

EAST CENTRAL KANSAS COOPERATIVE IN EDUCATION

March 21, 2023, BOARD MINUTES

The regular meeting of the East Central Kansas Cooperative in Education Board of Directors was held March 21, 2023, at the ECKCE Office, 600 High Street, Baldwin City, Kansas.

Members Present: Chris Perry, Tony Brown, Becky Plate, Lynn Reazin, Dawn Whalen, Daniel Wray, Director, Lorelea Hubert, Asst Director, and Shelly McCart, Clerk of the Board.

Members Absent: Amanda Donovan

Additional Attendees: Kim Bergan (left at 7:25 p.m.)

Board President Chris Perry called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Public Comment

Opening Business

Agenda Approval

The order of the agenda was changed, moving New Business ahead of Old Business for discussion of the accounting software purchase with Kim Bergan, HR/Payroll Specialist.

Chris Perry made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Becky Plate seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Minutes

Becky Plate made a motion to approve the February 21, 2023, regular meeting minutes. Lynn Reazin seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of the Financial Reports and Disbursements/Ledger Report

Becky Plate made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented. Lynn Reazin seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Old Business

Strategic Plan Update

Lorelea presented an updated graph showing the Strategic Plan progress.

The Director's Evaluation Discussion was moved to Executive Session.

New Business

ECKCE's current accounting software system, MAPPs, through Greenbush, will no longer be supported in 2024. SUI, Software Unlimited Inc. will be the new accounting platform starting July 1, 2023, with their partnering company, My Benefits Channel, for the HR and onboarding capabilities, and Time Management Systems for timekeeping of the hourly staff. Kim Bergan gave an overview of all 3 companies and how they will work together to accomplish the needs of the business office. The costs of the new programs were shared with the Members, and all agreed to move forward with the plan presented.

Dan and Lorelea reviewed the need for an Instructional Coach/Integration Specialist to assist

the less experienced teachers with the aspects of writing IEPs and SpEd programming for those students and to help with Professional Development as needed. This position can be claimed for Categorical Aid and ideally will be an existing staff member. Dan explained that there will be no additional FTE as there will be a change in a couple of classrooms moving forward and the position will remain on the current salary schedule but will also receive the same stipend as our current SLPs receive.

Chris Perry made a motion to create a position for an Integration Specialist for ECKCE for the 2023-2024 school year. Lynn Reazin seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Dan presented the Board Members with a sample Conflict of Interest Policy for ECKCE. After discussion, Dan will revise and submit to the Members for feedback.

Conflict of Interest

ECKCE employees are prohibited from engaging in any activity which may conflict with or detract from the effective performance of their duties. No employee will attempt, during the school day or on school property, to sell or endeavor to influence any student or school employee to buy any product, article, instrument, service, or other items which may directly or indirectly benefit the ECKCE employee. Neither shall an ECKCE employee enter into an employment relationship with families of students they are assigned to work with at school as it creates an inequitable relationship with that particular child and could result in confidentiality challenges.

Informational Items

Director's Report

- Personnel – Our paraprofessional numbers are close to full. We are seeing the number of resignations/retirements that we were expecting. As of this writing, we have 2 retirements at Wellsville High School, one resource position at Eudora High School, one resource teacher in Eudora, one in Gifted in Baldwin/Wellsville, one school psychologist, one Occupational therapist and an Early Childhood position in Wellsville. After speaking with the principal and superintendent in Wellsville, we will not be looking to fill the early childhood position because numbers do not warrant it at this point.
- Staff Development – As a part of our strategic plan and ongoing IEP improvement initiative, we are in the middle of our final set of IEP reviews. We have developed realistic targets for improvement for those we have completed thus far and will continue the process through the next month.
- Paraprofessional attendance pilot – We will update you preliminarily on the attendance pilot we began for paraprofessionals, although we have not gotten through an entire month so the results will be incomplete.
- Supplemental Health Proposal – Still pending—will set up a meeting in April for finalization or rejection.
- Legislative Update – We have been watching the legislature as they complete their committee wrangling of amendments to SB 83 which they have attached special education funding to. We think it will fail, but that just means there will be a different way

to approve Governor Kelly's recommendation of 72 million additional special education dollars.

- Career fairs -- Lorelea and I attended the KU career Fair on February 28 but continue to seek out potential candidates for positions next year ahead of the primary surge. We did meet with a few good candidates but have not gotten applications yet.
- Negotiations Training – I attended the annual negotiations training required by Kansas statute through KASB in February. We will be presenting our letter to the NEA on March 31 as required by statute, but do not anticipate any additional items other than the mandatory ones, pending your input.
- Board Policy update – Conflict of interest has been an issue, but upon talking with KASB, they do not recommend that this be negotiated, rather adopted as a policy.
- SEAC Update – We will be scheduling another meeting soon, although this semester has been particularly trying for both staff and families, so we are still behind schedule.

Chris Perry made a motion to increase the retention bonus for the OTs to match that of the school psychs. Lynn Reazin seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Board Member Input

Chris Perry and Dan Wray will be participating in the Leadership for Tomorrow program through KASB, which consists of 5 two-day sessions, providing opportunities to develop leadership skills for effective governance and raising student achievement and a greater understanding of the Kansas public education system.

Executive Session

Becky Plate made a motion to enter executive session with the Board Members, Director Dan Wray, and Asst Director Lorelea Hubert, to discuss an individual employee's performance, pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in the Boardroom at 9:00 p.m. Dawn Whalen seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Chris Perry made a motion to enter executive session with the Board Members, Director Dan Wray, and Asst Director Lorelea Hubert, to discuss an individual employee's performance, pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in the Boardroom at 9:05 p.m. Dawn Whalen seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Chris Perry made a motion to enter executive session with the Board Members only to discuss the Director's Evaluation, pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in the Boardroom at 9:18 p.m. Lynn Reazin seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The Board reconvened into open session.

Action on Personnel

Lynn Reazin made a motion to accept the Personnel Report as amended. Tony Brown seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Lynn Reazin made a motion to adjourn. Dawn Whalen seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 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:

Stefanie White, EES

Certified:

McKayla Horton, OT
Hannah Clarke, Psych
Justin Mayer, EHS

Hirings/Changes

Paras:

Anna-Marie Turner, EHS
Lacie Greene, EES
Braeden Pfau, Psych Para 23-24

Certified:

Kylie Fischer, OT 23-24