

Board of Education

Northeast Kansas Education Service Center

Minutes

Date: August 20 th, 2003

Location: Oskaloosa USD #341 Central Office

Patty announced that Jim Wheeler was absent due to a death in the family.

- **Special Recognition**

At 7:30 p.m., Board President, Tom Holroyd recognized Roy Artman, who has served on the Board of Education as the Oskaloosa representative for the past two years. Roy was given a plaque and then asked to cut and serve his cake as his last job requirement.

Time: 7:30 p.m. Call Meeting to Order

At 7:35 p.m. Holroyd called the meeting to order. Members resent: Dean Newell, Julie Zule (replacing Doug Walbridge as McLouth's representative), Keith Ostrander, Mike Miller, Dave Jolly (for Carol Meneley), Tom Holroyd and Leonard Lange; Patty Hart, Director of Special Education; Shelia Clark, Assistant Director; Susan Aspinwall, Business Manager/Clerk; Dona Higgins, Accounting; Sharon Branson, SETA Representative (arriving at 7: 40 p.m.); and Roy Artman, outgoing board member.

- **CONSENT AGENDA**

Lange moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. Ostrander seconded and motion carried 7-0.

Sharon Branson arrived at the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

Additions to agenda: Under Special Education add 4.1) Receive - Federal Flow Thru Application; and under RSC add 6.1) Receive - Communications from NEKESC Clerical Staff.

2. Approval of Minutes

3. Approval of Bills and Claims

- **Receive - Communications from Visitors Present**

There were no communications from visitors present.

- **Receive - Communications**

1. Treasurer's Report

Susan provided copies of the August treasurer's report for members.

- **Special Education**

1. **Action - Personnel Update**

Shelia reviewed the list of contracts and resignations for approval. Ostrander moved to approve as presented. Lange seconded and motion carried 7-0.

2. Action - Contract with Master Teacher

Patty explained that we are negotiating with Master Teacher to provide online paraeducators training and assessment. Kansas has approved this web based assessment for Title I paras and it will also apply to special education paras if the new IDEA requires it. Effingham USD is already using the Wolf River program and would not need to be included in the fee. The cost for the remaining six USDs and NEKESC would be \$1,839. Discussion followed on options for para certification, payment for inservice hours, guidelines for a timeframe if paras choose this option for certification, and the number of modules in the test and requirements for passing them. Jolly then moved to approve the Master Teacher contract in the amount of \$1,839. Lange seconded and motion carried 7-0.

3. Information/Discussion - Students With Disabilities and State Assessments

Patty reported that students with learning problems are required to take the state assessments and show improvement the same as regular education students. NCLB says all students will be proficient by the year 2012. We have summarized the performance of students with disabilities for the past three years for individual districts and have an aggregate of six districts. We have not been able to access McLouth's information. Patty provided copies of the results to members and explained that a low number of students taking the test can skew the percentages either to the good or to the bad. Also, the same kids are not tested in consecutive years and this also affects comparisons from one year to the next. Patty will have an aggregate of all seven districts as soon as she is able to access the McLouth information. She also noted that staff development will be focused on improving reading and math skills.

4. Receive - Federal Flow Thru Application

Patty explained that each year we are required to submit an application for Federal Flow Thru funding. Susan provided a copy of the application for members to review and noted that we will be receiving \$775,471 for 3-21 yr. olds and \$38,672 for 0-3 yr. olds. She noted there appears to be a few errors on some of the information input by district personnel and she will call them to clarify the numbers. We will have a final draft for the board's approval next month.

• Regional Service Center

1. Action - KSDE Request for Technical Assistance

Patty explained that the Title I department at KSDE has requested that NEKESC develop a contract and budget to provide DIBELS and other assessment and data interpretation workshops for the state. The new Reading First Grants require the use of DIBELS, and there is a growing demand for training.

Two of our staff, Dawn Miller, Ph.D. and Shelia Clark, Ed.S. are about the only trainers in the state at this time. They would be 'Trainers of Trainers' who would then train the district's teachers how to act on the data and do what is needed for the kids. Miller moved to proceed with this technical assistance for the state. Zule seconded and motion carried 7-0.

2. Action - Learn and Serve Grant Evaluation

Last year the JDLA received a Learn and Serve Grant from the Kansas State Department of Education. Patty explained that the required evaluation suggested that Service Learning had a significant impact on student attendance, engagement and GPAs. She then provided copies of the budget for the new grant project in the amount of \$20,712 with \$10,000 coming from the KSDE. Lange moved to approve the budget for Fund #39, Learn and Serve as presented. Jolly seconded and motion carried 7-0.

3. Information/Discussion - Internet Changeover Update

As of a week ago, all InterNet access was being routed through the KanRen network. We have made a couple of adjustments to the budget to accommodate two districts requesting upgraded service. As a result of needed increases in bandwidth, we have purchased an additional T-1. We are also continuing to contract with Dave Nordlund for technical assistance on our network. He indicates that (with the addition of a new Cisco Router) we are now able to provide all the bandwidth required for our system.

4. Information/Discussion - Update on Kansas Advocacy and Protective Services

Patty reported that KAPS is back in business after having been 'raided' by FBI agents last year. They are a Federally mandated and supported agency that is part of a national network empowered to advocate for persons with disabilities. We haven't seen much of them for the past 15 years or so because they really didn't do much advocating; hence the reason for the Federal raid on their offices last year. We can probably expect them to have a larger presence in disputes involving schools and students with disabilities.

5. Information/Discussion - Upcoming Professional Development Information

Patty explained that through our Federal Grant project, K-PIRC, a Parent Involvement Conference will be held in Wichita on December 5th and 6th. Also, eight statewide regional workshops will be presented for Title I, Title III, Elementary Teachers and Principals and Federal Programs Personnel on Parent Involvement and Early Literacy (DIBELS) Training.

6. Other

1. Receive - Communications from NEKESC Clerical Staff.

Each board member had received a copy of a letter from the NEKESC clerical staff requesting that the \$75 per month paid towards health insurance for 40 hour a week

clerical staff be increased. Members asked Susan to compile a worksheet reflecting what this might cost and to send it out with the minutes.

- **Adjournment**

At 8:25 p.m. Lange moved to adjourned the meeting. Zule seconded and motion carried 7-0.

Tom Holroyd
President

Susan Aspinwall, CPS
Business Manager/Clerk