

EAST CENTRAL CENTER FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

East Central and New Rockford-Sheyenne School Board Members

November 22, 2021

An informal question and answer meeting was held at East Central Center for Exceptional Children on November 22, 2021.

East Central Members Present: Jenna Helseth, Robert Toso

NR-S Members Present: Patti Larson, Mike Jacobson

Others Present: Dave Skogen, NR-S Business Manager, Renae Duchscherer, EC Business Manager, Nathan Price, Megan Thompson, Chelsea Aljets, Stuart Richter and Ashly Wolsky.

Call to Order: Meeting began at 1:24 pm.

Meeting Discussion/Questions

The purpose of this meeting was to get the questions and issues out on the table, so that both boards may come up with solutions.

Patty Larson had several questions regarding East Central Teacher negotiated contracts, the current level of difficulty filling Special Education jobs, East Central Budgeting Process, reimbursements for students.

Jenna Helseth explained the difficulty in our negotiated contracts, and the question as to the pay of our teachers. We have 6 different school districts, so negotiating a fair pay scale within our Unit has to take into consideration the pay scales of all schools, not just the district the teacher may be working in.

East Central's budget was lowered this year due to COVID funds and grants, including a grant to cover majority of Transition Coordinator's Salary.

Possible arbitration or mediation was suggested by Robert Toso and suggested a couple options, in hopes we could remedy the situation.

The assessment process was explained by Jenna Helseth. It is based on each school's total enrollment, tax valuation and the costs that are directly chargeable to each school.

It was noted that Special Education is federally mandated.

Schools have to have a Director with credentials.

It was mutually agreed that no one wants to put kids at risk.

It was noted that this issue has been ongoing for many years. We need to look at the constant and what is broken, as East Central has had 3 different directors throughout those years.

With no further discussion, meeting was adjourned.

Meeting was adjourned with the next meeting date to be December 15, 2021 following regular Board Meeting.Minu

Jenna Helseth, Board President

Renaë Duchscherer, Business Manager

Date approved