

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

**MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting, May 23, 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 25th day April, 2017.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

*Roll Call*

Present: Brett Cosich (District #157C), Rich Marron (District #161), Ron Lullo (District #210),  
Terry Doyle (District #114)

Staff Present: Sarah Rexroad, Director  
Colleen Wronski, Business Manager  
Kristin Menconi, Administrative Assistant

Visitors Present: Dawn Roiland, Teacher  
Holly Kasper, Teacher  
Patsy Bodach, Speech Pathologist  
Carolyn Brescia, Supervisor  
Judy Boyens, Supervisor  
Sue Kaczmarczyk, Principal, Pioneer Grove  
Marie Goulet, Principal, Mackay Center

Nomination of Secretary Pro-Tem

**A motion was made by Terry Doyle to elect Rich Marron as Secretary Pro-Tem  
Rich Marron is elected Secretary Pro-Tem**

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

C. PRESENTATIONS

*Infinitec Award-* Mrs. Bodach introduced the Governing Board to Nicholas Brach. Nicholas is this year's Infinitec Award Recipient who is present tonight with his parents. Infinitec lends our district devices, equipment, and also holds workshops for our staff. Each year there is a banquet and the staff can nominate students who use technology to help themselves learn. Nicholas uses an iPad with Touch Chat and was the youngest recipient of this award this year.

The Governing Board viewed the video of the banquet and watched Nicholas use his Touch Chat to thank everyone. Mr. Brach thanked Mrs. Bodach for nominating Nicholas to receive the award. He also thanked Nicholas's teacher, Mrs. Wheeler, as well as the staff at ACCESS for having such a positive impact on Nicholas and making such a huge difference in his life.

*SMART Board Implementation-* Mrs. Bodach shared with the Governing Board about our new SMART Boards. These boards raise and lower very easily, which is great for our students to be able to use. The students can be moved up close to the boards in their wheelchairs. They can use the boards to interact and learn with different curriculum. The music teacher at Pioneer Grove can now draw on the board while she sings and the children really enjoy it. The teachers can also draw on the SMART Board while the students see what is being drawn on their own iPads in real time. Another fun activity that the children enjoy is cooking activities with the SMART Boards.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

**Acting on the recommendation of the Director, Mr. Cosich moved, seconded by Rich Marron for the Governing Board to ratify the Consent Agenda as follows:**

1. Approval of the April 23rd Regular and Closed Session Minutes
2. Approval of Financial Statement
3. Approval of Current Payables
4. Approval of Personnel Items

**Voting Aye: Cosich, Doyle, Marron, Lullo**

**Motion carried: 4 Aye, 0 Nay**

D. REPORTS

1. Administrators' Reports

a. ACCESS and Transportation– Carolyn Brescia

Ms. Brescia shared that Mrs. Wheeler's class received six caterpillars on May 4<sup>th</sup> from Mrs. Maher, Principal at Wilson Creek. The students have been watching them grow and last night two of them became butterflies. This month the second graders participated in the Wilson Creek Kindergarten music program pajama party. The first grade class went to Big Run Wolf Ranch in Lockport. The second graders watched The Lorax movie and went to the Wauponsee Glacial Trail to pick up trash for clean up day. They also went to the ACCESS class at Anna McDonald where they met Mrs. Christensen and took a tour of their new school. On June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> the first and second graders will go to the Round Barn Farm for end of year picnics. Anna McDonald ACCESS attended a concert on May 10<sup>th</sup> put on by the junior high band orchestra and chorus. They will be attending the Joliet Slammers baseball game on May 24<sup>th</sup> as part of the Anna McDonald star student award program. They are having an end of the year family get together with Mrs. Wheeler's class at the Transition House on Thursday. Students will also be going to the Sci-Tech Museum in Aurora on May 31<sup>st</sup> with the fifth graders from Anna McDonald. Crosstown Exotic Reptiles also came to the school for a demonstration. The event was paid for by a Lincoln-Way Foundation Grant and the Mokena School District. Many of the students made the *Mokena Messenger*. The eighth graders are going on a field trip to Great America at the end of the month. Transportation is transporting 537 students. We are in the process of routing for ESY. Approximately 280 students are registered for transportation this summer. Ms. Brescia also mentioned they are preparing for ESY set up at Mackay, and moving the SELF program.

b. Mackay Center – Marie Goulet

Mrs. Goulet shared that the staff is getting the building ready for ESY. Students have been taking their finals this week. The Netflix series, *Thirteen Reasons Why*, has been a big topic at school. Mrs. Goulet suggested watching it with your children. The content is very evocative and if not talked about, could be potentially dangerous because it celebrates and glorifies the revenge fantasy of what could happen after committing suicide. The students had a great step up day with the eighth graders visiting the school. Guardian Angel came in to do a few presentations on Erin's Law, which focused on sexual assault, abuse and prevention. Mrs. Goulet stated that they have nine anticipated graduates this week. Also the students had a great field day and a very special awards night with family and friends. Three Mackay students received Martin P. Mackay scholarships and all are planning to attend JJC.

c. Pioneer Grove and PSO – Sue Kaczmarczyk.

Mrs. Kaczmarczyk stated that they started the month of May off with staff appreciation week. The PSO provided a very nice luncheon for the staff on May 4<sup>th</sup>. They also had a few fun days of field day with our adaptive P.E. instructor. All classes had the opportunity to attend therapeutic horseback riding at Victory Reins in Peotone. Tomorrow, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are graduating and will be heading to high school. Our last day of school at Pioneer Grove is Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Then we will have a few weeks off until the summer school program starts on Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. The PSO has been very successful this year. It's a small group but they are very devoted to the school and students. The PSO

plan out of school activities such as a back to school picnic, a breakfast with Santa, an Easter egg hunt, as well as parent nights out.

d. ESY & SELF – Judy Boyens

Mrs. Boyens stated that the ESY program has 120 students registered as of now. About fifty students will be at Pioneer Grove and seventy at Mackay which starts June 12<sup>th</sup>. They will have an open house on June 8<sup>th</sup>. She explained to the new board members that SELF stands for Social Emotional Learning Foundations. She is responsible for students whose large need is emotional regulation and teaching the students to use strategies to manage their emotions, as well as teaching academics at their level. Dr. Boyens also discussed the move from District #122 to District #157C and District #159. The districts have been extremely welcoming during this process and they are looking forward to transitioning over to those schools. Five students will be graduating from SELF and many will be heading to Mackay next year. Mrs. Rexroad stated that the SELF classes are leaving District #122 and relocating because District #122 withdrew from the Cooperative. With that lease there was a clause that they could discontinue the lease with District #843 starting in the 2017-18 school year. They elected to terminate the lease agreement.

2. Finance Report

a. Business Manager’s Report

Mrs. Wronski indicated that our 10 Year Life Safety was just finished for Pioneer Grove and Mackay’s was completed a few years ago. This report shows what needs to be completed through 2017. The next big project that will need to be done will be in 2022. Mrs. Wronski discussed the three reports that show the financials. FY16 to FY17 shows a large amount of cuts here at the Cooperative. It also shows the large refunds that were given back to our member districts. When you take that refund out we are down 10% expenditure wise from last fiscal year, which shows the cost cutting measures that have been put into place while still running an effective organization. An issue that our districts, as well as our member districts are facing, is that Illinois does not have a budget. We have received one categorical payment and may not see another this year. A Business Manager meeting will be held on June 1<sup>st</sup> where collections and pre billing will be discussed further.

3. Director’s Report

a. Review of Advisory Committee Minutes – May 8, 2017

Mrs. Rexroad presented the minutes from the May 8, 2017, Advisory Meeting.

b. Staff & Classroom Update

Mrs. Rexroad reviewed the enrollment in the programs.

Pioneer Grove:	Budgeted: 47	Currently: 52
Mackay Center:	Budgeted: 32	Currently: 37
SELF:	Budgeted: 31	Currently: 32
ACCESS:	Budgeted: 13	Currently: 15
Transportation:		Currently: 535

Mrs. Rexroad indicated that the total enrollment comparisons from last year were 135 in May and this year at 136.

c. Technology Report

Mrs. Rexroad indicated that Mr. Furgason has worked this past year on getting our inventory current and exactly which items needed to be replaced. We purchased an ASSET Panda system to track equipment moving forward. The Tyler Student Information System is also a new system that we use

for attendance, report cards, transcripts, medical plans for students, etc. Mr. Furgason is also busy with the SELF move.

- d. FMLA  
*Jennifer Rees, Teacher, effective November 5, 2017 for up to 12 work weeks.*
- e. FOIA  
*There were none*

E. CLOSED SESSION

***A motion was made by Brett Cosich and seconded by Rich Marron to move to closed session at 8:08 p.m. for the purpose of discussing:***

- A. The appointment, employment, compensation, or dismissal of specific employees of the Cooperative.**
- B. Litigation**

OPEN SESSION

***A motion was made by Brett Cosich and seconded by Terry Doyle to return to open session at 9:02 p.m. On voice vote the motion carried.***

F. OLD BUSINESS  
No Old Business

G. NEW BUSINESS  
No New Business

H. ACTION ITEMS

1. District 210 Agreements

***A motion was made by Brett Cosich and seconded by Terry Doyle to approve the proposed agreements for the 2017-2018 school year.***

***Voting Aye: Cosich, Doyle, Lullo***

***Voting Present: Marron***

***Motion carried: 3 Aye, 0 Nay***

2. Salary Recommendations for Administrative Staff

***This item was tabled for next meeting.***

3. Contracts for Administrative Staff

***This item was tabled for next meeting***

I. NEXT MEETING

June 27, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. – Pioneer Grove Educational Center

J. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Terry Doyle and seconded by Brett Cosich that the meeting be adjourned. All members voted Aye. Motion carried. President Lullo declared the meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristin Menconi,  
Administrative Assistant

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President

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Secretary