

REGION III SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE**EXECUTIVE MEETING****October 18, 2023****CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rob Miller, Chairperson at 10:02am. Roll was as follows:

Present: Mr. Rob Miller, Mr. Todd Dugan Dr. Kevin Bowman, Dr. Pat Anderson

Not in attendance: Dr. Jill Griffin, Mr. Mario Sherrell

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Mrs. Lenger informed the board that Journeys has started a new program to teach students the positive outcomes of giving back to the community. Students are able to bring in donations or are able to purchase items with their points for the Crisis Food Center. Every Friday, two students are chosen and will get to deliver the items with a staff member to the center.

Mrs. Lenger stated that district LEA determinations sent out by the state and all the districts met the necessary requirements for implementing IDEA. She stated that the district coordinators and herself will begin looking at areas for improvement. Two of the areas they will be looking at is the graduation rate and early childhood service delivery setting. Mr. Miller asked Mrs. Lenger if she was aware that graduation determinations are scheduled to change in the school year 2024-2025. Mrs. Lenger stated she was aware and her understanding is only students in a transition program will no longer be counted. She mentioned she had a discussion with Paula Bradford, the transition specialists for the ROE, in regards to this. She also mentioned at the coordinators meeting they will be reviewing the LEA determinations in addition to reviewing IEP form completion and procedures.

Mrs. Lenger shared with the board the CPI Tidbits Newsletter that Kim Hood shared with our staff. She stated she would share it with the coordinators to share with their staff.

Mrs. Lenger informed the board that East Alton is providing the food service at Journeys this year. She wanted to thank Matt Stimac and Erica Powers for being so accommodating and easy to work with. She mentioned that Tracy, Journeys custodian, was hired to pick up lunches for the Journeys program and when he is unavailable Katie has been filling in.

Mr. Rob Miller wanted to take a moment and thank Messina Lenger and Katie Wieckhorst for making the Institute day at East Alton Wood River high school a success. Mrs. Lenger wanted to recognize Gerry Mattix-Wand, IT Director at the high school, for all his hard work and everything running smoothly.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT**Personnel**

Mrs. Lenger informed the board she continues to have two full time paraprofessional positions open. She stated we are needing to fill one paraprofessional at the elementary level. She is currently utilizing a substitute to fill in with staff absences. Mrs. Lenger stated the substitute is only available four days a week. The substitute is a previous employee and she would like for her to have a more permanent position therefore, she will be asking for approval to employ the substitute at FTE .80.

Financial

Mrs. Lenger shared a budget update to show what percentages of the budgeted amounts have been spent thus far. She mentioned she will be sharing this information every month. Mr. Miller expressed his concern about the supply line budget for each of our CLIP and Journeys programs. Mrs. Lenger stated there are certain areas of the budget they will be able to move around to balance the budget out. She also stated that most of the supplies are purchased at the beginning of the year.

Current Programs

Mrs. Lenger provided the board an update on students in each program. She mentioned a Southwestern student moved out of the district, but a Bethalto student will be starting in a few weeks.

FOR DISCUSSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Auditor's Report, Extension Requested

Mrs. Lenger informed the board that the Auditor has requested an extension of the deadline for the audit submission. She stated that it is expected on October 16, 2023 and will be presented to the board in November.

ALOP Grant

Mrs. Lenger shared with the board that the ALOP grant for Journeys was approved. She mentioned it is an alternative learning grant which allows us to accept administratively placed students. It is not a funded grant. The state recommends that they continue to submit the application in case it becomes a funded grant.

IT Company

Mrs. Lenger shared with the board that Region III currently uses an IT company, Computerease, for its backup service and IT support. She stated that the quality of customer service is inadequate and the rates for support have gone up. She informed the board she has been working with Jay Stemmler at looking at other options.

Reimbursement for Tuition

Mrs. Lenger wanted to discuss the possibility of offering tuition reimbursement to paraprofessionals. She stated she currently has six paraprofessionals in a special education teaching program, two of which have scholarships. She mentioned that Region III will not have a need for six teachers, but our cooperating districts could benefit from them. She stated they are all great employees and will be great teachers. She informed the board that the current CBA states:

11.15 Reimbursement for Tuition

Upon written approval of an accredited college course by the Director, the tuition costs for one class shall be reimbursed to certified staff with four full years of service. Such reimbursement shall not exceed one class every other year per teacher and a total of \$1000.00.

Mr. Miller asked if there would be any requirements for them to stay employed with Region III. Mrs. Lenger stated that for the minimal amount they would be reimbursing it would be difficult to make them commit. She stated she would like to start offering this to paraprofessionals in January. The reimbursement would occur after July 1.

CONSENT AGENDA/ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Kevin Bowman moved to approve the consent agenda including the public hearing minutes, regular board minutes, closed session minutes, Governing Board minutes, and bills. Dr. Pat Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 4-0.

Mrs. Lenger stated that we are doing some security updates. She stated our parking lot lights currently do not light. Pointer Electric submitted a bid but also informed us of a grant offered by Ameren to cover a majority of the cost to update the outdoor as well as all interior lighting. Our cost for the lighting is \$900.00 and Ameren will cover \$15,000 with the grant. She stated we are updating the camera on our keypad, installing a siren to deter traffic around the building, and adding a keypad at Journeys. She informed the board the company doing this work is Tech Electronics. Mr. Todd Dugan moved to approve the Maintenance Project Grant application as presented. Dr. Pat Anderson seconded. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 4-0.

Dr. Kevin Bowman moved to approve the hiring of Nicky Clowers as a permanent sub with an FTE of .80. Mr. Todd Dugan seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Kevin Bowman moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:40am. Dr. Pat Anderson seconded. Motion carried with Members Voting, Aye-4, Nay-0.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting for the Region III Executive Board will be held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 10:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Katie Wieckhorst, Administrative Assistant



Mr. Rob Miller, Chairperson