



MEEKER AND WRIGHT SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
Board Meeting - Joint Powers Board #0938
Thursday, March 28, 2024 - 6:00 pm
Meeting Minutes - Official

Present: *Amy Johnson, Jessica Johnson, Colleen Carlson, Kelsey Puncochar, Julie Rae Pennertz*

Board members Absent: *Cindy Miller, Gena Jacobson*

Others Present: *Melissa Hanson, Heidi Hennen, Vinne Pokornowski*

I. Call to Order

The Regular meeting was called to order at 6:01 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 Jessica Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Jessica Johnson and seconded by Colleen Carlson. 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



- *Contract Changes/Approvals/Position Changes of the following staff:*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Josie Ekholm Brown	Speech and Language Pathologist, from 0.5 FTE to 0.2 FTE	March 4, 2024
Kayla Kastner	1.0 FTE Temporary Paraprofessional to 1.0 FTE Special Education Paraprofessional, Eastern Wright	January 17, 2024
Kaylee Petersen-Wurzburger	1.0 FTE Temporary Paraprofessional to 1.0 FTE Special Education Paraprofessional, Eastern Wright	February 9, 2024
Kari Peterson	1.0 FTE Assistant Director of Special Education to 1.0 FTE Special Education Supervisor	July 1, 2024

V. Informational Items

Vinne Pokornowski gave an overview of the Developmental Adapted Physical Education services provided by MAWSECO.

VI. Reports

Executive Director Report

General Updates:

Third Party Billing: MAWSECO’s partnership with SCHOOL Project for Third Party Billing is going well. They have been able to identify roughly 300 students who require a call to DHS in order to obtain an MA number or specify which MA number to use. About 85% of the time, these students are MA eligible but making these calls is very time consuming due to the call centers being very overwhelmed with these calls. After the completion of this project, SpEd forms will be updated accordingly to begin billing for the additional students who are eligible.

Leadership Structure: The executive director has continued to have discussions with the Executive Advisory Committee (EAC), composed of our member district



Superintendents, regarding concerns and challenges about the size and scope of the executive director position, particularly in light of the growing needs of the member districts and programs. The executive director will work with the special education leadership team to seek feedback into the development of a proposal. The EAC will review the proposal for a Director or Assistant Director of Special Education position to begin FY25 at the April meeting and if supported, the proposal will be brought to the Board for consideration and possible action in April.

Indicator Data Collection (IDC): The MDE's IDC process has begun over the past month with initial file reviews and data collection being completed by the special education leadership team.

Staffing & Personnel

Contract Negotiations: The MSEA Union has provided their Intent to Negotiate letter.

At-Will Contract Development: Preliminary research and work on the development of at-will contracts has also begun. Once the preliminary work has been completed, the board committee will be contacted to meet.

Member District Special Education Programs

Significant Disproportionality: MAWSECO has received a "Year 1" Letter from Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) at the MDE for a member district due to meeting the numeric threshold for disproportionality in the 2023-24 school year in the area of students with Speech-Language Impairment who are white. The executive director will work with the district to identify ways to address this disproportionate identification.

Dispute Resolution: The executive director is working with a member district's leadership team, special education supervisor, and the district's legal counsel to respond to an Office for Civil Rights (OCR) Complainant and an MDE Special Education Complaint regarding a special education student.



Director of Business Services Report

Village Ranch, Cokato Title I Part D Allocation

We were notified by the Dassel-Cokato district on March 4th that they now have Title I Part D funds allocated in the amount of \$66,954.71, which is consistent with the allocation in years past. These dollars will continue to flow through from DC to the Village Ranch, Cokato program which means that the cost of staff members at this location who are providing related services will be able to continue being coded to this funding source and won't need to be tuition billed.

FY24 Final Federal Allocations and Flow Through

- The MDE sent out notification on March 8, 2024 that final allocations were loaded into the Minnesota Education Grant System (MEGS) for Finance Codes (FIN): 419 Part B Section 611, Ages 3-21 – CFDA# 84.027A, and FIN 420 Part B Section 619 Preschool Incentive, Ages 3-5 – CFDA #84.173A
- Fin 419 Part B Section 611, Ages 3-21: There was an additional \$209,547.21 in current year funds awarded, bringing the total current year allocation to \$2,659,305.79 for a total of \$3,959,537.51 in current and prior year funds.
- FIN 420 Part B Section 619 Preschool Incentive, Ages 3-5: There was an additional \$8,767.38 in current year funds awarded, bringing the total current year allocation to \$94,725.33.
- The 419_420 Final Federal Subaward to Member Districts was shared with all of the district business managers at the monthly district business manager meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2024.

FY24 Revised Budget and FY25 Preliminary Budget

The FY24 Revised Budget is nearing completion. The final stages of analysis are being completed now and will be ready to come forward to the Executive Advisory Committee and the Board in April.

Executive Director and Director of Business Services have gathered input from staff groups and/or program supervisors to plan for the FY25 budget. They have several meetings scheduled to work on building the budget for next year.



Program Administrator Report

Village Ranch Alternative Program

Village Ranch Alternative Program is currently fully staffed. There are 28-30 residential students and two day students who attend part time at VRAP and part time at Dassel Cokato High school. The BCBAs are providing support for staff on how to deal with difficult behaviors. Construction has begun at VRAP with the goal of completing this prior to the start of next school year.

Sholund

Sholund is also fully staffed. There are currently 11 students and plan to maintain 11-12 girls for the remainder of the school year.

Wings

Wings has had a great school year. The student count has remained between 16 and 18 students over the past few months. The staff has worked together to provide the best education possible even though there's been quite a bit of movement with students leaving and coming in.

VII. Action Items

A. New Business

1. 2024-2025 MAWSECO Program Calendars

A motion to approve the 2024-2025 MAWSECO Program Calendars was made by Julie Rae Pennertz and seconded by Jessica Johnson. The board unanimously approved the 2024-2025 MAWSECO Program Calendars as presented.

2. Resolutions for Non-Renewal of Staff with Tier 1 and Out of Field Permissions that expire at the end of 2023-2024 school year

Motion for the adoption of the forgoing resolutions was made by Colleen Carlson and seconded by Kelsey Puncochar. Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Amy Johnson, Kelsey Puncochar, Julie Rae Pennertz, Colleen Carlson, Jessica Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Gena Jacobson, Cindy Miller

Motion carried unanimously.



3. Resolution Proposing Placement of Tenured Teacher on Unrequested Leave of Absence

Motion for the adoption of the forgoing resolution Proposing Placement of Tenured Teacher on Unrequested Leave of Absence was made by Julie Rae Pennertz and seconded by Kelsey Punuchar. Roll Call Vote.

Ayes: Amy Johnson, Kelsey Puncochar, Julie Rae Pennertz, Colleen Carlson, Jessica Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Gena Jacobson, Cindy Miller

Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Policy Review: Policy 723 - Legal Consultation and Due Process Costs
[First and Final Reading]**

Motion to approve the listed policy changes as recommended by the Policy Committee was made by Jessica Johnson and seconded by Julie Rae Pennertz. The board unanimously approved the changes to Policy 723.

VIII. Future Board Meetings

A. April 23, 2024, 6:00 p.m., MAWSECO Ed Center, Howard Lake

B. May 28, 2024, 6:00 p.m., MAWSECO Ed Center, Howard Lake

C. June 25, 2024, 6:00 p.m., MAWSECO TBD

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

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