

Board of Education

Northeast Kansas Education Service Center

Minutes

Date: Wed., Oct. 16, 2002

Location: USD #341 Oskaloosa Board Office

Time: 7:30 pm - Call Meeting to Order

At 7:30 p.m. President, Tom Holroyd, called the meeting to order. Members present: Tom Holroyd, Leonard Lange, Doug Walbridge, Keith Ostrander, Carol Meneley, and Mike Miller; Jim Wheeler, Executive Director; Patty Hart, Director of Special Education; Judy Denton, Assistant Director; Susan Aspinwall, Business Manager/Clerk of the Board; Linda Kilgore, Administrative Assistant; Jean Rush, Superintendent USD #342; and Julie Frisbie, Ed Lindsay, and Sharon Branson, SETA Representatives.

Consent Agenda

Walbridge moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. Lange seconded and motion carried 6-0.

Action - Approval of Minutes

Action - Approval of Agenda

The following changes were made to the agenda:
Change RSC item #5, Parent Information Resource Center to an action item. After RSC items, add an Executive Session.

Action - Approval of Bills and Claims

Receive - Communications from Visitors Present

Julie Frisbie, SETA President, presented a request to the board from an employee who would like to ask for donations of sick leave days from other employees for her upcoming pregnancy leave. She does not have enough leave days remaining and cannot borrow from the sick leave bank for pregnancy. Frisbie noted that the teacher has worked for NEKESC for about four years, but does not plan to return next fall. Holroyd asked that the board be allowed to think about this for a month or two to review the cost of such a decision. Frisbie left the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

At 7:40 p.m. Lange moved to continue executive session for 15 minutes until 7: 55 p.m. Meneley seconded and motion carried 7-0. At 7: 45 p.m. Julie Frisbie left executive session. At 7: 50 p.m. Susan Aspinwall was asked to join executive session. At 7: 55 p.m. open session resumed.

Receive – Communications

Treasurer's Report

Susan provided copies of the treasurer's report to members..

Special Education

Action - Personnel Update

Judy reviewed the list of contracts, resignations and terminations for approval. Lange moved to approve the personnel update as presented. Miller seconded and motion carried 6-0.

Information/Discussion - Special Education Class Size/Caseload

Patty explained that we are required to have a policy/procedure for determining appropriate caseloads for special education teachers in order to provide students the appropriate services. Our policy stipulates use of a computerized formula which was developed by Jim Wheeler as well as input from other sources. The formula utilizes the State MIS Report regarding the amount of time for direct services per student FTE the teacher provides, the amount of indirect service per student FTE the teacher serves, the age range of the students served, the number of buildings a teacher serves, the number of miles a teacher drives and the number of paras supervised. Caseloads are then compared to other teacher caseloads in our cooperative as well as to the state caseloads. We feel all caseloads are appropriate at the current time. These numbers are also used in the planning process for next fall. When asked, Patty estimated the student/teacher ratio at 11/1.

Regional Service Center

Action - Carl Perkins

Jim presented the Carl Perkins budget Fund #23 in the amount of \$102,907 for approval. He explained that these funds are used mainly for professional development including our big June workshop. Participating schools also get a direct allocation for professional development for high school vocational education and technical education teachers. It is necessary for smaller schools to form a consortium to access these funds. Walbridge moved to approve Fund #23, Carl Perkins. Meneley seconded and motion carried 6-0.

Action - Increase in Fund #32 After School Program

Jim explained that in order to reimburse the districts for carryover funds collected the last three years for tuition, we will need to increase the budget for Fund #32 by \$25,129 to a new total of \$134,720. Ostrander moved to approve fund #32 as presented. Meneley seconded and motion carried 6-0.

Information/Discussion - Interlocal Agreement

Jim reviewed the recommended changes proposed at the Supers' meeting last week explaining that the agreement must be ratified by June 30th. Discussion was held on the fact that "non-weighted" FTE was probably the best number to use and is now clearly defined in the agreement. Two-year terms and the need for them was discussed as well. Plans are to take this first revision back to our Supers in November, the have our board members look at it again in November, have local boards of education approve in December, and then get it to the State for approval.

Information/Discussion - Update on PassPlan - Test Item Bank

At the present time we have over 2,200 students committed to participate in the PassPlan Test Item Bank. We had over 40 educators from all NEKESC schools in attendance at the training on Sept. 25. There appeared to be a lot of interest from those in attendance and that was later confirmed by the number of students we've had signed up for the program by those

teachers.

Action -Parent Information Resource Center

Jim discussed that the Kansas Families and Schools Together (KFAST) - a not-for-profit partnered with NEKESC - recently won a 1.2 million dollar grant from the U.S. Office of Education. The project, to be accomplished over the next three years, will be integrated with the NCLB (no child left behind) legislation by providing information and training resources for parents statewide. The project also has a strong component for Parents as Teachers and will allow for the development of some pilot ages 3-5 year old programs in high need areas of the state. He presented a contract for services to be provided by NEKESC as a sub-contractor to K-Fast, the non-profit organization. Funds will flow from the feds through K-Fast who in turn will contract with NEKESC for specific services. The grant calls for 30% of the funds to be spent on the Parents as Teachers (PAT) programs in the state. The state has extra PAT "match" because many districts dropped their programs due to the money crunch. Therefore, the state will be matching approximately \$200,000 of grants funds with \$307,000 of state PAT match. Miller moved to approve the contract for services as presented. Lange seconded and motion carried 6-0. Jim then presented contracts for Nancy Kraft, Project Director in the amount of \$67,760 and for Robin Gingerich, Training Director in the amount of \$60,760. Lange moved to approve as presented. Ostrander seconded and motion carried 6-0. A formal budget will be presented next month.

Information/Discussion- KSDE - Oct. 21 Workshop

Jim explained that at our recent Kaw Valley Coop Purchasing, it was noted that Alexa Pochowski requested that NEKESC organize a regional meeting for superintendents and principals for the purpose of explaining the State's plan for meeting the requirements of the new NCLB (ESEA) legislation. We have scheduled the Holiday Inn for a half-day meeting on Oct. 21st with a lunch.

Executive Session

At 8:50 p.m. Ostrander moved to go into executive session for five minutes until 8:55 p.m. to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel. Miller seconded and motion carried 6-0. Everyone left the meeting except the board members and executive director.

Adjournment

At 8:55 p.m. open session resumed and Walbridge moved to adjourn the meeting. Lange seconded and motion carried 6-0.