

## **EAST CENTRAL KANSAS COOPERATIVE IN EDUCATION**

### **April 12, 2022, BOARD MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the East Central Kansas Cooperative in Education Board of Directors was held April 12, 2022, at the ECKCE Office, 600 High Street, Baldwin City, Kansas.

**Members Present:** Amanda Donovan, Becky Plate, Chris Perry (joined via zoom), Tony Brown (joined via zoom), Dawn Whalen (joined via zoom), Daniel Wray, Director, Lorelea Hubert, Asst. Director (joined at 7:09 p.m.), and Shelly McCart, Clerk of the Board.

**Additional Attendees:** Michael Koonce, Director of Administrative Services, Greenbush April Swartz, CPA/Owner, Varney & Associates, joined at 7:44 p.m.  
Kim Bergan, HR/Payroll manager, joined at 7:44 p.m.

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

### **Public Comment**

### **Opening Business**

#### **Agenda Approval**

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

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Dawn Whalen made a motion to approve the March 8, 2022, regular meeting minutes. Tony Brown seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

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

Dawn Whalen made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented. Tony Brown seconded. Motion approved 5-0.

Strategic Planning Survey Results/Review Presentation by Michael Koonce, Greenbush:

- 138 Responses Total
  - Baldwin-51
  - Eudora-31
  - Wellsville-30
  - ECKCE staff-26
- Open-ended questions are analyzed/summarized into themes as a collection of the responses with communication being at the top as well as increased pay for paraeducators, more high quality paraeducators, more professional development options, etc. Michael explained that there was a definite pattern across the response groups, which is typical.
- The initial focus of the feedback received was to start with the target/key areas for the first year of the 5-year plan.

Michael Koonce left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

ECKCE Audit Presentation by April Swartz from Varney & Associates, CPAs.

- Varney took 16 former clients from Karlin & Long, the previous firm completing the yearly audit. Ms. Swartz stated that the audit was clean and a bit different than a district since there are less funds. The deposits are secured, stayed within the budget and no adjustments were found. Dan shared the hard copy of the completed document with the members that were in attendance. Overall, the cash reserves were up, which she explained, is due to effects of the pandemic. They recommend about a 3-month expenditure in reserve, which is difficult in the Interlocal situation since it is mostly salaries. She noted that their fee includes year-round availability for questions, either from the Board or the director, if the need should arise.

April Swartz left the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

### **Old Business**

Classified Snow Day Pay Policy- The Board reviewed documents detailing the member districts' policies and will revisit at the May meeting. Director Dan Wray will add the policy to the revised handbook.

### **New Business**

WEBS Administrator contract moved to Personnel. She will have an office in Eudora (currently at EES) but may also have a space at EMS/EHS and will report to Dan and collaborate with Lorelea.

Becky Plate made a motion to approve the ECKCE 2022-23 calendar as presented. Dawn Whalen seconded. Motion approved 5-0.

Dawn Whalen made a motion to approve the KASB Legal Assistance Fund Contract for the 2022-23 school year. Becky Plate seconded. Motion approved 5-0.

Board Retreat Discussion-gathering of Board members in an open meeting to discuss Strategic Planning and cohesion of the member districts and the Interlocal, to be held on May 24th at 6 p.m. at the Hot Off the Press Coffee Shop, 513 Main Street in Wellsville.

### **Director's Reports**

- Personnel – Several staff members have said that they will not be returning. Right now, we have openings at each of our elementary schools, an opening at Eudora Middle, and resignations from our Bridges program and two of our 4 Occupational Therapists. While an internal candidate is interested in the Bridges opening, the lack of OTs in the state is concerning and how we will be able to cover that need. If we can find at least one more OT, then we may be able to get by with hiring a COTA graduate from Neosho Community College or a similar program to cover the remaining needs.

- Our feedback from the Strategic Planning process would indicate the need for increased Social Work support. An additional social worker position is needed to serve Baldwin, as we currently have one to serve both the Baldwin and Eudora communities. The social worker in Wellsville has been used as a general education AND special education social worker, but because of a staffing change in that district, she will be freed up to do just special education.
- ESY - The paperwork was due April 1st. Most of the locations and positions are staffed. An additional SLP may be needed and have inquired about the independent SLP's availability.
- Budget — No new news as we await word on Categorical Aid reimbursement. Regardless, the ARP monies that we receive this year will help to keep assessments between 1 and 2% increase.
- Audit – This year the audit was conducted by a new firm, Varney and Associates. While there is generally a discrepancy, this auditor has a much better lens through which to look at accountability, and will be requesting a multi-year contract with this firm moving forward.
- Negotiation letters were exchanged on the 31st of March.
- SEAC - Next meeting is set for May 3rd at 6:30 at the Eudora West Library.

#### **Board Member Input:**

Becky Plate recommended a letter to be sent to lawmakers regarding the funding of schools. Director Dan Wray will draft a letter and ask the superintendents to sign it and send it to Governor Laura Kelly.

#### **Executive Session**

Chris Perry made a motion to go into executive session with the Board members, Director Dan Wray, and Lorelea Hubert to discuss personnel matters pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in the boardroom at 9:30 p.m. Becky Plate seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

The Board reconvened into open session at 9:30 p.m.

Becky Plate made a motion to go into executive session with the Board members, Director Dan Wray, and Lorelea Hubert to discuss personnel matters pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in the boardroom at 9:36 p.m. Amanda Donovan seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

The Board reconvened into open session at 9:36 p.m.

Chris Perry made a motion to go into executive session with the Board members to discuss personnel matters pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in the boardroom at 9:48 p.m. Dawn Whalen seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

The Board reconvened into open session at 9:48 p.m.

Amanda Donovan made a motion to go into executive session with the Board members, Director Dan Wray, and Lorelea Hubert to discuss personnel matters pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in the boardroom at 9:53 p.m. Becky Plate seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

The Board reconvened into open session at 9:53 p.m.

**Action on Personnel**

Chris Perry made a motion to accept the Paraprofessional and Certified resignations and hires as presented. Dawn Whalen seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Dawn Whalen made a motion to adjourn. Amanda Donovan seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 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:**

Abby Collins, WES  
Christi Brewster, Bridges  
Deborah Sheffield, BPC  
Paula Bowlin, BPC

#### **Certified:**

Barret Koch, Eudora Psych  
Scott Brown, EES  
Becky Florance, BIC  
Madison Ricke, Wellsville OT  
Jill DeAno, Bridges  
Carl Springer, EMS  
Hillary Brunin, Eudora OT  
Emily Taylor, WES

### Hirings/Changes

#### **Paras:**

Haley Kline, WHS  
Michelle Ferris, WMS  
Desiree Smalley, BPC  
Lexton George, BPC

#### **Certified:**

Angela Gill, WEBS Administrator  
Wendy White transfer from EES to EMS