



Administrative Offices

**Minutes of the SWCCCASE
Board of Directors Meeting
May 15, 2024**

- CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southwest Cook County Cooperative Association for Special Education was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 15, 2024.
- On roll call, the following members were found to be present: Dr. Fountain, Dr. Stachowiak, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Roth (9:37 a.m.), Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Ticknor, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting. Absent: Dr. Sala and Dr. Meighan.
- RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC** Karyn Kempke, Union President, Brandon Wigboldy Union Vice President, Scott Deunser, Wipfli, Jennifer Decker, Wipfli, and Kelly Kmetty, Bookkeeper.
- MOTION TO APPOINT DR. BRUNSON AS CHAIRPERSON** A motion was made by Dr. Scarsella and seconded by Dr. Stawick to appoint Dr. Brunson as Chairperson.
- Upon roll call, the following voted aye: Dr. Fountain, Dr. Stachowiak, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Ticknor, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting. Nays, none, whereupon the chairperson declared the motion carried.
- FY23 AUDIT PRESENTATION** Scott Duenser from Wipfli, LLP presented the FY23 Audit.
- PLACEMENT OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA** A motion was made by Dr. Stachowiak and seconded by Dr. Stawick, that upon the recommendation of Dr. O’Neil, that the following items be considered under a consent agenda, unless otherwise requested by the Board: the open and closed session minutes of the April 17, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting, Invoices and Payroll, Resignation of Professional Personnel, Resignation of Educational Support Personnel, Intent to Retire - Professional Personnel, Intent to Retire - Educational Support Personnel, Request for Leave of Absence, Recall of Certified Personnel, Board Policies - Second Reading, FY23 Audit, FY25 Food Service Bid, and FY25 Board Meeting Dates.
- Upon roll call, the following voted aye: Dr. Fountain, Dr. Stachowiak, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Ticknor, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting. Nays, none, whereupon the chairperson declared the motion carried.

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CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Dr. Scarsella and seconded by Dr. Sikora to enter into a closed session at 9:16 a.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Cooperative or legal counsel for the Cooperative, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the Cooperative to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by P.A. 93-0057, and the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the Cooperative, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5).

Upon roll call, the following voted aye: Dr. Fountain, Dr. Stachowiak, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Ticknor, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting. Nays, none, whereupon the chairperson declared the motion carried.

A motion was made by Dr. Stachowiak and seconded by Dr. Stawick to return from closed session at 10:48 a.m.

Upon roll call, the following voted aye: Dr. Fountain, Dr. Stachowiak, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Roth, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Ticknor, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting. Nays, none, whereupon the chairperson declared the motion carried.

REPORT OF THE
BUSINESS MANAGER

STATEMENT OF
POSITION AND
REVENUE

Mr. Shumway presented the statement of position, revenue and expenditures for the period ending April 30, 2024.

REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

COOPERATIVE
HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. O'Neil shared several highlights from various programs which included Braun and Project Challenge had 22 students graduate on May 16, 2024.

Chicago Kidds Dental Office in Palos visited MGW. Students rotated through the Life Skills Room for a presentation about simple pro tips for dental hygiene. MGW students and staff brainstormed a list of mascots and selected their new mascot, Morty the Gingerwood Gator. Morty will make a special appearance at our graduation on May 17th and our end of year field day.

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DESTINY students at Oak Forest High School enjoyed their spring dance/prom held during the school day with their general education friends from the Proud PE class.

The DHH students participated in “We Can Do It Day,” formerly known as “Deaf Can Do It Day.” It is a day where programs across the state do something kind for others. SWCCCASE students made cards for children who are hospitalized to cheer them up!

Our O&M students got out into the community to work on goals and practice their skills. The group took a bus to the train and a train to the city. They practiced accessing public transportation, navigating intersections, safe street crossing, and explored Union Station before enjoying lunch together and heading home.

Next Steps hosted its final information sessions for staff and families on Thursday, April 18th. Andre Sam met with over 20 families to share information on future planning and answer questions about benefits and financial planning.

On Friday, April 19th, Transition hosted their first Family Kickball Night at the Orland Park Sportsplex. Staff, students, families, and friends were able to spend time on the indoor soccer field, participate in relay races, and play a game of kickball. In addition to the excitement on the field, representatives from local Special Recreation Agencies (SRAs) had tables with materials and information about their offerings. Everyone had a blast and they are eagerly awaiting our next Family and Community Connection event! Transition celebrated its first group of students to complete the Walgreens REDI Program. Seven students were recognized on May 2nd.

CONSENT AGENDA

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

The Board of Directors of the Southwest Cook County Cooperative Association for Special Education approved the open and closed session minutes from the April 17, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting.

**APPROVAL OF
INVOICES AND
PAYROLL**

The Board of Directors of the Southwest Cook County Cooperative Association for Special Education approved the April/May invoices in the amount of \$979,049.12. The April payroll in the amount of \$2,353,914.30 and the estimated amount of \$2,200,000 for the May payroll.

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RESIGNATION OF
PROFESSIONAL
PERSONNEL

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Evans, Michelle	Teacher	Starnet	6/25/2024
Massaro, Tana	Social Worker	Braun	6/28/2024

RESIGNATION OF
EDUCATIONAL
SUPPORT PERSONNEL

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
McCarthy, Debra	Paraeducator	DESTINY	6/4//2024

INTENT TO RETIRE -
PROFESSIONAL
PERSONNEL

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Kempke, Karyn	SLP	DESTINY	6/2/2028
Tengerstrom, Deborah	RN	DESTINY	6/1/2026
Wiley, Jacqueline	Teacher	Transition	6/1/2025

INTENT TO RETIRE -
EDUCATIONAL
SUPPORT PERSONNEL

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Bonello, Mary Ann	Secretary	StarNet	6/30/2028
Cannon, Shiren	Secretary	Braun	6/1/2026
Ostrowski, Pam	Secretary	Transition	6/30/2026

REQUEST FOR
LEAVE OF ABSENCE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Type of Leave</u>	<u>Effective Dates</u>
Alonso, Abraham	Paraeducator	CD Satellite	Leave of Absence	5/8/2024 - 6/4/2024
Husar, Kaila	SLP	DESTINY	FMLA	4/15/2024 - 5/15/2024

RECALL OF CERTIFIED
PERSONNEL

The Board of Directors of the Southwest Cook County Cooperative Association for Special Education, upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, approved to recall Courtney Gemmell as a teacher for the 2024-2025 school year.

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**BOARD POLICIES -
SECOND READING**

The Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, approved the second reading of the following policies: 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure, 2:265 Title IX Grievance Procedure, 4:190 Targeted School Violence Prevention Program, 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment, 5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited, 5:300 Schedules and Employment Year, 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities, 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited, 7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment, 5:100 Staff Development Program, 2:140 Communications To and From the Board, 4:110 Transportation, 5:35 Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act, 5:40 Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease, and 6:185 Remote Educational Program.

FY23 AUDIT

The Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the Business Manager, accepted the FY23 Audit as presented.

**FY25 FOOD SERVICE
BID**

The Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the Business Manager, approved the Sodexo food service management company contract for FY25 at a rate of \$2.80 for breakfasts with milk and \$4.816 for lunches with milk.

**FY25 BOARD MEETING
DATES**

The Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, approved the following dates for FY25 Board Meetings:

August 21, 2024, September 18, 2024, October 16, 2024, November 20, 2024, December 18, 2024, January 15, 2025, February 19, 2025, March 19, 2025, April 16, 2025, May 21, 2025 and June 18, 2025.

All Board Meetings will be held at 9:00 a.m. in the Learning Links Rooms.

ACTION ITEMS

**APPROVAL OF
CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Dr. Ticknor and seconded by Dr. Roth to approve the consent agenda.

Upon roll call, the following voted aye: Dr. Fountain, Dr. Stachowiak, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Roth, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Ticknor, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting. Nays, none, whereupon the chairperson declared the motion carried.

**ACTION AS THE
RESULT OF CLOSED
SESSION**

A motion was made by Dr. Stawick and seconded by Dr. Sikora to approve the employment of Ms. Lisa Schouten to the Assistant Director position at a salary of \$130,000.00 and Ms. Kelsey De Biasio as the DESTINY Supervisor at a salary of \$100,000.00 for the FY25 school year as discussed in closed session.

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Upon roll call, the following voted aye: Dr. Fountain, Dr. Stachowiak, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Roth, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Ticknor, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting. Naves, none, whereupon the chairperson declared the motion carried.

A motion was made by Dr. Roth and seconded by Dr. Ticknor to approve a 4.5% retirement incentive for Kathie Alm who intends to retire on June 30, 2028.

Upon roll call, the following voted aye: Dr. Fountain, Dr. Stachowiak, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Roth, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Ticknor, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting. Naves, none, whereupon the chairperson declared the motion carried.

BOARD REPORTS

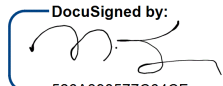
Dr. O'Neil reported that SB 3606 was called in Committee and passed through to the House.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Stawick and seconded by Dr. Scarsella to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Upon roll call, the following voted aye: Dr. Fountain, Dr. Stachowiak, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Roth, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Ticknor, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting. Naves, none, whereupon the chairperson declared the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:

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Dr. Mary Ticknor
Board Secretary