

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 25, 2023

9:00 A.M. NPT Office

CALL REGULAR BOARD MEETING TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL at 9:00 am

Mr. Bauer called the meeting to order and roll call was taken with three board members present. Board members in attendance were Mr. Jason Bauer, Dr. Scott Doerr and Mr. Matt Hutchison who was proxy for 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: Brenda Patrick

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMENT, AND CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondances or public comment.

MOVE TO APPROVE THE April 25, 2023 CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

Mrs. Suey discussed the treasurer's report.

NPT would like to hire Garnet Tucker & Sheryl Carmichael as Certified Teachers for ESY, Gretchen Bland as PTA for ESY, Stephanie Aberle as SLP for ESY, and Ashley Kime, Alissa Taylor, and Jeremy Rhodes as Paraprofessionals for ESY and Jesse Febus and Lauren Evans as Paraprofessionals for Workforce. All of these employees currently work with the students that will be attending ESY and Workforce.

Mrs. Suey has also received a letter from Sabrina Jones requesting maternity leave starting approximately May 30th until August 14th, 2023. Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Suey have met and are working on getting everything organized for the beginning of the 23/24 school year. There were no questions.

Motion by Hutchison, seconded by Doerr to approve the April 25, 2023 consent agenda as presented. Bauer - YEA, Doerr - YEA, Hutchison- YEA. Motion passes 3-0.

The consent agenda included Regular Minutes from March 21, 2023 Executive Board meeting, Bills/Treasurer's Report for April, Hiring Garnet Tucker, Sheryl Carmichael, Gretchen Bland, Stephanie Aberle, Ashley Kime, Alissa Taylor, Jeremy Rhodes, Jesse Febus and Lauren Evans for ESY and Workforce staff, and Approval of Sabrina Jones' maternity leave request.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve FY23 Amended Budget

There were no questions about the FY23 Amended Budget.

Motion by Doerr, seconded by Hutchison to approve the FY23 Amended Budget as presented during the Budget Hearing. Bauer - YEA, Doerr - YEA, Hutchison- YEA. Motion passes 3-0.

Discuss and Make a Motion on Child Rearing Leave Request (Board Policy 5:250)

This will be discussed during the closed session.

Open Discussion

There was no open discussion.

OLD BUSINESS

Discuss and Act on FACeS Classrooms for the 2023/2024 School Year

Mrs. Suey has attached an updated prediction for the 23/24 school year. Based on the numbers provided to this date, we are in need of an additional classroom for FACeS. By creating an additional classroom, all classes can be smaller, by shifting some students (5th/8th) to more appropriate sized classrooms. She is predicting 14 students in Elementary, 12 students in Jr High, and 11 or possibly 13 students in High School. Mrs. Suey proposes to use the classroom available in Pana and have the elementary students from Nokomis and Pana in this classroom. She also recommended that Taylorville hire the certified special education teacher and three paraprofessionals, which is how the Pana Pre-k is staffed.

Mr. Hutchison asked how this would work during Spring Break because there was a Monday where Taylorville didn't have school, but Pana did. Mrs. Suey responded they would follow Taylorville's schedule. Dr. Doerr discussed how he didn't know if a route could be added to Pana from Nokomis because it is difficult finding bus drivers. Mr. Hutchison commented that he would love for all the FACeS classes to be in one location, but Taylorville doesn't have the space. Mr. Bauer commented that if we rented a location, LRE would be an issue, but asked what if there was a classroom at one of the private schools. Dr. Doerr asked if Vision Way or St. Mary's has a classroom available. Mrs. Suey responded no because we would need art, music and P.E. She discussed that she has been in communication with Mr. Metzger and can work this out in Pana. Mr. Bauer asked Mr. Hutchison if he knows of any location that could be leased for these students, such as church buildings. Mr. Hutchison asked Mrs. Brenda Patrick if she knew of anywhere and she stated that LRE would be problematic. She stated these students need continuity and consistency. Mr. Hutchison stated that 14 children and 8 adults will not be able to fit in their current classroom. Mrs. Suey added that no one is in a wheelchair, but they are very busy, some need changing and have communication devices.

Mr. Hutchison added that he does not want to violate any laws if we separate the classrooms. He added that he discussed this with the Taylorville administration and they do not have the space. He asked if there is a way around LRE. Dr. Doerr asked if Taylorville could use a mobile classroom to open up a space for the FACeS students and Mr. Hutchison responded no and he wants time to take this back to Taylorville to be discussed more. Mrs. Suey stated this has been discussed and brought up for the last 4 months and this needs to be decided now to do what is

best for our students. She also stated that if transportation is an issue with Nokomis, maybe Pana can pick up the students from Nokomis and bring them on their back to Pana since they travel to Nokomis every day. Mr. Bauer responded they could do an intermediate agreement with Nokomis, but wanted to remind the board that having the class at Lincoln school would be a 1 year bandaid. Dr. Doerr asked what is the plan after next year and will we even need two classes next year. Mrs. Suey responded that hopefully Nokomis will be approved to build the new Pre-k building they are working on and we could have the elementary classroom in Nokomis. She also said there will be a need for two classrooms due to children's needs being more significant. Mrs. Suey also discussed how some parents prefer to have the class in Pana district.

Mr. Hutchison and Mr. Bauer then discussed the need and worry of finding a special education teacher and aides. Mrs. Suey added that either way more aides will have to be hired if an extra classroom is not found. Mr. Hutchison then asked who would be in charge of hiring these employees and if it is Taylorville district if Mrs. Suey would want to be included in those interviews. Mrs. Suey answered that the Taylorville school district would be the employer just like they do for the Pre-k program in Pana, she offered her services to complete evaluations, and added she would love to be a part of that process. Mr. Bauer discussed why NPT wouldn't hire them and asked Mrs. Patrick her opinion. Mrs. Patrick said MidState hired all special education teachers and aides, but when the split occurred it was the Districts responsibilities. Mrs. Suey added she brought this up before, but it was shot down by the Board because NPT didn't have a union. Mr. Bauer stated this was true, but the previous superintendent at the time NPT was started agreed Taylorville would hire these employees. Dr. Doerr added NPT is no longer under Taylorville as their fiscal agent and he believes they now should be paid by NPT since the FACeS program is owned and operated by NPT. He would also like to see the current FACeS staff transferred to NPT as their employer. If the employees do not want this, they can stay a Taylorville employee and be assigned in a different classroom or they would transfer to NPT as their employer.

Mr. Hutchison asked who the contract would be through and Mrs. Suey responded NPT would create those contracts and hopefully everyone would embrace those teachers and aides even though they work for NPT and not Taylorville district. Mr. Bauer asked what other Cooperatives are doing and Mrs. Suey responded that SASSED employees the staff for their program, but otherwise districts pay these employees..Mrs. Patrick discussed how one of the teachers in a FACeS classroom has put in her intent to retire and asked if NPT would consider not transferring current employees, but once someone retires or resigns that NPT be responsible to fill those positions. The Board liked this idea.

Motion by Bauer, seconded by Doerr to approve opening a second elementary classroom at Lincoln school in Pana for 1 year and NPT will hire the special education teacher and 3 paraprofessionals as presented. Bauer - YEA, Doerr - YEA, Hutchison- YEA. Motion passes 3-0.

REPORTS

Director's Report

The next NPT After Hours will be held on May 9th at AAMP from 5:00pm-7:00pm to have fun in their sensory area and eat pizza for our end of the year gathering. The book study "Uniquely Human: A Different Way of Seeing Autism" has their second meeting on March 28th from 3:30-4:00 pm.

Caseload totals and TCT numbers are included for Pana and Nokomis. Taylorville numbers were provided for the number of TCT's given this year.

DLM Assessments continue to be underway. The window closes on May 10th.

Mrs. Suey shared that FACeS recently took a field trips to Chuck E Cheese and had a great time. They will have one more field trip to the bowling alley and park for a fun day.

ESY numbers are coming in and have 10 out of the 12 students rsvp they are attending. Dr. Doerr asked if the nurse at Nokomis has been contacted and Mrs. Suey responded not at this time because she is waiting to check with the parent to see if the nurse is needed. Letters were sent out for the WorkForce summer program and the rsvp's should start arriving soon.

Mrs. Suey also stated she will be working on scheduling TMC meetings prior to May 31, 2023. There were no questions.

Program Coordinator/Transition Specialist

As the Program Coordinator, Mrs. Jones is completing 4th quarter Special Ed Team Meetings with Nokomis and Pana teachers, Special Ed P/SAT testing and accommodations went over well for Nokomis and Pana, working on Special Ed Master Schedules for 2023-24, working with PHS Special Ed Mentoring Program, and reviewed IEPs.

As the Transition Specialist, Mrs. Jones reported there are currently 70 students who have filled out their applications. There are 23 of 30 outcomes and she has 12 additional students on their way to becoming an outcome. This month they are working on Senior Summary of Performances. The NPT Senior Conference was held on April 14th and it was successful.

Business Manager Report

Mrs. Tarter reported that all quarterly reports have been completed and the PCG Annual Cost Report was turned in before the deadline. She is currently working on the quarter FACeS review and working on entering Health Aide minutes in GoSolutions.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Doerr, seconded by Hutchison to move into closed session for the purpose of employment, evaluation, compensation, appointment, and discipline of personnel.

Bauer- YEA, Doerr- YEA, Hutchison-YEA. Motion passed.

Entered into closed session at 9:50 am.

Closed session concluded at 10:06 am

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

MOVE TO ADJOURN AT 10:07 a.m.

Doerr made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Hutchison seconded the motion. Motion passed by a voice vote.

Mr. Jason Bauer, President

Dr. Scott Doerr, Secretary