

EAST CENTRAL CENTER FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

MINUTES OF MEETING

October 28, 2020

The regular board meeting of East Central Center for Exceptional Children was held at East Central and via Zoom (video conference due to Covid-19 pandemic) on October 28, 2020 at 10:00 am.

Members Present: Jill Louters (by Zoom), Kris Kuehn, Jenna Helseth, Matt Lokemoen, D'Aulan Bussman (by Zoom), Avolt Baumbach, Robert Toso, Jordan Brown (by Zoom)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Helseth.

Others Present: Ashly Wolsky, Director; Susette Allmaras, Business Manager; Leah Thoms, ECEA Representative

Additions to Agenda: None

Minutes: A motion was made by Toso, seconded by Kuehn, to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2020 board meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Financial Report and Monthly Bills: Reviewed financial report and monthly bills. A motion was made by Louters, seconded by Toso, to approve the financials. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Kuehn, seconded by Bussman, to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried.

Director's Report:

ESSER \$3,000 Preschool Grant: Director Wolsky reported the ESSER Preschool Grant in the amount of \$3,000 was approved. The funds will be used for TEACCH training (Autism/Early Childhood) by the SLP, SLPP and Preschool teacher. Orton Gillinham Training (dyslexia) will be completed by NR-S Elementary teacher. Remaining funds will be used for preschool screening supplies.

Discretionary Transition Grant: Director Wolsky reported that she is in the process of completing a \$10,000 Discretionary Transition Grant which is due on October 30, 2020. The funds will be used for BOB events, self-advocacy, workplace readiness, transportation and speaker Brooks Harper, career development expert and interview coach.

Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund: Director Wolsky reported that she is working on a request for funds for an after school program and June school tutoring. The funds would cover staff, transportation and snacks to help with Covid regression for Special Education students. The amount available is \$100,000.

ND Health Insurance Trust: The Board discussed the need for more information on the Health Insurance Trust. Wolsky and Allmaras will be attending informational meetings on October 28 and 29.

Speech Program: Director Wolsky reported that effective October 12, 2020 Presence Learning began providing teletherapy speech services at Fessenden-Bowdon school due to staffing changes. LeDeidra Garcia-Wright, SLPP, is now serving New Rockford-Sheyenne School and Oberon School. She will also be serving as a paraprofessional approximately 5 hours per week at the Oberon School.

Board President's Report:

Teacher Meeting: A meet and confer meeting will be held with teachers on November 12, 2020 at 4:00. Board members Toso, Lokemoen and Helseth will meet with East Central teachers to discuss current concerns.

Items Recommended for Board Action:

New Member and Withdrawal Policies: Director Wolsky reported that Harvey Public School and Drake/Anamoose Public School have expressed verbal interest in joining the East Central Unit. The current New Member Policy and Withdrawal from the Unit Policy were reviewed. A motion was made by Toso and seconded by Louters to have the Administration review the policies and bring the recommendations to the next meeting. Motion carried.

Covid Leave: With some East Central staff being out of the office due to Covid, the question of Covid leave was brought to the Board. Director Wolsky will contact ND School Board Association to see if East Central falls under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act which requires certain employers to pay staff up to 80 hours of leave due to Covid-19 situations.

The next regular board meeting will be November 18, 2020 at 10:00 am at the East Central office. With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

Jenna Helseth, Board President

Susette R. Allmaras, Business Manager

Date approved