

## **REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**February 22, 2022**

**8:30 A.M. NPT Office**

### **CALL REGULAR BOARD MEETING TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL at 8:30 am**

Mr. Bauer called the meeting to order and roll call was taken with three board members present. Board members in attendance were Jason Bauer, Dr. Scott Doerr and Dr. Chris Dougherty. Also present was NPT Director, Kelly Suey, NPT Program Coordinator/Transition Specialist, Sabrina Jones and NPT Business Manager, Deanna Tarter.

Others in attendance: None

### **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMENT, AND CORRESPONDENCE**

No Coorespondances

### **MOVE TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 22, 2022 CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.**

Mrs. Suey commented that bills are the regular bills that are paid monthly. Mrs. Suey also stated that Lauren Assalley is due to have her baby in March and will be taking the rest of the school year off and Stephanie Aberle is due to have her baby in May and will be taking the rest of the school year off.

Motion by Doerr, seconded by Bauer to approve the February 22, 2022 consent agenda as presented. Bauer - YEA, Doerr - YEA, Dougherty- YEA. Motion passed.

The consent agenda included Minutes for January 25, 2022 Regular and Closed Board Meeting, Bills/Treasurer's Report, Maternity Leave Request from Lauren Assalley, and Maternity Leave Request for Stephanie Aberle.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **FACeS Update from BriAnn Bullard**

BriAnn Bullard presented a powerpoint highlighting the FACeS/CBI Classrooms.

The elementary classroom attended a Veterans Day assembly in November. Mrs. Bullard stated that the classrooms have done some recent crafts with the Unified Tornadoes. Mrs. Bullard has been working with Mr. Hadley to coordinate opportunities for the Unified Tornadoes and our FACeS/CBI Classrooms

The Junior High is still taking weekly trips to Kroger. They had a visitor come in around Christmas time and did some sing-along carols. The Junior High is also starting a coffee cart "business". They are very excited for this opportunity.

The HS Classroom has been doing PE a couple times a month with the Unified Tornadoes. Around Christmas they did a bowling trip with the Unified Tornadoes. Starting in January, the

class has been volunteering at the Taylorville Food Pantry. The students are doing a great job. However, what is even more rewarding is how the people at the food pantry are interacting with our students. The HS classroom is also raising funds for the Polar Plunge. The HS Polar Plunge will be a little modified with there being a slip and slide on the HS football field that they will be using as their polar plunge.

Second quarter field trip was at the movie theater in Taylorville. We watched The Grinch and ate popcorn.

We had our second FACeS Family Night at Ugly Mugs in Nokomis. The families got to decorate cookies, drink hot chocolate and interact with one another. Mrs. Bullard continued to explain what and who the FACeS Nights are for. She stated she knows there have been a lot of new events this year through NPT and she just wants to clarify any confusion that there might be. FACeS Family Nights were created for any student, and their family, that are enrolled in the FACeS Program. This program was meant to be a social event so that the students could socialize outside of the classroom, as well as the parents. Mrs. Bullard stated that our parent education program is something completely different, NPT After Hours. FACeS Family night is open just to students enrolled in the FACeS program, where the NPT After Hours are open to any student in the three districts.

Mrs. Bullard stated that around Christmas time, we reached out to our Workforce students and asked them to help with the Christmas Lights with Pana Pride. The students joined us and helped the community by assisting with Christmas Lights.

#### **Review and Approve the Engagement Letter from LMHN regarding the FY 22 Audit.**

Mrs. Suey stated this is just the annual approval for our audit at the end of the year. It is \$7500 and that includes the Audit as well as the GATA Report since we became our own fiscal agent. Mr. Bauer asked how this compares to last years cost. Last year it cost \$5000, however now that we are our own fiscal agent, there is a GATA report that needs to be completed as well as we now have our own payroll, which will include them spending more hours here. Mrs. Suey stated that they have been very helpful, we ask them questions throughout the year, and they are very prompt at responding if we have any questions. Mrs. Suey is very happy with their services.

Motion by Bauer, seconded by Doerr to approve the LMHN Audit for FY 22. . Bauer - YEA, Doerr - YEA, Dougherty- YEA. Motion passed.

#### **Statement of Economic Interest**

Mrs. Suey stated that she included in the board packet a list of individuals that have to complete the statement of economic interests. This paperwork will need to be completed by the three superintendents, Kelly and Sabrina. NPT has been in contact with Jackie and she is in the process of sending out correspondences accordingly. Mr. Bauer stated that they will mail those. Dr. Dougherty asked what county we were in, Mrs. Suey replied that we are in Christian County.

Motion by Bauer, seconded by Doerr to approve the list of those who will need to file a statement of economic interest with the clerk's office in Christian County. Bauer - YEA, Doerr - YEA, Dougherty- YEA. Motion passed.

### **Discuss Extended School Year Location and Dates**

Mrs. Suey stated she has sent out the ESY packets to all of the related service providers and case managers. They are due back to Mrs. Suey by March 2 so we can make a plan for staffing purposes so we can make a recommendation for positions next month. Mrs. Suey would like to continue to format ESY similar to we have in the past. It would be two weeks in June and 2 weeks prior to the beginning of the school year from 8:30-11:00 Monday through Thursday and the districts will provide transportation. Dr. Doerr stated we could still hold the ESY program in Nokomis. June 13-24 and July 25-August 5 are the proposed dates for ESY. Each superintendent shared when they predicted they would start the 22/23 school year.

Dr. Dougherty asked if I was having a difficult time filling the positions. Mrs. Suey stated that she hasn't posted these positions yet. In the past, we have not had a difficult time with certified staff, we did have a difficult time with non certified staff. Dr. Dougherty stated that they are trying to set up a summer school program and people are burnt out. Mrs. Suey stated that last year, NPT psychologist and social worker did the paraprofessional positions because they wanted to help out and knew that the kids needed it. Mr. Bauer stated that they are having difficulty finding people to tutor after school. Dr. Dougherty stated that they are working with their union regarding summer school pay. Mrs. Suey asked the superintendents to share with her what they think they are going to pay so we can be somewhat competitive. Dr. Dougherty stated they are meeting this week, but the teachers are wanting \$70.00.

Mrs. Suey also stated that she emailed Michael Edwards and asked if they were going to utilize NPT's ESY program this summer. Mrs. Suey already sent packets to the FACeS Classrooms but was waiting to hear back from Michael. Mrs. Suey asked if Dr. Dougherty could keep her informed on their decision. Dr. Dougherty stated she is sure that Michael will respond as soon as he has that communication with the staff. Mrs. Suey stated it has been about 10 days since she emailed in, so she will follow up with Michael to ensure that he got the email and it didn't get lost in emails somewhere.

### **Discussion of a Van Purchase**

Mrs. Suey stated at the beginning of the year the state board informed her that MidState Special Education had coded some of their students incorrectly in their systems and they were still listed under them as service providers, however they were Nokomis, Pana or Taylorville Students. We have been working through that process and Mrs. Suey stated she got word last Thursday that the state board went ahead and rolled that money over to NPT, so that is an additional \$80,000 that we will be receiving in ESSER III funds. Mrs. Suey realized this year that we really need some transportation for our students. The transportation would be used for the Workforce Program in the summer, as we are looking to expand this program this summer. Last year we kept the group smaller because we weren't sure how the student and community would respond, however it went very well. The after school programs that we have one week we had a

family from the other side of town walking because they don't have transportation and then they leave at 8:00 at night with two kids in strollers. Our FACeS Program also goes in the community regularly.

Mrs. Suey would like to have a discussion regarding NPT purchasing a van for NPT for Summer School Programs, After School Programs, our FACeS Program. Mrs. Suey is proposing a 12 passenger activity bus. Mrs. Suey stated that she has to amend the grant to add this expense. Dr. Doerr stated that they utilize Southern Bus out of Breeze. Dr. Dougherty asked if we are looking to purchase or lease. Mrs. Suey stated that is something that we need to discuss. Dr. Dougherty stated that they are looking to lease and they have been on a waitlist for about a year. Dr. Dougherty also stated that if you purchase you need someone who can take care of it mechanically and a bus garage. Mrs. Suey stated she wasn't sure how leasing would work through the ESSER Grant. Dr. Dougherty stated that is what option she is doing. She is looking to lease the busses with her ESSER Grant money. Dr. Dougherty stated that those are some things to consider. Dr. Dougherty asked if Pana has their own bus garage and mechanic in Pana and Mr. Bauer stated that they do. Dr. Doerr also stated they have their own bus garage and mechanic. Mrs. Suey stated that what she is envisioning that if NPT would need that assistance, we could potentially contract that out to either Nokomis or Pana.

Mr. Bauer stated that Pana utilizes Midwest Company and they purchased one a couple of years ago and it gets used all of the time. Dr. Doerr stated that theirs does too. Mr. Bauer stated that the good thing with Midwest is they do have mechanics in Decatur and Effingham.

Mrs. Suey stated the only obstacle NPT may have is that since we operate as a flow through, we don't necessarily have money sitting in our accounts. We have to spend the money prior to the state reimbursing us back. It will be important to purchase the bus when there is some "fluff" in our account.

Dr. Doerr stated that he would encourage NPT to check with either company and see what they have to offer. Mrs. Suey stated she will work on this over the month and come back next month with an update. Mrs. Suey will also work with Vanessa, from Bushue, regarding insurances and liabilities.

### **Open Discussion**

There was no open discussion.

### **Director's Report**

Mrs. Suey shared that we had our NPT After Hours on February 8: Physical Therapy in the School Setting. We had 10 adults and 16 kids! It was a great turn-out. We had Scovill Zoo come and bring animals for the students and they *really* enjoyed it! We had Maustell's Pizza and Salad. In March we are having a PUNS information night. Mrs. Suey stated that when she reached out to them they were very excited. They looked at our website and stated that they had never seen anything like this for families before. They were hoping to take back our program to their 16 counties in regards to family engagement.

In April, the social workers are going to do a session and in May the speech language pathologists will do a presentation regarding summer speech activities.

We had our PD with a purpose on accommodations and modifications. We are going to cancel the February PD with a purpose because everyone is overwhelmed right now.

Mrs. Suey included Pana and Nokomis caseload numbers and TCT's. One thing Mrs. Suey did different this month as she broke up students by grade level. She understands that the superintendents will begin to look at staffing for next year and this will assist them in knowing how many students will be in the respected grades next year. Mrs. Suey also included the number of dismissals that have occurred this year.

Residential Placements have been difficult this year. On February 4th, there were emergency rules released and if you find placement for your students, regardless if it is ISBE approved, they will provide funding. This has not helped with the situation Mrs. Suey is currently dealing with however we are hopeful.

The FY21 room and board is complete and was reimbursed at 100%. Originally they reimbursed 80%. They always reassess at the end of the year and make adjustments. Those vouchers were processed in December. In FY22, they are paying at 75% and will hopefully readjust in the Fall of 2023.

Mr. Bauer stated that even though ISBE has released these rules, it is still up to the facility to accept the student you are wishing to enroll. Mrs. Suey stated yes. Mr. Bauer stated that is not always easy due to the facility's ability to provide what the student needs as well as staffing. Mr. Bauer stated that we are seeing a decrease in these facilities as well. Mrs. Suey agreed. She stated she is on weekly meetings with Meridian, there are about 12 people on the call from the state board, DRS, DHS, etc. just talking about the lack of residential placements and the crisis we are in now. We are trying to come up with unique ways to problem solve and provide service to our students. Mrs. Suey stated that she chose to be on this committee because we still have a student that is seeking residential placement. Mr. Bauer stated that it has been about six months, Mrs. Suey stated it has been six months. She has reached out to over 170 facilities across the United States.

There were no questions for Mrs. Suey

#### **Program Coordinator/Transition Specialist**

Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Suey recently met with STEP virtually and will possibly be increasing our contract. We currently have 10 of 10 outcomes met and have 60 students participating in the program.

Mrs. Jones reported that everything else has been going well.

Dr. Doerr asked if she has her senior seminar set. Mrs. Jones reported that it is set. She has spoken with all three principals and they are all in agreement to have the conference in person. We are going to go back to Taylorville Lincoln Land to host the event.

There were no questions for Mrs. Jones

### **Business Manager Report**

Dee provided an update on Excess Cost. We are on track. Mrs. Tarter has received every districts report back. Dee will submit Pana's today, we are verifying some numbers with Taylorville and Nokomis and those will be submitted by Friday.

Medicaid billing with GoSolutions. They are still in the process of switching us over to our own account. As soon as they switch us over, we have to go in and set up caseloads again as well as assign each student their ICD10 codes (starting from scratch). We have had NPT providers send us their caseloads. Once GoSolutions makes the switch, Mrs. Suey and Dee will go in and set up everyone's caseloads again. This will allow them to do the back billing as well as the current billing.

Dr. Doerr asked if we have figured out a way for reimbursement. Mrs. Suey stated that they have not given us any information regarding a reimbursement cost yet. Everything has been submitted. They also have not shared any means of how to flow it through. Dee stated that in order to figure out how much money each district should be paid, Dee will have to go in manually, figure out a reimbursement rate for each student and then calculate each districts reimbursement manually every month. Dr. Doerr asked if that is a conversation we need to have with Heather at GoSolutions and Dee stated that would be great. Mrs. Suey stated when we have talked with Heather she stated it is up to the board. Mrs. Suey stated we have done some research and asked some other cooperatives what they have done. Some of the cooperatives flow back the money to the districts, some do a discounted rate for administration at the cooperative. And some other cooperatives just kept the medicaid billing money and spend that money on whatever the board agrees on. Mrs. Suey stated that there are a lot of options. Dr. Doerr asked if that would negatively affect MOE one way or another. Mrs. Suey stated that it depends how we allocate it. Dr. Doerr stated we need to take that into consideration.

There were no additional questions for Dee.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion by Bauer, seconded by Doerr to move into closed session for the purpose of employment, evaluation, compensation, appointment, and discipline of personnel. Bauer - YEA, Doerr - YEA, Dougherty- YEA. Motion passed.

Entered into closed session at 9:01 am

Closed session concluded at 9:17 am

A motion was made by Doerr and seconded by Bauer to re-enter regular session and with no action taken from closed session. Bauer- YEA, Doerr- YEA, Dougherty-YEA. Motion passed.

**MOVE TO ADJOURN AT 9:18 a.m.**

Dr. Doerr made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bauer seconded the motion. Motion passed by a voice vote.

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Mr. Jason Bauer, President

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Dr. Scott Doerr, Secretary

