

Board of Education

Northeast Kansas Education Service Center

Minutes

Date: Wed., Apr. 16, 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: Tom Holroyd, Leonard Lange, Roy Artman, Carol Meneley, Mike Miller, and Doug Walbridge (arriving at 7:35 p.m.); Jim Wheeler, Executive Director; Patty Hart, Director of Special Education; Judy Denton, Assistant Director; Susan Aspinwall, Business Manager/Clerk; Linda Kilgore, Administrative Assistant; Loren Lutes, Superintendent; Terry Coughlin, Terry Driscoll, Jennifer Williams, and Denise Selbee-Koch, JDLA Staff; Eric Spreer, JDLA student; Ed Lindsay, Julie Frisbie and Sharon Branson, SETA representatives; and Linda and Kim Stone, Valley Falls parent and student.

Consent Agenda

Lange moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. Meneley seconded and motion carried 5-0.

Doug Walbridge arrived at the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Action - Approval of Agenda

Under Executive Session add 2) Personnel.

Action - Approval of Minutes

Action - Approval of Bills and Claims

Receive - Communications from Visitors Present

Julie Frisbie introduced Valley Falls parent, Linda Stone and her daughter, Kim. Linda expressed concern about the gifted program in which Kim participates at her school and what could be done to enhance it and make class work more challenging for Kim. After discussion, Patty and Judy assured Linda the problem would be addressed at Kim's next IEP meeting.

Receive - Communications - Treasurer's Report

Susan provided copies of the treasurer's report for the month of April.

Special Education

Action - Personnel Update

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

Meeting moved to RSC item #5.

Action - Summer School Budget

Patty explained that we are required to provide extended school year (Summer) services for students with disabilities who qualify. These services may be combined with regular summer school, if the district provides it, or they may be individualized and provided at home or another community location. She then discussed the proposed budget for these services in the amount of \$49,553 for Fund #8, Summer School. Lange moved to approve as presented. Walbridge seconded and motion carried 6-0.

Information/Discussion - Continuous Improvement Application for Funds

Patty discussed that on our request for funding, KSDE stipulates the application address any indicators identified in the Continuous Improvement Monitoring self-assessment as needing improvement or being non-compliant. She noted that throughout the state, there are three areas on the IEP that are problematic. The whole state is below the National Average in the area of Early Childhood LRE (Least Restrictive Environment) The application can also address an area where there is a desire for growth or innovative practice, provided the need is justified based on data. We will provide training for our early childhood teachers on providing services in community preschools. In addition, we will look at suspension and expulsion of students, graduation rates, state assessment scores in reading and math and continued para training on our application which is due April 25th.

Information/Discussion - Classroom for Middle School Students with Social/Emotional Needs

Members decided to moved the discussion on this subject to RSC item # 5 - Facilities Report.

Regional Service Center

Action - Approve KASB Dues and Legal Fees

Susan presented invoices to renew our membership with KASB as well as participate in their Legal Services Department program. The dues are the same amount as last year's - \$900 for the legal services fee and \$1,375 for the annual membership dues. Walbridge moved to approve as presented. Meneley seconded and motion carried 5-1 with Miller opposed.

Information/Discussion - HB 2385

Jim discussed that business interests have had some influence on the state legislature to draft a bill that appears to limit the kinds of activities that Service Centers and other governmental "Interlocals" can engage in - when it competes with their interests. This appears to be a continuation of a recent law suit against Greenbush related to school accounting software that they license and sell. Jim attended a recent meeting with Service Center Directors in Hutchinson and said that at this point the issue is "going nowhere" but could resurface at a later date.

Information/Discussion - KSDE Requests Assistance from Service Centers

Jim reported that Alexa Pochowski met with service center directors and staff recently to request help in providing technical assistance for the 600 + Kansas schools expected to be on improvement status in the coming couple of years. She indicated that KSDE does not have the personnel to provide the level of assistance that will likely be required in the near future. The exact form this will take has not been presented, but there is expectation that the state will utilize some of their NCLB funds to contract for services. Jim will keep members updated on future developments.

Information/Discussion - Facilities Report

Last month the Superintendent Council requested that we provide information regarding the cost/ benefit(s) of moving some prrams to Ozawkie versus adding staff to provide middle school BD services in several schools. Jim provided copies of possible district assessments for both alternatives, and explained there are an increasing number of students needing a self-contained classroom environment. After discussion with Supers this month, and a facilities committee meeting with Jeff West last night, it appears that delaying a decision until next year would be in our best interest. We will also know more about what will be happening with school finance. Discussion followed on possible alternatives for a middle school self-contained classroom and the personnel needed to staff it.

Information/Discussion - JDLA Environmental Fair

Jim introduced Terry Coughlin, JDLA administrator, who introduced Jennifer Williams, Terri Driscoll, and Denise Selbee-Koch, JDLA teachers. Terry explained their goal is to nurture students to help them succeed and have a feeling of self worth. The teachers discussed their

work in integrating service-learning and environmental awareness in their educational curriculum. Jennifer provided copies of their curriculum map. She discussed their work with Stream Link and water testing, re-creation of Jamestown, their work with preschoolers, and their trip to the National Service Learning Conference in Minneapolis, MN next week. Terry Driscoll discussed her role as science and math instructor, their work on the 190 acre outdoor classroom at Lake Perry, Greenhouse and Landscaping projects, their "Garden Journal", and their focus on stars and constellations and native Kansas wildflowers. Although it is not easy to integrate math into an environmental curriculum, the students have been introduced to Leonardo Fibonacci's sequence of numbers system which can be found throughout the environment. Denise discussed her work in the area of English, creative writing, and photography and how these are used to enhance the students' learning. A sample "Photograph Portfolio" was provided for board members to see how the students write a summary on the subjects they photograph. Denise reported that the students have done presentations at the KACEE meeting in Atchison, one at the State Department of Education, and a presentation at the 3rd Annual Stream Link Conference in Wamego. They have prepared two presentations for the Minnesota conference next week. Each presentation improves student self esteem. Eric Spreer, JDLA student, spoke on his involvement with the work on the nature trail at Lake Perry which included clearing brush, building small bridges across the creek, etc. He said, "School's great, the students are motivated to do their work." Jim thanked staff and student for their presentation and reported to the board that the JDLA presentation at Vanderbilt University is being published in a book on research on Service Learning. Eric left the meeting. Meeting returned to Special Education item #2.

Information/Discussion - Interlocal Agreement

NEKESC's Interlocal Agreement was approved by the State Board of Education at their April meeting.

Information/Discussion - Internet Services Update

Jim reported that because our network will be smaller in number and some users will be electing to utilize wireless systems to connect to our site, we will need to reconfigure our equipment and possibly reduce our bandwidth. Districts are finding that wireless access seems to be a fast, less expensive way to go. Our network engineer, Dave Nordlund, is also the network engineer for KANREN out of Kansas University. We could save money by switching over to this system, but will wait until summer before making any decisions or changes.

Executive Session

At 9:00 p.m. Walbridge moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes until 9:15 p.m. to discuss negotiations and personnel. Artman seconded and motion carried 6-0. Sharon Branson, Julie Frisbie, Denise Selbee-Koch, Ed Lindsay, Linda and Kim Stone, Jennifer Williams and Terry Driscoll left the meeting.

Adjournment

At 9:30 p.m. Artman moved to adjourn the meeting. Lange seconded and motion carried 6-0.

Tom Holroyd Susan Aspinwall, CPS
President Business Manager/Clerk