

Board of Education

Northeast Kansas Education Service Center

Minutes

Date: Nov. 16th, 2005

Location: USD #341 Oskaloosa District Office

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

President, Tom Holroyd called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present: Beryl Darrah, Tracy Newell, Keith Ostrander, Tom Holroyd, Carol Meneley, Julie Zule (arriving at 7:02 p.m.) and Todd Gigstad (arriving at 7:04 p.m.); Jim Wheeler, Ph.D., Executive Director; Judy Denton, Assistant Director; Susan Aspinwall, Business Manager/Clerk; Dolly Gudenkauf, Accounting/Payroll Clerk; Steve Wiseman, Superintendent; Sharon Branson, SETA representative; and Tracy Lee and Terri Coughlin, guests.

◆ Action - Consent Agenda

Ostrander moved to approve the consent agenda with the addition of an Executive Session/Personnel following RSC items. Darrah seconded and motion carried 5 - 0. Zule arrived at the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

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

◆ Receive - Communications from Visitors Present

There were no comments from visitors present.

◆ Receive - Communications

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

◆ Special Education

1. Action - Personnel Update

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

Gigstad arrived at the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

2. Information/Discussion - Focused Assistance Monitoring (FAM) Performance Data

Judy provided each member a copy of a FAM report with their district's performance data. Data was collected by the state on 14 performance indicators, and seven of these indicators are considered to be key indicators to assist in identifying district needs regarding special education. Judy discussed district needs and answered questions for members resulting from the reports. She explained that this first year of FAM is a learning year to look at areas which need improvement. Newell noted that Kansas scored second in the nation in 4th grade Math. Jim provided members copies of ◆Special Education The Myth of Least Restrictive Environment◆ by Steven W. Simpson, Ph.D. In his article, he questions the concept of serving special needs students in the general classroom - ◆least restrictive environment◆ which he says is futile. He believes that every teacher would be able to provide every student with individualized instruction and accommodations if given a smaller class size. He states ◆All education is special education and all teachers are special education teachers if you give them the chance◆ (by reducing class sizes).

◆ Regional Service Center

1. **Information/Discussion - Technology Planning**

Jim reported we have had requests to organize some support for the development of Technology Plan updates. Many of the districts that had plans approved 5 years ago are required to update them this year. The Service Center's own unique plan also needs to be updated. A meeting of district technology staff is being scheduled after Thanksgiving. This will enable sharing of plans and ideas and assistance for those who need it.

2. **Information /Discussion - Service Center Long Range Planning**

At the September meeting discussion was held on assessing the long range plans of the service center. A survey was developed and fine tuned with district input from board members, superintendents and principals. Packets with revised surveys will be sent to each of our board members to share with their home district board members. The same surveys have already been provided to superintendents and principals. Results will help determine the direction for NEKESC long range plans.

Executive Session

At 7:15 p.m., Meneley moved to adjourn to executive session for 15 minutes until 7:30 p.m., to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel, to protect the privacy interests of the individuals involved. Gigstad seconded and motion carried 7-0.

At 7:30 p.m. Gigstad moved to extend executive session for five more minutes until 7:35 p.m. Zule seconded and motion carried 7-0.

At 7:35 p.m. open session resumed.

After discussion, Zule moved to change the date of the December meeting up one week earlier, to Dec. 14th, due to the Christmas break scheduled to start on the regular meeting date. Newell seconded and motion carried 7-0.

Adjournment

At 7:45 p.m. Newell moved to adjourn the meeting. Meneley seconded and motion carried 7-0.

Thomas Holroyd
President

Susan Aspinwall, CPS
Business Manager/Clerk