

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

### **June 9, 2020 BOARD MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the East Central Kansas Cooperative in Education Board of Directors was held June 9, 2020 virtually via Zoom Meeting.

**Members present:** Chris Perry, Susan Schiffelbein, Dawn Whalen, Mike Kelso, Lynn Reazin, Daniel Wray, Director, and Shelly McCart, Clerk of the Board.

**Members Absent:** Amanda Donovan

### **Additional Attendees:**

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

### **Public Comment**

### **Opening Business**

#### **Agenda Approval**

Mike Kelso made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Lynn Reazin seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

#### **Approval of the May 12, 2020 Regular Board Minutes**

Dawn Whalen made a motion to approve the May 12, 2020 regular board meeting minutes. Susan Schiffelbein seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

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

Lynn Reazin made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented. Susan Schiffelbein seconded. Motion approved 5-0.

### **Old Business**

Mike Kelso made a motion to approve the handbook revisions as presented. Dawn Whalen seconded. Motion approved 5-0.

### **New Business**

Dawn Whalen made a motion to approve the Greenbush Contract for HI, VI, and O&M services for 2020-21. Susan Schiffelbein seconded. Motion approved 5-0.

Susan Schiffelbein made a motion to approve the annual Webkidss contract. Dawn Whalen seconded. Motion approved 5-0.

Director Dan Wray proposed a \$.30 per hour raise for the paraprofessionals for the 20-21 school year. He stated that the rationale for the increase is part of the ESSER guidance in regard to hazard pay. It would, however, stand for future years even after those funds are complete in July of 2022. The Board members asked how much of the funds would be utilized

for the raise-\$45K of the \$69K we will receive. Dan explained the formula: 1116 hours x cents per hour x # of paras. Discussion regarding a bonus or stipend option instead that could be used as an incentive to retain paras was thought to be a bookkeeping issue and not really considered hazard pay. Board President Chris Perry suggested a \$.25/hour raise, which equates to utilizing approximately \$37K of the ESSER funds.

Chris Perry made a motion to approve the \$.25/hour raise for paraprofessionals for the 20-21 school year. Dawn Whalen seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

## **Director's Reports**

- Personnel-All Certified positions have been filled. There have been a few para resignations recently but are being filled promptly.
- ESY Personnel-Hired 19 teachers and 38 paras to support. Since last meeting a few additional personnel have been added to make certain there is enough coverage to keep things sufficiently clean, and in the event of an occasional high temperature, we will have people to fill in. These additional people will be paid for with additional ESSER funds. So far, we have had a handful of parents who decided not to send their kids due to specific circumstances and comfort, but the majority are coming.
- A proposal for a .30 per hour raise on the paraprofessional pay scale across the board. The rationale for this increase is a part of our GEPA statement as the ESSER provides guidance for the use of funds as hazard pay. It is difficult enough to find people willing to work for the money that we can afford to pay; now that paras would be working near children, they would be at even greater risk of exposure.
- Budget-The assessment projections are becoming clearer, now that the categorical aid amount for this year has been distributed and lessened the anticipated impact on this year's budget. The amount, projected at the beginning of the year at \$29,800, was projected to come in lower, (\$29,510) but in fact came in at \$30,010. The additional \$210 results in additional revenue of \$28,000 for this year, when we were anticipating a \$39,000 loss. The projection for next year, however, is for that same loss, so that must be figured into the assessment projection. Barring any last second surprises in the reconvened legislative session, an assessment increase of \$129,080 is recommended, divided between the 3 districts at their proportionate share. While the individual districts may experience a slightly lower or higher percentage increase, the overall increase represents a 4.9% increase, which is a far more palatable increase than the anticipated 10.3% projected in the fall.
- Negotiations are on hold until the budget is finalized at the state level, however the NEA would like to schedule a preliminary session. Chris Perry and Mike Kelso will join Dan for negotiations and hopefully set up a virtual meeting later this month.
- Insurance-The Certified plan had a very minor increase of approximately 1% for the upcoming year. The para plan, in contrast, is showing a 28% increase due to a 171% cost to claims ratio. The Board asked if ESSER funds could be used toward insurance for paras-it cannot, unless the insurance carrier could say that the increase was due to COVID-19. Other conversations regarding joining the districts plans or alternative ways to help mitigate the costs. Dan will have a conference call with Scott from the McInnes

Group on Thursday the 11th to discuss options. He will summarize the conversation and email it to the Board Members afterward.

Dan updated the Board on the student with the outside placement. He started 3 weeks ago and is doing well. The mother's transportation is being reimbursed since he would not travel well on the bus.

**Executive Session**

None needed.

**Action on Personnel**

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

Chris Perry made a motion to adjourn. Susan Schiffelbein seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 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**

#### **Paraprofessionals:**

Sharalyn Coke, BHS  
Heather Singleton, BHS  
Willa Huffman, BPC  
Ruth Burks, EES  
Kathryn Lauber, WEBS  
Megan Lauber, WEBS  
Christiine Gray, WEBS

#### **Certified:**

Jamie Roecker, BPC

### **New Hires**

#### **Paraprofessionals:**

Zoe Wohlford, EES  
Allison Lane, EES

#### **Certified:**

Loralea Hubert, WEBS Admin/ECKCE Asst Director  
Sydney Gulley, EES Autism  
Lindsay Redden, BPC EC  
Lacey Maddick, BPC EC  
Jessica Wadell, BPC K  
Jenelle Hunnicut, PT  
Stephanie Soden, BIC SLP

Michael Atchison from EMS to BJHS 7th  
Betty Friedel from BJHS to EMS LS  
Lori Markley SLP only BJHS/BHS  
Jessica Barker SLP BPC EC