

**LINCOLN-WAY AREA SPECIAL EDUCATION
Joint Agreement District 843**

MINUTES

Regular Meeting, January 24, 2017

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Special Education, Will County, Illinois, held at Pioneer Grove Educational Center, 601 Willow Street, Frankfort, IL 60423, at 7:00 p.m. on the 24th day January, 2017.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

Roll Call

Present: Edie Adamski (District #157C), Stacy Cesta (District #159), Mark Gray (District #114), Pam Kohlbacher (District #161), Ron Lullo (District #210)

Staff Present: Sarah Rexroad, Director
Colleen Wronski, Business Manager
Cheryl Della Penna, Administrative Assistant

Visitors Present: Carolyn Brescia, Supervisor
Judy Boyens, Supervisor
Marie Goulet, Principal, Mackay Center
Holly Kasper, Teacher

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

C. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ron Lullo moved, seconded by Edie Adamski, for the Governing Board to approve the November 22, 2016 Regular and Closed Session Minutes

Voting Aye: Adamski, Cesta, Gray, Kohlbacher, Lullo

Motion carried: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

A motion was made by Edie Adamski moved, seconded by Stacy Cesta, for the Governing Board to approve the December 20, 2016 Regular and Closed Session Minutes

Voting Aye: Adamski, Cesta, Lullo

Voting Abstain: Gray, Kohlbacher

Motion carried: 3 Aye, 2 Abstain

Acting on the recommendation of the Director, Pam Kohlbacher moved, seconded by Mark Gray, for the Governing Board to ratify the Consent Agenda as follows:

2. Approval of Financial Statement

3. Approval of Current Payables

4. Approval of Personnel Items

a. Employment

Josh Gilbert, paraprofessional, effective January 9, 2017.

b. Resignation

Diane Hernandez, bus driver, effective January 20, 2017.

Voting Aye: Adamski, Cesta, Gray, Kohlbacher, Lullo

Motion carried: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

D. REPORTS

1. Administrators' Reports

a. ACCESS and Transportation – Carolyn Brescia

The ACCESS class at Anna McDonald will participate in the Hoops for Heart to help benefit the American Heart Association. A kindergarten student from the ACCESS class at Wilson Creek is one of the recipients of an Infinetec Technology Award for use of his communication device. The ACCESS students at Mokena Junior High began bowling at Thunder Bowl with their general education peers in the Meteor Bowling Club. The ACCESS class students were joined by the Meteor peers at a recent boys basketball game and they plan on cheering on the girls volleyball team on January 30, 2017. They also joined the art class to design a cover for the Meteor Year Book.

Currently the Cooperative is transporting 541 students. Ms. Brescia also announced there was perfect attendance for the annual refresher course. Carol Golembiewski in the #210 Transportation office conducted the recent refresher course and did an excellent job. The transportation staff managed to safely transport students during the January severe weather days with minimal delays and accident free.

b. Mackay Center – Marie Goulet

Mrs. Goulet indicated that today a person from the Illinois Department of Employment Security conducted presentations for students 16 years and older on how to seek employment. Several new students have joined Mackay for this semester. Mrs. Goulet participated over the winter break in the ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, inform, counter, Evacuate) training. This is a new way of dealing with violent intruder attacks in schools and other facilities. She will provide more information as it becomes available to her. Mackay will be partnering with Sandy Hook Promise in February. This is a non-profit organization formed in response to the Dec. 14 shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. The group was organized by friends and neighbors and has two main goals: to support members of the Newtown community and to “work to identify and implement holistic, common sense solutions” that will make us safer from similar acts of violence. Mrs. Goulet recommends bringing this information back to the districts. Sandy Hook Promise has a campaign called “Start with Hello” to combat any kind of isolation or bullying that students may be experiencing. There is a curriculum that is downloadable. She indicated that one of the Mackay students is a co-captain of the wrestling team at District 210.

c. Pioneer Grove – Mrs. Rexroad provided the report in the absence of Sue Kaczmarczyk.

The second quarter report cards and goals were sent home. Tomorrow is Pajama Day and all of the classes will be going to see the Disney movie *Sing*. This week the 100th day of school will be celebrated on January 27. There will be a new student starting in the AIM program next month. There are two new nursing students from St. Xavier University that started last week for an eight week rotation.

d. SELF – Judy Boyens

Dr. Boyens indicated the program will be conducting the TerraNova testing. This week two students will begin transitioning back to their home schools full time. IEP meetings are scheduled for three potential students. This week there are final transition meetings for students entering high school. Staff had an informal conference with a parent that came in last week. The parent indicated the family felt privileged to have the student in the SELF program. The student has made tremendous gains from the beginning of the year.

2. Finance Report

a. Business Manager’s Report

Mrs. Wronski indicated there was nothing out of the ordinary in the financial reports. She stated the Cooperative received the fourth quarter payment from last fiscal year for personnel reimbursement. The first two payments were vouchered, but she does not know when the money will be received. She attended a conference this morning where state representative were present talking about budgets. They indicated that, at best, the Cooperative will get two categorical payments this year. It was suggested if the districts have IDEA money or any kind of federal

money out there to get the reports in as soon as possible. If the reports are received by June 15, the districts will probably get their money.

b. Auditor

Mrs. Wronski stated the Cooperative has been tasked with changing auditors. In the meantime, an RFP has been put together, but the proposal has not been sent out. After surveying the current districts and what they pay for auditors, the Cooperative is on the low end. She suggested because the Cooperative has been using the current auditor for the last three years and there is not a state mandate about changing an auditor, she would suggest staying with the current auditor for a two year project and lock in a low rate. There was Governing Board consensus to continue with the same Cooperative auditor for two years.

c. Direct Energy

Mrs. Wronski met with a Direct Energy representative. The current contract ends in February. Pioneer Grove is the only building that is served by Direct Energy. If the Cooperative went out for a three year contract with Direct Energy, the costs would stay about where they are currently. This would be in comparison to going with Com Ed and not using Direct Energy and locking in a three year rate.

d. EPA Grant Analysis

Mrs. Wronski indicated that the Cooperative did receive the EPA grant for 5 diesel buses. It is \$15,000 per bus. She obtained a quote from Midwest Transit where the Cooperative currently leases all of their buses. A brand new bus with a 2016 engine would be about \$60,000 per bus. The EPA would provide \$15,000 per bus and the Cooperative would have to come up with the remainder to purchase each bus. If the Cooperative would move forward, the transportation costs would be determined based on students by district. She had some questions about the new directive signed by the President about freezing the EPA grants. She has not received any information from the EPA. The Cooperative has until March to indicate whether the grant funds will be used. Mrs. Wronski stated that the Cooperative does not have to use all five grants. The Cooperative is one of three schools in the State of Illinois to receive this grant.

3. Director's Report

a. Review of Advisory Committee Minutes – January 9, 2017

Mrs. Rexroad presented the minutes from the January 9, 2017 Advisory Meeting. Mrs. Adamski asked if there would be a formal disbandment of the Advisory Committee. Mrs. Rexroad stated it was discussed at the Advisory Committee meeting and they put Mrs. Rexroad in charge of contacting the attorney. School Code states the Cooperative does not require an Advisory Committee. The attorney will provide some pros and cons about the possible Advisory Committee change. She will share that information when it is received.

b. January Notice of Discontinuation of Service – Member District Usage

Mrs. Rexroad reminded everyone that by the end of this month she will need notification if any Cooperative services will not be needed by the districts so that she can begin to put the staff and budget projections together.

c. Staff & Classroom Update

Mrs. Rexroad reviewed the enrollment in the programs.

Pioneer Grove:	Budgeted: 47	Currently: 51
Mackay Center:	Budgeted: 32	Currently: 38
SELF:	Budgeted: 31	Currently: 33
ACCESS:	Budgeted: 13	Currently: 14
Transportation:		Currently: 541

d. Technology Report

Mrs. Rexroad stated the main item Mr. Furgason was working on was updating the wireless system at Pioneer Grove, Mackay and The House. The Cooperative purchased some boosters and Mr. Furgason installed them himself over the winter break. The House was not at any extra cost. Some of the member districts have used The House for administrative meetings and workshops and with the use of smart phones and laptops there is a heavy demand there for wireless.

e. Buildings and Grounds

Mrs. Wronski indicated that the 10 year life safety was recently completed at Pioneer Grove. She met with the architects after they toured the building. She stated the parking lot was an issue from the initial report. Mrs. Wronski reported that the report should indicate that will be another ten years out and not an immediate need. There are a couple of immediate items to complete this year, but should not expensive. There should be credits coming back to the districts from the amount budgeted for the parking lot.

f. Negotiations

The two Cooperative unions are in four year contracts and the language in both of them is to reopen the contracts for salary and benefits for the last two years. Mrs. Rexroad spoke with the Advisory Committee and Dr. Tingley will participate in the negotiations. She was looking for a representative from the Governing Board to participate in negotiations. Mr. Lullo volunteered and Mrs. Adamski would like to serve as an alternate.

g. FMLA

Tina Maestre, paraprofessional, January 9 to 23, 2017
Doris Smith, bus monitor, January 12, 2017, for up to 12 work weeks.
Sara Studdard, social worker, August 14, 2017 for 7 work weeks

h. FOIA

There were none.

E. CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Mark Gray and seconded by Pam Kohlbacher to move to closed session at 7:45 p.m. for the purpose of discussing:

- A. The appointment, employment, compensation, or dismissal of specific employees of the Cooperative**
- B. Litigation**
- C. Placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to students**

Voting Aye: Adamski, Cesta, Gray, Kohlbacher, Lullo

Motion carried: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Mark Gray and seconded by Ron Lullo to return to open session at 8:10 p.m. On voice vote the motion carried.

F. OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

G. NEW BUSINESS

No New Business

H. ACTION ITEMS

1. Dismissal

A motion was made by Mark Gray and seconded by Pam Kohlbacher to approve dismissal of Pamelesa Henry, bus monitor, due to unavailability of a position.

Voting Aye: Adamski, Cesta, Gray, Kohlbacher, Lullo

Motion carried: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

2. Categorization of Paraprofessionals

A motion was made by Edie Adamski and seconded by Pam Kohlbacher to approve the discontinuation of the classification of paraprofessionals into the following previously identified categories and to leave in place a true seniority list by employment date:

- **Multineeds/AIM/STEP**
- **Mackay**
- **SELF**
- **General Paraprofessional**

Voting Aye: Adamski, Cesta, Gray, Kohlbacher, Lullo

Motion carried: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

I. NEXT MEETING

February 28, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. – Pioneer Grove Educational Center

J. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mark Gray and seconded by Ron Lullo that the meeting be adjourned. All members voted Aye. Motion carried. President Cesta declared the meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl A. Della Penna,
Administrative Assistant

President

Secretary