

Board Of Education

Northeast Kansas Education Service Center

Minutes

Date: Apr. 21st, 2004

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

At 7:30 p.m., President, Tom Holroyd called the meeting to order. Members present: Dean Newell, Leonard Lange, Tom Holroyd, Mike Miller, Dave Jolly (for Carol Meneley), and Julie Zule (arriving at 7:37 p.m.); Jim Wheeler, Ph. D., Executive Director; Patty Hart, Director of Special Education; Shelia Clark, Assistant Director; Susan Aspinwall, Business Manager/Clerk; Linda Kilgore, Administrative Assistant; Ellen Mellard, O.T., Tiny-K Coordinator; and Sharon Branson, SETA Representative.

◆ Consent Agenda

Dave Jolly moved to approve the consent agenda with no changes. Miller seconded and motion carried 5-0.

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
Copies of the treasurer's report for the month of April were provided to members.

◆ Special Education

1. Action - Personnel Update

Shelia reviewed the list of contracts, resignations and terminations for approval. Miller moved to accept as presented. Newell seconded and motion carried 5-0.

Julie Zule arrived at the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

2. Action - Summer School Budget Fund #8

Patty provided the budget for the cost of this year's summer school program, and explained that we usually approve it this time of year in order to issue contracts to service providers. The budget has not increased over last year's; however, Patty is still receiving referrals for extended school year services, even though they were due the first of April. She explained how students are identified for the program: if they will regress so much over the summer that their progress cannot be recouped in 40 days the following fall; if their IEP calls for continuous services; or if services on their IEP weren't provided during the school year. Lange moved to approve the budget for Summer School - **Fund #8** in the amount of **\$49,553**. Jolly seconded and motion carried 6-0.

3. Information/Discussion - Infant/Toddler (Tiny-K Program)

Tom Holroyd introduced Ellen Mellard who discussed the NEKESC Tiny-K program and provided information on Tiny-K Statewide. Ellen is a member of the State Interagency Coordinating Council for children's services and was recently appointed chair of the council by Governor Sebelius. Ellen discussed her role as coordinator and occupational therapist, and how the service providers work as a trans-disciplinary team to provide services. She reviewed the 16 services that are available at no cost to families who have children 0 - 3 years of age and are experiencing developmental delays or have been diagnosed with a physical or mental condition. These services are provided with state and federal funds. No local USD money is used for this program. She

described the NEKESC program, how children are identified, and the number currently enrolled. Ellen has talked to our State Representatives regarding the fact that funding for the program has decreased for the past five years and is now down by 25% per child compared to five years ago. At the same time, 26% of these children do not qualify for further special education services when they exit the program at age three. Holroyd thanked Ellen for her presentation.

Jim reported that NEKESC is also the fiscal agent for two other Tiny-K programs, Marshall County, and NEKICC in four northeast Kansas counties. The State has asked us to be the lead agency for the NEKICC program since they lost their lead agency earlier this year.

4. **Information/Discussion - Special Education Staff for the 04-05 School Year**

Patty reported we have been able to hire a teacher of the hearing impaired as well as an early childhood special education teacher. We still have several vacancies: USD #339, self-contained classroom teacher; USD #343 and USD #341 a full time shared position; USD #342 an autistic K-8 position; USD #377 a full time high school position; and our JDLA, a full time position. She reported that an employment ad, placed in Sunday's paper, has yielded no applicants. Not only are there very few special education teachers looking for jobs, but when we do get an interview, we are told they would have to take a \$2,000 - \$4,000 cut in pay to work for us.

5. **Information/Discussion - Early Childhood Services**

Patty reported we plan to have center-based programs in Meriden, Oskaloosa, and Effingham again next year. These services are for children ages three to five years of age and are also provided in home-based and daycare settings. The state requires that services be provided in the child's natural environment.

Regional Service Center

1. **Action - KASB Dues and Legal Assistance Fees**

It is time to renew our membership with KASB as well as renew our participation in their Legal Services Department. The charges are the same as billed last year - \$900 for the legal services fee and \$1,375 for the annual membership dues. Lange moved to approve the KASB membership dues and legal services fees as presented. Miller seconded and motion carried 6-0.

2. **Action - Budget Increase for Fund #25 - NEKICC**

The State has approved an additional \$3,000 for the NEKICC Tiny-K program. Newell moved to increase the budget for **Fund #25** by \$3,000 to a new total of **\$216,295**. Lange seconded and motion carried 6-0.

3. **Information/Discussion - Facilities Planning**

Jim provided an update on the status of the Oskaloosa facility including zoning, parking, utilities, etc. The state is to vacate the building at the end of May and Susan has talked to them about the possibility of keeping the phone system and some of the furniture if we decide to purchase the building. The local director can make the decision to donate some of the furniture to the school, however, the phone system will have to be decided at the state level. Susan also has information on another phone system that may be donated to the service center either for the Oskaloosa building or for the Lecompton building which also needs to be replaced. Discussion was then held on the lease/purchase bids and the fact that we would be spending a lot more on a lease/purchase than we would recoup on our interest bearing funds. Susan stated that our carryover balance is holding, even though we have used it heavily to fund the current year budgets and plan to use it again for the coming FY budgets. Jolly moved to pursue the purchase of the Oskaloosa building at the price of \$236,104. Miller seconded and motion carried 6-0.

4. **Information/Discussion - Technology Services**

Jim explained that NEKESC's technology services department has been receiving requests to take on more responsibility in dealing with some schools' networking maintenance. The structure of this program has remained the same for the past 10 years - as has the hourly rate of \$40. We need to raise the salaries of our technicians as they, and this program, are a valuable asset to the service center. Supers have directed us to do what we can to keep these techs, and to have a budget and salary proposal at next month's meeting.

Executive Session

At 8:50 p.m., Zule moved to go into executive session to discuss negotiations and non-renewal of teacher contracts for 20 minutes until 9:10 p.m. Lange seconded and motion carried 6-0.

At 9:10 p.m. Zule moved to extend executive for an additional 30 minutes until 9:40 p.m. to continue

discussion of negotiations and non-renewal of teacher contracts. Lange seconded and motion carried 6-0.

9:40 p.m. open session resumed. Holroyd read resolutions for non renewal of contracts for the following tenured teachers: Janet Tyler, Tim Berens, Linda Wilkerson, Zena Schmelzle, Dawn Miller, Lee Stickle, Ed Stewart, Zoe Thompson, Julie Howard, and Linda Shively-Bowell. Newell moved to adopt the resolutions as presented. Miller seconded and motion carried 6-0.

Jim then read resolutions for non renewal of contracts for the following non-tenured teachers: Deborah Chappell and Cindy Swarner. Zule moved to adopt the resolutions as presented. Lange seconded and motion carried 6-0.

Adjournment

At 9:47 p.m., Lange moved to adjourn the meeting. Newell seconded and motion carried 6-0.

Tom Holroyd
President

Susan Aspinwall, CPS
Business Manager/Clerk