

REGION III SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE

EXECUTIVE MEETING

March 20, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rob Miller, Chairperson at 10:04am. Roll was as follows:

Present: Dr. Jill Griffin, Mr. Monty Aldrich, Mr. Rob Miller, Mr. Todd Dugan, Dr. Pat Anderson

Not in attendance: Dr. Kevin Bowman

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: No visitors attended the meeting.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Mrs. Lenger shared with the board that she recognized Allie Kesler for remaining calm and administering the heimlich maneuver on a student who was choking. Dr. Anderson stated he would like to have the district recognize her too for saving the student's life.

Mrs. Lenger shared with the board the CPI Tidbits Newsletter to share with their staff members. She stated she is receiving positive feedback from her staff.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Financial

Mrs. Lenger provided the budget update. The percentage of funds expended in each area of the budget is reported. She stated that nearly all budgeted amounts for Professional Development have been expended. She informed the board that staff has requested the opportunity to use funds for programs outside of what the cooperative has offered.

Personnel

Mrs. Lenger stated she will be discussing a few possible options for positions for next school year later in the meeting. She mentioned she is trying to make it to the end of this year with the current staff members.

Current Programs

Mrs. Lenger provided an enrollment update. She mentioned that they currently have 46 students enrolled between the CLIP program and Journeys. She stated a student from Bethalto was just placed at Journeys. She informed the board that there are 2 students graduating from Journeys this year with one of those students completing his coursework at the end of this week. She mentioned that she has received a referral for a Southwestern student to be placed at Journeys as well. The total enrollment at Journeys will then be 17 students. Mrs. Lenger stated that the need was at the middle school level this year and she tries to keep classroom sizes at 6 students.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Behavior Coach Position

Mrs. Lenger stated that she has been unable to fill the behavior coach position. She also stated she has been utilizing a RBT provided through Dr. Dixon. She mentioned that the cooperative is working with its third RBT, but they are not filling our needs and they do not have the skills to offer support to our district students and staff. She mentioned to the board that she had a conversation with the coordinators about Niles Township School district hiring BCBA's. She stated the BCBA's provide training to paraprofessionals to become RBT's. The BCBA's provide the 5% supervision over the RBT's and the necessary support to the district. She stated the paraprofessionals who received the RBT training certificate improved their skills, and were compensated with a pay increase of \$1.00. She informed the board that she would like to explore this option and post a job opening for a BCBA for next school year. She would like to open the RBT training to all paraprofessionals within the cooperative and cooperating districts. She stated the BCBA position would replace the behavior coach position that we have been unable to fill. Mrs. Lenger informed the board she has looked at how other districts are handling the BCBA position. She stated

the BCBA's in Missouri are being placed on the certified salary schedule, but are not eligible for TRS, however they would be eligible for IMRF. Mr. Miller asked how this would affect our relationship with Dr. Dixon. Mrs. Lenger stated she had a discussion with Dr. Dixon regarding the hiring of a BCBA and he mentioned he could support us with providing one. She stated she was going to have this conversation with the coordinators too, but she mentioned to the Board and Dr. Dixon it is harder to work with someone who is contracted than a district employee. She stated the three RBT's Dr. Dixon has provided to the cooperative have not been successful in our programs. Dr. Griffin supported the idea of the cooperative hiring their own BCBA. Mrs. Lenger provided the board with the previous behavior coach's salary to show a comparison with placing a BCBA on the certified salary schedule. Dr. Griffin expressed her concerns with finding a BCBA for this placement on the salary schedule. Mrs. Lenger mentioned that Dr. Dixon currently has two job openings for BCBA's with a salary of \$90,000, but he does not offer insurance and the cooperative would. Dr. Griffin asked Mrs. Lenger to reach out to the Niles Township School district to see what their salary is for the BCBA position. The board asked Mrs. Lenger to provide them with the salary information from Niles Township School district once she receives it and they work on a salary schedule for the BCBA.

CONSENT AGENDA/ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Jill Griffin moved to approve the consent agenda including the regular board minutes, closed session minutes, and monthly bills. Dr. Pat Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 5-0.

Dr. Jill Griffin moved to approve the classroom lease agreements. Mr. Todd Dugan seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 5-0.

Dr. Jill Griffin moved to approve the preparation of the budget for FY25. Mr. Todd Dugan seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 5-0.

Dr. Jill Griffin moved to approve the job posting for a BCBA. Mr. Monty Aldrich seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Jill Griffin moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:26am. Dr. Pat Anderson seconded. Motion carried with Members Voting, Aye-5, Nay-0.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting for the Region III Executive Board will be held on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 10:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Katie Wieckhorst, Administrative Assistant



Mr. Rob Miller, Chairperson