

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE RIPLEY-  
OHIO-DEARBORN SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE

January 15, 2013

The meeting of the Ripley-Ohio-Dearborn Special Education Cooperative Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, January 15, 2013 at the Special Education Center. Those in attendance were: Karl Galey-Lawrenceburg, Charlie Blake-Sunman Dearborn, John Mehrle- South Dearborn, Rob Moorhead-South Ripley, Steve Patz-Rising Sun, Leanna Phillippe-JacCenDel, Tom Reale-Milan, Jim Roberts-Batesville, and Cheryl Corning-ROD.

The Board met in executive session from 9:04 a.m. until 10:05 a.m. to discuss personnel matters as provided for by I.C. 5-14-1.5-6-1(b)(1) & (b)(2)(A). The Board discussed only the subject matter specified during executive session.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Reale at 10:11 a.m.

The minutes of the December 18, 2012 meeting were presented. A motion was made by Mr. Galey and seconded by Dr. Mehrle to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Establishing a Finance Committee and election of officers - discussion followed as to the need for a finance committee. A motion was made by Mr. Patz to not have an organized board of finance. Mr. Moorhead seconded the motion. Motion carried. There will be no Board of Finance.

The financial report was presented for review. It was noted that we still have not been able to submit a request for reimbursement for federal funds. The revised grant applications had been received at DOE but no action had been taken. This has been a very involved process.

Claims 115519-115584 were presented for payment. A motion was made by Mr. Moorhead and seconded by Dr. Mehrle to approve the claims for payment. Ms. Corning explained a large purchase to Apple corporation for several IPAD's. These will be distributed to non-public schools and also some regular school programs. Mr. Moorhead asked for a list of where they will be utilized. Motion carried.

The personnel report was presented by Ms. Corning. Thomas Barnett is being recommended for the position of Social Worker. He is the only applicant that was appropriately licensed for the position. He will start in two weeks. A motion was made by Dr. Mehrle to employ Mr. Barnett as a social worker. Dr. Phillippe seconded the motion. Motion carried. Brandy Foxworth, Occupational Therapy Assistant, has requested to work only one day per week due to some personal issues. Nanette Iceberg has agreed to work three days per week. This will help cover therapy needs. There is a real issue with being able to keep occupational therapy assistants due to low pay and benefits. It was suggested that a model salary schedule for occupational therapy assistants may be necessary. This will be discussed again next month.

Ms. Corning asked the Board to establish a number of work hours for non-certified staff to qualify for benefits. Discussion followed. Most benefits, medical, life insurance, PERF, etc. have a set number at 30 hours per week. A motion was made by Dr. Roberts and seconded by Mr. Moorhead to set the qualifying hours to 30 per week. Motion carried.

Fran Moore's resignation was tabled at the last meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Patz to untable the motion and put it back on the table. Dr. Merhle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A preschool update was presented to the Board. It was noted that the South Dearborn program is approaching capacity.

Ms. Corning and Mr. Galey discussed the needs of the students from Southern Pines Care Center. We have to accept out of state students but the sender is responsible for the tuition costs. It is possible that Southern Pines may homeschool out of state students or send them to a school in Ohio.

Ms. Corning informed the Board that Conflict of Interest statements are available if needed.

Costs associated with a day treatment program for students with behavior difficulties was presented. It would appear that to start the program would require a teacher, two paraprofessionals, 1 social worker and a half of an administrator's time. Discussion followed. Is it possible that it could be staffed with current staff? Board members are to bring back information from their principals and teachers regarding the possibility of using current staff.

Ms. Corning proposed attending the LRP School Attorney's conference January 27-29 in Scottsdale, Arizona. This has been a very insightful conference and has valuable current information. A motion was made by Mr. Patz and seconded by Mr. Galey to approve attendance at the conference. Motion carried.

Miscellaneous items presented included:

1. The autism team is working on the fall conference. It has been held at Dearborn Country Club the last two years. A suggestion was the possibility of using the Ivy Tech facility.
2. A list of who to contact when there is a particular issue was presented. This will be distributed to the principals also.

No public comments.

Meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.