

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

### **August 13, 2019 BOARD MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the East Central Kansas Cooperative in Education Board of Directors was held August 13, 2019 at the Cooperative Central Office, Baldwin City, Kansas.

**Members present:** Chris Perry, Mike Kelso, Dawn Whalen, Amanda Donovan, Susan Schiffelbein, Lynn Reazin (arrived @ 7:02 p.m.) Daniel Wray, Director, and Shelly McCart, Clerk of the Board.

**Additional Attendees:** Eloise Kerbs, Leesa Huffman, Kate McMaster, Jennifer Herrington, Jean Bouse, Laura Davids.

Chris Perry, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### **Public Comment**

Eloise Kerbs made remarks regarding the 403b piece presented to the Certified staff at in-service on August 8th. The staff was surprised and confused about why there was a change of administrators for the plan when the Coop had been with OFG Financial for many years. She said staff felt uneasy and wondered when this change was decided and why they weren't notified prior that a change would be coming. She stated they were under the impression that their accounts could rollover and that meeting with the advisors at in-service was not confidential.

Leesa Huffman spoke and said she has had the Coop as an account for 17 years personally and that OFG Financial had it for years prior to her. Leesa and Kate have been receiving letters questioning OFG dropping the Coop as a client, which they responded that it was the Coop's decision, not OFG's. Leesa stated a new agreement was signed with the Coop in April of this year and no mention of any issues or changes that needed attention. OFG received letters from Kim Bergan in July stating that ECKCE would be discontinuing their services with OFG. Leesa contacted the Negotiating Team and they had no knowledge of any changes taking place.

Director Dan Wray's response was that the change was made to simplify the process for the employees since KASB would be facilitating an online benefits enrollment.

Susan Schiffelbein commented that these changes didn't feel very transparent and that the Board was not made aware of them either.

Dawn Whalen questioned whether it should have been mentioned or discussed with the NEA.

Director Dan Wray and the Board members discussed a follow up meeting possibly on Thursday August 15th at 4:30 with a member of KASB to get some clarification on the matter of the 403b accounts and contributions. Dan Wray will be contact with members with more information.

Board President, Chris Perry asked that we continue on with the regular meeting as this item is not on the agenda.

Leesa Huffman and Kate McMaster left the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

### **Opening Business**

#### **Agenda Approval**

Mike Kelso made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Lynn Reazin seconded. Motion approved 6-0.

#### **Approval of the July 9, 2019 Regular Board Minutes**

Dawn Whalen made a motion to approve the July 9, 2019 regular board meeting minutes. Mike Kelso seconded. Motion approved 6-0.

#### **Approval of the Financial Report and Disbursements**

Lynn Reazin made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented. Mike Kelso seconded. Motion approved 6-0.

### **Old Business**

None.

### **New Business**

Mike Kelso made a motion to approve the Greenbush contract for Low Incidence Services for the 2019-20 school year. Lynn Reazin seconded. Motion approved 6-0.

Dawn Whalen made a motion to approve the Sunflower Music Therapy Contract for the 2019-20 school year. Susan Schiffelbein seconded. Motion approved 6-0.

Lynn Reazin made a motion to approve the WebKIDSS contract for the 2019-20 school year. Dawn Whalen seconded. Motion approved 6-0.

Discussion regarding the RBT (Registered Behavior Technician) pay and whether current employees' prior para experience with ECKCE to factor in to their pay, i.e. if they have been a para with the Interlocal for four years and then acquire their RBT certification, could they be on the RBT scale at step 5, not step 1. The Board Members original decision to start paras at Step 1 with a newly acquired RBT certification stands. Some clarification was suggested as to the availability of RBT positions within the Interlocal and how an employee would qualify for the wage increase and reimbursement for the training. The RBT wage scale will be sent to all Board members.

Mike Kelso made a motion to approve the 2019-20 Negotiated Agreement and salary schedule for the Certified staff. Dawn Whalen seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

### **Director's Reports**

- Personnel-Fully staffed at the start of the school year, with just a few para allocations to finalize or fill.

- Negotiations-The NEA membership voted 74-0 to approve the negotiated agreement at the meeting on August 8th. The salary schedule will reflect \$850 added to the base and the accumulated leave maximum will increase to 75 days. New contracts will be sent out in the next week to all Certified staff.  
The new EAP (Employee Assistance Program) will take effect on October 1st for all Certified and Classified staff.
- Budget-Director Dan Wray has begun finalizing the numbers for submission by August 26th.  
At the superintendent's meeting on August 7th a preliminary estimate of assessments for the 2020-21 school year were presented based upon the projections from the KSDE financial office. The projections are based on no categorical aid increase and a 4% increase in expenditures per historical average. It reflects a significant increase but is designed to give information upon which they can base long-term budgeting.
- Audits-The internal audit was completed by Karlin and Long this month. Cash balances will be included in their report which has not yet been finalized as of this meeting. The KSDE audit is scheduled for this week and the findings will be shared at the September Board meeting.
- SEAC-Communication has begun regarding speakers and topics for the upcoming meetings. We will also be rolling out a Unified sports program in the fall.
- We did receive a formal complaint which was filed on July 29th regarding a student in the Baldwin district. A response was submitted on August 1st and hope to have a resolution by the September Board meeting.
- All ESY sessions were successfully completed and reports received in my office.
- Insurance premiums were finalized and showed a small decrease on the Certified plan while the paraprofessional group had a 20% increase. To meet the ACA affordability guidelines the contribution will increase from \$285 to \$355 per month for the para plan.

### **Executive Session**

None needed.

### **Action on Personnel**

Mike Kelso made a motion to accept the para resignations and hires as amended. Lynn Reazin seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Dawn Whalen made a motion to adjourn. Susan Schiffelbein seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 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:**

Jackie Lamson, BPC  
Kari Lindenmeyer, BIC  
Christie Willis, BPC  
Blake Adamson, EES  
Heidi Elliott, EES  
Josh Cuffe, EES  
Pam Allen, WES

### **New Hires**

#### **Paraprofessionals:**

Preslee Rakes, BIC  
Nicole Jones, EHS  
Jessica Robson, EES  
Cathy Rowland, BPC  
Cole Silsby, BJHS  
Jason Stoker, BJHS  
Kevin Phenix, EHS  
Christen Coble, EES  
Dana Chance, EHS  
Ali Pfannenstiel, BHS  
Rhonda Whiteside, EES  
Aaron Bowen, BHS  
Laurie Scaruffi, Bridges