

Board of Education

Northeast Kansas Education Service Center

Minutes

Date: March 15th, 2006

Location: USD #341 Oskaloosa District 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: Keith Ostrander, Tom Holroyd, Tracy Newell, Julie Zule, and Todd Gigstad; Jim Wheeler, Executive Director; Judy Denton, Assistant Director; Susan Aspinwall, Business Manager/Clerk; Krystal Porter, Administrative Secretary; David Grove, Superintendent; Zoe Thompson, Grant Coordinator; and Sharon Branson and Terry Coughlin. SETA representatives.

Action - Consent Agenda

Ostrander moved to approve the consent agenda with one addition: under SpEd, add item # 4.) Information/Discussion - Therapy Dog. Gigstad seconded and motion carried 5-0

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Board Meeting
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 Treasurer's report for the month of March.
2. Letter of Intent to Retire from Gifted Teacher
Susan read a card dated 2/27/06 from Julie Frisbie, Gifted Teacher, which states her "intention to retire under KPERs at the end of this school year per our negotiated agreement." The card was passed around to Board members.

Special Education

1. **Action - Personnel Update**
Judy reviewed the list of contracts, and resignations for approval. Gigstad moved to approve as presented. Zule seconded and motion carried 5-0.
2. **Information/Discussion - Special Education ECSE Award**
Judy announced NEKESC is one of three preschool programs in the State that has been awarded a

"Best Practices" award for their application of an evidence based practice. Their application focuses on the utilization of the LEAP model for preschool children. Judy explained the successes of the program and invited members to "see it in action" at any of our preschool locations. The award consisted of a plaque and a monetary amount of \$1,000.

3. **Information/Discussion - Gifted Program Competition**

Judy then discussed the State competition in which our gifted program students will participate. Their teacher, Chris Twenhafel, has introduced many new and innovative projects to her students this year - even robotics. She serves levels K through 7 at JCN, Oskaloosa, McLouth and ACCESs.

4. **Information/Discussion - Therapy Dog**

Terry Coughlin shared her experiences/successes from 15 years ago with her former therapy dog, Jay. She explained the needs of John Dewey Students (emotional, tactile, etc.) who she feels a therapy dog could benefit, as well as her opportunity to now have another therapy dog. She shared a letter from Cares, Inc., discussing the \$500 adoption fee, and noted the dog would be hers, the same as Jay was, since each dog must have an owner committed to his care and use. It was the consensus of the Board for Terri to proceed with the adoption and they would approve the adoption fee with the April checks. Members thanked Terri, wished her success with the project, and moved the meeting to RSC Item #6.

Regional Service Center

1. **Information/Discussion - Coop Purchasing - Internet**

Jim explained our programmer has had a chance to review the work on this project that was done in 1996-97. In his opinion, the database would need to be re-written in a new language (it is currently in Filemaker - would change to 4th Dimension) in order to make it user friendly and reliable. Jim reviewed the costs/benefits of investing in programming time, which could be done by the end of summer, at a cost of \$5,000 - more than the original amount of \$750 the coop group had approved. It was the consensus of members to invest money from our 2% fees and go forward with the program. Jim will prepare a proposal for action at a future meeting.

2. **Information/Discussion - Personnel**

Contracts have been offered for Executive Director and Director of Special Education. This item was skipped until after executive session.

3. **Action - Technology Plan**

Jim provided copies of, and reviewed NEKESC's technology plan for approval. He noted that it is necessary to have a tech plan in place in order to access e-rate monies and it is due May 1st. Ostrander moved to approve the tech plan as presented. Newell seconded and motion carried 5-0.

4. **Information/Discussion - Copier Proposal**

Susan provided information and copies of the proposal for replacement of our worn-out copy machines, noting that we are in the process of taking bids on the proposal and would have information next month.

5. **Information/Discussion - 06-07 Budget Planning**

Jim shared information regarding estimated Medicaid funding and overall budget implications we could face. More information will be available next month.

6. **Information/Discussion - Update on Carl Perkins**

Zoe Thompson, Grant Coordinator, provided an update on the Carl Perkins program activities this past year regarding professional development, as well as information for the 06-07 school year. She provided a handout and summarized the changes being made at the state level including the fact that the Careers and Technical Education portion will be added to the Building Report Cards. We have 11 districts participating in what will be the third "extended" year of the grant. Members thanked Zoe for her presentation and meeting moved back to RSC Item #1.

Executive Session

At 7:50 p.m., Zule moved to go into executive session for 40 minutes until 8:30 p.m., to discuss negotiations, to protect the district's right to the confidentiality of its negotiating position, and the public interest in negotiating a fair and equitable contract; and to discuss personnel, to protect the privacy interest of individuals. Grove was asked to participate in executive session. Gigstad seconded and motion carried 5-0.

At 8:30 p.m. open session resumed, and Gigstad moved to offer a 2-yr. contract as Executive Director to Linda Aldridge in the amount of \$86,000. Zule seconded and motion carried 5-0.

Newell moved to offer a 2-yr. contract as Director of Special Education to Judy Denton in the amount of \$82,000. Zule seconded and motion carried 5-0.

Zule moved to offer a 2-yr. contract as Assistant Director to Shelia Smith with the salary amount to be determined later. Gigstad seconded and motion carried 5-0.

Gigstad moved to offer a contract as Executive Director to Jim Wheeler in the amount of \$15,000 to be paid after January 1, 2007 per KPERS requirements. Newell seconded and motion carried 5-0.

Newell then moved to offer a contract as Principal of JDLA retroactive to July 1, 2005 in the amount of \$50,239 to Terri Coughlin, and to accept her resignation as teacher, retroactive to June 30, 2005. Ostrander seconded and motion carried 5-0.

Newell then moved to provide a monthly amount of \$350 towards Health Insurance for Charlene Knapp to a maximum of 9 years, to be reviewed annually. Ostrander seconded and motion carried 5-0.

Adjournment

At 8:45 p.m., Gigstad moved to adjourn the meeting. Zule seconded and motion carried 5-0.

President

Business Manager/Clerk