

REGION III SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE

EXECUTIVE MEETING

January 19TH, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order remotely through Google Meet by Mr. Kyle Hacke, Chairperson, at 1:31 p.m. Roll was as follows:

Present

Mr. Monty Aldrich
Mr. Rob Miller
Mr. Brad Tuttle
Dr. Patrick Anderson
Mr. Kyle Hacke

Not Present

Dr. Jill Griffin

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

No visitors was present.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

COVID 19 UPDATE

Mrs. Lenger informed the board of the number of students and staff on quarantine. Currently there are 9 students on quarantine due to close contact outside of school, 4 staff on quarantine, and 3 positive staff members.

Mrs. Lenger provided a report showing the numbers of isolation and restraint incidents to the board members. Mrs. Lenger also provided a document from ISBE showing state goals and benchmarks and discussed creating oversight teams in the districts to develop school-specific plans for reducing and eventually eliminating the use of time out and physical restraint.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Tuttle moved to go into Closed Session at 1:37 p.m. Mr. Hacke seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 5-0. Motion carried. Mr. Hacke moved to come out of Closed Session at 1:49 p.m. Dr. Anderson seconded. Roll call was taken with members voting, Yes, 5-0. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL

Mrs. Lenger updated the board on the anticipated date of installation of the new HVAC system for Region III.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Lenger informed the board Elizabeth Chester, paraprofessional, turned in her resignation letter.

Mrs. Lenger informed the board that Chris Heffner, Bookkeeper, modified the date of her initial retirement date and will work till February 16th and then take 20 days of vacation. Her last day of employment will be March 18th, 2022.

Mrs. Lenger stated she is recommending hiring Melinda Kroeger as bookkeeper and has included a breakdown of salary and benefits.

Mrs. Lenger informed the board she is asking for approval of a salary increase for Katie Wieckhorst, Administrative Assistant. Mrs. Lenger stated she has given her additional responsibilities including Board Secretary, administrative responsibilities for Medicaid Billing and Time Study, and Time Clock responsibilities. Mrs. Lenger provided Katie's salary and benefits breakdown to the board.

PROGRAMS

Current Programs

Mrs. Lenger provided the board members a list of Region programs, number of staff and students in each program. Mrs. Lenger stated there will be a new student starting on Monday and a possibility of another one in the near future.

Behavior Coach

Mrs. Lenger provided a list of Kim Hood's hours of training and support that was provided to the districts. Mrs. Lenger reminded the board that this service has been paid for by the districts. Kim is available if there is a need for behavioral intervention in their districts.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Lenger informed the board the EAWR school board decided they did not want to lease space to Region III for the Journeys classrooms. Mrs. Lenger spoke with Mr. Tuttle about the continuation of the current lease for one more year, if needed. Mr. Tuttle stated he is open to discussions but would like to set a date for a final decision whether it would be used or not. Board agreed to set the date for March 31st. Mrs. Lenger stated she also contacted Crossroads Church again to discuss a lease agreement on January 18th. Mr. Chad Hoesman from the ROE 40 will inspect the building should the board decide to pursue the Crossroads Church lease, which is her recommendation.

POLICY UPDATES

Policy Updates, First Reading

4:165 Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors. This policy is created in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-23.13 (Erin's Law), amended by P.A. 102-610, which requires districts to adopt and implement a policy addressing sexual abuse of children. Our committee is addressing the requirements of this policy.

2:20 Powers and Duties of Governing Board

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/21B-85(a) and (b).

2:105 Ethics and Gift Ban

105 ILCS 5/22-90 (final citation pending), added by P.A. 102-327, bans high school guidance counselors from intentionally soliciting or accepting gifts from a prohibited source, narrowly defined as "any person who is employed by an institution of higher education or is an agent or spouse of or an immediate family member living with a person employed by an institution of higher education." Exceptions exist for certain circumstances, e.g., gifts from a relative or based on a personal friendship. A guidance counselor does not violate this law if he or she promptly takes reasonable action to return the gift to the prohibited source or donates the gift or an amount equal to its value to a tax-exempt charity.

2:110 Qualifications, Terms and Duties of Governing and Executive Board Officers

Legal references are updated.

2:220 Executive Board Meeting Procedure

Required by 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d), amended by P.A. 102-653. If a board is unable to conduct the review every six months, it must do so as soon after as is practicable, taking into account the nature and meeting schedule of the board. A board may also conduct the review more frequently. For the sake of brevity and to align with the closed meeting exception in 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) that continues to refer to a public body's semi-annual review of its closed session minutes, this policy's exhibits use the term semi-annual, even though that term was removed from 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d).

2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure

Press Plus1 Optional; using a delivery method that allows the district to verify the date of receipt is a best practice. We recommend adding this language in the policy.

3:40 Director

Updated in response to the General Assembly's focus on resolving Educator Misconduct.

3:50 Administrative Personnel Other Than the Director

The Cross References are updated in response to the General Assembly's focus on resolving Educator Misconduct

3:60 Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal

The Legal References are updated. The Cross References are updated in response to the General Assembly's focus on resolving Educator Misconduct.

4:60 Purchase and Contracts

410 ILCS 170/10(b), added by P.A. 102-242, eff. 1-1-23.

2 C.F.R. §§200.318-200.327; 30 ILCS 708/.

The Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) adopts the federal uniform guidance for all grants unless the Office of the Governor grants an exception. 30 ILCS 708/55; 44 Ill.Admin.Code §7000.60.

4:160 Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds

Address the Illinois Pesticide Act. Recommends inclusion of information in the student handbook.

4:170 Safety

1) notify parents/guardians in advance of any lockdown drill that involves student participation, and (2) allow parents/guardians to exempt their child(ren) from participating for any reason. For students who do not participate in the lockdown drill, districts must provide alternative safety education and instruction related to an active threat or active shooter event. For students who do participate in the lockdown drill, districts must allow them to ask questions related to it.

4:175 Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications

The School Code continues to define the board president's role in conducting criminal background investigations and receiving the results of these investigations, including the results for employees of district contractors. 105ILCS 5/10-21.9. Many districts delegate this task in the hiring process to a human resources department.

5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment

775 ILCS 5/2-102(A), amended by P.A. 102-233.

5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited

775 ILCS 5/2-102(A), amended by P.A. 102-233. Work authorization status definition

5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria

Draft update. Legal references updated.

5:50 Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace

5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

Recommend approval as presented

5:100 Staff Development Program

Current investigation of PD provided through Bushue to determine if the trainings provided meet the requirements of this policy.

5:120 Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest

Region III does not employ a guidance counselor. Recommend deleting this section.

5:125 Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct

Updated in response to the requirements of districts outlined in 105 ILCS 5/10-23.13 (Erin's Law), amended by P.A. 102-610.

5:150 Personnel Records

Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-23.13 (Erin's Law), amended by P.A. 102-610.

5:185 Family and Medical Leave

Review Press Plus 1 Comment

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Monty Aldrich moved to approve the Consent Agenda, approve bills and to keep Closed Meeting Minutes July 1, 2021-December 31, 2021 closed as presented. Dr. Anderson seconded. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes 5-0. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Patrick Anderson moved to accept Chris Heffner, Bookkeeper's retirement letter. Mr. Tuttle seconded. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes 5-0. Motion carried.

Dr. Anderson moved to approve hiring Melinda Kroeger, Bookkeeper with a salary of \$45,000 dollars to start on hire date and to be prorated through the end of the school year, with no additional raise increase for the 22-23 school year. Mr. Tuttle seconded. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes 5-0. Motion carried.

Mr. Tuttle moved to approve Katie Wieckhorst, Administrative Assistant's salary increase of \$4,000 dollars to start February 16th and to be prorated through the end of the school year, and with no additional raise increase for the 22-23 school year. Dr. Patrick Anderson seconded. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes 5-0. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Tuttle moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:04 p.m. Mr. Aldrich seconded. Motion carried with Members Voting, Aye-5, Nay-0.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting for the Region III Executive Board will be held remotely, Wednesday, February 16th, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chris Heffner, Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper



Mr. Kyle Hacke, Chairperson