

**REGION III SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE****EXECUTIVE MEETING****November 15, 2023****CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rob Miller, Chairperson at 10:08am. Roll was as follows:

**Present:** Dr. Jill Griffin, Mr. Rob Miller, Mr. Todd Dugan Dr. Kevin Bowman, Dr. Pat Anderson

**Not in attendance:** Mr. Mario Sherrell

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:** Donna Haget, CPA with Dennis Rose and Associates, P.C.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Mrs. Lenger informed the board that Region III is organizing an Adopt a Family program this year for Region III students. Klaudia Taul, a paraprofessional in the CLIP program, agreed to run the program. Mrs. Lenger stated that several families have submitted forms for assistance.

Mrs. Lenger shared with the board the CPI Tidbits Newsletter that Kim Hood shared with our staff. She stated she will forward the information to the coordinators to share with their staff. Mrs. Lenger asked if the information is shared within their districts.

Mrs. Lenger informed the board that the RIF and Joint committee met on Tuesday to start reviewing the RIF procedure, evaluation forms and process and will continue to meet over the upcoming months. The next meeting is scheduled for January 2024.

Mrs. Lenger informed the board that the IAASE Winter Conference would be held in Champaign this year instead of Springfield and all coordinators plan on attending. The Conference will take place February 21-23, 2024 at the Illinois Conference Center. She mentioned that the coordinators are discussing renting a Vrbo instead of hotel rooms to save money. Dr. Griffin mentioned that the IASA is talking about moving from Springfield also.

**AUDIT REPORT**

Mrs. Donna Haget summarized the Fiscal Year 23 Audit. She stated there were no issues with the audit. There were no questions.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT****Financial**

Mrs. Lenger provided the budget update. The percentage of funds expended in each area of the budget is reported. She stated she is keeping a close eye on CLIP/Journeys supply budgets, but overall we are on target for this time of the year.

**Personnel**

Mrs. Lenger informed the board she continues to look for substitutes and has asked her staff to share information with anyone they feel would be a good fit for our programs. Dr. Anderson suggested reaching out to local Universities to see if they have any students graduating in December that would be interested in subbing. Dr. Bowman suggested we send our postings out to our cooperating districts to post on their websites. Mrs. Lenger also informed the board the RBT resigned but she has a meeting today with another prospect for the position. She mentioned she has a current teacher interested in the behavior coach position for the next school year. She stated the teacher is great at behavior intervention. Mrs. Lenger also stated she is still looking for paraprofessionals. She mentioned she is very pleased with the Social Worker, SLP and OT she hired for this year and they are doing a great job.

**Current Programs**

Mrs. Lenger provided an enrollment update. She mentioned that there are currently a total of 44 students between all the programs. She stated there has been some movement of students at Journeys with the addition of a few students and the moving of one student out of district.

Mrs. Lenger reported to the board that the current OT caseload is very high. She stated that the new OTR, Kara Wolters, is working very hard with all COTAs to look at students they are dismissing and how they can service students differently. The COTAs are starting to work in groups and push into classrooms which is going well. Mrs. Lenger informed the board she may need to hire another COTA a couple of days a week. She mentioned they are starting to look at numbers to see what the need is. Dr. Griffin asked how overtime worked in this situation. Mrs. Lenger stated they are only working the hours the students are in attendance. Mrs. Lenger mentioned they are currently servicing 10-13 students a day.

**FOR DISCUSSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT****Memorandum of Agreement**

Mrs. Lenger informed the board she will be asking for approval of an agreement with the union to provide \$1000 reimbursement every other year for approved courses for non-certified staff working to receive their teaching degree as discussed last month. Mrs. Lenger stated the language is the same as certified staff except years of experience. In the current contract it states that certified staff have to have 4 years with Region III and in the MOA it states non-certified staff would have to have 2 years with Region III. Mr. Miller asked Mrs. Lenger how many certified staff request the tuition reimbursement and Mrs. Lenger stated she can't remember the last time reimbursement was requested.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Dr. Kevin Bowmen moved to go into closed session at 10:31 a.m. Dr. Pat Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 5-0. Motion carried. Dr. Kevin Bowmen moved to come out of closed session at 10:35 a.m. Mr. Todd Dugan seconded. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 5-0. Motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA/ACTION ITEMS**

Dr. Kevin Bowman moved to approve the consent agenda including the regular board minutes and monthly bills. Dr. Pat Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 5-0.

Dr. Jill Griffin moved to approve the FY23 Annual Financial Report. Mr. Todd Dugan seconded. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 5-0.

Mr. Todd Dugan moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement as presented. Dr. Jill Griffin seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 5-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Kevin Bowman moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:52am. Mr. Todd Dugan seconded. Motion carried with Members Voting, Aye-5, Nay-0.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting for the Region III Executive Board will be held on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 10:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie-Wieckhorst, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Rob Miller, Chairperson