

**REGION III SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE****EXECUTIVE MEETING****August 21, 2024****CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Kevin Bowman, Board Member at 10:03am. Roll was as follows:

Present: Dr. Kevin Bowman, Dr. Pat Anderson, Mrs. Nancy Werden, Mr. Rob Miller

Not in attendance: Dr. Jill Griffin, Mr. Todd Dugan

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:** No visitors attended the meeting.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Mrs. Lenger informed the board that Region III held their Beginning of Year Meeting at Riverbend Family Ministries on a district institute day. She stated that the CPI Refresher was held on this day and there was also a guest speaker, Tara Hurst, who focused on self care for the staff. Mrs. Lenger wanted to thank RFM for letting Region III use their meeting space.

Mr. Miller asked the board if it is mandated to hold training for teachers on trauma before the beginning of the school year on an institute day. Mrs. Lenger stated that if you use CPI, then there are certain guidelines you must follow for additional trauma training, one being an extra 5 hours of training on specific areas provided by the state, but she wasn't aware that the training had to be held before the start of the school year. The board agreed to investigate the requirements for training and make sure their districts were following them.

Mrs. Lenger shared with the board that some of the Region III staff participated in the Oiler Nation Celebration back to school bash. She mentioned that they handed out popcorn and sensory stickers to the students and parents. She stated her staff was very impressed with the turnout.

Mrs. Lenger shared the name of the new transition program with the board, which is Journey to Success. She stated there are three students in the program. The students are shopping on Mondays for supplies they need for the week. She also mentioned the students will be volunteering at the Salvation Army on Tuesdays where they will stock and organize food and hygiene items, light cleaning in the gym and food service area, and helping clients with grocery pick up.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT****Financial****FY25 Budget First Reading**

Mrs. Lenger provided the first reading of the budget for FY25, which is in three parts, tuition, administrative and professional development. She stated that there are 5 teachers, 3 long term teacher substitutes and 12 paraprofessionals in the CLIP program. Journeys program consists of 3 teachers, 4 paraprofessionals and Kim Hood is also the Program Facilitator and is paid a stipend, BCBA, Audiologist, SLP, OT, PT and COTA and PTA. Dr. Bowman asked if Region III used the regular budget form. Mrs. Lenger answered yes and stated that Region III receives a flat amount of evidence based funding. She stated the Administrative Fee had a small increase of 1.14% from FY24 because of moving some of the EBF money into tuition cost. She stated that there is \$36,000 EBF in the administrative budget and the Cooperative received an outreach adjustment of \$15,000 to offset costs. The in-service budget is \$34,093 for the year. The inservice costs are funded by the IDEA grant.

Mrs. Lenger asked the board if they were participating in the Madison County Institute Day on October 11. She mentioned that our BCBA and our OT have put in a proposal to present.

Mrs. Lenger shared with the board the estimated bills for all programs for the FY25 year. She stated if the cooperative assists an outside district, then they are charged an extra fee which then decreases the cooperating districts' bills. Mr. Miller asked the board how tuition is set for an outside student attending their district. Dr. Bowman stated the amount of tuition is based on the per cap amount.

#### **Personnel**

Mrs. Lenger stated we currently have one part-time COTA position open and have a need for a full-time LPN for a one on one with a student. The student is currently homebound. Dr. Bowman suggested paying the parent as the nurse, so the student can attend school. Mrs. Lenger also stated that she has an interview today for the COTA position.

#### **Current Programs**

Mrs. Lenger provided a list of programs and their locations with the number of students in each program. The kindergarten classroom housed at Bethalto East has 3 students from Bethalto. There are 2 classrooms at Lewis & Clark Elementary: One classroom consists primarily of students with autism and houses 5 students. The other classroom is an ACT room with 4 students. The ACT classroom at Lewis & Clark Jr. High consists of 4 students and the autism room at East Alton Middle School consists of 5 students. The Life Skills classroom at East Alton Wood River High School consists of 9 students. Our new transition room, Journey to Success, consists of 3 students and there are three classrooms at Journeys School with 4 students in one room, 5 in another room and 6 in the third room.

Mr. Miller asked Mrs. Lenger how the high school cafeteria staff was doing with providing breakfast and lunch. She stated everything was going well and Sylvia is great to work with. She also stated the amount of food provided has increased switching from the elementary school to the high school. She informed the board that the gentlemen running the lunches resigned after the first week of school, but she has a replacement for him.

#### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

##### **Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report SY2024**

Mrs. Lenger shared with the board the administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report and informed them it was on the Region III website.

##### **Health Insurance Renewal, Blue Cross/Blue Shield**

Mrs. Lenger shared with the board the new renewal rate on average was 2.3 percent. The initial proposed rate increase was 5.3 percent, but our broker worked with BCBS to get us a lower rate increase.

##### **Policy Update 115, First Reading**

Mrs. Lenger shared with the board policy 115 for review and the corrected language in 4:80.

##### **Resignation Letters**

Mrs. Lenger informed the board she received two resignation letters, one from William McLemore, a paraprofessional who had been with the cooperative for four years and another from Jennifer Courtoise, a part-time COTA.

##### **Registered Behavior Technician Training Program**

Mrs. Lenger informed the board that the Registered Behavior Technician Training Program is ready to be implemented. She shared with the board the handout that will be given to staff who are interested in the program. Mrs. Lenger stated she held a coordinator's meeting last Friday, and Genevieve Schuh, BCBA, discussed the program with them and the coordinator's decided to have Genevieve discuss the program to the staff in their districts who are interested in going through the training. Mrs. Lenger also stated that Bethalto School District also wanted Genevieve to discuss the program with their union. Mrs. Lenger requires that all staff must be employed

with the district/cooperative for one year before they are able to take the training. The training consists of 40 hours of online training at the staff members' own cost of \$87 dollars. Then once the training is completed there are competency assessments that must be completed with the BCBA with a \$50 application cost paid by the district/cooperative as well as a \$45 exam fee paid by the district/cooperative. They then have to have ongoing monthly supervision for 5 percent of the time they are using behavioral strategies, by the BCBA.

**CONSENT AGENDA/ACTION ITEMS**

Mr. Rob Miller moved to approve the consent agenda including the regular board minutes and monthly bills. Dr. Pat Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes,4-0.

Mr. Rob Miller moved to approve the employment of Non-Certified Staff (Paraprofessionals) Linelle Vieregge, Erica Sechrest, Amber Deford and Kim Colvin. Mrs. Nancy Werden seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 4-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Rob Miller moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:46am. 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, September 18, 2024, at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Katie Wieckhorst, Administrative Assistant



Dr. Kevin Bowman, Chairperson