

February 7, 2024

BROWN COUNTY KANSAS SPECIAL EDUCATION INTERLOCAL #615
301 S. FIRST STREET HIAWATHA, KS 66434
Phone (785) 742-7108

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

February 7, 2024

(These minutes are not official until approved at the March 6, 2024 board meeting.)

The Board of Education of the Brown County Kansas Special Education Interlocal #615 held its regular February Board of Education meeting at 6:00 p.m. on February 7, 2024 at the Special Education Annex in Hiawatha.

CALL TO ORDER

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

SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Board Clerk Amy Larson swore in new board members Ian Schuetz and Jon Boller.

ROLL CALL

Those present were:

Becky Shamburg, Director
Jon Boller, Incoming USD 430 Board Member
Rex Lockwood, USD 430 Board Member
Ian Schuetz, Incoming USD 415 Board Member
Jacquie Spihlmann, USD 415 Board Member
Roni Tietjens, USD 415 Board Member
Connie Hale, Supervisor/Coordinator
Amy Larson, Board Clerk
Robyn Tollefson, ECSE Instructor
Valerie Tollefson, IRC Instructor, arrived at 6:02 pm

Those absent was:

Shelby Rice, USD 430 Board Member

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Becky Shamburg requested to add hire of Cassidy Goering, para at Hiawatha Middle School, on item 5 of the consent agenda. Ian Schuetz moved to approve the agenda as presented. Jacquie Spihlmann seconded and the motion passed with a vote of five to zero.

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Valerie Tollefson entered the room at 6:02 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

Jacque Spihlmann moved to approve the consent agenda with the addition of hiring Cassidy Goering as para at Hiawatha Middle School. Jon Boller seconded and the motion passed with a vote of five to zero. Included in the consent agenda was:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the January 3, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.
2. Approval of the Bills for the Month of February 2024.
3. Accept the Treasurer's Report for the Month of February 2024.
4. Accept the resignation of Josey May, para at Hiawatha Elementary.
5. Approve the hire of paras Emmily Johnson (Hiawatha Elementary) and Cassidy Goering (Hiawatha Middle)

CONNIE HALE'S REPORT

Connie Hale reviewed the following with the board members:

- There are additional tiny-K referrals, making a total of nineteen referrals. In 2022-23, there were eighteen total referrals. In 2021-22, there were six total referrals.
- There has been no change in behavior support referrals.
- There have been no new autism referrals, up to four referrals in 2023-24.
- The autism team has completed their training and created a brochure. The brochure was distributed to board members.
- Teacher evaluations for the second semester are being scheduled.
- There has been a bill introduced in the legislature to reconfigure the special ed task force, after the task force found that special education is underfunded.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Shamburg reviewed the following with the board members:

- Board Clerk Amy Larson reviewed total budget usage and remaining total budget amount with the board members.

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- Board Clerk Amy Larson reviewed Maintenance of Effort (MOE). MOE is a guideline that states the interlocal has to spend as much or more in state and local funds than they did the year before. Exceptions such as decrease in staff, students leaving costly programs, and equipment or construction purchases can be used to lower the threshold. The Interlocal met MOE in all four areas: State and Local Effort, Per Pupil State and Local Effort, Local Effort, Per Pupil Local Effort. MOE requires an LEA to meet the standard in at least one of the above areas.
- Director Shamburg discussed with the board members that an increase in local contributions is an ongoing discussion with the superintendents. The local contributions are based on an agreement with the superintendents and the director.
- Director Shamburg reviewed the budget process with the board. The Interlocal receives state funding, local funding from the districts, federal funding, Medicaid, a state grant and some miscellaneous funding. The state aid is based on a set amount per staff hired by the Interlocal.
- Director Shamburg mentioned the state has a mandate that special education is to be funded at 92% of excess cost. The Interlocal calculates the state is funding Brown County Special Ed at 67% of excess cost. The governor is pushing for more special education funding in her budget.
- Medicaid is always a soft number since eligibility changes, students move in and out of the districts, and students may exit services.
- Director Shamburg also discussed that 95% of the expenditures are salaries, benefits, as well as contracted salaries. The 5% remaining are items such as technology, room budget supplies, testing supplies, etc. The Interlocal won't know the amount of the BC/BS increase until spring. For 2023-24, that amount was 6%.
- Director Shamburg stated that with ESSER and ARP funding gone, those grant amounts need to be replaced. Both ESSER and ARP grants were temporary grants. In 2023-24, the special education para starting wage is \$11.25 per hour and the teachers received a 3.8% increase to the base pay. Additional needs include a response to a higher number of autism diagnoses as well as preschool needs.
- Director Shamburg stated that the big preschool meeting that was canceled due to a snow day has been rescheduled for February 23, 2024.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL AND NEGOTIATIONS

At 6:44 pm, Ian Schuetz moved to go into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel and negotiable items as allowed for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA, and reconvene at 7:04 pm. Rex Lockwood seconded and the motion passed with a vote of five to zero. The executive session was necessary to protect the privacy of those individuals discussed, and to ensure a fair and equitable contract. Those present for the executive session were Becky Shamburg, Connie Hale, Jon Boller, Rex Lockwood, Ian Schuetz, Jacquie Spihlmann, and Roni Tietjens. At 7:04 pm, Ian Schuetz moved to go into executive sessions for 10 minutes, 5 minutes, and 5 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel and negotiations. Rex Lockwood seconded and the motions passed with votes of five to zero. Those present for the executive sessions were Becky Shamburg, Connie Hale, Jon Boller, Rex Lockwood, Ian Schuetz, Jacquie Spihlmann, and Roni Tietjens. At 7:24 pm, the board came out of executive session.

POSSIBLE ACTION AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no action after executive session.

OTHER

There was no other business at this time.

ADJOURN

Rex Lockwood moved to adjourn the Board meeting. Jacquie Spihlmann seconded and the motion passed with a vote of five to zero. The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

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

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