reduce our MOE using the 50% allowable exceptions rule. Because we have been made aware of this now, I have confidence that we will be able to avoid exceeding the threshold next year after doing a cursory analysis of the reasons for exceeding it this year. Anecdotally, since the formula was revised a couple of years ago, Many districts have already had to allocate CEIS set-aside monies. The reasons for the increase in identification are manifold, but some are certainly related to the learning loss experienced over the last 2 years and the increase of identification both statewide and nationwide. We have already begun discussions of how to bring our identification rate down to where we believe it should be.

- Legislative Update – I have scheduled meetings with several of our representatives and will update you on those conversations as they occur. Suffice it to say that we are anxious to see how discussions in the various legislative committees go regarding fully funding the 92% of excess costs as statutorily required. While some are already advocates, some will be more challenging conversations, but I am looking forward to the persuasive challenge. I am still hopeful to get some summaries from parents who have

promised to advocate regarding their own children's individual circumstances to aid in this conversation.

- MOE – The Maintenance of Effort Application is due January 15—it is a collaborative effort between the business offices of all 4 entities. I have been in contact with the business offices to get their information in at the very latest by Winter break to give me time to complete the application by the deadline.

- 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, although Lorelea and I will complete it as required sometime in January.

- SEAC Update –A meeting is scheduled for December 15 at the Baldwin IC from 6:00-7:30, designed to be a social gathering to network and fellowship. All are welcome.

### **Board Member Input**

### **Executive Session**

#### **Action on Personnel**

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

Becky Plate made a motion to adjourn. Tony Brown seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 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:**

Tracy Strickland, EMS  
Sarah Russell, EHS  
Amanda Chilcoat, EHS

### Hirings/Changes

#### **Paras:**

Kristy Torchia, BPC