

Board of Education

Northeast Kansas Education Service Center

Minutes

Date: Dec. 15th, 2004

Location: Oskaloosa USD #341 - Central Office

Time: 7:00 p.m. Call Meeting to Order

At 7:00 p.m., President, Tom Holroyd called the meeting to order. Members present: Paul Brown, Tom Holroyd, Keith Ostrander, Carol Meneley and Todd Gigstad; Jim Wheeler, Ph.D., Executive Director; Shelia Smith, Assistant Director; Susan Aspinwall, Business Manager/Clerk; Dolly Gudenkauf, Bookkeeper; Steve Johnston, Superintendent; and Sharon Branson, SETA Representative.

- **Action - Consent Agenda**

Meneley moved to approve the consent agenda with no changes. Ostrander seconded and motion carried 5-0.

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

- **Communications from Visitors Present**

There were no communications from visitors present.

- **Communications**

1. Treasurer's Report
Susan provided copies of the treasurer's report for the month of December.

- **Special Education**

1. **Action - Personnel Update**

Shelia reviewed the list of contracts, resignations and terminations for approval. Gigstad moved to approve as listed, Brown seconded and motion carried 5-0.

2. **Information/Discussion - Adult and Child Abuse/Neglect**

Shelia provided a handout with information on new procedures to report adult and child abuse and neglect in the SRS Northeast Region. Copies have been provided to all our staff, school principals and superintendents.

3. **Information/Discussion - Audiologist**

By law we are required to have an audiologist on the payroll to supervise our hearing screening technician, Rhonda Goodrich. We have had difficulty finding one, but have located someone willing to work with us. A contract was approved earlier in the meeting.

4. **Information/Discussion - Update on NEKESC Media Center**

The Media Center, now located in our Oskaloosa office, houses special education resources and instructional materials for staff. A brief overview of the media center was provided by Shelia, including how teaching staff can access the media center online. Materials are accessed by title, author or subject matter. Linda Cook, media center para, coordinates the materials check-out, ordering, cataloging and all other responsibilities of the center.

5. **Information/Discussion - Update on IDEA**

President Bush recently signed into law the new reauthorization of IDEA (Individuals with

Disabilities Education Act). Jim discussed the changes, which were not really significant. They include the possibility of some states receiving waivers with regard to an annual IEP for students. Kansas may be one of the states to receive this waiver, which would significantly reduce paperwork for teachers. IEPs would be held when significant changes in the student's learning program were made, not necessarily every year. Shelia reviewed some of the other changes: changes in the identification of students with learning disabilities, discipline changes, and a change in the due-process procedure that would help stop frivolous law-suits. Jim noted that although this is a federal law, each state has its own interpretation and procedure for compliance.

• **Regional Service Center**

1. **Action - Approve Increase in Budget Authority for Fund #10**

NEKESC PAT has received additional funds from the Jefferson County Alliance Grant project in the amount of \$6,061. These funds are being used to support additional PAT activities. The new amount for **Fund #10** - RSC is **\$197,034**. Ostrander moved to approve this increase in budget authority. Meneley seconded and motion carried 5-0.

2. **Information/Discussion - Math and Parent Partnerships - U of Arizona**

Math and Parent Partnerships (MAPPS) is a program that engages parents in school mathematics. Parents learn mathematics using Standards-based and research-based materials and they become partners with the schools in the teaching and learning of their children through a series of workshops and the use of curriculum materials which have been tested and proven to work well. Participation in MAPPS activities changes parents' attitudes about mathematics and changes the family dynamics for learning mathematics. Some parents have even returned to college because they now understand what they couldn't, before learning "school math" in this new program. KPIRC/KFAST is planning a training workshop for regional schools.

3. **Information/Discussion - Update on Internet**

SBC had notified us that our upgrade was scheduled for Dec. 9th. However that has not been the case. Hopefully everything will be in place when we return from the holiday break. KanRen has indicated that they can "turn up our bandwidth" immediately after SBC has accomplished the upgrade.

4. **Information/Discussion - Update on PE Grant**

On Monday, Nov. 29th, PE teachers and administrators attended the first professional development session for our "Fitness for life" P.E. Grant. More details about the POLAR brand P.E. technology systems was presented by a company representative. Jim provided board members with a look at some of the heart rate monitors, etc., that will be used to monitor student heart rate, recovery rate, and then store the information in a palm-sized computer by the P. E. teacher. Plans are to have six days of inservice in January for training on equipment use and curriculum. The Kansas Dept. of Health as well as the Jefferson County Health Dept. will be involved with the nutrition portion of the program in the schools.

• **Adjournment**

At 7:28 p.m., Gigstad moved to adjourn the meeting. Meneley seconded and motion carried 5-0.

Tom Holroyd
President

Susan Aspinwall, CPS
Business Manager/Clerk