

**REGION III SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE****EXECUTIVE MEETING****February 21, 2024****CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rob Miller, Chairperson at 10:03am. Roll was as follows:

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

**Not in attendance:**

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:** No visitors attended the meeting.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Mrs. Lenger shared with the board that she recognized Jenna Brown, 1st year teacher, for how she handled a sensitive issue with one of her students. Mrs. Lenger mentioned she received a phone call from Dr. Anderson stating that Ms. Brown is very professional and caring and wants what is best for her students.

Mrs. Lenger shared with the board the CPI Tidbits Newsletter to share with their staff members. She stated she is receiving positive feedback from her staff.

**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 still keeping a close eye on the supply budgets for CLIP and Journeys. She noted that \$29,000 has been expended for professional development thus far. She mentioned that Kara Williams, OTR, wants to improve the OT program and is very knowledgeable in this area.

**Personnel**

She informed the board that she has had to move some employees around to cover some challenging situations in classrooms.

She also mentioned she is starting to look at the needs for next school year. She stated she will have a Kindergarten classroom which will be housed at Bethalto consisting of 4 Bethalto students and 2 students from Bunker Hill. She plans to have a Transition classroom and is considering housing the classroom at Journeys to save money on rent. She stated she will need to add two more teachers to cover these programs, but mentioned the fifteen paraprofessionals on staff will cover the needs for all programs.

**Current Programs**

Mrs. Lenger provided an enrollment update. She mentioned that they currently have a Journeys student who is considering dropping out of school. The staff is working diligently to support the student to stay in school.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT****Seniority List 24-25 School Year**

Mrs. Lenger provided the board with Region III's seniority list for their review. She also stated she shared the list with the Union.

**Reduction In Force**

Mrs. Lenger informed the board that there will not be a need for issuing a reduction in force. She mentioned that she will need to add two teachers for next year. She also stated she will be asking for approval to hire a part-time COTA for the remainder of this year and will continue with us next school year. Dr. Griffin asked if the teaching positions have been posted yet. Mrs. Lenger informed her they had, but she has plans to move a couple of

paraprofessionals to teaching positions for the next school year once they complete their schooling. Dr. Griffin mentioned that representatives from McKendree University were speaking to staff today about their fast track program to become a teacher.

#### **Administrative Staff Salaries**

Mrs. Lenger provided the board with some options for the administrative staff salary increases. She stated she has evaluated the administrative staff and set goals with them. She stated she will be asking for 3% increases for the bookkeeper and the administrative assistant. She also stated she will be requesting that Katie's phone bill be reimbursed to her monthly. She stated that Katie actively monitors the alarm system and takes phone calls before and after hours for employees calling off and arranging for substitutes. Mr. Miller asked if Region III was negotiating this year and Mrs. Lenger informed him that we have negotiations next school year.

#### **Director's Evaluation and Contract**

Mrs. Lenger informed the board she has her evaluation and contract as an action item.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

Dr. Pat Anderson moved to enter into closed session at 10:18 a.m. Dr. Kevin Bowman seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 6-0. Motion carried. Dr. Kevin Bowman moved to come out of closed session at 10:48 a.m. Mr. Rob Miller seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 6-0. Motion carried.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA/ACTION ITEMS**

Dr. Pat Anderson moved to approve the consent agenda including the regular board minutes and monthly bills. Mr. Todd Dugan seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 6-0.

Dr. Kevin Bowman moved to approve the employment of part-time COTA, Alyson Varble, with an FTE of 0.6. Dr. Pat Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 6-0.

Dr. Pat Anderson moved to approve the Press Policy Update 113. Dr. Jill Griffin seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 6-0.

Mr. Todd Dugan moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement, Sick Day Donation to Paraprofessional who suffered a catastrophic illness. Dr. Jill Griffin seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes 6-0.

Mr. Todd Dugan moved to approve the administrative stipend increase of \$2000.00 for Kim Hood, program facilitator for Journeys, plus she will receive the certified staff schedule step plus \$200.00 for the 24-25 school year. Dr. Jill Griffin seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 6-0.

Dr. Jill Griffin made a motion to approve a 3% increase in Messina Lenger's salary and extend her contract for one year effective July 1, 2024. Dr. Kevin Bowman seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 6-0.

Dr. Jill Griffin moved to approve a 3% increase in the Administrative Assistant, Katie Wieckhorst, pay and reimbursement of her phone bill monthly effective July 1, 2024. Mr. Todd Dugan seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 6-0.

Dr. Pat Anderson moved to approve a 3% increase in the Bookkeeper, Melinda Kroeger, pay effective July 1, 2024. Dr. Jill Griffin seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 6-0.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Pat Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:58am. Dr. Jill Griffin seconded. Motion carried with Members Voting, Aye-6, Nay-0.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting for the Region III Executive Board will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 10:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Katie Wieckhorst, Administrative Assistant



Mr. Rob Miller, Chairperson