

MID-STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Regular Board Meeting
Official Minutes
August 3, 2026

PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

Mr. Travis Portz at 8:30 a.m., called the meeting of the Mid-State Special Education Executive Committee to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT

South Fork: Mr. Chris Clark; Mulberry Grove: Ms. Casie Bowman; Vandalia: Dr. Jennifer Garrison; Brownstown: Mr. David Lund; Hillsboro: Ms. Hope McBrain; Litchfield: Dr. Kelly McClain; Bond: Dr. Wes Olson; St. Elmo: Mr. Travis Portz; Ramsey: Ms. Melissa Ritter

MEMBERS ABSENT

Edinburg: Ms. Ashley Francis; Panhandle: Mr. Aaron Hopper; Morrisonville: Dr. Megan Hanlon; Carlinville: Dr. Becky Schuchman

OTHERS PRESENT

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The following were presented as part of the Consent Agenda for approval:

- Approval of Regular Session and Executive Session Minutes from June 18, 2026 Board Meeting.
- Approval of Destruction of Audio Recordings Older than 18 Months- None
- Semi-Annual Review of Closed Minutes – March 25, 2026 Personnel & Finance Committee (Recommended: Keep minutes closed), April 14, 2026 Executive Committee and Personnel & Finance Committee (Recommended: Keep minutes closed), June 18, 2026 Executive Committee (Recommended: Keep minutes closed).
- The FY26 Balance Sheet and Receipts vs. Expenditures reflects the June expenditures totaled \$604,297.41 and the revenue totaled \$691,443.92. June 30th fund balance totaled \$2,307,247.62. The July Balance Sheet and Receipts vs. Expenditures reflects the July expected expenditures totaled \$570,324.99 and the anticipated revenue totaled \$143,132.61. July 31st fund projected balance totals \$1,880,055.24. We had the last EBF payments, which resulted in 2 payments during the month of June. We ended the year with the revenue at 103.15% (mainly due to the annual cost settlement) and expended 94.38% (mainly due to the roof work not being paid until FY27) of our adopted budget.
- Accounts Payable Review, Approval, and Order for Immediate Payment- July payables were pre-approved at the June board meeting. July bills totaled \$239,659.99. At today's meeting, pre-approval of August bills is requested given how early the meeting is in the month. August payables list will be provided at the September meeting. July Expenses included a Final Site expense of \$4,200, \$3,650 Common Goal, Embrace contract \$32,000, IASA dues, tuition reimbursement, purchased assessment materials for the year (psych), PSIC work comp/property casual \$70,000, Newline board at MSSE office, and roof/gutter replacement \$99,644.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion made by Dr. Olson and seconded by Mr. Lund to approve the Consent Agenda. Roll Call Vote: Ms. Clark, yes; Ms. Bowman, yes; Dr. Garrison, yes; Mr. Lund, yes; Ms. McBrain, yes; Dr. McClain, yes; Dr. Olson, yes; Mr. Portz, yes; Ms. Ritter, yes; Motion carried 9 yea, 0 nay.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

Ms. Fisher welcomed Dr. Megan Hanlon from Morrisonville to the board. All positions for staff have been filled for FY27 except for Panhandle speech, Thrive speech, and maternity leave coverage. Tele-therapy is set up for those vacancies. The follow professional development is set up for August: DTI, CPI, Brandon Wright (legal),

paraprofessional training, and mentoring for teachers and new staff. Additional professional development on “restorative Justice, SCISHA presenters, and trainers from IEP Q are being scheduled.

The FY24 Cost Settlement was received for \$372,450 after Embrace’s fee was removed. This amount will offset assessments. This summer, ISBE released a revised cyclical monitoring list. As a review, ISBE is completing a compliance review for each district over the course of 6 years. The 26-27 school year is year 3 of the 6 year cycle. Initially all 13 districts were assigned to either year 5 or 6. The review includes policy and procedure reviews as well as IEP reviews. The updated list shows that some districts were moved up to year 4. ISBE warned that assigned years may change due to workload of ISBE staff as well as where the district falls in the internal risk assessment rating. Current cyclical monitoring assigned years:

- Cohort 3 (2026-2027 SY)- none
- Cohort 4 (2027-2028 SY)- Bond, Hillsboro, Ramsey, South Fork
- Cohort 5 (2028-2029 SY)- Brownstown, Edinburg, Litchfield, Morrisonville, Mulberry Grove, St. Elmo
- Cohort 6 (2029-2030 SY)- Carlinville, Vandalia, Panhandle

Illinois Bills that passed in recent legislative session

- SB2773- Short-Term Para license holders may bypass the para test if they worked as a para for each year they held the license, paid the renewal fee, and if the district verifies that the person has met enumerated competencies.
- HB4581- Transition Planning- districts must provide informational materials on the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance program to the student and parent at the first Transition meeting (14.5 years old)

Ms. Fisher provided updates from the Director’s Conference

- FY27 proration estimate for special ed private/public tuition is 64%
- FY27 transportation proration estimate is 55%
- FY27 Orphanage is still expected to be 100%
- FY27 Room and Board proration estimate is 54%
- IDEA flow through had a \$4.8 Million increase and Pre-School had a \$668k increase
- Designating a director- Clarification was provided for districts that are a part of a special education cooperative. The district is able to designate a local special education director. However, they must have the Director’s endorsement listed in ELIS. Mid-State is waiting on guidance from ISBE regarding what impact that has on different job responsibilities in regards to compliance (ISBE complaints, Due Process requests, etc.). There is also a need for guidance in relation to the Articles of Joint Agreement.

The Governing Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19th at 6:30 p.m. at the Mid-State office. In-person participation will be important as we will need 7 members for a quorum. A meal will be provided at 6:00 so we encourage attendance above what is required for the quorum. The roof and gutter project was completed in late June. Weiss Construction completed the job just under the \$100,000 approved budget (\$99,644). We also bought additional downspout supplies to protect them from being damaged. The dumpster corrals were crumbling at the MSSE office. We had those demolished and materials carried away. This recommendation was made following an insurance site visit due to safety concerns.

PECT (Pre-Employment Career Training) is the contract that funds Transition Specialists and the services they provide. No grants in the state have been released at this point. With the DHS absorption of special education at the federal level and due to non-compliance between state and federal contract requirements, the entire state is waiting for the contracts to be released. At this point, the PECT account has some funds left over from years prior so there is no immediate impact on assessments at this point. There is a virtual meeting on the 5th that is supposed to give an update. As promised, ISBE has made edits to 34-57J (Procedural Safeguards document), 34-57D (Parent/Guardian notice of conference), and 34-57P (Parent/Guardian Notification of Conference Identification of Needed Assessments). These changes are all to reflect, “Parents/guardians have the right to invite other individuals to the meeting to assist the parent/guardian, including individuals who have knowledge or special expertise regarding the child, and advocates for the parent, guardian, or child” as well as some other changes.

Committee Reports

Thrive Committee met following the June board meeting. They discussed FY27 employment, the transportation policy, and they reviewed the end-of-year financial summary. Their motion recommendations are in Executive

Session. The Thrive Committee also met today prior to this meeting. They discussed the FY27 food contract, FY27 student handbook, resignation and employment recommendations, and the FY27 starting daily rate for Thrive.

OLD BUSINESS

Non

NEW BUSINESS

- Presentation and Approval of Contracts and Service Agreement Renewals/Amendments
Vandalia School District Food Service Agreement
- First Reading of Policy Updates- Press 122- Updates are minimal. The policy committee reviewed the policy changes via email and saw no need to meet.
- Approval of Student Handbook
- Discussion and Recommendation to present the FY27 Mid-State Budget at the Budget Hearing scheduled for August 19, 2026- Please see the FY27 Budget Summary for detailed information on the budget and assessments. The main changes from the preliminary to the proposed budget are:
 - Updated ASE numbers
 - IMRF rate decrease from 14.57% to 6%
 - Staffing changes
 - VI Contractor rate increase/adjustments in accurate billing
 - Assessments brought down by \$25,000 due to quarterly MAC claims
 - Thrive increased enrollment which means more staff, curriculum, meal costs (CEP approved school as of FY27)
 - We have more contracts for FY27 than we did in April
 - Roof cost was paid in FY27, not in FY26 as anticipated
- Approval of edits made to the Emotional Disability Eligibility Criteria
- Approval of edits to the Special Education Procedures Assuring the Implementation of Comprehensive Programming for Children with Disabilities.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion made by Mr. Clark and seconded by Ms. Ritter to approve the FY27 Vandalia School District Food Agreement (retroactive July 1, 2026), approve the first reading of Press 122, approval of the student handbook, recommend presenting the proposed FY27 Mid-State Budget at the budget hearing scheduled for August 19, 2026, approval of the ED Eligibility Criteria, and the Special Education Procedures Assuring the Implementation of Comprehensive Programming for Children with Disabilities, all as presented. Roll Call Vote: Ms. Clark, yes; Ms. Bowman, yes; Dr. Garrison, yes; Mr. Lund, yes; Ms. McBrain, yes; Dr. McClain, yes; Dr. Olson, yes; Mr. Portz, yes; Ms. Ritter, yes; Motion carried 9 yea, 0 nay.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ACTION ITEMS

A motion made by Dr. Garrison and seconded by Ms. Bowman to approve hiring Laura Snyder, Meg Marquardt, Sarah Allen, Katie Meyer, Alexander Davis, Ronald Newton, and Shannon Peterson pending all requirements are met and hire Crystal Stilt for the 26-27 school year only (pending all requirements are met), recommend approving Shelby Nash to work 7.5 hours per day, approve the resignation of McKennzie Clark and Destiny Fields, all as presented. Roll Call Vote: Ms. Clark, yes; Ms. Bowman, yes; Dr. Garrison, yes; Mr. Lund, yes; Ms. McBrain, yes; Dr. McClain, yes; Dr. Olson, yes; Mr. Portz, yes; Ms. Ritter, yes; Motion carried 9 yea, 0 nay.

DISCUSSION

The FY27 Budget Hearing and Governing Board are scheduled for Wednesday, August 19, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Mid-State office in Morrisonville. Please make sure you have a board member planning to attend; we will be serving dinner at 6:00. The Executive Committee Board will meet next on Wednesday, September 16th at 9:00 a.m. in Morrisonville.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Dr. Olson and seconded by Mr. Lund to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 a.m. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote: Motion carried 9 yea, 0 nay.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Bobbi Fisher, Director

Steve Pate
Chairperson

09/16/2024
Date

Angie Wath
Secretary of the Board

9/16/26
Date