

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

June 19, 2018

The meeting of the Ripley-Ohio-Dearborn Special Education Cooperative Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at the South Dearborn Superintendent's Office. Those in attendance were: Karly Galey - Lawrenceburg, Andrew Jackson - Sunman-Dearborn, Paul Ketcham - Batesville, John Mehrle and Eric Lows - South Dearborn, Rob Moorhead - South Ripley, Branden Roeder - Rising Sun, Jane Rogers - Milan, Travis Rohrig - Jac-Cen-Del and Alex Brewer - ROD.

The Board met in executive session from 9:00 a.m. until 9:40 a.m. to discuss matters as provided for by I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(9). The Board discussed only the subject matter specified during executive session.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Moorhead at 9:43 a.m.

The agenda was presented by Dr. Brewer. A motion was made by Dr. Mehrle to accept the agenda as presented. Mr. Galey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The minutes of the May 15, 2018 meeting were presented. A motion was made by Dr. Jackson to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Roeder seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The financial report was presented by Marcia Fullenkamp. The FY 2017 Part B 619 grant is complete and the final report was provided. Also provided were the semi-annual certification forms. The Board was reminded to sign these and keep with the federal grant information. Claims 120235-120313, along with payroll claims, were presented for payment. A motion was made by Mr. Ketcham to approve the financial report as presented. Mrs. Rogers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Personnel update – Dr. Brewer presented several new hires.

1. Kimberly Littlefield – Evaluation Assistant - to help with the on-line psychologists and to assist the psychologists and consultants. A motion was made by Dr. Jackson to hire Kimberly Littlefield. Mr. Roeder seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. Trina Schutte – Educational Consultant – Trina has worked for Milan Elementary and has HANDS training. A motion was made by Dr. Mehrle to employ Trina Schutte. Mr. Galey seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. Britney Laker – Speech/Language Pathologist – 120 day contract to provide services to preschool students. A motion was made by Mrs. Rogers to hire Britney Laker. Mr. Ketcham seconded the motion. Motion carried.
4. Jamma Kelly – School Psychologist – Jamma worked for ROD previously and has knowledge of how the cooperative operates. A motion was made by Mr. Roeder to hire Jamma Kelly. Dr. Jackson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Sarah Swinney – Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant – part time, 3 days a week. Sarah has also worked for ROD previously and has just recently completed a maternity leave. Dr. Jackson made a motion to employ Sarah Swinney. Mrs. Rogers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dr. Brewer presented the budgets for Board approval. The child count is up about 3% overall. The FY 2019 Part B 619 preschool budget has increased about \$3,000. This budget has only minimal changes from this current year. The FY 2019 Part B 611 budget is up about \$90,800. The positions on this grant are about the same as the current year. The contracted job coach has changed to a staff position. The general fund/education budget and capital projects, transportation / operations budget were presented. The teacher assistant line was increased to show accurate costs. The school psychologists line was reduced and the contacted school psychologist line was increased. It was noted that last year we did not generate all needed funds for capital projects and transportation but will need to fully fund this year. A motion was made by Dr. Mehrle to approve the FY 2019 Part B 611, 619 and local budgets. Mr. Roeder seconded the motion. Discussion followed regarding the projected cash balance. It is important to be cognizant of the cash balance and to determine a threshold as to what the appropriate cash balance should be. This will be discussed further during an upcoming work session. Motion carried.

The lease agreement between Sunman-Dearborn and ROD was presented for approval. The amount has been reduced slightly this year. A motion was made by Mr. Ketcham to again enter into the lease. Mrs. Rogers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The HANDS in Autism contract was presented for approval. The contract is written to provide flexibility with ongoing visits. Services will need to increase at Milan Elementary to ensure continuity since there will be a new teacher in that program. South Ripley High School will be getting additional support this year. Mr. Galey asked about the possibility of increasing sites in each corporation as this was the original proposal. Dr. Brewer reported that the goal is to use ROD staff who have HANDS training to provide support in the buildings that do not have the model classrooms. A motion was made by Mrs. Rogers to approve the HANDS contract. Dr. Jackson seconded the motion. Mr. Galey asked what the procedure will be when a student who has been in a model classroom moves to a school that does not have this in place. Dr. Brewer feels that the ROD personnel have the expertise to train the staff at the new school and help develop an appropriate program for that student. Motion carried.

The contract for VocoVision, school psychologist Amy Angelucci, was presented for approval. The terms of the contract will continue to be the same. This agreement has worked well this year. A motion was made by Dr. Jackson to approve the contract with VocoVision. Mr. Ketcham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dr. Brewer proposed moving to USI LLC as the broker for the ROD liability and workman's compensation insurance. A motion was made by Mr. Ketcham and seconded by Mr. Galey to approve this change. Motion carried.

As the two-year term for officers is up, election of officers is necessary. Mr. Moorhead proposed Andrew Jackson as president and Paul Ketcham as vice-president. A motion was made by Mr. Roeder to accept this proposal. Mrs. Rogers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The preschool update was presented. The list includes new students who will be starting the school year. Some students will be evaluated over the summer to determine needs.

Dr. Brewer proposed dates for Administrator training. The sessions will be 1/2 day and will be on July 25 and July 26. These will cover parent rights, evaluation of special education staff and what is expected during a case conference, among other important issues.

Due to the shortage of school psychologists, Dr. Brewer is proposing creating a tuition assistance program. The program would incentivize school staff to enroll in a school psych program. The Board feels this is a great opportunity to try and get more people interested in the field and provide needed staff.

Public Comments - Chris Dittmer wanted the Board to understand that even though there may not be a model HANDS program in each school, ROD staff is trained to help the schools with difficult situations as they occur. Several school corporations have benefited this year. There have been rooms that have had work done this summer also. It is important that these buildings have the support from the superintendent to ensure that the program will work. It is a school-wide change that is important to this process.

Mr. Moorhead congratulated Dr. Mehrle on his retirement and thanked him for his service to the ROD cooperative.

Mr. Moorhead thanked Dr. Brewer and the Board for the support provided the last two years as he has served as president.

A motion was made by Dr. Mehrle to adjourn. Dr. Jackson seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.