

Board of Education

Northeast Kansas Education Service Center

Minutes

Date: Wed., September 18, 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: Roy Artman, Keith Ostrander, Leonard Lange, Tom Holroyd, Doug Walbridge, Mike Miller (arriving at 7:35 p.m.) and Carol Meneley (arriving at 8:25 p.m.); Jim Wheeler, Ph. D., Executive Director; Patty Hart, Director of Special Education; Judy Denton, Assistant Director; Susan Aspinwall, Business Manger/Clerk; Dolly Gudenkauf, Bookkeeper; and Ed Lindsay, Julie Frisbie, and Sharon Branson, SETA Representatives.

Consent Agenda

Walbridge moved to approve the consent agenda with no changes. Lange seconded and motion carried 5-0.

Action - Approval of Minutes

Action - Approval of Agenda

Action - Approval of Bills and Claims

Receive - Communications from Visitors Present

There were no communications from visitors present.

Receive – Communications

Copies of the treasurer's report for September were provided for members. Miller arrived at the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Special Education

Action - Personnel Update

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

Action - Approve Federal Flow Thru Application

This was a receive item last month. Patty explained it is the same application we submit every year and local districts must agree to abide by the assurances regarding implementation of the requirements by approving the application. We will be receiving \$667,420 for age 3-21 year old funds and \$38,826 for age 3-5 yr. old funds. Patty pointed out several areas of importance in the application. Lange moved to approve as presented. Miller seconded and motion carried 6-0.

Information/Discussion - Special Projects for Gifted Students

Patty explained the activities for combined groups of gifted students were well received by students, parents, and principals last year, so we plan to provide these opportunities again this year. The task force working on the gifted program noted the importance for the gifted students to have the opportunity to get together with other gifted students to share challenges and to work together.

The elementary gifted students will go to the Kansas City Museum and Planetarium on October 23. They will evaluate an exhibit using a rubric, and then go back to their schools and prepare an exhibit which aligns with the local curriculum and share it with their classmates.

The middle school gifted students will go to Old Jefferson Town in Oskaloosa for a "town meeting" assignment on November 13th. Each student will have a role to act out in resolving a controversial town issue. They will also share with their classmates.

The high school gifted students (approximately 45) will participate in a model UN with other schools in Kansas in the spring. On November 20 they will have a practice UN meeting at LeCompton. Each student will be assigned a country and will research the country and their politics. They will debate an issue from the perspective of their country. The plan is to have them work with their social studies teachers in their home districts and report back after their meeting.

Information/Discussion - Brief Update on Special Education Programs and Services

Patty reported to the Superintendents last week that the school year was off to a smooth start. However, before the meeting was over, she learned that we'd be doing a manifestation hearing in the coming week. This is a determination as to whether the student's disability played a role in action that called for a long term suspension or expulsion. The only exception to the rule is if the student is in possession of drugs or a weapon, the child's placement could be changed for 45 days. On the bright side, the elementary self-contained classroom and the three functional classrooms are off to a good start. The overall distribution of staff and students looks pretty good and will need only minor changes. We are looking at para usage, trying to hire subs only when necessary and providing inservice during the regular contract hours in order to have funds in reserve in the event we should need to hire additional paras.

Regional Service Center

Action - Increase in Fund #10 Account

Jim explained that due to usage (ratings increases) we need to increase the amount of funding in our workman's comp. line item. We need an increase of \$15,000 and propose taking these funds from carryover with no local assessment. He provided copies of the revised budget in the amount of \$191,836 for Fund #10. Lange moved to approve as presented and Artman seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Action - Update on PassPlan - Test Item Bank

Jim reported that over thirty teachers and administrators attended the Sept. 4th workshop. He provided samples of how the item bank can be used for classroom participation and discussion, and noted that many teachers were already using this idea. He reviewed some information on costs of purchasing licenses for all USDs to fully implement the PassPlan assessment system which he negotiated for a cost of about \$8.00 per student on a consortium basis. Each district is to let him know how many students they plan to have participate in this program. He noted that the state is headed toward having the state assessment testing done on computer and this will be a good opportunity for students in learning to take tests on computers. The supers recommended putting together a consortium for this program. No action was taken.

Action - Facilities Committee

Past minutes (superintendents meetings) have reflected the desire to engage in some long range facility planning for NEKESC. Jim reported that at the Supers' meeting, they recommended to keep the same committee in place (Scott Slava, Jean Rush, and Bill Stattelman) with the addition of Jim and Patty. No action was taken.

Action - Approve Contract with Wichita USD and Budget

Jim reported we have negotiated another contract to provide the Wichita USD (Special Education Department) with technical assistance in the management of their special education data for state and federal reports. He provided a budget for Fund #03 in the amount of \$38,400 as well as the contract with Wichita and the contract for Ron Swenson to do the work in the program. Ostrander moved to approve the two contracts and the budget as presented. Walbridge seconded and motion carried 6-0.

Information/Discussion - Interlocal Agreement

The NEKESC interlocal agreement expires June 30, 2003. This agreement is renewable for 3 or 5 years. The process involves reviewing current language, making any changes required, and getting approval of each local board. The agreement then must go to the Attorney General's office for approval and get on the State Board of Education's agenda. In the past, we had the agreement approved and in to our attorney's hands by January in order to meet the timelines required for processing. The supers decided to have a committee meeting of the full membership of USDs prior to their regular meeting next month to review the agreement. Due to conflicting schedules, the meeting has been moved to Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

Information/Discussion - JDLA Evaluation

Jim provided an overview of the extensive evaluation process that was mandated by the State for the JDLA Charter School and was done by Nancy Kraft. He pointed out specific areas of the evaluation beginning with student characteristics. Of the 39 students in attendance, poverty level was 50%, students on IEPs 44%, students involved in the judicial system 50%, and two students were parents. Jim then pointed out the effect of Service Learning, a main component of the program, on student achievement. Students who attend JDLA for longer periods of time generally have a higher attendance rate, a higher quality service-learning experience and a higher grade point average.

The evaluation also produced 17 items (weaknesses) which need to be addressed, basically, what we need to do to get better. Jim noted that the state evaluation format now utilizes portions of the evaluation format that was developed by Kraft two years ago.

Information/Discussion- Not For Profit - The Kansas Families and Schools Together (KFAST)

Jim explained that NEKESC has applied for a not-for-profit organization in order to be eligible for a national grant competition for the Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC). If fully funded this grant could provide over \$1,500,000 over a three year period. We should know something next month.

Executive Session

Personnel Issue

At 8:15 p.m. Ostrander moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes until 8:20 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. Artman seconded and motion carried 6-0. Everyone left the meeting with the exception of board members and the executive director.

Adjournment

At 8:20 p.m. open session resumed and Walbridge moved to adjourn the meeting. Artman seconded and motion carried 6-0.