

**EAST CENTRAL KANSAS COOPERATIVE IN EDUCATION
May 9, 2023, BOARD MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the East Central Kansas Cooperative in Education Board of Directors was held May 9, 2023, at the ECKCE Office, 600 High Street, Baldwin City, Kansas.

Members Present: Chris Perry, Tony Brown, Becky Plate, Amanda Donovan, Dawn Whalen, Lynn Reazin (arrived at 7:05 p.m.), Daniel Wray, Director, Lorelea Hubert, Asst Director, and Shelly McCart, Clerk of the Board.

Additional Attendees: Rebecca Killen, Chad and Holly Brecheisen

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

Public Comment

Opening Business

Agenda Approval

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

Approval of Minutes

Becky Plate made a motion to approve the April 11, 2023, regular meeting minutes, and the April 24, 2023, special meeting minutes. Amanda Donovan 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. Dawn Whalen seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Old Business

Strategic Plan Update

Revisited Baldwin IEP audit: had last mental health team meeting and SW support teams (Gen Ed and Sped)-we will have 3 new SW for next year to replace those exiting. EC is still at the top of the list-having conversations with Baldwin and Wellsville. SEAC development/interest-members present to speak later in the meeting. Lorelea has started the document for the Strategic Plan that can be continued by the new Asst. Director once she leaves.

Director's Evaluation-Tony Brown made a motion to approve the Director's Evaluation. Becky Plate seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

New Business

Tony Brown made a motion to approve the LEA Assurances for 2023-24. Becky Plate seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Tony Brown made a motion to accept the 2023-24 ECKCE calendar as presented. Lynn Reazin seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Becky Plate made a motion to increase all para pay \$1.00/hour for the 2023-24 school year effective August 1, 2023.

The para leave policy was discussed and tabled until the June 2023 meeting so Director Dan Wray can revise his proposal.

Informational Items

Director Dan Wray reviewed the annual agreement with Greenbush for the Audiology, Hearing, Vision, and Orientation & Mobility services. Tony Brown made a motion to approve the contract for the 2023-24 school year. Lynn Reazin seconded. Motion approved 6-0.

The ESY Staff list was presented to the Board Members. Director Dan Wray noted there have been a Couple of names added to the list as of recent.

Director's Report

- Personnel – We have received a few more resignations, including key ones in leadership, but have candidates lined up for interviews for many of the positions and hope to have all positions filled later this month. I would welcome the board's involvement in interviewing for Lorealea's position.
- While we received another social worker resignation this week, I am most concerned about the simple resource position openings, right now we have elementary openings in all 3 districts with no candidates.
- Paraprofessional attendance pilot – The attendance numbers for the second month of the pilot did not show significant improvement over the 60% of folks who received it the first month. I do not recommend continuing the incentive next year but am continuing to look for ways to incentivize attendance for next year.
- Paraprofessional Pay – I am recommending that we increase para salaries by \$1.00 an hour across the board and increase the level of increase for specialized programs (Life Skills, WEBS, CARDS, and Job coaches) from .75 to 1.00. I am also recommending that we reduce the number of discretionary days from 10 to 8 beginning with the fall 2023 semester.
- LOD errors – The annual indicator compliance finalization resulted in some indicator 20 failures due to computer locking errors. We have subsequently fixed the issue, but it resulted in Wellsville 289 being put on notice for LOD. There are no direct repercussions for this, although it has made us implement some fail safes to ensure that it does not happen 2 years in a row, which would result in a technical assistance recommendation from the state.
- Assurances – The application for IDEA VI-B funds opened on May 1 and will close May 31.
- Insurance Rates – I requested our rate proposal earlier this year and have been given assurances that it will come later this month.
- Legislative Update – Well, the legislature made poor use of their time resulting in poor decisions regarding special education funding in the budget for next year, approving a nominal increase which does not keep pace with inflation. We are waiting for a veto from Governor Kelly which will extend the session and possibly give us more opportunities for funding, but as of this writing, SB 113 still hadn't been published for her to read. Stay tuned.
- Negotiations – We hope to have our first session prior to the end of the school year, potentially on May 16. A major discussion will be on the contribution to our BCBS HCP, and even though the state budget did not adequately address SPED funding, we still

should have room to negotiate based upon the careful management of last year's budget.

- SEAC Update – SEAC members introduced themselves and spoke a bit about what can be done to improve communication between the district, the Interlocal, and the parents. They have a Facebook page and discussed how they are trying to reach out to more parents and ways to do so. Also, the importance of Professional Development for the staff and lack of knowledge in the schools/teachers/administration.

Board Member Input

Board President Chris Perry initiated a conversation regarding the hiring decisions-how the new hire list is shared with the districts and the HR/onboarding process. It was agreed that there needs to be better communication between all parties. The Interlocal is in the process of implementing a new HR/onboarding/timekeeping system which should help in some of those areas. Lorelea suggested a meeting/discussion with the building admins to review procedures of both sides to help work out issues.

Executive Session

Action on Personnel

Lynn Reazin made a motion to accept the Personnel Report as presented. Amanda Donovan seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Tony Brown made a motion to adjourn. Becky Plate seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 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:

Anna-Marie Turner, EHS

Katie Wagner, EES

Certified:

Aaron Nickelson, BHS LS

Loralea Hubert, ECKCE Asst. Director

Faith Panzer, Baldwin SW

Scout Fritschie, EES SEEDs Rm

McKenzie Austin, BIC IR 5th

Sarah Heck, Eudora OT

Lacy Davison, Bridges

Hirings/Changes

Certified:

Richard Todd Schroeder, WEBS Administrator