

Board of Education

Northeast Kansas Education Service Center

Minutes

Date: January 21st, 2004

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

At 7:30 p.m. President, Tom Holroyd called the meeting to order. Members present: Julie Zule, Tom Holroyd, Leonard Lange, Lois Niemann (for Keith Ostrander), Mike Miller, Carol Meneley, Dean Newell; Jim Wheeler Ph.D., Executive Director; Patty Hart, Director of Special Education; Judy Denton, Assistant Director; Susan Aspinwall, Business Manager/Clerk; Linda Kilgore, Administrative Secretary; Jean Rush, Superintendent USD #342; and Sharon Branson, SETA Representative.

- **Consent Agenda**

Lange moved to approve the consent agenda. Zule seconded and motion carried 7-0.

1. Action - Approval of Agenda
2. Action - Approval of Minutes
3. Action - Approval of Bills and Claims

- **Receive - Communications from Visitors Present**

Sharon Branson presented information on the "Resource Fair" being held at the Free State High School in Lawrence on Wednesday, February 4th, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. This fair is for anyone who has a disability and has questions on employment, housing, or any other special needs or services. She provided flyers to be distributed in local communities. Holroyd thanked her for the information.

- **Receive - Communications**

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

- **Special Education**

1. **Action - Personnel Update**

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

2. **Information/Discussion - December 1 Special Education Child Counts**

Patty provided copies of individual district child counts for special education as well as an NEKESC "History" reflecting counts since 1994. The district copies reflect the number of students with disabilities, the prevalence (percentage of students with disabilities) by grade level, the prevalence of gifted students, the number of preschoolers and infant/toddlers receiving services and finally the comparison of NEKESC's prevalences to those in the state. The state average is 13.6% and NEKESC's average of students with disabilities is 11.9%

3. **Information/Discussion - Preparing Students for Taking Assessments in March**

Patty discussed the preparations/training being done to prepare students with disabilities in taking the State assessments in March. The test coordinator in each district is being given a list of students with disabilities and gifted students, and those who will need to take either modified or alternative tests. Teachers are being trained on the Pass Plan Software, test prep questions, and other inservice opportunities such as Reading Comprehension (attended by both regular and special education teachers).

- **Regional Service Center**

1. **Action - Approve Increase in Budget Authority for Fund #17 Parents as Teachers**

The Atchison County Interagency Council has funded additional resources for their PAT resource room and Piper has added an additional unit. We have modified our budget and requested additional match funding from the state with a new budget amount of \$701,118. Lange moved to approve an increase in **Fund #17** to a new total of **\$701,118**. Meneley seconded and motion carried 7-0.

2. Information/Discussion - Special Education Reading Assessments

Jim provided copies of the results of the "Degrees of Reading Assessment" scores taken by 5th and 11th grade special education students and explained how they will be used to measure improvement by a follow-up test taken in the spring. The graphs reflected comparisons of the percentage of General Education and Gifted, State Special Ed and NEKESC Special Ed scores meeting exemplary-advanced or proficient standards on State Reading Assessments. Several other charts compared the corresponding DRP difficulty of driver's license manuals in different states, newspapers, and high school and college textbooks.

3. Information/Discussion - Update on Facilities

Meneley explained that the Jeff West USD Board of Education has decided not to lease out the Ozawkie facility at this time. As far as long-term planning, it was the consensus that there will always be a need for alternative placements, both at the High School and Middle/Elementary School levels, and that a central location among the NEKESC schools is preferable.

4. Information/Discussion - Update on E-Rate

We have received E-rate funding for our 2003 application. Jim and Susan reported that E-Rate Solutions will take over the application process for 9% of the funds received. An application for a consortium is much more complicated than one for an individual school or library. In addition, the rules and regulations change in the middle of an application process and we don't have the means or the time to keep up with these changes. E-Rate Solutions' staff consists of former employees of the Schools and Libraries review teams and they keep abreast of the changes made with regard to the application process.

5. Information/Discussion - Upcoming Workshop

Jim reported that KFAST, KSDE and NEKESC's Parent Information Resource Center Project (KPIRC) are sponsoring two workshops in Salina. April 1st and 2nd are targeted for state-wide early childhood and PAT staff: 1) A Framework for Understanding Poverty - this 2-day workshop will teach techniques to understand and teach children affected by generational poverty; 2) The Expressive Communication Indicator - participants will learn how this research-based system measures young children's growth in communication and provides information for program planning and evaluation through a play-based approach. Our Parent Educators will be targeted for this training to use as a tool for measuring in their assessments.

6. Information/Discussion - NEKESC Staff Attrition Study 1987 - 2003

Jim reported that a group from Emporia does an annual study on why teachers leave their job. Teacher attrition ranges from 4.8% to 21.6% among districts across the state. NEKESC's attrition rate is 11% so we are right in the middle. The number one reason for turnover is listed as lack of administrative support.

7. Information/Discussion - Revenue Projections for '04-'05

The Governor has made recommendations for the funding of Special Education from a formula based on staff to one based on student census. Jim explained that larger districts (Wichita, Topeka, Lawrence, etc.) would be taking cuts in the millions of dollars and the Governor is now rethinking the funding formula. It is possible that no changes will be made in the coming school year.

• **Executive Session**

1. Negotiations

At 8:20 p.m. Miller moved to go into executive session for five minutes until 8:25 p.m. to discuss negotiations. Meneley seconded and motion carried 7-0. Rush left the meeting.

At 8:25 p.m. open session resumed. Miller moved to appoint Holroyd chief negotiator. Meneley seconded and motion carried 6-1 with Holroyd opposed.

• **Adjournment**

At 8:32 p.m. Zule moved to adjourn the meeting. Newell seconded and motion carried 7-0.

Tom Holroyd
President
Manager/Clerk

Susan Aspinwall, CPS
Business