

EAST CENTRAL KANSAS COOPERATIVE IN EDUCATION

April 9, 2024, BOARD MINUTES

The regular meeting of the East Central Kansas Cooperative in Education Board of Directors was held April 9, 2024, at ECKCE 608 High Street, Baldwin City, Kansas.

Members Present: Chris Perry, Jamie Cox, Amanda Donovan, Zach Brooks, Claire Harding, Deb McCullough, Daniel Wray, Director, Jim Persinger, Asst Director, and Shelly McCart, Clerk of the Board.

Additional attendees: Lee Hanson

Board President Chris Perry called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Opening Business

Approval of Agenda as Presented

Motion: Amanda Donovan

Second: Jamie Cox

Motion approved 6-0

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2024

Motion: Amanda Donovan

Second: Deb McCullough

Motion approved 6-0

Approval of the Financial Reports and Disbursements/Ledger Report as Presented

Motion: Claire Harding

Second: Deb McCullough

Motion approved 6-0

Old Business

Strategic Plan Update:

Continued progress toward objectives but no specific updates as of this meeting.

Begin reimbursing licensure renewals for OT, PT, SLP, and SW starting in the 2024-25 school year.

Motion: Claire Harding

Second: Jamie Cox

Motion approved: 6-0

New Business

Director Dan Wray explained the LEA Assurances to the Board Members.

Para wages and the previous increases were discussed with the Board Members. The discussion will be continued at the May meeting once more information is available regarding funding.

2024-25 Transition Planning-Board President Chris Perry shared his thoughts on leaving postings for some positions up continually. Dan and Lee spoke about the future needs of an

additional Behavior Specialist to help build on the middle level staffing needs.

Approval of the ECKCE 2024-25 Calendar as Presented

Motion: Jamie Cox

Second: Deb McCullough

Motion approved: 6-0

Director's Report

- Personnel –We received a resignation from our .5 gifted facilitator in Baldwin so we will be looking for someone to fill that role. We were successful in filling our WEBS administrator position with Dave Powers. We have been unsuccessful in finding any SLP replacements for the vacancies that we have in Eudora.
- I am requesting the addition of a behavior specialist paraprofessional to assist in data collection for FBAs and provision of materials assembly for students on BIPs under the direction of the specialist.
- I am requesting the ability to post for a full or part-time early childhood psychologist position to assist in the Wellsville and Eudora districts regarding initial assessments for that population.
- Legislative Update – Things have been extremely busy. As I write this, the legislative body is convening a conference committee to discuss a replacement for SB387, as while it narrowly passed on Thursday morning in the House, it was soundly defeated in the Senate on Thursday night. SB387 contained a one-time SPED funding increase of 77.5 million dollars which I used to give estimates to the superintendents for a potential assessment decrease for FY25, but we were pleased that it didn't pass due to the other elements and conditions, including changing the SPED funding formula that has been in place and working well since 1984, the disingenuous inclusion of LOB dollars as state contributions to give the illusion of meeting the statutory obligation of funding 92% of excess costs, as well as ignoring the governor's proposal for a multi-year increase to actually get to the obligation.
- Negotiations – Letters were exchanged, meeting dates are on hold.
- Insurance Rates – We don't anticipate a quote from our carrier until next month, but as this is one of the items in the negotiations letter, I have asked for that quote sooner than later to begin the process.
- Classified pay increases – While we still will not have complete knowledge of resources available for para and other classified pay raises, I am recommending the following, pending passage of some increases in funding. I believe we need a .75 per hour pay increase for all paras, a 2.00 an hour increases in the pay of our COTA positions, and an additional 1.00 for all WEBS para positions, due to the difficult nature of those positions and the retention issues we have experienced this year.
- I am requesting to extend our mentor stipend to include specialists sponsoring practicum placements for COTA students and CFAs in SLP regarding placements in accordance with our affiliation agreements with Neosho Community College and other affiliated universities to compensate specialists for the additional time taken.
- SEAC Update – Plans to hold another SEAC meeting to introduce the new director in the first week of May.

Extend the mentor stipend for the OTs, SLPs, and Psychs

Motion: Chris Perry

Second: Jamie Cox

Motion approved: 6-0

Create additional School Psychologist position for the 2024-25 school year

Motion: Chris Perry

Second: Amanda Donovan

Motion approved: 6-0

Create a Behavior Specialist Assistant para position for the 2024-25 school year

Motion: Chris Perry

Second: Amanda Donovan

Motion approved: 6-0

Create an ECKCE Specialist Team Coordinator at a .6 FTE for the 2024-25 school year

Motion: Jamie Cox

Second: Claire Harding

Motion approved: 6-0

Board Member Input

Claire Harding shared information about Eudora's new EC developments and remodeling updates at the West Resource bldg. The plan for next year is for WEBS HS students to stay in West, and the middle school students to be housed at EMS, and elementary students will stay at EES.

Board President Chris Perry touched on Baldwin's bond issue-voting will take place on May 14th, the key points focusing on updating the CTE facilities and programs and some safety and security issues at BHS/BJHS.

Executive Session

Board President Chris Perry made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel with Director Dan Wray, Asst. Director Jim Persinger, and Lee Hanson, pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and returning to open session at 9:05 p.m.

Second: Deb McCullough

Motion approved 6-0

The open meeting resumed at 9:05 p.m.

Board President Chris Perry made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel, pursuant to the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA, and returning to open session at 9:16 p.m.

Second: Jamie Cox

Motion approved 6-0

The open meeting resumed at 9:16 p.m.

Board President Chris Perry made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel, pursuant to the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA, and returning to open session at 9:26 p.m.

Second: Amanda Donovan

Motion approved 6-0

The open meeting resumed at 9:26 p.m.

Approve Personnel Report as Presented

Motion: Chris Perry

Second: Deb McCullough

Motion approved 6-0

Meeting Adjournment

Motion: Zach Brooks

Second: Deb McCullough

Motion approved 6-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

These minutes are subject to final approval at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Shelly McCart,
Clerk of the Board

Action on Personnel

Resignations

Paras:

Certified:

Briana Wilkerson, Eudora Psych
Patty Lenning, Baldwin .5FTE Gifted

Hirings/Changes

Paras:

Certified:

Jordan Lorenzo, EES IR 3rd
Dave Powers, WEBS Admin