

LASALLE/PUTNAM COUNTY EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION
1009 Boyce Memorial Drive Ottawa, IL 61350
PHONE/TDD: 815-433-6433 / FAX: 815-433-6164 / EMAIL: kfox@lease-sped.org

Open Meeting Minutes

Date: August 2, 2022

Time: 9:06 a.m.

Location: L.E.A.S.E. Office Board Room

Type of meeting: Regular

Name of person taking the minutes: Colleen Stefan

Name of person presiding: Mrs. Kristi Eager

Members in attendance:

1. Mrs. Kristi Eager
2. Mr. Ryan Linnig
3. Dr. Lisa Parker
4. Mr. Michael Pillion

Members absent: Mr. Jamie Craven, Dr. Mike Cushing and Dr. Jodi Moore

Also present

1. Mrs. Kathy Fox, Director

Reception of Guests and Visitors & Opportunity for Public Comment

There are none.

Agenda item: Approval of Items on Consent Agenda (Open and Closed Session Minutes from the Board meeting held on June 7, 2022, the May 2022 and June 2022 Bank Reconciliations; Bills and Financial Reports and the destruction of the January 5, 2021, tape recorded minutes.)

Summary of discussion: Mrs. Fox shared an additional bill list.

Motion made by: Mr. Pillion

Motion: To approve the open and closed session minutes from the board meeting held on June 7, 2022, to approve the May 2022 and June 2022 bank reconciliation, the Bills, the financial reports and the destruction of the January 5, 2021, tape Recorded minutes.

Motion seconded by: Mr. Linnig

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Pillion, Linnig, Eager and Parker

"Nays" – none.

Action: Passed

Agenda item: Administration Salaries and Benefits on L.E.A.S.E. website

Summary of discussion: Mrs. Fox explained that posting the salary and benefit information on the L.E.A.S.E. website is an annual requirement. Board members were given the information in their board packets.

Motion made by: Mr. Linnig

Motion: to post the administration salaries and benefits on the L.E.A.S.E. website as Required to do on an annual basis.

Motion seconded by: Dr. Parker

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Linnig, Parker, Eager and Pillion
"Nays" – none.

Actions: Passed

Agenda item: Approve Executive Board Candidate to replace outgoing member and present to the Alliance Council

Summary of discussion: Mrs. Fox reminded the board that the seats held by Dr. Jodi Moore and Mr. Michael Pillion need to be filled, as their terms are up this year. These two seats must be filled by superintendents from a medium size district. Mrs. Fox explained that a motion must be made and approved by the Executive Committee to present these two new board members at the Alliance Council meeting for final election at the meeting in September. Mrs. Eager volunteered to reach out to Mr. Dan Stecken, Rich Faivre and/or Lisa Gifford as probable new board members.

Motion made by: Mr. Linnig

Motion: to approach Lisa Gifford, Rich Faivre and/or Mr. Dan Stecken as possible replacements to fill the seats vacated by Dr. Jodi Moore and Mr. Michael Pillion.

Motion seconded by: Dr. Parker

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Linnig, Parker, Eager and Pillion
"Nays" – none.

Actions: Passed

Agenda item: Accept the resignations of staff

Summary of discussion: Mrs. Fox announced that Connie Donelson, Gabrielle Kennedy and Diane DeJong, all C.B.S. paraprofessionals, have submitted there letters of resignation to begin immediately. A letter of resignation was also submitted by Carolyn Jones, Coordinator.

Motion made by: Mr. Linnig

Motion: to accept the resignation of Connie Donelson, Gabrielle Kennedy and Diane DeJong, C.B.S. paraprofessionals, and Carolyn Jones, Coordinator.

Motion seconded by: Mr. Pillion

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Linnig, Pillion, Eager and Parker
"Nays" – none.

Actions: Passed

Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting

Date: August 2, 2022

Time: 9:33 a.m.

Location: L.E.A.S.E. Office Board Room

Motion made by: Mr. Pillion

And seconded by Mr. Linnig

To adjourn to closed meeting to discuss:

The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Alliance or legal counsel for the Alliance, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the Alliance to determine its validity.

Roll Call: “Yeas” – Pillion, Linnig, Eager and Parker
“Nays” – none.

Actions: Passed

Time of adjournment of closed meeting and return to open meeting: 9:56 a.m.

Motion to Return to Open Meeting

Motion made by: Mr. Linnig

Motion: To return to Open Meeting

And seconded by: Mr. Pillion

Roll Call “Yeas” – Linnig, Pillion, Eager and Parker
“Nays” – none.

Action: Passed

Agenda item: Anticipated Action Items After Closed Session

Agenda item: Approve a resolutions related to the employment of staff

Summary of discussion: As discussed in Closed Session

Motion made by: Mr. Linnig

Motion: to adopt the following resolutions:

WHEREAS a vacancy exists for a Cross Categorical Coordinator

WHEREAS a suitable and fully qualified applicant has now been found for this position, therefore be it . . .

RESOLVED to employ Kara Rutherford for the 2022-2023 school year at a salary of \$61,360.

WHEREAS a vacancy exists for a Cross Categorical Coordinator

WHEREAS a suitable and fully qualified applicant has now been found for this position, therefore be it . . .

RESOLVED to employ DeeAnna Guerra for the 2022-2023 school year at a salary of \$62,920.

WHEREAS a vacancy exists for a Preschool Vision and Hearing Screener Technician/Playaide

WHEREAS a suitable and fully qualified applicant has now been found for this position, therefore be it . . .

RESOLVED to employ Mallory Pohar for the 2022-2023 school year at a salary of \$16.25 per hour.

Motion seconded by: Mr. Pillion

Roll Call: “Yeas” – Linnig, Pillion, Eager and Parker

“Nays” – none.

Action: Passed

Information Items

Insurance Bidding for 2023

Mrs. Fox told the board that she met with Rick Klein (Horton) to discuss the upcoming insurance premiums and plans for 2023. She stated that Mr. Klein had informed her that L.E.A.S.E. has a high loss ratio (129.3%). A good company to insure should be around 85%. Mrs. Fox voiced concern that she doesn't believe we will be the recipient of good insurance rates from Horton. Given the past issues we have had with Horton, discussion was held about bidding out insurance with other brokers this year. Board members did give Mrs. Fox some brokers that they have used, and are using, that have been very good. Kathy will reach out to new brokers.

Letter Rescinding Notice of Intent to Withdraw

Mrs. Fox informed the board that a letter Rescinding Notice of Intent to Withdraw was received from Leland Dist. #1 and is included in the board packets. Mrs. Fox reminded the board that the proposal of the Leland consolidation did not pass at the April election.

Summary of Professional Development Activities for the 2022-23 school year

Mrs. Fox informed the board that the FY23 first semester profession development calendar has been created and encouraged superintendents to allow their staff to attend some trainings. Mrs. Fox also was excited to announce that Lani Lawson is set to present her workshop on Aug. 6th at IVCC.

L.E.A.S.E. Back to School Bash

Mrs. Fox told the board that a committee made up of Melissa Cassidy, Janelle Gustafson, Laura Levine and Nicole Butt have been working hard on the “Back to School Bash” that will be held on Thursday, Aug. 11th. There are nine vendors slated to participate at the event and donations have been solicited and received to cover the cost.

L.E.A.S.E. Building Concerns

Mrs. Fox explained that the basement kitchen sink is out of order and needs some repairs. A plumber is scheduled to come on Thursday to fix it.

C.B.S. Building Projects

Mrs. Fox reported that Mike Kmetz is working on getting bids for the two school projects. Carpet Weavers was awarded the bid for the flooring project. We are still waiting on the contract from Carpet Weavers.

Regarding the playground bid, we did have one bid from Vissering Construction after the second bidding process. However, the bid came in well over our budgeted amount of \$87,000. Mr. Kmetz recommended that we get individual bids for each individual area. The board also suggested that we apply for the permit with R.O.E. #35 as soon as possible.

Alliance Council meeting update

Mrs. Fox reminded the board that the Alliance Council meeting will be held at Lodi Tap (in Utica, IL.) on Thursday, Sept. 15th. The guest speaker will be Teri Engler, from Engler, Callaway, Baasten and Sruga, LLC. More information on this event will be forthcoming in the next couple weeks.

Mediations filed

Mrs. Fox explained that one mediation has been filed and are expecting up to four for mediation or due process.

Juvenile Detention Complaint

Mrs. Fox reported that ISBE has done a lot of work and will be contracting an organization "Break Free for Education" to join ISBE and help do research on this issue. Agreements will also be created by this organization, with a push for each R.O.E. to take over this incarcerated programming once a program is developed. Home districts, however, will still be responsible for their special education students that are in the juvenile detention homes. They continue to work on a guidance document to disseminate to stakeholders.

COVID Testing

Mrs. Fox asked the board what their policy will be for Covid testing, as she would like to discontinue this. Board members said their districts are no longer doing the Shield testing. There was also some discussion on the continuation of Covid days for staff.

V.O.I.C.E./legislative, legal, Medicaid, I.S.B.E. and L.E.A.S.E. initiatives updates

None

Non-Agenda Items

Mrs. Fox said that she would like to start a mentor program for our coordinators. She would like to offer a stipend to those coordinator(s) that are mentors. Mrs. Fox also would like to give Julie O'Brien-Smith a stipend for heading up the new Medicaid program. The board responded by telling Mrs. Fox to get a brief, simple one-page contract drawn up.

Approval of Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Linnig

Motion seconded by Mr. Pillion

A voice vote indicated all ayes.

Action: Passed

Time of adjournment: 10:53 a.m.

Next meeting: September 6, 2022

Post Meeting Action

Date minutes approved: Sept. 6, 2022

Date minutes were available for public inspection: Sept. 6, 2022

Date minutes were posted on Alliance website: Sept. 6, 2022