

MID-STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
August 20, 2025
Mid-State Special Education
Morrisonville, Illinois
Minutes

PROCEDURAL BUSINESS:

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Vice Chairman Mr. Travis Portz called the regular meeting of the Mid-State Special Education Executive Committee to order, at 6:43 p.m.

Members Present:

<u>District</u>	<u>Superintendent</u>	<u>Board Representative</u>
Bond County	Not present	Not present
Brownstown	Not present	Not present
Carlinville	Not present	Ms. Kathy Norris
Edinburg	Not present	Not present
Hillsboro	Not present	Mr. Matt Lentz
Litchfield	Not present	Ms. Valerie Cain
Morrisonville	Not present	Ms. Bobbie Harker
Mulberry Grove	Not present	Ms. Brooke Earnest
Panhandle	Mr. Aaron Hopper	Ms. Terri Payne
Ramsey	Not present	Not present
South Fork	Not present	Not present
St. Elmo	Mr. Travis Portz	Mr. Sean Hannagan
Vandalia	Not present	Ms. Theresa Tate

Others Present:

Bobbi Fisher, Director
Liz Reynolds, Business Manager
Ingrid Watkins, Executive Secretary

Presentation of Proxies:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Presented for review and approval:

- Official Designation of Officers
 - Governing Board President: Mr. Bob Brandon, South Fork #114 Board of Education
 - Governing Board Vice-President: Mr. Sean Hannagan, St. Elmo #202 Board of Education
 - Governing Board Secretary: Mid-State Executive Secretary, Ms. Watkins
 - Governing Board Treasurer: Mid-State Business Manager, Ms. Reynolds
 - Executive Committee Chairperson: Mr. Chris Clark, South Fork #14
 - Executive Committee Vice-Chairperson: Mr. Portz, St. Elmo #202
 - Executive Committee Secretary: Ms. Watkins
 - Personnel & Finance Committee: Mr. Clark, South Fork; Mr. Portz, St. Elmo; Dr. Schuchman, Carlinville; Dr. Garrison, Vandalia; Dr. McClain, Litchfield
 - Public Day School Committee: Mr. Portz, St. Elmo, Dr. Garrison, Vandalia, Dr. Olson, Bond County, Ms. Casie Bowman, Mulberry Grove, Mr. Lund, Brownstown, Ms. Ritter, Ramsey

- Policy Committee: Mr. Clark, South Fork; Ms. Francis, Edinburg; Ms. Melissa Ritter, Ramsey
- Building & Facilities Committee: Mr. Hopper, Panhandle; Mr. Lund, Brownstown; Ms. McBrain, Hillsboro; Dr. McClain, Litchfield
- Approval of Governing Board Regular Session Minutes from August 28, 2024
- Approval of Destruction of Regular & Executive Session Audio Recordings Older Than 18 Months- none
- Annual Delegation of Duties to the Executive Committee
- Annual Delegation of Duties to the Director of Special Education

A motion made by Ms. Earnest, Mulberry Grove and seconded by Ms. Payne, Panhandle to approve all items on the consent agenda. Roll call Vote: Norris, yes; Lentz, yes; Cain, yes; Harker, yes; Earnest, yes; Payne, yes; Hannagan, yes; Tate, yes. Motion carried 8-0

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION:

Mrs. Fisher thanked the board members for attending and serving as their district's board representative on our Governing Board. Mid-State had a great 2024-2025 school year! It included the beginning of the year Leadership meeting, "Go Forward", followed up with monthly Leadership meetings. There were also monthly mentoring meetings for first year teachers. Emma Reichert Campbell trained staff on DTI and on FBA/BIPs. Brandon Wright came to present to staff in August and December. Mid-State had three wonderful Speech presenters and had a great MTSS training. Staff attended a lot of Professional Development. Other items accomplished included updating the Employee Handbook, editing policies related to employee retirement incentives and other changes relating to reinforcing in-person work and when to use non-work days. Mid-State honored employees for years of service, honored employees for Making a Difference, and celebrated Meg Marquardt's retirement. The May celebration included a Professional Development event from Dr. Dawn Bridges and a Glow Bingo party.

Starting at the end of last school year, Mid-State started preparing to open a public day school, per the request of the Executive Board. Due to recent legislation equalizing the reimbursement rate for private and public day schools, Thrive was opened, a Mid-State 100% special education separate public day school in Vandalia. This was a good financial move as the proration will decline for private reimbursements, as the public reimbursement will be funded from the same source. This also created a new placement option for the Bond/Fayette member districts, which was very much needed. Not only will the districts be able to keep the cost down, but it will also allow local control and students will have less travel time to reach their school. If given the opportunity to open a second or third location within the cooperative, Mid-State will take that opportunity, as it would benefit all 13 districts to have this placement option.

Mid-State has professional development opportunities lined up related to social/emotional and behavioral support, related to Speech Language Pathology, Crisis De-Escalation, mentoring, and many others. Collectively, the organization is thriving, making positive advancements in operations, and strengthening as an organization in general.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Fisher noted that the Governing board needs to take final action on the employment of staff, as presented and needs to approve the FY26 Mid-State budget, as presented and discussed during the budget hearing.

A motion made by Ms. Norris and seconded by Ms. Tate to approve certified and non-certified personnel action items and the FY26 Consolidated Budget, as presented. Roll call Vote: Norris, yes; Lentz, yes; Cain, yes; Harker, yes; Earnest, yes; Payne, yes; Hannagan, yes; Tate, yes. Motion carried 8-0

DISCUSSION:

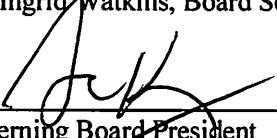
The next Governing Board Meeting is Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Mid-State Special Education office in Morrisonville.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Mr. Hannagan and seconded by Ms. Tate to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.
Voice Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

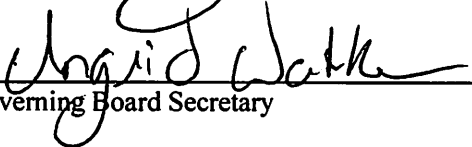
Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Ingrid Watkins, Board Secretary



Governing Board President

8-26-26
Date



Governing Board Secretary

8-26-26
Date