

# **Board of Education**

## **Northeast Kansas Education Service Center**

### **Minutes**

**Date: Feb. 15th, 2006**

**Location: USD #341 Oskaloosa District Office**

**Time: 7:00 p.m. Call Meeting to Order**

At 7:00 p.m., President, Tom Holroyd called the meeting to order. Members present: Tom Holroyd, Carol Meneley, Julie Zule, Beryl Darrah, Keith Ostrander and Tracy Newell; Jim Wheeler, Executive Director; Shelia Smith, Assistant Director; Susan Aspinwall, Business Manager/Clerk; Dona Higgins, Accounts Payable/Purchasing; Steve Johnston, Superintendent; and Sharon Branson, SETA Representative.

- **Action - Consent Agenda**

Meneley moved to approve the consent agenda with one addition. Under RSC add 5.) Action - Approve Increase in Budget Authority in Fund #18. Ostrander seconded and motion carried 6-0.

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Board Meeting
3. Approval of Bills and Claims

- **Receive - Communications from Visitors Present**

There were no comments from visitors present.

- **Receive - Communications**

1. Treasurer's Report  
Susan provided copies of the treasurer's report for the month of February.

- **Special Education**

1. **Action - Personnel Update**

Shelia reviewed the list of contracts, resignations and terminations for approval. Ostrander moved to approve as presented. Zule seconded and motion carried 6-0.

2. **Information/Discussion - Early Childhood Special Education Update**

Janet Tust was unable to attend the meeting, so Shelia provided information about some exciting and innovative changes that are being implemented in our integrated special education preschool classrooms. Several of our Early Childhood Staff have participated in extensive training and follow-up through the University of Colorado's Professional Development in Autism (PDA) Center. NEKESC applied for and has been awarded \$4,000 in stipends over the past year through

the Colorado PDA Center to pay for this training. Staff continue to work with the PDA Center to implement best practices focusing upon promoting children's positive social emotional and language/communication development. The LEAP - Learning Experiences: an Alternative Program for Preschoolers and Parents, while beneficial for ALL students, focuses on utilizing peer models (typically developing students) to teach social skills to students on IEPs. A rewards system is in place, and the program has also renewed teaching excitement for our teachers. A parent component is included in our long-range planning. NEKESC has submitted an application for statewide recognition of Best Practices in Early Childhood Special Education. This application process is competitive and while it includes a cash award, it is prestigious award. Awardees will be announced by KSDE in March.

3. **Information/Discussion - Special Education December 1 Count**

Shelia provided updated information on December 1st student numbers, district prevalence and FTE. She explained how the percentages of students on IEPs compare to other districts as well as to the state. She noted the preschool numbers are only an estimate based on the number of kindergarten students served.

Jim then explained how these numbers will be utilized in determining the district assessments for the coming year. He provided copies of estimated assessments for 06-07 based on the current year FTE/Headcount figures and the current assessment dollar figures.

4. **Information/Discussion - Federal Flow Thru**

Susan provided copies of the final Federal Flow Thru application which lists the requirements under IDEA for participating districts of the interlocal, and the assurances regarding their implementation. NEKESC will receive over \$938,000 for 05-06. Although the application is due in September, the website was not ready for applications until January. Jim noted we would like to have a meeting of all clerks in preparing this for next year, so that we are all "on the same page" with the way we report the numbers. Meneley moved to receive the application as presented. Zule seconded and motion carried 6-0.

• **Regional Service Center**

1. **Action - Approve Budget for Fund #4 - SRS Foster Care Education Database**

Jim explained NEKESC has been awarded a contract in the amount of \$9,500 to provide maintenance for the State Foster Care Education Database. We have been doing this work for the State, but it has been turned over to SRS, and they asked for us to continue our work for them. Jim then provided copies of the budget for approval. Ostrander moved to approve the budget for Fund #4 in the amount of \$9,500 as presented. Meneley seconded and motion carried 6-0.

2. **Information/Discussion - Internet Upgrade**

We have been in the process of bidding the upgrade to DS3 - 18 megs to the Internet with KanREN and 20 megs of the local loop and ATM bandwidth with SBC. In addition there is a required router upgrade also bid from SBC. In order to apply for E-rate on these (already state rate discounted bids) we needed to have contracts, contingent of E-rate funding, signed. Jim reviewed the e-rate process and the fact that our e-rate processor said we could get as much as a 70% discount on the equipment - estimated at a \$50,000 projected cost. The upgrade is necessary due to the fact that our usage is maxed out and the current equipment can not handle additional usage. Part of the costs are already in place, so the increase will be closer to \$20,000. The total costs are

paid by the districts utilizing this service and is based on the amount of service received (T-1s, wireless, etc.) This upgrade should provide for video conferencing (sharing classes on line) which some of our districts would like to do, and should also help with districts completing state assessments on line. Jim has signed contracts pending e-rate approval.

3. **Information/Discussion - Co-op Purchasing On-Line**

The Co-op Purchasing group wants to move to an internet based co-op purchasing process. This capability was developed in 96-97 but never utilized, and Jim reviewed the on-line process, as it was developed. All participating districts must do the process on line for it to work, and plans are to do the Instructional Bid as a pilot project.

4. **Information/Discussion - Facilities**

Jim updated members on facilities discussion related to JDLA noting the commitment to, and the need for, the school. He provided a power point presentation featuring students, teachers, classes, the greenhouse, kitchen, sewing, accomplishments and presentations at national conferences. We need to look at needs as well as location in planning a facility upgrade, and it was suggested we talk to former board member, Dan Rockhill. Rather than paying an architect to work on this project, Dan might be able to make it a class project for his architectural students at KU.

5. **Action - Approve Increase In Budget Authority in Fund #18**

The State is again providing an additional \$3,000 for SIT (Student Improvement Training) Basic Training. The money is budgeted for SIT trainers to provide training across the state. The new budget amount for the Kansas Instructional Support Network is in the amount of \$638,857. Meneley moved to approve the increase of \$3,000 for Fund #18. Newell seconded and motion carried 6-0.

• **Executive Session**

At 7:45 p.m., Ostrander moved to go into executive session for 40 minutes, until 8:25 p.m., to discuss negotiations, to protect the district's right to the confidentiality of its negotiating position, and the public interest in negotiating a fair and equitable contract; and to discuss personnel, to protect the privacy interest of individuals. Johnston was asked to participate in executive session. Zule seconded and motion carried 6-0.

At 8:25 p.m. open session resumed, and Meneley moved to continue executive session for 35 minutes, until 9:00 p.m. to discuss negotiations, to protect the district's right to the confidentiality of its negotiating position, and the public interest in negotiating a fair and equitable contract; and to discuss personnel, to protect the privacy interest of individuals. Newell seconded and motion carried 6-0.

At 9:00 p.m., open session resumed and Holroyd recessed the meeting until Thursday, February 23rd at 5:30 p.m. in the USD 341 Oskaloosa conference room.

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Thomas Holroyd  
President

Susan Aspinwall, CPS  
Business Manager/Clerk