

MINUTES OF EARLY CHILDHOOD COOPERATIVE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

April 12, 2024

Regular

WCES Conference Room

8:30 A.M.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Present

Absent

Becky Moss, Unit II
Mr. Sy Stone, Unit III
Mr. Nathaniel Wilson, Unit IV
Mr. Keith Liddell, Unit V

Mrs. Kathy Clark, Unit I

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Jami Hodge, WCES Director
Jenny Malanowski, Treasurer
Kristi White, WCEA
Sarah Barnstable, Assistant Superintendent Unit V

Vice Chairman Sy Stone called the WCECC meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Roll call was taken with Mrs. Moss, Mr. Stone, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Liddell in attendance.

There was no visitor participation.

Mr. Liddell made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular WCECC meeting on January 12, 2024, as presented and Mr. Wilson seconded the motion.

Members Moss, Wilson, Stone, and Liddell voted “yea”. Motion carried.

Mr. Liddell made the motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, Members Moss, Wilson, Stone, and Liddell voted “yea”. Motion carried.

· PFA Monitoring Updates: monitoring was canceled. Next year class sizes will go from 16 to 15. A one-year grace period was extended; however, this could impact ratings in the future and funding decreased.

· Preschool Screening – Screened 231 at spring child find. Monthly screenings are still offered. Class sizes discussed as well as Herrin construction issues on PreK center and number of slots available. Discussion was held regarding filling up county slots first, then district slots for Herrin. Transportation will be biggest issue for Herrin PreK/WCECC PreK. Mr. Wilson discussed providing transportation to both programs. Discussions continued regarding capital

money and possibly competing with Herrin PreK and co-op. Funded for 600 slots and need to fill 90% of those spots. Class sizes have been reduced. Half of PreK kids are not potty trained.

- Grant has already outgrown salaries – districts will need to be assessed more just to pay for additional needs.
- Board President Liddell expressed concerns of possible conflict between Herrin District and Co-op regarding capital funds and the continuation of level funding in PFA grant
- No RIF
- EC special ed numbers continue to rise. Sarah Nighswander, school psych, gave reference to Director Hodge regarding referral numbers. Ten years ago 27, this year 87 referrals.
- Inclusive EC/PreK model was piloted at Northside and will be implemented at Marion EC/PreK.
- National average for IEP is 14%. Southern Illinois has historically ran 19-20% which is too high
- Program changes discussed

Mr. Liddell made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Wilson seconded the motion.

Members Moss, Stone, Wilson and Liddell voted “yea”. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

MINUTES ATTESTED TO:

Sy Stone, Vice-Chairman of the Board
Board

Nathaniel Wilson, Secretary to the
