



MEEKER AND WRIGHT SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
Board Meeting - Joint Powers Board #0938
Tuesday, April 22, 2025 - 5:00 pm
Meeting Minutes - Official

Present: Sarah Baker, Gena Jacobson, Jessica Johnson, Cindy Miller, Tim Oster,
Kelsey Puncochar, Jen Rasset

Others Present: Melissa Hanson, Emily Schneider

I. Call to Order

The Regular meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Meeting Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Gena Jacobson and seconded by Sarah Baker. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Kelsey Puncochar 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
- *Resignation/Retirement of the following staff:*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Alexis Cerrato	School Psychologist	June 6, 2025
Gervase Kappel	Custodian	June 6, 2025
Amanda Kistner	Paraprofessional, Cornerstones	March 27, 2025



- *Employment of the following staff:*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Rachel Boyack	1.0 FTE Special Education Supervisor	August 1, 2025
Morgan Butler	1.0 FTE Audiologist	August 11, 2025

V. Reports

Executive Director Report

Federal Special Education Advocacy

As Past-President of MASE, Melissa Hanson joined MASE and MASA leaders in Washington, D.C. from February 26–28 to advocate for special education. The team met with all Minnesota congressional offices and the U.S. Department of Education to share successes, address funding concerns, and emphasize the importance of FAPE under IDEA.

OCR Letter on DEI

On April 3, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights sent a letter to SEAs requiring certification of the elimination of DEI programs or risk Title I funding. MDE responded on April 7. The interpretation and implications of this directive remain unclear.

Supreme Court Case

A Minnesota case, *A.J.T. v. Osseo Area Schools*, will go before the U.S. Supreme Court in April 2025. The case challenges the legal standard for school district liability under Section 504 and the ADA, with potential implications for increased litigation and compliance.

Unite 2025 DAPE Event

MAWSECO is excited to host an inclusive DAPE Extravaganza for students from all seven member districts, organized by our DAPE teacher.

READ Act Training

Under the Minnesota READ Act, paraprofessionals who support reading instruction must receive state-approved training. MAWSECO is working with the regional service cooperative to ensure compliance, exploring both in-house and free training options.



Staffing Updates

Special Education Supervisor: MAWSECO and HLWW have completed interviews and successfully hired a new special education supervisor to serve the HLWW District.

SRO Partnership: Wright Technical Center has expressed interest in sharing MAWSECO's School Resource Officer. Discussions will prioritize program safety and explore cost-saving potential.

Custodial Services: With the Ed Center custodian on leave, Right-Way Cleaning has been contracted to provide interim custodial services.

Business Services: While the Director of Business Services is on leave, MAWSECO has contracted with CESO to maintain financial operations.

Program Administrator Report

Journeys, Step, and Trek Programs

End-of-Year Collaboration: Students are engaging in a 26-day initiative focused on practicing learned skills and fostering inter-program collaboration.

New Student Enrollment: Two students have recently joined the Education Center programs, and initial observations indicate positive progress.

Student Transitions: This academic year, five students have successfully transitioned, either fully or partially, from our programs back to their resident districts.

Journeys Program Enhancement: A regulation room has been added to the Journeys program. Students are utilizing the space appropriately, and the benefits are becoming evident.

Journeys Staff Update: Best wishes to Tehya Lehmann as she steps away to stay home with her son.

STEP Graduation: The STEP program will hold its graduation ceremony on May 23 at 10:00 a.m.

STEP Staff Retirement: Congratulations to Patty Diers on her retirement from the STEP program. We wish her all the best in her next chapter.



Cornerstones and Eastern Wright Programs

A new system has been implemented to support student reflection and discussion around inappropriate behaviors. An increasing number of Cornerstones students are earning incentive days compared to last year, with well-organized activities supporting this progress. One Cornerstones student is successfully participating in an automotive class through Wright Technical Center. One Cornerstones student has transitioned back to their resident district for 6 of 7 class periods. One Eastern Wright student has transitioned back to their resident district. One paraprofessional and one teacher have resigned to stay home with their children. Staff are doing excellent work to support these positive developments across programs.

VI. Action Items

A. New Business

1. Policy Review [First Reading]

The following policies were brought to the board for a first reading. No action was taken.

- a) Policy 423 - Employee-Student Relationships
- b) Policy 516 - Student Medication (being renamed Student Medication and Telehealth)
- c) Policy 527 - Student Use and Parking of Motor Vehicles; Patrols, Inspections and Searches
- d) Policy 609 - Religion
- e) Policy 610 - Field Trips
- f) Policy 712 - Video Surveillance Other Than on Buses
- g) Policy 722 - Public Data and Data Subject Requests

2. Policy Rescission [First Reading]

The following policies were brought to the board for a first reading. No action was taken.

- a) Policy 533 - Photographing Students
- b) Policy 557 - Use of Household Eligibility Information for School Meals
- c) Policy 624 - Development Delay for Early Childhood Special Education

VII. Future Board Meetings

- A. May 27, 2025, 5:00 p.m., Wings Alternative Program, Litchfield
- B. June 24, 2025, 5:00 p.m., MAWSECO Education Center, Howard Lake
- C. July 22, 2025, 5:00 p.m., MAWSECO Education Center, Howard Lake



Meeting Date:
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VIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:28 p.m. was made by Gena Jacobson and seconded by Jen Rasset. Motion carried unanimously.

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