

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

October 16, 2018

The meeting of the Ripley-Ohio-Dearborn Special Education Cooperative Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, October 16, 2018 at the South Dearborn Superintendent's Office. Those in attendance were: Karl Galey - Lawrenceburg, Andrew Jackson - Sunman-Dearborn, Paul Ketcham - Batesville, Rob Moorhead – South Ripley, Jane Rogers - Milan, Travis Rohrig – Jac-Cen-Del, and Alex Brewer - ROD. Eric Lows and Branden Roeder were absent

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Jackson at 9:00 a.m.

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

The minutes of the September 18, 2018 meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mrs. Rogers to approve as presented. Mr. Galey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The financial report was presented by Marcia Fullenkamp. Final approval was received for the FY 2019 611 grant. Reimbursement requests and proportionate share reports were distributed. Claims 120484-120555 along with payroll claims were presented for payment. A motion was made by Mr. Moorhead to approve the financial report. Mr. Ketcham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Two members of the Board, Dr. Jackson and Mr. Ketcham, requested Dr. Brewer provide data to the board to review potential changes to how ROD is funded and operates. Currently, ROD funds the programs for emotionally disabled and severe disabilities along with other low incidence programs in schools. Dr. Brewer referred to these programs as “transfer programs.” Dr. Jackson requested data to help the board review whether local corporations could fund the transfer programs directly instead of funding them through ROD. He noted that with only one exception, all the schools have the school-aged transfer programs unlike when the current funding structure was established when the programs were shared between the entire cooperative. Dr. Brewer handed out a copy of the Interlocal Agreement which describes the current funding formula along with copies of the current budgets. Dr. Brewer explained that current ROD-only costs are around \$4,000,000 and transfer programs cost less than \$6,000,000. Dr. Brewer reported that parts of the transfer programs are funded by federal grants and part by local and state funds. This is also true for ROD-only costs. Dr. Brewer explained, that the total federal grants are near the same as the ROD-only costs, but because of federal regulations, some costs are not allowed to come out of the grants so there would still need to be local funds transferred if the Federal Grants were to be used to pay for more ROD-only costs and not transfer programs. Mr. Ketcham stated that he would like to see the cash balance reduced to reflect only the local funds. Dr. Brewer reported the projected cash balance at the end of the year to be \$1,000,000 or 10% of the combined budgets local, and federal. Mr. Ketchum reported his

preference to have local control of the programs in his corporation and that ROD's cash balance be reduced. He stated that schools can leverage these funds to address student accountability, inclusion, and programming for the students in the transfer programs. Mr. Rohrig questioned how this would affect the classes that are shared with South Ripley. Mr. Ketchum stated that an agreement between the two corporations would need to be established. Preschool would be different because several classes are shared between corporations. Dr. Jackson suggested it made sense to have the Cooperative still manage the preschool programs. Mrs. Rogers shared her concern that she does not want to lose any services. A question had been raised previously about using special education ADM vs. total ADM. Dr. Brewer provided information on the difference in those numbers. Dr. Brewer recommended not exploring changes to how services to nonpublic schools are funded and carried out; that these should continue to be operated through the cooperative regardless of how transfer programs were funded.

The Board directed Dr. Brewer to bring back a K-12 budget for 2018-2019, keeping preschool and non-public separated. The budget should be based on total ADM to make the comparison.

Dr. Brewer distributed two documents regarding the new Dyslexia Law, FAQ and Initial Dyslexia Guidance. Each corporation is required to do four things: determine what the universal screener will be; specific reporting requirements; required information on the website; and a trained dyslexia specialist employed by the corporation. Dr. Brewer would like to be involved with the corporations in the process of developing notices that need to be sent home to students prior to the screenings. Mrs. Rogers suggested that a sub-committee would be useful to promote consistency across corporations since many students move throughout the corporations. More information will be provided at the November meeting.

The preschool update was presented. Discussion followed.

Dr. Brewer presented an update from the ICASE fall meeting. DOE is moving to a "results driven accountability" vs compliance model for meeting federal and state standards. Information regarding RDA will be sent to schools in mid to late November. It is important that schools request Medicaid reimbursement and IMAC reimbursement. There needs to be more coordination with CTE programs. There are several changes proposed for Article 7. One of these proposed changes would require guidance counselors becomes a required member of the CCC for the transition IEP.

Dr. Brewer distributed a flyer about the national CEC convention that will be held in Indianapolis in February. This is a great opportunity for teachers to attend.

Public Comments – None.

A motion was mad by Mr. Galey to adjourn. Mr. Rohrig seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.