

# **Board of Education**

## **Northeast Kansas Education Service Center**

### **Minutes**

**Date: Sept. 17th, 2003**

**Location: Oskaloosa USD #341 Central Office**

#### **Special Recognition**

We were unable to have the special recognition for Doug Walbridge, who has served on the Board of Education as the McLouth representative for the past two years. He was unable to attend the meeting.

#### **Time: 7:30 p.m. Call Meeting to Order - USD #341 Central Office**

At 7:30 p.m. President, Tom Holroyd called the meeting to order. Members present: Keith Ostrander, Leonard Lange, Julie Zule, Dean Newell, Tom Holroyd, and Carol Meneley; Jim Wheeler, Executive Director; Judy Denton, Assistant Director; Susan Aspinwall, Business Manager/Clerk; Dona Higgins, Accounts Payable; Loren Lutes, Superintendent; and Sharon Branson, SETA Representative.

- **CONSENT AGENDA**

Lange move to approve the consent agenda with no changes. Meneley seconded and motion carried 6-0.

1. Action - Approval of Agenda
2. Action - Approval of Minutes
3. Action - 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 treasurer's report for the month of September.

- **Special Education**

1. **Action - Personnel Update**

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

2. **Action - Local Agency Application**

Judy discussed our annual application for federal flow thru funds explaining that by approving the application, each district is agreeing to the assurances as listed in the copy they were given. Ostrander moved to approve the agency

application. Meneley seconded and motion carried 6-0.

### **3. Information/Discussion - Successful Start of the School Year**

Judy reviewed special programs, staff assignments, and potential problem areas which administrators have faced so far this year. She noted that they are holding the line on hiring paras; however, are looking for an LPN para in one district where nursing services are needed. Special equipment has also been ordered for this student. She also noted that the John Dewey Learning Academy is overcrowded, but the students are being served and staff is coping with it.

### **4. Information/Discussion - State Assessments**

Judy explained that we now have the aggregate scores for students with disabilities and giftedness in all seven districts. Last month we were lacking the scores from McLouth. She then provided a revised aggregate of the math and reading scores which included McLouth's scores.

### **5. Information/Discussion - Foster Care Data Base**

Judy discussed that for several years we have been promised a foster care data base. This would allow districts to track their students that are in the foster care system, so that when they are moved from district to district, any IEP information, etc. will be readily available to the teachers, rather than waiting for the paperwork to arrive from the prior school of attendance, which can take weeks. This will enable the student to receive services sooner. NEKESC received the contract for developing the data base and is now training teachers/USDs on how to access and utilize the system. Plans are to develop a training video/disc that will 'walk' the teacher through the process for using the system. It will probably be a year or so before the video is ready.

### **6. Information/Discussion - Para Educator Network**

Judy reported that the Para Educator Network from Master Teacher has been purchased and is now ready for para use as soon as we get the password to the different USDs. If our special education paras are required to have the same testing/certification that Title I paras are required to have under IDEA, this program will meet those requirements for certification.

## **• Regional Service Center**

### **1. Action - PDC Regional Chair**

Jim explained that 15 years ago Kaw Valley provided teacher inservice options and most of the teachers in our area participated. Later, Kaw Valley went "out of business" and NEKESC took over the role of providing teacher inservice opportunities. Paula Kellogg had chaired the program for several years and last year, Pat Happer agreed to act as the chair of the regional staff development network. He has agreed to do it again for the coming year. A contract for 20 days at \$250/day was presented for approval. Meneley moved to approve the PDC Regional Chair contract with Pat Happer as presented. Lange seconded and motion carried 6-0.

### **2. Information/Discussion - PASS Plan - On-Line Assessment**

Jim reported that last year a number of schools participated in the PASS Plan - test-item bank consortium at NEKESC. That subscription has expired and some teachers have inquired about the possibility of continuing this program. The cost for the first year was \$9.00/student, but renewal will be \$5.00/student. NEKESC will again pay for participation of our special education students. Notices have been sent to districts so they can continue participation as well.

**3. Information/Discussion - NEKESC's Technical Support Services Program**

Jim reviewed the technical support service program and provided a report on the excellent services this program provides to participating districts. Copies of a "pie chart" reflected the different sources of income for the program. He noted the cost effectiveness of this service for districts as well as the dedication of our excellent staff who are both self-motivated, willing to self-train, and work all hours (nights and weekends included) to keep our system up and running.

**4. Information/Discussion - Final Evaluation Report for After School Programs**

Jim reported that our Federal after school program ended this last school year after four years of funding ( three years were funded with the addition of a one year no cost extension.) The program was highly successful as indicated by 1) The majority of schools still retain their programs using fee for service, 2) A strong link was made between academic achievement and after-school program attendance and, 3) High satisfaction of parents and teachers. He provided copies of the final evaluation to members for their review.

**5. Information/Discussion - Employee Health Insurance**

Members discussed the cost to fund the request from the clerical staff to provide \$210/mo. for health related insurance benefits to full time classified staff. This is the same amount our certified teachers receive. Susan provided figures for increases for all classified employees at different levels of benefit amounts. Meneley moved to go with the proposal to provide \$210 for all 2080 hour employees; to provide an increase of \$25, to a new benefit amount of \$100, for all 30 hr./week employees, and to endeavor to increase their benefit over the next four years as finances allow. Ostrander seconded and motion carried 6-0!

• **Adjournment**

At 8:40 p.m. Lange moved to adjourn the meeting. Zule seconded and motion carried 6-0.

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Tom Holroyd  
President  
Manager/Clerk

Susan Aspinwall, CPS  
Business