



EAST CENTRAL CENTER FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

MINUTES OF MEETING

March 5th, 2024

The board meeting of East Central Center for Exceptional Children was held 3.5.24

Members Present: Jenna Helseth- Carrington Board President, Kent Dennis- Fessenden, Matt Lokemoen- Kensal, Natalie Becker- New Rockford-Sheyenne, Janelle Helm- Carrington, Amber Krapp- Pingree-Buchanan, Jordon Brown-Oberon.

Zoom: Alyson Myhre- New Rockford.

Absent:

Others Present: Ashly Wolsky- East Central Director, Melanie Quinton- East Central Business Manager, Chelsea Aljets, Teacher representative.

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am by Board President Mrs. Helseth and a quorum was established.

Additions/Change to Agenda:

Minutes: January Board Minutes were presented and reviewed. A motion was made by Kent Dennis, seconded by Janelle Helm to approve the minutes of the January 17th, 2024, Board Meeting. With no further discussion, motion carried.

Policy Committee: Policy Committee Meeting Minutes were presented and reviewed. A motion was made by Janelle Helm, seconded by Amber Krapp to approve January 25th Policy Committee Meeting Minutes. No further discussion motion carried.

Financial Report: The Financial Report was reviewed. A motion was made by Kent Dennis, seconded by Jordon Brown to approve the January 2024 Financial Report as presented. With no further discussion, motion carried.

Bills Payable: February bills payables were presented and reviewed. A motion was made by Amber Krapp, seconded by Janelle Helm to approve February 2024 bills payable. No further discussion motion carried.

II. REPORTS TO BOARD

Directors Report:

- Regional Directors meeting January 24th in Valley City.
 - VSCU Director provided program overview.
 - Enrolling Fall 2024.
 - Funding options.
 - Other programs statewide.
 - Discussion was held on the program and what students would benefit.
 - Law Conference in Jamestown, ND February 1st & 2nd.
 - Takeaways shared with Board and case managers.
 - Discussion was held on shortened days and legal requirements.
 - Discussion on virtual days and IEP requirements.
 - Discussion on buses and documentation in IEP and parent communication.
 - Discussion on related services, and communication with parents and other staff.
 - Manifestation meetings within the 10 day and a BIP.
 - Staffing shortages were addressed and encouraged communication with community.
 - Director attended State Director Meeting on February 8th, 2024.
 - Corrective action recommended from ND DPI from a State Complaint (email sent).
 - Amendments must have a Notice of Meeting and/or a team meeting to discuss changes (Feb 2023 to Feb 2024).
 - Director to attend the SD BHSU Teacher Recruitment Fair February 29th. Ashly noted that the competition and incentives are big at other places.
- JOIN OUR TEAM:
- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xCxpDbPwNOYFaG4PvVfbnUCx9sGZEAfu8Bb8a4GvXdE/edit?usp=sharing>
- Pre Application Form:
- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sYegm_EcrA0W1H0JjhZmR4FGzPXeL4iuWSaDp2DsSoE/edit?usp=sharing
- ND TieNet Work Group put on hold due to Superintendent Baesler's recommendation to modernize STARS; ND DPI is unsure how that will impact other programs such as TieNet.
 - GoalBook Training for Carrington and NRS case managers and SLPA's.
 - March 20th 2-5 p.m. in Jamestown, ND.
 - In-person training and exploration.
 - Pilot Program.
 - Birth to 3 years and into vocational skills (prek-12).
 - GoalBook is not a Goal bank—it is individualized.

- Director to attend CEC National Conference March 13-16 San Antonio, Texas. Ashly discussed costs associated with this conference, paying up to \$2000 out of pocket. Kent Dennis discussed his cost to a similar conference costing over \$4000. Jenna noted the discussion for board action can be brought up for the next meeting regarding covering these out of pocket costs. Other schools' policies were discussed on what is covered for conferences. Carrington: every 3 years: \$2750 cap. PBK: not part of the contract, but Amber noted it is paid if requested. Fessenden: every other year fully covered. New Rockford: is per request. Valley City: annually with no cap. Wahpeton: every 4 years fully covered. Jamestown: every year no cap. Upper Valley & Northern Cass are annual with no cap. Jenna is proposing \$3000 not including meals at the state rate and transportation. Jordon Brown suggested Travel, hotel, registration, per diem every other year if funds are available. Janelle Helm mentioned she would not attend an conference that was over \$1000 out of pocket.

- Statewide Director meeting to be held in Carrington on March 21st Chieftain (20 directors Statewide).

- Behavioral Health Grant Update from ND DPI:

- ND DPI will pull Medicaid match in April for preliminary for summer grant writing (July 1).
- July ND DPI will provide a final total for the rest of the amount (must apply for monies).
- Grant Deadline for Behavioral Health Grant for 2023-24 March 31st.
- Grant contract is 1 year.
- Hopefully the April date will provide you with $\frac{3}{4}$ of the funding to help plan better for the following year.

- SSIP: PIER Tool will not be in Cognia this year, but rather a survey tool will be given to directions that will require reflective input (rolling out in March, and due end of the school year).

- Early Warning Intervention and Monitoring Systems: EWIMS (geared for junior high level) available to districts if interested to improve graduation rates (see ND DPI if your district is interested in EWIMS).

- Upcoming Preschool Screenings: *NEW online sign up, with paperwork download and digital upload!*

- Carrington Preschool: 2/21 1-3 p.m.
- Carrington Church Preschool: 2/22: 8:30-11:30p.m.
- Carrington Preschool: 2/22 1-3 p.m.
- NRS Preschool: 2/23 8:30-2:30p.m.
- PB Preschool: 3/26 9-2 p.m.
- Kensal Preschool: 4/9 9:30-11:30a.m.
- Oberon Kindergarten: 4/11 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- FB Preschool: 4/12 9:30-11:30 a.m.

-Night to Shine 2024: Harvey, ND.

<https://timtebowfoundation.org/night-to-shine/>

Night to Shine Photos: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eusNdl6wluCFH9i8_OgMjo-WouZwNtvshuOH0MjLwPs/edit?usp=sharing

-Medicaid: State Plan and Feds pushing for Medicaid billing for mental/behavioral health (school psych). Tara Hanson is the only School Psych we have right now, last year we did 60 evaluations total and this year we are already up to 54 with more coming through. Tara noted to Ashly she is doing more full evaluations vs individual ones. These numbers do not include the preschool screenings that are currently happening.

-Increases in referrals for special education assessments:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kv2RHjM0F21LwlOpK3dBBZHk7-oFwHEEfWNY8L7sDf0/edit?usp=sharing>

Board President report:

III. OTHER

Thank you—donation from Fessenden-Bowdon from First Lutheran Church, Christmas Mass (BOB, tux, and personal items) \$600+.

Thank you—donation from Carrington Lion's Club \$500.

Spartan Nash, labels approximately \$100.

IV. ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:

- Director's Evaluation. A motion was made by Kent Dennis, seconded by Amber Krapp to approve Ashly Wolsky's Evaluation. No further discussion motion carried. Based on the comments from the Directors Evaluation, the comments and responses are listed below:
 - **Review Comment:** If possible, I would like to see some other types of social/emotional activities introduced either alongside or in place of the Princess Party Pals. I feel like the program is geared toward girls and we are missing the opportunity to reach our boys in this age group. Ashly's Response: Ashly noted about Princess Party Pals and Ashly reached out to the Presenter and recommended Universal Characters. She is currently working on Pete the Car, and most recently presented as a pirate and the Ugly Duckly. Open to suggestions from the Board of any additional social emotional training or presentations.
 - **Review Comment:** I did not give an unsatisfactory in this area but would still like to comment. I do not feel as though I can provide an accurate assessment of this performance as I am not in a building. I do however hear through the grapevine that we do not have a lot of visits from our director. I don't know how one goes about basing an adequate amount of time that the director should be in each building, but it has been brought to my attention that there has been an absence when the presence of the director would have been helpful or appropriate. Ashly's Response: Director Wolsky commented about

the lack of appropriate and professional office space available NRS as an administrator, and the lack of internet access which impedes her ability to do her job fully. Director Wolsky attends meetings, provides coaching, and completes observations at NRS but utilizes EC's home office also in NRS where she attends meetings and has the appropriate space and tools to do the job.

- President Helseth notes there was 6 out of 8 board members who completed the directors evaluation.
- The evaluation tool being used was discussed as it doesn't list board members names on the final document. Fessenden uses the Rocky Mountain tool as does Carrington and it is a good tool.

- DDAA Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Policy (1st reading). A motion was made by Amber Krapp, seconded by Janelle Helm to approve DDAA Policy. No further discussion motion carried.
- DDAA-BR Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Regulations (1st reading). A motion was made by Kent Dennis, seconded by Janelle Helm to approve DDAA-BR Policy. No further discussion motion carried. Withdrawn due to needing DDAA to have a final and second reading.
- Approval of Roberta (Bobbi) Gleason's teaching contract for the 2024-25 school year @ Oberon Public School (see attachment). A motion was made by Jordan Brown, seconded by Matt Lokemoen to approve Roberta Gleason's teaching contract. No further discussion motion carried.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Next Board Meeting date: Wednesday, March 20th, 2024.

Upcoming Policy committee meeting Tuesday, March 5th, 2024.


Mrs. Helseth, Board President


Melanie Quinton, Business Manager

3-20-24
Date Approved