

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

October 20, 2015

The meeting of the Ripley-Ohio-Dearborn Special Education Cooperative Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at the South Dearborn Administration office. Those in attendance were: Karl Galey-Lawrenceburg, Andrew Jackson - Sunman-Dearborn, Paul Ketcham-Milan, John Mehrle-South Dearborn, Rob Moorhead-South Ripley, Jim Roberts-Batesville, Branden Roeder-Rising Sun, and Tim Taylor-Jac-Cen-Del. Cheryl Corning-ROD participated by telephone.

Dr. Mehrle called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

The minutes of the September 15, 2015 meeting were presented. A motion was made by Mr. Roeder to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Ketcham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Claims 117964-118055 were presented for payment. The financial report was also presented. On the financial report, there have been negative balances on the federal funds that were carried over when the reorganization occurred. When the auditor was in the office, he suggested that the way to get rid of these negative balances is to move money from the general fund to the federal funds. We cannot move funds from current federal funds to these funds because the grant time has expired. Discussion followed. A motion was made by Mr. Galey to move \$73,166.02 from the general fund to the old grants to cover the negative balances. Dr. Roberts seconded the motion. Motion carried. A motion was made by Mr. Moorhead to approve the financial report as presented and the claims for payment. Dr. Jackson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Personnel report - Dr. Mehrle reported that Ms. Corning has submitted her letter of resignation effective June 30, 2016. Dr. Mehrle thanked Ms. Corning for all the work she has done and appreciates all of her efforts. Mr. Galey made a motion to recommend accepting Ms. Corning's letter of retirement. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The preschool report was presented. Dr. Jackson asked about what determines that a class is at capacity. Ms. Corning reported that it depends on the severity of the students assigned to the program. A teacher assistant is added first before another program is opened. The timing also plays into when a new classroom is opened. If it is close to the end of the year, we would try to just add another assistant instead of moving students around to participate in a new program.

Ms. Corning had provided information from the July, 2015 federal revision regarding maintenance of effort from OSEP. It is important to remember that a corporation cannot spend less than what was spent the prior year. Her recommendation to reduce the general fund balance is to fully fund the VEBA buyout and disperse \$3,000,000 by participating shares over the next

three (3) years. Another option presented was to fully fund the VEBA buyout and not bill for the December 2015 participating shares payment of \$2,402,118.50 and reduce the June 2016 participating shares by \$600,000. Discussion followed. The Board asked that a resolution be developed using the recommendation and brought to the board at the November meeting.

Compensation for ROD classified employees - a recommendation by Ms. Corning is for a 2% increase for all classified staff with the exception of Marcia Fullenkamp. Her daily rate would increase to a rate that is aligned to other staff members that have an equivalent degree. A motion was made by Mr. Moorhead to approve the increases recommended. Dr. Jackson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Corning has been investigating additional ways to increase services for students with autism. Hands in Autism would like to provide additional training on ABA. They would set up a model classroom and work intensively in that room. The cost would be \$30,000 per year for three (3) years. Several members feel that more information is needed before a decision is made. Ms. Corning will check to see if there is a school that is currently using this program and set up a visit to the program.

Other information provided by Ms. Corning included:

1. On October 5th there was a fire at the ROD office. A laptop computer battery caught fire. It damaged the computer, the desk that it sat on and a test kit. There was also damage to the carpet under the desk. A claim will be made to insurance. The costs is +/- \$2,000. We have a \$1,000 deductible.
2. Information regarding Seclusion and Restraint - it is important that schools are using the CPI model that has been taught to them. This includes using the verbal cues first and not going into a hold so quickly.
3. Insurance for the teacher assistant - we need to increase the Board contribution in order to meet the guidelines for ACA using the federal poverty level. It is recommended that the contribution be raised to \$4,325 to meet these guidelines. A motion was made by Mr. Roeder to increase the Board contribution to \$4,325 per plan. Dr. Roberts seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Moorhead also wanted to thank Ms. Corning and express his appreciation for all that she has done for the cooperative.

There were no public comments.

A motion was made by Mr. Ketcham to adjourn. Mr. Roeder seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.