

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

April 21, 2015

The meeting of the Ripley-Ohio-Dearborn Special Education Cooperative Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at the South Dearborn Community Schools Administration building. Those in attendance were: Karl Galey-Lawrenceburg, Paul Ketcham-Milan, John Mehrle-South Dearborn, Rob Moorhead-South Ripley, Jim Roberts-Batesville, Branden Roeder-Rising Sun, John Williams-Sunman Dearborn, and Cheryl Corning-ROD.

Dr. Mehrle called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

The minutes of the March 10, 2015 meeting were presented. A motion was made by Dr. Roberts to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Moorhead seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The financial report was presented. There continues to be negative balances in the federal grants due to having to wait for reimbursement from the State. Claims 117543-117631 were presented for payment. A motion was made by Mr. Roeder to approve the financial report and approve the claims for payment. Mr. Ketcham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Personnel Update - Ms. Corning recommended the employment of Ashley Spanton to replace Shayla Sattler as preschool paraprofessional until the end of the 2014-2015 school year. She also recommended that Steve Wagner be employed as a full time school psychologist starting with the 2015-2016 school year. Also Lori Trimble will be filling the teacher of hearing impaired position. She will work 123 days during the 2015-2016 school year. Mr. Galey questioned the stipend offered for the school psychologist position. Ms. Corning responded that the stipend was taken out of the contract but since he received it in the past that is why he was getting it again. Mr. Galey made a motion to approve the hiring recommendations. Mr. Roeder seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Preschool Update - The lists of students were distributed to the Superintendents. Ms. Corning gave updates on incoming students. The Board would like recommendations for classes for next year at the May meeting, part-time vs. full-time.

Ms. Corning asked to Board to approve the ROD Goals/Mission Statement/Vision Statement as this was the second reading of those. A motion was made by Mr. Moorhead and seconded by Mr. Roberts to approve the ROD Goals/Mission Statement/Vision Statement. Motion carried.

Ms. Corning did the second reading of the December, 2014 NEOLA policies update and asked the Board to approve these changes. A motion was made by Dr. Williams to approve the policy updates. Mr. Ketcham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Corning again wanted to discuss the use and funding of teachers and paraprofessionals that are provided by the cooperative. She contacted Susan Traynor Chastain after our last meeting. Ms. Traynor Chastain suggested that the Interlocal agreement should be followed or that it will need to be re-written. Ms. Corning recommended that the Interlocal agreement be followed as it is currently written. Discussion followed regarding the best practice in the schools. Many schools are using teachers and paraprofessionals that are paid for with cooperative funds to provide services for students with mild disabilities. These teachers cannot provide the recommended level of service written in the IEP for some students. Many paraprofessionals are needed to assist in providing these services due to the teachers servicing other students. Mr. Roeder made a motion to table the discussion at this time. Mr. Galey seconded the motion. Item tabled.

Ms. Corning has reviewed class needs for next school year. Currently, there is only one additional need. Rising Sun High School will need a class for severe disabilities. There is a position at OCEMS that could be moved to the high school. There will be a need for additional paraprofessionals.

Other information provided by Ms. Corning included:

1. Training in Co-Teaching will be set up near the start of the school year. This would be training for a general education and special education teacher from each school. Ms. Corning will schedule and get information sent to the schools. Lawrenceburg needs to spend inservice money to meet the CEIS requirements.
2. Federal assurances - Ms. Corning wanted the Board to understand that there are some areas that are not being met.
 - a. Non-public school students are to be offered services. Currently we provide services at the non-public schools. Last year we put computers in the local libraries for home school students to access. There will be information put on the website to let parents know that the computers are available.
 - b. Homebound IEP's are to be held every 60 instructional days. This is not always happening.
 - c. Five (5) days prior to an initial case conference, parents are to be provided with a notice of the evaluation completion and any action that is being proposed.

Public Comments - Meghan Fledderman, representing the ROD Educators Association, wanted the Board to know that the stipend is still in the contract. It is now \$3,000 per year for any school psychologist or anyone with a doctorate degree.

Dr. Williams informed the Board that the storage unit has been ordered but that they are waiting until the end of the school year to get it set up. The building changes are getting ready to take place.

Mr. Roeder asked, if at all possible, that paraprofessional assignments be made earlier. Ms. Corning stated that the requests are in from all schools so that decisions could be made

sooner. A statement will be added to the final determination that the decision is contingent on the number of students or individual needs.

Mr. Galey made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ketcham seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.