MEEKER AND WRIGHT SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
Board Meeting - Joint Powers Board #0938
Tuesday, September 23, 2025 - 5:30 pm
Meeting Minutes - *Unofficial*

Present: Sarah Baker, Gena Jacobson, Jessica Johnson, Cindy Miller, Kelsey Puncochar
Absent: Alex Carlson, Jen Rasset
Others Present: Melissa Hanson, Kim Geurts, Kate Ryan, Nathan Woodford, Colleen Carlson

I. Call to Order/Board Roll Call

The Regular meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m.

A roll call was conducted:
Sarah Baker: Present
Alex Carlson: Absent
Gena Jacobson: Present
Jessica Johnson: Present
Cindy Miller: Present
Kelsey Puncochar: Present
Jen Rasset: Absent

A quorum of five board members was established.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Meeting Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Kelsey Puncochar and seconded by Gena Jacobson. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Gena Jacobson and seconded by Sarah Baker. The board unanimously approved the consent agenda which included:

- Minutes of Previous Board Meeting
- Bills for Payment and other financial reports as attached

- Personnel Items

Retirements/Resignations/Terminations		
Name	Position	Effective Date
Emma Martin	Resignation 1.0 FTE Paraprofessional, Trek	September 12, 2025

Employment of the following staff:		
Name	Position	Effective Date
Kate Ryan	1.0 FTE Executive Assistant	September 15, 2025

Contract Changes/Approvals/Position Changes		
Name	Position	Effective Date
Nancy Barnes	Paraprofessional, moving from Village Ranch to STEP	September 3, 2025
Diana Jimenz	Moving from Floating Paraprofessional to Paraprofessional, Village Ranch	September 10, 2025
Karla Rick	Regular/ Special Education Teacher, moving from BA+70/MA+30 to BA+80/MA+40	August 25, 2025

V. Informational Items

A. Acknowledgement - School Board Recognition Month

Melissa Hanson, Executive Director, formally acknowledged School Board Recognition month and expressed sincere appreciation and gratitude to the board members for the important role they play within the MAWSECO organization and for the commitment they demonstrate in making decisions that have a tremendous impact on the education of the students MAWSECO serves.

B. Executive Director Report

MAWSECO Programs Census Information

Executive Director Hanson provided an overview of the student census data for the start of the school year. The data shows that MAWSECO programs are starting with a fairly typical student census for the beginning of the school year. These numbers are expected to grow as new referrals and placements occur throughout the school year. The Part C program currently has 95 Birth-3 children in service and there are 16 initial Part C evaluations in progress for children who may qualify for services. There have been 35 Birth-3 referrals since July 1, 2025 and there are 33 Part C to Part B evaluations in progress. The total number of Birth-3 ECSE referrals was at an all time high in the 2024-2025 school year totaling 196 referrals. ECSE ages 3-6 referrals totaled 224 across the 7 member districts.

MAWSECO Staffing Update

So far, MAWSECO has hired and onboarded 23.2 FTEs into the cooperative whose employment began in the 2025-2026 school year. There are currently 10 unfilled positions throughout the cooperative.

C. Director of Finance Report

Finance Department Update

The CESO contract ends September 30th. Scott is available on an as-needed basis if necessary, but is not expected to be needed at this time.

Cash Flow

The Cash Flow remains positive, no draws were made in August. A draw will need to be made from the PFM account to cover the September 30th payroll and cover some larger payables.

Accounts Payable & Receivables Update

The FY25 and FY26 SRO bill was received. The amount remains the same at $64,840 per year. The Ed Center installed door egresses in the school and the final bill was received for $25,500. Final Purchase Service billing is out to the districts. Michelle sent out the Spring Gen Ed tuition bills for the treatment programs.

FY2025-25 YE & Audit Planning

The audit begins on October 27th. An initial audit meeting took place on September 4th. The auditors would like to conduct the annual fraud interview with Treasurer Kelsey Puncochar and will be reaching out to set a time, if they have not already done so.

D. Cornerstones & Eastern Wright Program Administrator Report & Tour of Programs

Nathan Woodford, Program Administrator for Cornerstones & Eastern Wright provided an update on the program and gave a tour of the facility. There are currently 19 students enrolled at Cornerstones and 6 students at Eastern Wright. The programs continue to work with Wright Tech to improve emergency protocols and educate staff & students on the "I Love You Guys" program. The feedback that Nathan has received from the staff for the start of the school year has indicated readiness and positivity. Two new staff members were hired at Eastern Wright. Cornerstones is still looking to fill one paraprofessional position. Two classrooms were repainted over the summer and one classroom received new carpet. There has been positive behavior support as evidenced by the Bingo Board (recognizing and calling out great behavior) and Student of the Month (recognition to a student going above and beyond) awards. Nathan shared that he was asked to speak with the Annandale Kiwanis Club about how the program supports students.

VI. Action Items

A. New Business

1. School Resource Officer (SRO) Contract FY26-FY27

   A motion to approve the School Resource Officer (SRO) Contract FY26-FY27 was made by Kelsey Puncochar and seconded by Sarah Baker. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Resolution Accepting Donations

   A motion to approve the Resolution Accepting Donations was made by Gena Jacboson and seconded by Cindy Miller.

   Roll Call Vote:
   Sarah Baker- Aye
   Jessica Johnson- Aye
   Cindy Miller- Aye
   Kelsey Puncochar- Aye
   Gena Jacobson- Aye

   Motion carried with 5 votes in favor.

VII. Future Board Meetings

A. September 30, 2025, 5:30 p.m., EdMN MAWSECO Negotiations Meeting, MAWSECO Ed Center, Howard Lake

B. October 7, 2025, 6:30 p.m., EdMN MAWSECO Negotiations Meeting, MAWSECO Ed Center, Howard Lake

C. October 28, 2025, 5:30 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Village Ranch Alternative Program (VRAP), Cokato

D. November 25, 2025, 5:30 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, MAWSECO Ed Center, Howard Lake

VIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Gena Jacboson and seconded by Cindy Miller. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

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