

**EAST CENTRAL KANSAS COOPERATIVE IN EDUCATION
May 14, 2024, BOARD MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the East Central Kansas Cooperative in Education Board of Directors was held May 14, 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, Sara Hoepner (joined at 7:29 p.m. via Google Meet/left at 7:35 p.m.

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

Public Comment

Opening Business

Approval of Agenda as Amended

Motion: Chris Perry

Second: Amanda Donovan

Motion approved 6-0

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for April 9, 2024, and Special Meeting Minutes for May 9, 2024

Motion: Claire Harding

Second: Jamie Cox

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:

No update at this time as Director Dan Wray would like to discuss with incoming Director Lee Hanson and update at the June meeting. Currently working on student emails for the survey before the end of the school year.

Para Pay Increase for 2024-25 school year:

The Interlocal is about in the middle regarding para hourly pay as compared to the surrounding districts. Every \$.10/hour raise given to paras = approximately \$14,500 in additional payroll cost to the Interlocal. Still awaiting final Categorical Aid information before final increases are suggested.

New Business

Approve Adding SER (Social Emotional Resource) Position at BJHS for 2024-25

Motion: Jamie Cox

Second: Claire Harding

Motion approved: 6-0

Approve SLP Contract for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years

Motion: Chris Perry

Second: Jamie Cox

Motion approved: 6-0

Approve ECKSEC Contract for Vision Impairment and Orientation & Mobility Services for 2024-25 school year

Motion: Claire Harding

Second: Deb McCullough

Motion approved: 6-0.

Sara Hoepner, incoming Assistant Director, joined the meeting via Google Meet at 7:29 p.m. Board introductions; Sara spoke about her background and that she is looking forward to reuniting with staff she is already familiar with and meeting new staff as well. She is excited to share her knowledge and support the programs and students of the member districts.

Discussion/Informational Item

Interlocal Agreement-The original agreement began on April 1, 1999, and was updated last in 2018. Dan Wray would like to discuss with Lee Hanson, incoming director, to update and clarify some language and revisit this topic at the June Board meeting.

Director's Report

- Personnel – The Integration Specialist position vacated by Bonnie Allen due to her impending move to Michigan has been filled by Paxton Reinbolt, resource teacher at WES. This creates a vacancy at WES, which has been posted. Also, the CARDS teacher at EES requested and granted a transfer to the 1st grade resource position at EES, vacated by Jennifer Ducey, who will be moving to the SER (SEEDs) classroom at EES, which was not filled last year. This creates a vacancy for our CARDS program which has been posted. In addition, interviews for the gifted position in Baldwin will be held this week.
- Legislative Update – SB387 passed both houses and is awaiting governor signature but provides 73 million in additional funding with an additional 2.5 in ARPA funds for special education. Because a stipulation of the bill is that it be distributed via an alternative formula rather than categorical aid, the increase in assessments was shared with superintendents, as that will be the vehicle for allowing the districts to comply with the directive that the money be fully used for special education.
- Assurances – The application for IDEA VI-B funds opened on May 1 and will close May 31. The assurances that were signed last month have been submitted.
- Negotiations – The first meeting was held, and I am looking forward to the finalization of categorical aid so that we can know how much we have with which to negotiate.
- Insurance rates – While the districts who are a part of the consortium received hefty rate increase proposals, we are still awaiting our quote, which usually arrives around June 1. We are hopeful that our rates will be static this year.
- SEAC- A meeting was held on May 7 at EES and introduced Lee as the new director and had great discussions about next year's plans!

Board Member Input

Baldwin Members shared the status of the election for the bond issue for the district.

Eudora members shared news of a new principal hired for EHS for 24-25, and a new Asst. Principal at EES.

Approve Personnel Report as Presented

Motion: Chris Perry

Second: Claire Harding

Motion approved 6-0

Meeting Adjournment

Motion: Jamie Cox

Second: Zach Brooks

Motion approved 6-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31p.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

Certified:

Bonnie Allen, ECKCE Integration Specialist

Hirings/Changes

Paras:

Kayla Winton, Eudora SLP-A 2024-25

Certified:

Paxton Rienbolt, ECKCE Integration Specialist

Sydney Jennings, EES transfer from CARDS to IR 1st