



MEEKER AND WRIGHT SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
Board Meeting - Joint Powers Board #0938
Tuesday, July 25, 2023 - 6:30 pm
Meeting Minutes - Official

Present: Amy Johnson, Gena Jacobson, Jessica Johnson, Colleen Carlson, Kelsey Puncoschar, Julie Rae Pennertz, Cindy Miller

Others Present: Melissa Hanson, Heidi Hennen, Emily Schneider

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:29 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Meeting Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Julie Rae Pennertz and seconded by Colleen Carlson. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Kelsey Puncoschar and seconded by Gena Jacobson. 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 as follows:

Resignation of the following staff:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Maegan Huikko	Paraprofessional	June 7, 2023

Employment of the following staff:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Martin Aberle	1.0 FTE Teacher Village Ranch Alter. Prog.	August 28, 2023
Josie Ekholm Brown	0.5 FTE Speech and Language Pathologist	July 7, 2023
Olivia Engel	1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher, STEP	August 28, 2023



Employment of the following staff (continued):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Vincent Pokornowski	0.94 FTE DAPE Teacher	August 22, 2023
Carrie Schoon	0.75 ECSE Teacher	August 28, 2023

V. Reports

A. Executive Director Report

General Updates

MAWSECO welcomed new superintendents in two of our member districts, Jeff Ridlehover (Rockford Public School District) and Nate Walbruch (HLWW Public School District).

The MAWSECO Administrative Team retreat in June focusing on leadership development, team building, and professional learning was a success.

As President of MASE, Melissa Hanson was able to return to Washington D.C. in July for the 2023 Special Education Legislative Summit and the CEC Leadership Institute. SELS is an annual opportunity for educators from across the country to make a difference by advocating for change with members of Congress. A main area of advocacy this year was the IDEA Full Funding Act. This legislation would ensure Congress fulfills its commitment to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

MAWSECO Employees & Staffing

Melissa shared updates on the staffing for MAWSECO positions and reported that the MDE has clarified the requirement for special education paraprofessionals to be highly qualified.

District Special Education Updates

Informed the board about the MDE Special Education Program monitoring process updates.

B. Business Manager Report

2023 Summer Unemployment

The current estimated cost would be approximately \$72,153.00 for a total of nine weeks.



Guidance from the MDE regarding expenditures has been received, new code creation has been finalized so MAWSECO is prepared for when the process for requesting reimbursement is finalized.

HITA Bid Process

MAWSECO has gone out to bid for health insurance again this year. Three bids are being considered. Waiting for disruption reports from our current carrier to determine possible impacts of moving to either of the other carriers. Once received, a final decision will be made.

Due to a “correction” in the market, companies are opting to give the High Deductible Plans larger increases than the lower deductible plans.

Negotiations

MAWSECO will be meeting with the EdMN MAWSECO group for the initial meeting on July 26, 2023. A meeting with the Special Education Supervisor group has not been scheduled yet.

FY23 Year End/Audit Preparation/FY24 Planning/Preparation

FY23 final purchased service billing preparations are underway.

FY24 85% purchased service billing has been finalized. Due to the process for purchased service logs being streamlined, FY23 purchase service data was able to be used in this calculation rather than 2 year old data.

Preliminary audit meeting will take place in the next couple of weeks. Auditors plan to be on site the week of October 23rd.

FY24 Planning/Preparation is underway with new codes and new efficiencies being planned.

Short Term Borrowing

The short term borrowing account was utilized ahead of the 07/14 pay date. It is anticipated the full amount will be paid in full within 30 days and that the impact will be less than \$1,900.00.

It is anticipated that with some new efficiencies and new processes in place, this can be avoided in the future.



VI. Action Items

A. New Business

1. Motion to approve the resolution accepting the gift of \$35 from Coborns was made by Gena Jacobson and seconded by Cindy Miller. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Policy Review [First Reading]
Policies 102, 202, 418, 419, 424, 507, 514, 516.5, 524, 535 were presented for a first reading.

VII. Future Board Meetings

- A. July 26, 2023, 6:30 p.m., Negotiations Committee Meeting, MAWSECO Ed Center, Howard Lake
- B. August 22, 2023, 6:30 p.m., MAWSECO Ed Center, Howard Lake
- C. September 26, 2023, 6:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, MAWSECO Education Center, Howard Lake
- D. October 30, 2023, 6:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, MAWSECO Education Center, Howard Lake

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

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