

Board of Education

Northeast Kansas Education Service Center

Minutes

Supers Scheduled to Attend Board Meeting

Steve Johnston, Regular

Bill Stattelmann, Alternate

Date: Oct. 15th, 2003

Time: 7:30 p.m. Call Meeting to Order - USD #341 Central Office - Oskaloosa

At 7:30 p.m. President, Tom Holroyd called the meeting to order. Members present: Carol Meneley, Leonard Lange, Dean Newell, Keith Ostrander, Mike Miller and Tom Holroyd; Jim Wheeler, Ph.D., Executive Director; Shelia Clark, Assistant Director; Susan Aspinwall, Business Manager/Clerk; Linda Kilgore, Administrative Secretary; Steve Johnston, Superintendent; and Sharon Branson, SETA Representative.

- **Consent Agenda**

Lange moved to approve the consent agenda with the following changes: Delete SpEd item #4, and table SpEd item #5. Newell seconded and motion carried 6-0.

1. Action - Approval of Agenda
2. Action - Approval of Minutes
3. Action - Approval of Bills and Claims

- **Receive - Communications from Visitors Present**

There were no communications from visitors present.

- **Receive - Communications**

1. **Treasurer's Report**

Susan provided copies of the treasurer's report for the month of October.

2. **Thank You Note**

Members received a thank you note from the clerical staff for approving the increased amount of Board paid fringe on their health insurance.

- **Special Education**

1. **Action - Personnel Update**

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

2. **Action - Approve Special Education Inservice Budget - Fund #09**

Jim explained that although the state no longer contributes to our inservice budget, the administrators would like to keep these funds, which are budgeted in our special education budgets, separate for easier tracking of inservice expenses. The total budget for **Fund #9** is **\$14,200**. Ostrander moved to approve as presented. Meneley seconded and motion carried 6-0.

3. Action - Local and State Assessments for Students in Special Classrooms and JDLA

Shelia explained that federal and state law requires all students with disabilities to be included in local and state assessments. There have been some problems regarding the students in special classrooms taking local assessments. In addition, the state has given local districts a choice regarding how state assessment scores will be reported. We are proposing that these general procedures be followed, both in administering the assessments and in reporting scores for both local and state assessments. Students in special classrooms will get the test from their home school, take the test, and the scores will then be returned to the home school to be included in the home district reports. Shelia explained that a meeting had been held with staff in our three special programs and teachers were informed who to contact, the procedures to be followed, and that accommodations for students would be determined by their IEP. Teachers are to notify each home school testing coordinator of the students' needs so that materials can be ordered. She also noted that staff have been instructed to give tests in the regular classroom using 'bubble' sheets for the answers as well as multiple choice questions so that the students could get used to taking tests in the assessment testing format. Jim provided a sample assessment test which included reading, science, mathematics and social studies. He included sample assessment answers for members as well. The board took no action on this item, as this is the same procedure we used last year.

4. Information/Discussion - Para Educator Network and Foster Care Data Base

This item was deleted from the agenda.

5. Information/Discussion - Class Size/Caseload for Special Education Teachers

This item was tabled until a later date.

6. Information/Discussion - Plans for Gifted Students

Shelia reported that we are planning seminars for our gifted students to develop and expand higher order thinking skills through topics relating to state standards. Elementary school students will meet in Lecompton on November 20 to discuss research about family histories and relationships, and effects of various cultures on the ecosystem in our area. Middle school students will be in Ozawkie on November 5 for a town meeting to solve problems from their own communities. High school students will meet in Lecompton on November 17 to do a practice Model UN. The seminars will require students to do research prior to attending the activity, to share and discuss information from various points of view, and to participate in group problem solving. These seminars provide opportunities for collaboration with other gifted students because, in some cases, there may be only one gifted student in a school per grade level. When asked how gifted students are identified, Shelia explained that it is a team decision, the same as with any other special education service. The student must show need as well as qualifications.

- **Regional Service Center**

1. **Action - Contract with KSDE for DIBELS Training**

Jim reviewed that KSDE Title I and Reading First consultants requested that NEKESC submit a proposal to provide some DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Learning Strategies) training across the state. They have now approved our proposal to provide these services, and the budget amount which has been set at **\$18,344**, will be **Fund #16**. Meneley moved to approve the budget as presented. Lange seconded and motion carried 6-0.

2. **Action - Budget Increase for Marshall Co. Tiny-K - Fund #26**

Jim explained that due to under-estimating categorical aid on the first version, we need to increase the total for this budget - **Fund #26** - to a new total of **\$98,916**. Miller moved to approve as presented. Lange seconded and motion carried 6-0.

3. **Action - Carl Perkins Consortium Grant - Fund #23**

KSDE has indicated that NEKESC will be receiving this grant award which is the last year of a five-year plan. Information is that it may be extended for one more year. Jim reviewed the budget and the goals-objectives of this project which includes all seven NEKESC schools plus Kaw Valley, Shawnee Heights, Tongie and Easton. A portion of the money is reverted back to the schools based on their allocation for the program. The total budget for **Fund #23** is **\$101,166**. Ostrander moved to approve the budget as presented. Lange seconded and motion carried 6-0.

4. **Action - K-PIRC Grant - Fund #40**

This is the second year for our K-PIRC project. Jim reviewed the work that is being done in this grant which is a three-year, state-wide project. The budget for the new year for **Fund #40** is in the amount of **\$396,900**. Newell moved to approve as presented. Lange seconded and motion carried 6-0.

5. **Action - Adopt Resolution to Establish Home Rule by Board of Education**

After open discussion, including the fact that we are governed by the Interlocal Agreement, it was the consensus that there was no reason for the NEKESC Board to take action on the Resolution to Establish Home Rule.

6. **Information/Discussion - PassPlan - Test Item Bank**

Jim reported that information related to the continuation of the PassPlan project as a cooperative purchase through NEKESC was sent to Superintendents on September 11, with a request to respond if interested. PassPlan is offering a discounted cost to second year subscribers of \$5 per student. Last year we paid \$8 per student. NEKESC plans to subscribe for all the special education students because we believe that the appropriate use of this resource can help improve student test performances. Students can take tests on computers which is good practice for them as the State Assessments may be totally computerized in the future. Jim explained that NEKESC will pay the bill for those wishing to participate in the group pricing and will then bill the districts for their per student cost.

7. **Information/Discussion - United Streaming (on-line video)**

Discovery Learning (the Discovery channel) has purchased this company and as a result, they now have even more excellent educational videos. United Streaming is offering NEKESC consortium a rate of \$166 per teacher, per year for access to their video-online collections. The regular price is \$250. Superintendents were asked to indicate their interest in participating. There was not as much interest in this program as there was in the one being offered by KCPT which was discussed at the Supers' meeting last week.

8. Information/Discussion - Regional Staff Development Network

Jim reported that RSDN has asked NEKESC to organize some training on the new QPA and NCLB requirements and procedures. He noted that a lot of the staff development centered around the members sharing what they are doing, not reinventing the wheel. They find this valuable in their work.

9. Information/Discussion - Update on John Dewey Learning Academy

Jim explained that the status of JDLA has changed from a Charter school to a "program." The Perry-Lecompton BOE, as the sponsoring district, took this action last month. New QPA alignments with NCLB add many issues to sponsoring a charter school. A mini bus has been donated to NEKESC's not-for-profit organization (KFAST) for use by the JDLA. There are now 36 students enrolled.

Meneley reported that at their October meeting, the Jeff West Board of Education discussed entering into an agreement with NEKESC for leasing their Ozawkie building. If JDLA were to occupy the building they would like for the Headstart program to be located there as well, because there will not be enough space for that program in the Meriden building if the intermediate students are moved back there. Discussion was held on the possibility of Jeff West writing a proposal for a Charter School like Oskie and Perry have done in order to keep the JDLA going financially. Jim also discussed a senate bill and how the state assessment scoring might change in order that all the JDLA scores would not be figured in Jeff West's totals. Members asked if Jim could get the facilities committee to look at this proposal once more. Ostrander moved to direct Jim to pursue opening discussion with the Jeff West Board regarding leasing the Ozawkie school building by NEKESC. Meneley seconded and motion carried 6-0.

• Adjournment

At 8:20 p.m., Lange moved to adjourn the meeting. Meneley seconded and motion carried 6-0.

Tom Holroyd
President

Susan Aspinwall, CPS
Business Manager/Clerk