

**MID-STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION
PUBLIC FY26 CONSOLIDATED BUDGET HEARING**

August 20, 2025

Mid-State Special Education
Morrisonville, Illinois

PROCEDURAL BUSINESS:

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The regular meeting of the Mid-State Special Education Executive Committee was called to order by Vice Chairman, Mr. Travis Portz, at 6:30 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

FY25 CONSOLIDATED BUDGET HEARING:

Motion made by Ms. Kathy Norris and seconded by Ms. Therese Tate, to open the FY26 MSSE Consolidated Budget and Public hearing. Roll call Vote: Norris, yes; Lentz, yes; Cain, yes; Harker, yes; Earnest, yes; Payne, yes; Hannagan, yes; Tate, yes. Motion carried 8-0

Budget Summary – Mrs. Fisher provided a summary of the FY26 budget: The FY26 proposed budget was provided in the advanced board packet.

Mid-State's unaudited July 1, 2025 Fund Balance is \$1,675,105.96. This includes \$505,000.00 in FY25 contracts to be paid in August, \$134,610, DRS STEP, and \$65,000.00 earmarked for building improvements.

The FY26 Revenue Budget is \$6,743,575.41. The FY26 revenue increased as compared to the FY25 approved budget (\$5,783,247.98) due to Thrive (new public day school), Medicaid FFS, potential to receive a \$50,000 school maintenance grant, an increase in interest earned (around \$45,000) and the FY23 Annual Cost Settlement return had an increase. Most assessments had a slight increase from FY25 to FY26 but a few districts did go down.

The FY26 Expenditure Budget totals \$6,710,375.64. The FY26 expenditures have increased from FY25 \$5,789,636.45 (\$920,739.19 increase) partly due to a 5% salary increase, additional admin support, Thrive expenses are a big contributor to this increase as this is a new program, and we are budgeting for the roof replacement and maintenance.

Proposed FY26 districts assessments total \$3,588,024.18 as compared to final cost billing in FY25 of \$3,521,803.49. This does not include Thrive costs as those costs will be billed to districts per usage. It also does not include the FFS reimbursements that will reduce the final assessment. In an effort to assist districts with local budget development, the goal continues for FY26 Assessments to be an accurate estimate of the final cost billing assessment.

The Projected June 30, 2026 Fund Balance is \$1,708,305.73.

Mr. Fisher offered for Liz Reynolds the Business Manager to answer any questions. Bobbie Harker from Morrisonville ask what Thrive is. Mrs. Fisher explained that a new public day school is being opened by Mid-State and will be housed in Vandalia and will serve the Bond and Fayette school districts. It was created due to a new legislative law that will equalize the reimbursement rate for public day school and private schools. That was an encouragement to open a public day school in order not to lose out on reimbursement. This will allow the students have less travel time compared to travel time for Cornerstone and reduce the travel expenses for the districts. It also allows for more local control and allows for more shared travel expenses since most districts are already transporting to Vandalia for other facilities. It will be an overall cost savings for the districts. Once this school is going, there are plans to provide something for the other districts if a facility can be found. This offers more placement options for students and for the districts to save money at the same time. Ms. Harker asked if it would fund itself or if all the districts are helping to fund it. Mrs. Fisher clarified that the cost are being kept separate and that cost would be covered by tuition.

Mrs. Harker asked clarification on health care cost noted on the expenses. She also asked if would be beneficial if the Mid-State went to the bargaining table as a group, as the Morrisonville board has been trying to find the best options and asked her to bring it up. Mr. Hopper said that several of the districts are already in a similar trust that have up to 80 districts. Mr. Portz explained that it would be costly for those districts to get out of the trust they are already in. When Mrs. Harker asked for trust that are used, Mr. Hopper said one of them is Egyptian Trust but there are other ones as well. Mrs. Reynolds also explained that the Mid-State board pays \$700 for each employee who takes the insurance.

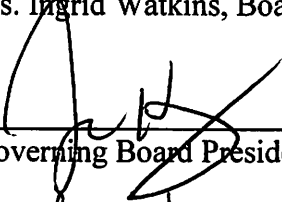
Public Questions and Answers – No public attendees

Close Hearing – With no questions from the general public, Mr. Portz closed the public hearing.

A motion made by Ms. Norris and seconded by Ms. Tate to close the Budget Hearing and adjourn the budget hearing. Voice Vote: Motion carried 8-0 at 6:42p.m.

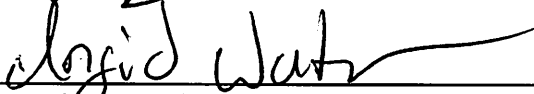
Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Ingrid Watkins, Board Secretary



Governing Board President

8-26-26
Date



Governing Board Secretary

8-26-26
Date