

## **REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**June 27, 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 and NPT Business Manager, Deanna Tarter.

No one else was in attendance.

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

No public comment or correspondence.

### **MOVE TO APPROVE THE June 27, 2023 CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.**

Financial reports were presented and there was no discussion. A second reading of updated board policy 5:185 Family and Medical Leave and 5:250 Leaves of Absence was held.

Motion by Doerr, seconded by Hutchison to approve the June 27, 2023 consent agenda as presented. Bauer - YEA, Doerr - YEA, Hutchison- YEA. Motion passes 3-0.

The consent agenda included Regular Minutes from May 23, 2023 Executive Board meeting, Bills/Treasurer's Report for May, and Approve updated board policy 5:185 Family and Medical Leave and 5:250 Leaves of Absence (second reading).

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Review and Approve Property/Casualty/Liability Insurance Renewals**

Mrs. Suey discussed that NPT's premium for property/casualty/liability insurance is increasing by \$2,701.03; which is a 12.45% increase from last fiscal year. We talked with Bushue last week and he stated increases have been seen across all clients he works with. Mrs. Suey also discussed getting other bids next year to ensure that we are getting the best rate possible.

Motion by Hutchison, seconded by Doerr to approve the property/casualty/liability insurance renewals as presented. Bauer - YEA, Doerr - YEA, Hutchison- YEA. Motion passes 3-0.

#### **Discuss and Appoint FY24 Board Officer Positions**

Mrs. Suey did not have a preference or recommendation in regards to FY24 board officer positions. Mr. Bauer stated that while Taylorville is filling the Superintendent position, it might be best to keep the officer positions the same as FY23 and everyone agreed. Mr. Bauer will be



appointed as president, Taylorville as vice president, and Dr. Doerr as secretary for the executive board for NPT for the 2023/2024 school year.

Motion by Hutchison, seconded by Doerr to approve Mr. Bauer as president, Taylorville as vice president, and Dr. Doerr as secretary for the executive board for NPT for the 2023/2024 school year. Bauer - YEA, Doerr - YEA, Hutchison- YEA. Motion passes 3-0.

**Review and approve FY24 Preliminary Budget for billing purposes effective July 1, 2023**

Mrs. Suey stated the FY24 preliminary budget is just that, preliminary. There are some moving parts that are still being worked on with the speech language pathology and psychology department. Therefore, those were left the same as FY23 for the time being and more accurate amounts will be included in the proposed budget that we will be presented next month.

Motion by Doerr, seconded by Hutchison to approve the preliminary budget for billing purposes, effective July 1, 2023 be approved as presented. Bauer - YEA, Doerr - YEA, Hutchison- YEA. Motion passes 3-0.

**Discuss and Approve using Bushue Background Screening Employment History Review in regards to Faith's Law**

When meeting with Bushue last week, they shared their new processes for assisting their clients with the new Faiths Law requirements. Mrs. Suey is asking that the board approve NPT utilizing their services for obtaining the documentation required for Faiths Law. The cost for the service is \$32.00 per employment history review. Mr. Bauer discussed how this is beneficial to use since we have to complete more intensive background checks. Mr. Hutchison stated he filled one out recently and said it is worth it.

Motion by Hutchison, seconded by Doerr to approve NPT utilizing the Bushue Background Screening Employment History Review in regards to Faith's Law as presented. Bauer - YEA, Doerr - YEA, Hutchison- YEA. Motion passes 3-0.

**Discuss and approve the hire of the following paraprofessionals for the Elementary FACeS Classroom located in Taylorville: Ashley Shaw and Ashli Rhodes.**

Ashley Shaw will be coming to NPT with approximately one year experience as a paraprofessional and Ashli Rhodes will be coming to us with 0 years of experience. Both will be starting with a salary of \$19.19 per hour. Mr. Hutchison stated how he did not remember the discussion where it was agreed upon where NPT would hire the two open positions in Taylorville. Mrs. Suey provided a copy of the board members where this discussion started in April where the board agreed that NPT would hire the open positions for the FACeS program when an employee resigns, retires, or is terminated. Mr. Hutchison shared his concern where the union in Taylorville has an issue with this. He says NPT is potentially taking away union membership positions. Mr. Hutchison asked if we could discuss this once he can get more information, but with it already being the end of June, Mrs. Suey wanted to move forward with taking a vote.



Motion by Doerr, seconded by Bauer to approve NPT hiring Ashley Shaw and Ashli Rhodes as paraprofessionals in the FACeS program. Bauer - YEA, Doerr - YEA, Hutchison- present. Motion passes 2-1.

**Discuss and make a motion regarding the hire of substitutes for NPT teachers and paraprofessionals in the FACeS Classrooms for the 23/24 school year.**

Mrs. Suey discussed when MSSE employed teachers that worked in the member districts, the member districts were responsible for hiring substitutes on days that the employees were unable to work. They then billed the cooperative for those costs. If NPT were to be responsible for obtaining substitutes, the subs would have to register under NPT also, which could cause confusion and difficulty recruiting for only a few available opportunities to sub. I have talked with Mr. Metzger in regards to this and he is open to whatever the board decides. We have also discussed the shortages in the substitute arena and have discussed ensuring good communication is held between himself and I in the case a sub can not be obtained, and seeing if NPT can assist in any way possible ensuring that the classroom has coverage. The board had a discussion and they all agreed that there was no need to make a motion and NPT would need to hire the substitutes for the employees NPT hired. The employees paid by Taylorville would have to go through Taylorville to obtain a substitute.

**Open Discussion**

Mr. Bauer discussed what NPT's plan is moving forward into FY24. There is no question the last 4 years have been interesting since starting NPT and wanted to know if there was anything being set in place. Mrs. Suey started the conversation by stating that her and Mrs. Sabrina Jones have met with the Special Education Program Coordinators from Taylorville, Molly and Lakin. They are taking a collaborative approach and will have regular monthly meetings. They have already scheduled to meet in late July after they have met with the principals. She is excited and optimistic as they are open to work as a team.

Dr. Doerr added that he thinks an adjustment needs to be made to the Joint Agreement. The adjustment would be that all services NPT provides need to be hired by NPT Special Education upon resignation, retirement or termination because that was a loophole that brought about a lot of issues. Mrs. Suey added she agrees, it all needs to be under one umbrella so then we are not working against each other and could use resources better. For example, NPT Special Education and Taylorville are currently competing against each other by each looking for a full time SLP. If NPT is allowed to hire the position, only one position would be needed due to the caseloads being adjusted or rearranged throughout all SLPs.

Dr. Doerr said the whole intent for starting NPT was to share services to keep costs down. Mrs. Suey added that if NPT was allowed to hire all the program coordinators, it would save Taylorville money in the long run because they could be used in the other districts and she would be able to do more of her Director role. Dr. Doerr agreed. Mrs. Suey said that during the meeting with the program coordinators, they had no idea that NPT was hiring the 2 open positions for FACeS and were excited because then they get to keep two people they were

interviewing for their vacant positions. Mr. Hutchison stated that excited wouldn't be the correct word, but concerned because NPT is hiring staff for Taylorville positions.

Dr. Doerr explained that FACeS is not Taylorville program and Mr. Bauer added Taylorville is only housing the program. Mrs. Suey added we previously discussed transferring these employees to NPT, but since they were already following Taylorville's contract, it was decided we would not do that, but replace positions as they become available.

Mr. Hutchison asked if any special education position opens, shouldn't NPT hire them. Mrs. Suey and Mr. Bauer said no. Mr. Bauer explained at the end of 2019, Mid-State transferred all the aides and special education teachers to the District they were serving so it is the District's responsibility to hire these positions. For example, Pana had 2 teacher openings in special education at the junior high school and Pana hired them.

Mrs. Suey explained that NPT Special Education employs the related services and the FACeS program. Originally when NPT started, it was agreed upon that Taylorville would be NPT's fiscal agent so that is why Taylorville took on paying NPT employees. When NPT became its own fiscal agent is when the FACeS teachers and aides should have also transferred to NPT. Mr. Hutchison stated it would be good if the joint agreement was more clear on the hiring process and everyone agreed.

Mr. Bauer's next concern is that Taylorville does recognize Mrs. Suey as Director of NPT Special Education Cooperative. Dr. Doerr said this is another reason the joint agreement needs to be adjusted. They all agreed to have a special board meeting including the interim Superintendent for Taylorville to have the discussion about the joint agreement. Mr. Bauer added that in the long run what we need to do is move forward together, do what is best for the kids, and what gives our staff support to do their job effectively.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Discuss and Approve 23/24 Executive Board Meeting Dates and Times**

Mrs. Suey presented a new list of the board meeting dates/times due to a mistake last month. There are adjustments to February and April's date. February will be February 20th and April will be April 23. This will ensure there will be enough days between meetings to post budgets. The board agreed that a motion did not need to be made and they all approved the changes.

## **REPORTS**

### **Director's Report**

Extended School Year, round one, is complete and the second round will be conducted in late July. The students had a great time. Summer Workforce 2023 is also complete. Mrs. Cayla Beyers did a fantastic job heading this great opportunity and the students had a great time and learned a lot of skills that will be beneficial in their lives.

Mrs. Suey discussed the following dates for the beginning of the school year. On August 7th will be NPT "Opening Day" with American Fidelity sessions, CPI Refresher for NPT and Therakids, department meetings, update information for 23/24 school year, and insurance sign ups. On

August 9th, an Initial CPI Training will be held and a flier has been given to each superintendent. On August 10th, ADOS Training will be held at 9:00 for new psychologist interns, and anyone else that would like a refresher. On August 15th, Pana has CPI Refresher Training from 9:00-11:00 and Nokomis has CPI Refresher Training from 11:00-3:00.

Alleson Christian, a senior from UIS that is getting her bachelors in social work will be completing observation hours with Mrs. Shelby Babbs this year. She is required to complete 400 hours in a field placement under a social worker. Mrs. Suey met with her last week and is excited to be able to assist her in her social work journey. After she graduates UIS, she will be attending SIU-C on-line and will be in an accelerated/advanced program that will allow her to complete her school social work programming in one year and be ready to be a full time school social worker for the 2025/2026 school year. She currently lives in Assumption and plans to stay in the area post graduation.

Mrs. Suey also discussed NPT's open positions. NPT still has openings for a school social worker, school psychologist and speech language pathologist. She has been, and will continue to search for applicants. Mrs. Suey has also begun planning for next year, if these positions are not able to be filled.

There were no questions for Mrs. Suey.

#### **Business Manager Report**

Mrs. Tarter stated she is working on deadlines with Go Solutions and PCG Solutions for medicaid billing and quarterly deadlines coming up. She is also wrapping up FY23 and getting ready for FY24. Dee is also working on summer payrolls to meet the TRS July 10th deadline. There were no questions for Mrs. Tarter.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

There was no closed session held.

#### **MOVE TO ADJOURN AT 9:50 a.m.**

Hutchison made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Doerr 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