

Board of Education

Northeast Kansas Education Service Center

Minutes

Date: Wed., Mar. 19, 2003

Location: Oskaloosa USD# 341 Central Office

Time: 7:30 pm - Call Meeting to Order

At 7:30 p.m. President, Tom Holroyd called the meeting to order. Members present: Leonard Lange, Tom Holroyd, Mike Miller and Carol Meneley; Jim Wheeler, Ph.D., Executive Director; Patty Hart, Director of Special Education; Judy Denton, Assistant Director; Susan Aspinwall, Business Manager/Clerk; Michelle Weishaar, Accounting; Julie Frisbie and Sharon Branson, SETA Representatives; and Janet Crow, PAT Coordinator.

Consent Agenda

Lange moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. Meneley seconded and motion carried 4-0.

Action - Approval of Agenda

Under RSC, add 6) Action - Approve Resolution for 457 Plan.

Action - Approval of Minutes

Action - Approval of Bills and Claims

Receive - Communications from Visitors Present

There were no communications from visitors present.

Receive - Communications

Susan provided copies of the Treasurer's Report for the month of March.

Special Education

Action - Personnel Update

Judy reviewed the list of contracts, resignations and terminations for approval. Lange moved to approve as listed. Miller seconded and motion carried 4-0. Holroyd then moved the meeting to RSC item #5 and Jim introduced Janet Crow, PAT Coordinator.

Information/Discussion - Planning for the 2003-2004 School Year

Patty explained we have a need for a self-contained classroom for middle school students with significant social/emotional difficulties. If we are able to use the Ozawkie building, this program can be incorporated into our John Dewey Learning Academy. If that is not possible, we will need a classroom in order to provide the program, as well as possibly adding a teaching position, part time social worker, and para for the middle school students. Personnel costs along with computer and teaching materials should cost around \$32,000 in addition to the Categorical Aid we would receive. If the students were to be served in our current JDLA program, we would need the whole second floor of the building which would mean finding another location for our media center, PAT program, Tiny-K program, Social Workers and PIRC staff. Increased staff would include at least one para at a net cost of about \$4,000 to the districts. When asked how many students would need services, Patty said that at the present time, we know that two would be moving up from the elementary self contained classroom, one from a

self-contained program in his home school, as well as another student whose out of district program is to be discontinued next year. We won't know until this fall how many we'll actually have enrolled that need these services.

Patty added that we are also planning to have a half day functional skills classroom for middle school students who need this type of curriculum. There will not be a need for additional staff in order to do this. Functional skills classrooms are currently in place for high school students, with great parental support for the program.

Information/Discussion - Staff Development for Paraeducators

Patty discussed the new requirements for para certification that could be set in place with the reauthorization of IDEA. It appears that Kansas may adopt the MASTER Teacher program, Para Educator Learning Network, and its assessment as our required para assessment. If so, we propose to form a consortium, which would enable paras in all our districts to use this training and testing program without a great cost to individual districts. Meanwhile, we are planning a session for our paras that will allow them to hear from an individual who has taken the test, and to determine the level of training that may be needed by them in order to do well on whatever test is required. We are proceeding cautiously until we have specific information regarding what will be required for special education paras.

Regional Service Center

Action - Approve Increase in Fund #40 K-FAST

Jim explained that we will receive an additional \$9,900 from KSDE for Parent Educator training. This will increase our total budget from \$365,242 to \$375,142 for Fund #40, K-FAST. Miller moved to the increase as presented. Lange seconded and motion carried 4-0.

Action - Approve increase in Fund #30 - KIDSS

We also need to increase the KIDSS budget by \$4,000 for additional computer programming time. Carryover funds from the KIDSS budget would be used to increase the amount to \$81,325 for Fund #30. Meneley moved to increase the budget by \$4,000 as presented. Miller seconded and motion carried 4-0.

Information/Discussion - Facilities Committee Report

Jim provided an update from our facilities committee, including recommendations from our Superintendents' Advisory Council, who requested a cost/benefit analysis on possible use of the Ozawkie building. Members were provided a list of operating costs, both long term and one time. Discussion was held on building maintenance, custodial, cafeteria, and other costs listed. When asked what the capacity of the building would be with a K-12 program, administrators explained that it would depend on the severity of the needs of the students and the number of qualified teachers available. Discussion was held on the possibility of creating a "Special Purpose School" and recruiting students from outside districts. We could then charge tuition for services if we had extra slots, in order to offset some of the costs. Discussion was held on staffing such a program. Jim then provided copies of letters from State Board Members, Connie Morris and John Strickler, who were impressed with the presentation on environmental education given by JDLA students at their February board meeting. The letters stated that utilizing environmental education as a tool for overall academic achievement was demonstrated by the staff and students of JDLA and showed the program was successful.

Information/Discussion - Budget Preparation 03-04

Jim provided preliminary budget information using currently "known" variables, e.g. district special education FTE and enrollment head counts, expected expenditure increases and predicted revenue sources. It is the desire of the Superintendents that we keep the assessment at 0% increase even after a 5% decrease last year. This was possible by utilizing carryover to fund the budget last year. Jim and Susan felt it could be possible to do this for one more year, but then the carryover would be depleted and the full load of the assessments would land back on the districts.

Information/Discussion - Parents as Teachers Program

Janet Crow, PAT coordinator, provided an update on the PAT program including an

announcement that Jacki Himpel, PAT Educator in USD #458, has been selected as one of five parent educators in the United States to receive a national "Parent Educator of the Year" award from the PAT National Center. Janet then provided a summary of the mid-year report which shows the program has provided services to 584 families (733 children) so far this year. She explained how the PAT program helps with early identification of children with potential problems, and refers them for evaluation and/or services by our Tiny-K (Part C, IDEA) program. She provided copies of the Kindergarten Readiness Survey where kindergarten teachers were asked to rate the children in their classes on several "readiness" question. PAT children's results were then compared to NON-PAT children and the results showed PAT children were rated significantly higher on three of the four questions. Janet provided copies of the Parent Satisfaction Survey reflecting the parents' satisfaction with the support their families are receiving from the PAT program. Over 97% of the responding parents said that they would tell their friends to enroll in PAT. Janet closed her presentation with a message from a parent to the board to thank them for providing such a great service and program Holroyd thanked Janet for her presentation and meeting returned to SpEd item #2.

Action - Approve Resolution for 457 Plan

Jim provided information on an employee benefit program which would make benefits of an Internal Revenue Code Section 457 Plan available for employees of the service center. Meneley moved to approve the resolution to adopt the 457 plan document. Miller seconded and motion carried 4-0.

Executive Session

At 8:30 p.m. Lange moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes until 8:45 p.m. to discuss negotiations. Meneley seconded and motion carried 4-0. Julie Frisbie, Sharon Branson and Janet Crow left the meeting.

Adjournment

At 8:45 p.m. open session resumed and Lange moved to adjourn the meeting. Meneley seconded and motion carried 4-0.

Tom Holroyd Susan Aspinwall, CPS
President Business Manager/Clerk