

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 24, 2021

8:30 A.M. NPT Office

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

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

Others in attendance include: Michael Edwards and Anita Brown.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMENT, AND CORRESPONDENCE

There was no public comment or correspondence.

MOVE TO APPROVE THE MARCH 24, 2021 CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

Motion by Doerr, seconded by Bauer to approve the March 24, 2021 consent agenda as presented. Bauer - YEA, Doerr - YEA, Dougherty- YEA. Motion passed.

The consent agenda included Minutes from February 24, 2021 regular board meeting, Minutes from March 11, 2021 special board meeting, Bills/Treasurer's Report for February, hiring Shelby Babbs as School Social Worker effective 2021/2022 school year, hiring Beth White for substitute during Emily Ade maternity leave, and hiring the following to staff ESY: Gretchen Bland as PTA, Jamie Blackwell & Garnet Tucker as certified teachers. Andrea Curtin as SLP and Amber Daniels & Ashley Yockey as the paraprofessional positions.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussed, Review and Approved Bushue HR Agreement

Mrs. Suey discussed that we will be having the budget hearing for the amended budget before the next board meeting on April 28, 2021 at 8:20am. We will have an increase in revenue due to ESSER I and II grants and an increase in the STEP grant due to Sabrina's hard work. Our expenditures have not increased, but we have had to add some lines due to us becoming our own fiscal agent. This will be discussed more at the budget hearing.

Open Discussion

There was no open discussion.

OLD BUSINESS

Discuss the Transfer of location of the FACeS/CBI program from Taylorville CUSD #3 to a different location starting July 1, 2021

See notes below in the next agenda item.

Discuss the Transfer of Employees employed in the FACeS/CBI program from Taylorville CUSD #3 to NPT Special Education Cooperative starting July 1, 2021

Dr. Doerr said that we can withdraw Item B on the agenda at this time. Dr. Doerr stated that the board needs to have a discussion about what we want the program to look like next year in regards to in-person versus remote learning and programming issues before we make any final decisions about the FACeS program and its location. Mrs. Kelly Suey was going to discuss this during her report, but while we are discussing FACeS she added that she would like regular communication with the FACeS staff and make sure the curriculum and program is progressing the way we want it to. She did meet with 2 of the 3 staff members about the emergency remote days and expectations. To make sure everyone is on the same page, Mrs. Suey wants to continue to have those conversations with them on a regular monthly basis starting next school year. She would like to purchase a new curriculum for the high school that is more community based. Mrs. Suey also wants the teachers to feel comfortable communicating with her because she feels there is a roadblock there. There are some things we need to work out with the FACeS program, but thinks we can get there if we all work together. There were no comments or questions.

REPORTS

Director's Report

Mrs. Suey gave updates regarding the DLM assessment. The testing window is open and will remain open until May 10th. Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Suey have CPI trainings scheduled for each district. Pana's will be March 22-24, Taylorville will be having two sessions on April 6-9 & 12-15, and Nokomis' is scheduled for April 23. They have been working hard on getting everyone certified and are completing these with virtual and in person training combined. Mrs. Suey also wanted to thank each school district for helping get these scheduled with their staff.

Mrs. Suey discussed how Cindy Miller, NPT Vision Itinerant that currently works one day a week per her contract, has expressed that she would like to retire, but she will stay on with NPT if needed. Mrs. Suey has done some research and Bri Bullard, NPT's Hearing Itinerant, has applied and been accepted at Illinois State University in their Master of Science in Education in Low Vision and Blindness Program. She will be working toward her blind/visually impaired endorsement. Bri will be a member of the first cohort offered by ISU, and new cohorts will only be offered every other summer. The program runs 5 semesters and is fully-online. Mrs. Suey is

very excited for Bri to have this opportunity and looks forward to her not only serving students with hearing disabilities, but also vision impairments starting in the 2023/2024 school year. She will still leave the posting of Vision Itinerant position until BriAnn is completed with the program and hopefully Cindy Miller will continue to help us during this time unless someone else applies.

Shelby Babbs has accepted the School Social Work Position for NPT starting July 1, 2021. She has been working as an intern with NPT this year with Mara Atkins. Mara will be retiring at the end of this year, and has done a fantastic job training Shelby to continue to provide excellent services to the students and schools in which she serves. Mrs. Suey wants to welcome Shelby to the NPT team.

NPT has received approximately \$6000 from the ESSER II grant. Mrs. Suey is working with the Social Worker team to compile a list of materials needed to assist with the SEL needs in the three districts. Mrs. Suey already discussed FACeS Remote Instructional Emergency Days Update earlier. Then she gave an update on ESY. Now that the hiring of the ESY staff has been approved, she will contact the parents in the next couple of weeks to see if they want their child in the program. Mrs. Suey has also given each Superintendent their Class List Numbers for their district for them to review and think about staffing needs for next school year. .

Mrs. Suey also took time to thank Ashley Yockey, Psychologist, and Amber Daniels, Social Worker, who stepped up to fill the paraprofessional needs for ESY due to having a hard time filling these summer positions. They stepped up and are excited to work with students in a different light and she thinks this will be good for our students and the program.

Program Coordinator/Transition Report

Mrs. Sabrina Jones reported for DHS, we have 15 out of 25 outcomes. DHS/STEP has amended our contract to 25 outcomes with 30 students enrolled. This is doable as long as DHS rolls over the students she is requesting. We currently have 23 students who have filled out their packets and are 'eligible'. 14 of those students are current outcomes and 4 of those students are working and will be additional outcomes. We currently have 38 students who have filled out their packets and are in the "Referral Process". 14 of those students are working and would be additional potential outcomes. Mrs. Jones continued by giving an update that \$60,850 has been received from the STEP grant. She also provided updates regarding the DHS Covid-19 program. We will be receiving \$25,550.

As the Program Coordinator, Mrs. Jones has reviewed 385 IEPs so far this school year. She is continually proud of the job the special education staff is doing in all three districts when writing their IEP's and staying in compliance. As Mrs. Suey discussed, we are completing CPI training in each district. On Friday, March 19th, NPT hosted a FAFSA Day for all 2021 Nokomis, Pana, and Taylorville Seniors. This helped Seniors and their parents complete the FAFSA prior to graduation. Dr. Dougherty asked how many seniors came from Taylorville and Mrs. Jones responded with one student. She also added that her and Mrs. Glenn are working together because there are a lot of seniors that still have not completed this step.

Business Manager Report

Dee Tarter updated the board with the status of where NPT is in becoming our own fiscal agent. NPT has been approved as a 501(c)(3), FEIN number, received a RDCT code, tax exempt with State of Illinois, registered with Social Security Administration, Purchased SDS payroll/financial software, has a contract with Bushue HR, Inc. and approved by TRS as an employer. They are currently working on being approved by IMRF as an employer, working with Bushue HR for Health, Dental, Vision, Life, Property, Workman's Comp, and Liability Insurances, creating a DUNS number, applied for a TCC number for W2s and 1099s, and applied for an ORI number. What will be completed in the future is registering with the State of Illinois, setting up an EFTPS account, get our own stand-alone bank account, create a GATA account, and apply for TCC number for Affordable Care Act.

Mrs. Tarter also reported that they have met with Wendy and Iliana from the Taylorville Business Office. We will be working together to come up with a schedule for payroll and insurances. She said they have been great to work with and as Wendy agreed we will keep meeting and keep the communication going and should have a smooth transition.

CLOSED SESSION

The meeting did not move into a closed session.

MOVE TO ADJOURN AT 8:47 am.

Motion by Bauer, and seconded by Doerr to adjourn the meeting. Bauer - YEA, Doerr - YEA, Dougherty- YEA. Motion passed.

Dr. Chris Dougherty, President

Dr. Scott Doerr, Secretary