



Administrative Offices

Minutes of the SWCCCASE Board of Directors Meeting October 16, 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 9:01 a.m. on Wednesday, October 16, 2024.
- On roll call, the following members were found to be present: Dr. Orzel (9:06 a.m.), Mr. Bunn (D117), Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Ticknor (9:07 a.m.), Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting. Also present: Dr. Gineen O’Neil, Executive Director, Lisa Promis, Assistant Director, and Mr. Tage Shumway, Business Manager. Absent: Dr. Roth and Dr. Meighan
- RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC** Karyn Kempke, Union President, Brandon Wigboldy Union Vice President, Joshua Lillie, Union Vice President, Dawn Hinkle, ECB&S, and Adrian Smith, Paraeducator.
- PLACEMENT OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA** A motion was made by Dr. Scarsella 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: the open and closed session minutes from the September 18, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting, Invoices and Payroll, Employment of Professional Personnel, Employment of Educational Support Personnel, Resignation of Educational Support Personnel, Request for Leave of Absence, Board Policies - First Reading, Classification of Closed Session Minutes, School Maintenance Grant, and Vehicle Purchases.
- Upon roll call, the following voted aye: Mr. Bunn, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting. Nays, none, whereupon the chairperson declared the motion carried.
- MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA** A motion was made by Dr. Scarsella and seconded by Dr. Sikora to move Agenda Item 11, Action as the Result of Closed Session, immediately following Agenda Item 4, Closed Session, for immediate action.
- Upon roll call, the following voted aye: Dr. Orzel, Mr. Bunn, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Ticknor, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting. Nays, none, whereupon the chairperson declared the motion carried.

Minutes of the
Board of Directors Meeting
October 16, 2024

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Dr. Scarsella and seconded by Dr. Sikora to enter into a closed session at 9:03 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.

Upon roll call, the following voted aye: Dr. Orzel, Mr. Bunn, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, 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. Nolting and seconded by Dr. Orzel to return from closed session at 9:20 a.m.

Upon roll call, the following voted aye: Dr. Orzel, Mr. Bunn, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, 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. Brunson, upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, approved the termination of Support Staff, Adrian Smith, for cause effective immediately.

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

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Dr. Ticknor and seconded by Mr. Bunn, to enter into a closed session at 9:21 a.m. to discuss collective negotiating matters between the Cooperative and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILC 120/2(c)(2), 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. Orzel, Mr. Bunn, Dr. Scarsella, Dr. Sala, 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. Stawick and seconded by Dr. Brunson to return from closed session at 9:25 a.m.

Upon roll call, the following voted aye: Dr. Orzel, Mr. Bunn, Dr. Scarsella,

Minutes of the
Board of Directors Meeting
October 16, 2024

Dr. Sala, Dr. Stawick, Dr. Brunson, Dr. Ticknor, Dr. Sikora, and Dr. Nolting. Naves, 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 September 30, 2024.

REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

COOPERATIVE
HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. O'Neil shared several cooperative highlights which included Sayard Bass, AT Specialist, who has been working with all Braun teams to support them in learning, utilizing, and teaching the speech to text function on the Chromebooks. The project is based around students telling their story through speech to text. We are excited to see the final product at the end of November. SWCCCASE buildings hosted an Open House on September 5th. Tables with community partners from various organizations lined the entrance hallway at Morton Gingerwood. Representatives from Together We Cope, SSSRA, Key Autism Services, and Behavior Bee ABA were present. The 4th Annual Harvest Fest at Morton Gingerwood took place and included pumpkin picking, face painting, sponge leaf art, and OT sensory time with pumpkins and a giant slide.

In September, the first student council meeting was held in the CD Satellite Program. Fifteen high school students joined this weekly club. Students have learned about positional roles and responsibilities and created a shared agreement for our council's work. Students brainstormed social events and project based activities to focus on this school year. The students cannot wait to see what projects the student council has in store for CD! Andrew High School held its Homecoming Dance, and 13 students from the CD program attended. At Fulton, students are playing with their general education peers during recess. Together, Flames and CD, have been playing football, kickball, and hanging out on the benches. At Central, students have joined Encore courses: Art, Music, STEM, and PBL. During music, CD students are learning how to play the keyboard. Palos East and Conrady were named 2024 Blue Ribbon Schools and CD students were part of the school celebrations. We are incredibly proud of our host buildings' accomplishments.

Minutes of the
Board of Directors Meeting
October 16, 2024

The PBIS-Healthy Habit for September focused on positive social behaviors in the DESTINY Program. Students practiced saying kind words, keeping hands to themselves, staying with the group, personal space, and using appropriate voice, volume, and language.

DHH celebrated Deaf Awareness Month during the month of September. Information was sent out via email in the buildings, a video was shared in ASL of the Pledge of Allegiance, and the SWCCCASE had Deaf Awareness facts daily! LHS students are participating in the DHH Scholastic Bowl. The teams that qualify for Regionals will go to the Colorado School for the Deaf in Colorado Springs in February and Nationals at Gallaudet University in Washington DC! Good luck to our team and coaches! There are seven DHH students at LHS participating in eSports through Gallaudet University. In FIFA, DHH students hold the first and second places. In Fortnite, the DHH students hold the first, sixth, and eleventh places. In the Rocket League, the DHH students hold the top three places. The rankings are national! When the games end in November, there are cash prizes for the top performers.

The vision team hosted their first Family Ice Cream Social for their students. They took that opportunity to socialize and connect with parents and siblings, play games, provide resources, and eat ice cream sundaes together. Students in attendance ranged from early elementary school through transition. The family feedback was very positive. We look forward to making this an annual event! Three members of the BCBA Team, Rachel Schofield, Jillian O'Sullivan, and Karen O'Connor, will join Jen Lucas in presenting at the upcoming IAASE Conference on October 29th. The team will present Developing and Defining the Role of the BCBA as a breakout session. The Vision Team provided additional support to seven district students through the Low Vision Clinic held on October 9. This service is provided by Spectrios Institute for Low Vision and provides students with a low vision evaluation, a new pair of glasses, and additional tools to enhance their vision and support their learning.

On September 19th, Transition Pod 1 students and the vocational teachers at the main campus were introduced to the Oklahoma Assistive Technology and Educational Consulting Associates (OATECA) system. The system supports students and staff to identify gaps in skills and provides systematic instructional support in academic, self-help, and vocational training skills. This is an exciting step for the program as it continues to build upon the assessment and instructional resources available to support student growth. In an effort to remain innovative and responsive, program leadership continues to collaborate with the University of Illinois. Currently the program is meeting with SWTCIE Illinois to explore

Minutes of the
Board of Directors Meeting
October 16, 2024

supporting students with significant disabilities in finding meaningful competitive employment. This is a project funded through the Illinois Department of Human Services and the US Department of Education. Additionally, the program continues to collaborate with the College of Education’s Illinois Center for Transition and Work (ICTW). Together they have developed a targeted technical assistance action plan to increase staff capacity in providing meaningful transition assessments to aid in student centered transition planning and programing.

On October 18th, Jen Gallus and Julie Beasland will be presenting at the Council for Exceptional Children’s Division on Career Development and Transition International Conference in Chantilly, Virginia. The pair will be speaking on Integrating PBIS Principles into Relevant Vocational Skills.

**DISTRICT
COMPLIANCE
WITH THE
ILLINOIS STATE
PERFORMANCE
PLAN**

Dr. O’Neil shared the LEA Determinations reports from ISBE with the Board. Copies of these reports were also shared with district special education administrators.

**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 September 18, 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 September/October invoices in the amount of \$960,734.53. The September payroll in the amount of \$2,537,645.24 and the estimated amount of \$2,200,000 for the October payroll.

**EMPLOYMENT OF
PROFESSIONAL
PERSONNEL**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Step/Column or Days</u>	<u>Annual Salary</u>
Smoot, Stephanie	Teacher	DESTINY	10/1/2024	9/MA	\$65,396.00

Minutes of the
Board of Directors Meeting
October 16, 2024

EMPLOYMENT OF
EDUCATIONAL
SUPPORT
PERSONNEL

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Step/Column or Days</u>	<u>Annual Salary</u>
Owens, Judith	Paraeducator	Transition	9/30/2024	6/License	\$27,358.00
Schenkenfelder, Rebecca	Paraeducator	Transition	9/23/2024	1/License	\$25,171.00

RESIGNATION OF
EDUCATIONAL
SUPPORT
PERSONNEL

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Delgado, Diana	Paraeducator	MGW	9/24/2024
Fulwiley, Freeman	Paraeducator	Transition	10/1/2024
Standish, Michelle	Paraeducator	Transition	10/7/2024

REQUEST FOR
LEAVE OF
ABSENCE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Type of Leave</u>	<u>Effective Dates</u>
Clark, Jennifer	VI Teacher	Itinerant	FMLA	9/3/2024-10/31/2024
Faouri, Ratiba	Paraeducator	Transition	FMLA	10/16/2024-1/30/2025
Heneghan, Elizabeth	OT	Itinerant	FMLA	11/25/2024-1/10/2025
Palaggi, Sarah	VI Teacher	Itinerant	FMLA	9/16/2024-10/25/2024
Roser, Angela	Paraeducator	DESTINY	FMLA	10/8/2024-1/8/2025
Schnell, Regina	Principal	CD MGW	Intermittent FMLA	10/1/2024-9/30/2025
Sweis, Diana	Paraeducator	Transition	FMLA	10/7/2024-11/15/2024

BOARD POLICIES -
FIRST READING

The Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, approved the first reading of the following policies: 2:260 - Uniform Grievance Procedure, 2:265 - Title IX Grievance Procedure, 5:100 - Staff Development Program, 7:20 - Harassment of Students Prohibited, and 7:185 - Teen Dating Violence Prohibited.

CLASSIFICATION
OF CLOSED
SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, classified as confidential the closed session minutes from December 14, 2011 through April 12, 2023, and maintained confidentiality of those minutes previously

Minutes of the
Board of Directors Meeting
October 16, 2024

classified as such. In addition, it is moved that any verbatim recordings older than 18 months be destroyed prior to April 12, 2023.

SCHOOL
MAINTENANCE
GRANT

The Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the Business Manager, approved the 2025 School Maintenance Project Grant application to repair a section of the roof at the Braun building.

VEHICLE
PURCHASES

The Board of Directors of the Southwest Cook County Cooperative Association for Special Education, upon the recommendation of the Business Manager, authorized the purchase of a used wheelchair van with a price not to exceed \$50,000.

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF
CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Stawick and seconded by Dr. Orzel to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 a.m.

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

BOARD REPORTS

Dr. Orzel thanked Dr. O'Neil for sharing a video on FOIA compliance.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed by:

Dr. Mary Ticknor
Board Secretary