

Board of Education

Northeast Kansas Education Service Center

Minutes

Date: Wed., Dec. 18, 2002

Location: USD #341 Oskaloosa Board Office

Time: 7:30 pm - Call Meeting to Order

At 7:30 p.m. President, Tom Holroyd called the meeting to order. Members present: Roy Artman, Tom Holroyd, Keith Ostrander, Doug Walbridge, Mike Miller and Leonard Lange; Jim Wheeler, Ph.D., Executive Director; Patty Hart, Director of Special Education; Shelia Clark, Assistant Director; Susan Aspinwall, Business Manager/Clerk; Dolly Gudenkauf, Bookkeeper; Dona Higgins, Accounts Payable; William Stattelman, Superintendent; Carrie Osiecki, and Sharon Branson, SETA Representatives; Audrey Oderman, Auditor; and John Aspinwall.

Consent Agenda

Lange moved to approve the consent agenda. Artman seconded and motion carried 6-0.

Action - Approval of Agenda

Action - Approval of Minutes

Action - Approval of Bills and Claims

Bills and claims included check numbers 43891 through 43970, and handwritten check numbers 7838 through 7842 in addition to the check list that was mailed to members.

Receive - Communications from Visitors Present

USD #377

William Stattelman presented the signed interlocal agreement from USD #377 to the President along with a letter of protest with regard to the funding formula - using FTE instead of weighted-FTE. His district believes that every dollar sent in aid from the state per-pupil should be used in the "method of financing". When a district receives additional base aid per-pupil revenue, that district should do the right thing and send the state supported tax dollars to the interlocal providing the services to the student. He provided copies of the letter to each board member.

Audit Presentation

Susan introduced Audrey Oderman, representative from our auditors, Lowenthal,

Singleton, Webb & Wilson who presented a report on our FY '02 audit. She explained that the audit has three basic areas of responsibility. 1.) To Express an Opinion on the Compliance of the financial statements - NEKESC's are fairly presented and in compliance; 2.) Internal Controls Over Compliance - no material weaknesses found; and 3.) Statutory Violations - no such violations were found. She noted that the staff members were very cooperative, had everything ready and made her job easier. She also thanked members for their confidence placed in her firm. Members thanked her for her report and she left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Receive – Communications

Treasurer's Report

Susan provided copies of the December treasurer's report for members.

Special Education

Action - Personnel Update

Shelia reviewed the list of contracts and resignations for approval. Walbridge moved to approve as listed. Lange seconded and motion carried 6-0.

Information/Discussion - Functional Skills Classrooms

Patty explained that we have designated three area classrooms as functional skills classrooms. She introduced Carrie Osiecki, teacher at Perry/Lecompton High School, who was present to discuss the benefits to students of the programs established this year. Carrie started by conducting a short demonstration with members to demonstrate how some tasks need to be done in a certain sequence and what it's like to explain this to students who have trouble learning, following instructions or doing things independently. She explained that there are five domains that the students work on:

- 1) Daily Living Skills (money recognition, writing a grocery list and shopping, other simple tasks in order to be successful in life).
- 2) Academic Skills (using math to count money, using reading skills to read road

signs, how to read bus schedules if they are unable to drive, filling out a job application or just knowing how to write their name, address and telephone number).

3) Recreational/Leisure Skills (winning/losing, sharing, taking turns).

4) Community Functioning Skills (advocating for themselves, who to turn to if needed, banking, going to the barber, etc.)

5) Vocational Skills (how to work to complete a task to keep a job to get a paycheck).

She said that students in her class work: in the recycling program, at Gambino's, a vet's office in Perry, a grocery store, a horse farm, and help with grade school children. When asked about the benefits of the classroom, Carrie said that by putting "peers" together, they have made friends, have parties together, call each other on the phone, etc. which they were not able to do in a regular classroom where they were "different". They are able to socially connect with other kids. When appropriate, they participate in art, PE, lunch and other group activities with regular ed students. Members thanked Carrie for her presentation and she left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Information/Discussion - Hearing Screening

Patty explained that in order to reduce the cost to local districts we are making changes in our screening procedures. School age students with disabilities will no longer be screened every year, but will be on the same schedule as other students. In the past, we have screened kindergarten, grades 1,2,5,8, and 11. We are changing this to Kindergarten, grades 1,4,7, and 10. It will take two years to complete the change through a transition that has been set in place. Kansas law requires that students be screened when they enter school and every third year thereafter. We will continue to screen students in our preschool classrooms each year.

Information/Discussion - Early Childhood Program Changes

Patty reported that the afternoon classroom in Meriden has become too full, so we are considering the addition of a second morning session there. This will require some reassigning of our teaching and related services staff as the classroom teacher currently serves Headstart programs in Oskaloosa and Meriden. She noted that it is important to identify children with needs early, as this sometimes reduces or eliminates the need for special ed services later.

Regional Service Center

Information/Discussion - Update on Special Education Funding - FY2004

Jim reported that Dale Dennis has stated that the Division of Budget is recommending to fund special education excess costs at 85.1% for FY2003 (est. \$19,485) and at 79.2% for FY2004 (\$17,850). In addition they are recommending base state aid be funded at \$3,813 for FY2003 and \$3,646 for FY2004. They recommended under-funding supplemental general fund by \$3,999,043 for FY2003 and by \$9,138,000 for FY 2004. Inservice education funds are recommended to be cut by FY2004. This level of funding of special education categorical aid would reduce our projected FY2004 revenue from the state by about \$144,000. He provided a handout reflecting how we would cover this additional reduction in funds as well as one showing an eight year history of how we are serving over 70% more children with little or no increase in teachers and paras.

Information/Discussion - No Child Left Behind and Special Education

Jim explained how Special Education (students and/or children with disabilities - NCLB language) is integrated throughout the new regulations. He reviewed some of the implications of issues of teacher/para quality, accountability (adequate yearly progress) and standardization of curriculum content (state content standards) and state assessments. He provided a handout reflecting the steep curve needed to attain adequate yearly progress for students. Patty noted

that if, in reality, this progress was achieved, there would be no need for special education.

Action - Approve Grant from KSDE

Jim reported that the State Board has received a \$256,000 grant from the U.S. Office of Education (written by NEKESC staff) to enhance their capacity for special education data collection and reporting. KSDE's Student Support Services is requesting (on the Dec 10-11 agenda) that NEKESC be awarded a contract to provide the required programming and systems analysis services. He presented a budget for the new Fund #41 in the amount of \$256,232. Miller moved to approve as presented. Lange seconded and motion carried 6-0.

Information/Discussion - Program and Budget Planning

This item was covered under REC #1.

Executive Session

At 8:30 p.m. Ostrander moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes until 8:40 p.m. to discuss personnel issues of non-elected personnel. Lange seconded and motion carried 6-0.

At 8:40 p.m. open session resumed. Ostrander moved to approve revised contracts for Jim, Patty and Susan to delete the vacation days and holidays; and for work days to be designated: 220 for Jim, 225 for Patty and 220 for Susan. The 12 sick days and two personal days to remain the same. Miller seconded and motion carried 6-0.

Ostrander then moved to approve a supplemental contract for Jim Wheeler for grant writing, implementation, and evaluation in the amount of \$30,000 annually to be taken from grant funding, automatically renewable for three years beginning 2002-2003 and ending 2004-2005. Holroyd seconded and motion did not pass 2 - 4 with Artman, Walbridge, Lange, and Miller opposed.

Discussion was held and Lange made a motion to approve a supplemental contract for grant writing, implementation and evaluation for Jim Wheeler in the amount of \$30,000 to be taken from grant funding for the period of one year beginning 2002 and ending 2003. Miller seconded and motion carried 6-0.

Adjournment

At 8:45 p.m. Lange moved to adjourn the meeting. Artman seconded and motion carried 6-0.