



**Minutes of the SWCCCASE
Board of Directors Meeting
March 13, 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, March 13, 2024.
- On roll call, the following members were found to be present: Dr. Stachowiak, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting. Also present: Dr. O’Neil, Executive Director, and Mr. Shumway, Business Manager. Absent: Dr. McConnell, Dr. Roth, and Dr. Ticknor.
- RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC** Karyn Kempke, Union President, and Brandon Wigboldy, Union Vice President.
- MOTION TO APPOINT SECRETARY** A motion was made by Dr. Stachowiak and seconded by Dr. Scarsella to appoint Dr. Sikora as secretary.
- Upon roll call, the following voted aye: Dr. Stachowiak, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting. Nays, none, whereupon the chairperson declared the motion carried.
- PLACEMENT OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA** A motion was made by Dr. Stawick and seconded by Dr. Brunson, that upon the recommendation of Dr. O’Neil, that the following items be considered under a consent agenda, unless otherwise requested by the Board: Approval of the minutes of the February 14, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting, Invoices and Payroll, Employment of Educational Support Personnel, Resignation of Professional Personnel, Resignation of Educational Support Personnel, Request for Leave of Absence, Infinitec Membership, Braun Educational Center and Transition Masonry Work, Multi-Function Copiers at Morton Gingerwood, and Public Consulting Group - EdPlan EasyIEP Contract.
- Upon roll call, the following voted aye: Dr. Stachowiak, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting. Nays, none, whereupon the chairperson declared the motion carried.
- CLOSED SESSION** A motion was made by Dr. Scarsella and seconded by Dr. Stachowiak to enter into a closed session at 9:01 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. Stachowiak, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting. Nays, none, whereupon the chairperson declared the motion carried.

A motion was made by Dr. Stawick and seconded by Dr. Brunson to return from closed session at 10:16 a.m.

Upon roll call, the following voted aye: Dr. Stachowiak, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Mr. Johnson, 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 February 29, 2024.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COOPERATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. O'Neil shared several highlights, including a video of Julia Donhoe and Jason McKeough who were this year's Infinitec Award winners.

Sayard Bass, SWCCCASE's AT Specialist, received an IAASE Grant to purchase equipment to help students experience CORE vocabulary in settings outside of their classrooms at Morton Gingerwood. She collaborated with Barry Reade, our APE teacher, to create an obstacle course labeled with prepositions, verbs, and adjectives.

Students at Andrew High School held their annual "Polar Plunge" for Special Olympics Illinois. All of the building staff and students together raised over \$25,000, including the CD Program. Ryan DeSanto, District 228 CD Andrew student, was the TOP individual fundraiser at Andrew High School. He raised \$1,555. Fox 32 News Chicago highlighted the event for one of their night broadcasts.

The Proud PE partners at Oak Forest High School hosted the first annual Bengal Olympics for our DESTINY students. The field house was utilized for olympic style competitions for our DESTINY students with help from their PROUD PE partners.

The DHH Program hosted a fundraiser at 5/3 Arena, the home of the practice rink for the Chicago Blackhawks. The Arena gave attendees promotional jerseys and hockey sticks. There was a bounce house and refreshments and 2 different rinks to skate on! AHIHA (the American Hearing Impaired Hockey Association) was on hand to teach anyone who wanted to learn about hockey. AHIHA was founded by Chicago Blackhawk legend Stan Mikita and his good friend Irv Tiahnbik in 1973 and is still going strong today! This event raised over \$2,600 for our program!

Mary Gorski, DHH Social Worker, was recognized at the Illinois Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Conference in March by the Illinois Service Resource Center (ISRC) for her work on behavioral accommodations and supports with one of our elementary school students. The DHH program also sold over 120 cookbooks that contained recipes from students, families and staff.

The OT/PT and Vision teams participated in Assistive Technology training with Dr. Therese Willkomm on Wednesday, February 28, and Thursday, February 29, 2024. Dr. Willkomm is known for her hands-on professional development where solutions to AT challenges are solved using everyday items, such as duct tape and cardboard. The teams came away with dozens of logical solutions to AT challenges.

SB 3606

Dr. O'Neil reported that SB 3606 seeks to mirror the tuition reimbursement formula for public special education facilities that are separate settings basically, including special education cooperatives, to that of the private day schools. This would financially benefit all of the member school districts and provide further incentive to maintain students in the least restrictive environment. Dr. O'Neil reported that she filed a witness slip supporting SB 3606 on behalf of the Cooperative. SB 3606 will be called in Committee during the week of March 11, 2024. Dr. O'Neil will offer an update during the April 17, 2024 Board of Directors meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

The Board of Directors of the Southwest Cook County Cooperative Association for Special Education approved the minutes from the February 14, 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 February/March invoices in the amount of \$933,956.62. The February payroll in the amount of \$2,335,763.13 and the estimated amount of \$2,200,000 for the February payroll.

**EMPLOYMENT OF
EDUCATIONAL
SUPPORT PERSONNEL**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Step/ Column or Days</u>	<u>Annual Salary</u>
Ryan, Riley	Custodian	Building & Grounds	2/23/2024	1/2nd shift	\$35,636.00
Schillne, Peggy	Secretary	Transition	2/26/2024	19/Amount	\$45,376.00

**RESIGNATION OF
PROFESSIONAL
PERSONNEL**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Tregler, Kelly	Teacher	DESTINY	5/24/2024

**RESIGNATION OF
EDUCATIONAL
SUPPORT PERSONNEL**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
McCarthy, Cindy	Paraeducator	Transition	5/31/2024

**REQUEST FOR
LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Type of Leave</u>	<u>Effective Dates</u>
Morin, Angela	Paraeducator	DHH	FMLA	8/5/2024-11/1/2024
Reese, Lindsey	Teacher	Braun	Leave of Absence	3/13/2024-5/31/2024

- INFINITEC MEMBERSHIP** The Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, approved the Infinitec membership for FY25.
- BRAUN EDUCATIONAL CENTER AND TRANSITION BUILDING MASONRY WORK** The Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the Business Manager, awarded the Braun and Transition masonry work to Chaffee Construction in the total amount of \$155,960.
- MULTI-FUNCTION COPIERS AT MORTON GINGERWOOD** The Board of Directors authorized the Business Manager to sign a 5-year maintenance and purchase agreement with Canon Solutions America for \$24,514.
- PUBLIC CONSULTING GROUP - EDPLAN EASYIEP CONTRACT** The Board of Directors authorized the Business Manager to sign a contract with PCG for the EDPlan Suite Modules including EasyIEP, PaperClip, EasyFax/SmartScan, and Single Sign on for an annual fee of \$78,500 with an additional single sign on implementation of \$4,125.

ACTION ITEMS

- HONORABLE DISMISSAL OF CERTIFIED STAFF** A motion was made by Dr. Stachowiak and seconded by Dr. Scarsella to approve the resolution Regarding Non-Renewal and Honorable Dismissal of Certified Staff, Courtney Gemmell, from the Southwest Cook County Cooperative Association for Special Education.
- Upon roll call, the following voted aye: Dr. Stachowiak, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting. Nays, none, whereupon the chairperson declared the motion carried.
- FY24 RELEASE OF CERTIFIED STAFF** A motion was made by Dr. Sikora and seconded by Dr. Nolting to approve the resolution Dismissing Certified Staff, Alyse Pechtold, from the Southwest Cook County Cooperative Association for Special Education.
- Upon roll call, the following voted aye: Dr. Stachowiak, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting. Nays, none, whereupon the chairperson declared the motion carried.
- APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA** A motion was made by Dr. Stawick and seconded by Dr. Brunson to approve the consent agenda.
- Upon roll call, the following voted aye: Dr. Stachowiak, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting. Nays, none, whereupon the chairperson declared the motion carried.

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ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Scarsella and seconded by Dr. Brunson to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Sikora', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Brad Sikora
Board Secretary