

December 6, 2023

BROWN COUNTY KANSAS SPECIAL EDUCATION INTERLOCAL #615
301 S. FIRST STREET HIAWATHA, KS 66434
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MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

December 6, 2023

(These minutes are not official until approved at the January 3, 2024 board meeting.)

The Board of Education of the Brown County Kansas Special Education Interlocal #615 held its regular December Board of Education meeting at 6:00 p.m. on December 6, 2023 at the Special Education Annex in Hiawatha.

CALL TO ORDER

Roni Tietjens called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those present were:

Becky Shamburg, Director
Laurence Berger, USD 430 Board Member
Jeff Brockhoff, USD 415 Board Member
April Keo, USD 430 Board Member
Shelby Rice, USD 430 Board Member
Jacquie Spihlmann, USD 415 Board Member, arrived at 6:01 pm
Roni Tietjens, USD 415 Board Member
Connie Hale, Supervisor/Coordinator
Amy Larson, Board Clerk
Sara Edie, IRC Instructor
Kristi Wilhelm, IRC Instructor

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

April Keo moved to approve the agenda as presented. Jeff Brockhoff seconded and the motion passed with a vote of five to zero.

Jacquie Spihlmann arrived at 6:01 pm.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

There were no comments from the president.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Shelby Rice moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Laurence Berger seconded and the motion passed with a vote of six to zero. Included in the consent agenda was:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the November 1, 2023 Regular Board Meeting.
2. Approval of the Bills for the Month of December 2023.
3. Accept the Treasurer's Report for the Month of December 2023.
4. Approve the resignation of para Megan Unruh.

CONNIE HALE'S REPORT

Connie Hale reviewed the following with the board members:

- There are fourteen Tiny-K referrals with most of them qualifying for services.
- Currently, she has had six behavior referrals.
- She has completed another telemed appointment for a student with autism.
- At the annual autism team training, there were good ideas to help students.
- New teacher evaluations will be completed by Christmas break.
- There will be a retirement party for Linda Bodenhausen on December 18. Linda is a long-time occupational therapist and will be sorely missed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Shamburg reviewed the following with the board members:

- Director Shamburg started to review the KASB board policies that were emailed on December 1; however, the policies will be reviewed more in depth at the January board meeting.
- On January 9, Director Shamburg and Lisa Pierce will be training Horton staff in Mandt. They will train Hiawatha staff sometime during February.
- Director Shamburg met with the superintendents to discuss the number of students with autism and behaviors. The numbers are increasing from years prior. She had the conversation about adding more staff to help the needs of these students. The challenges of adding more staff are funding, space, and finding the appropriate personnel. Director Shamburg also gave cash needs to the districts for adding more staff as well as an increase due to the elimination of ESSER and ARP funds. There was discussion that followed.
- Director Shamburg also stated there will be a big preschool meeting in Horton in the near future to discuss preschool needs for current and incoming students. There was discussion that followed.

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- Director Shamburg shared the rising needs of students and the feeling from teachers that they are moving in the direction of managing the needs, rather than meeting the needs. There has been an increase in diagnosis, mainly from child find. There was discussion that followed.
- The current challenge with increasing the number of teachers versus increasing the number of paras is that the state recommends students in the classroom with their peers which requires para support.
- Board members requested a history of numbers showing an increase in diagnosed needs.

Kristi Wilhelm left the meeting at 6:33 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL, STUDENT PERSONNEL, NEGOTIATIONS, AND DIRECTOR'S EVALUATION

At 6:33 pm, April Keo moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, student personnel, negotiable items as allowed for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA, director's evaluation and reconvene at 6:48 pm. Jeff Brockhoff seconded and the motion passed with a vote of six to zero. The executive session was necessary to protect the privacy of those individuals discussed, to protect the privacy rights of a student who is identifiable, and to ensure a fair and equitable contract. Those present for the executive session were Laurence Berger, Jeff Brockhoff, April Keo, Shelby Rice, Jacquie Spihlmann, and Roni Tietjens. Becky Shamburg entered executive session at 6:39 pm. At 6:48 pm, the board came out of executive session.

Sara Edie and Connie Hale left the meeting at 6:47 pm.

POSSIBLE ACTION AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Jacquie Spihlmann moved to ratify the 2023-24 Master Agreement as presented. Jeff Brockhoff seconded and the motion passed with a vote of six to zero.

Jacquie Spihlmann moved to approve the office salaries as presented. Jeff Brockhoff seconded and the motion passed with a vote of six to zero.

Jacquie Spihlmann moved to accept Connie Hale's contract as presented. Shelby Rice seconded and the motion passed with a vote of six to zero.

OTHER

There was no other business at this time.

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ADJOURN

April Keo moved to adjourn the Board meeting. Jacquie Spihlmann seconded and the motion passed with a vote of six to zero. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the BCK-SEI Board of Education will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at the Special Education Annex in Hiawatha.

_____, Board
_____, President _____, Clerk
_____, Date _____, Date