



EAST CENTRAL CENTER FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

MINUTES OF MEETING

7.17.23

The special board meeting of East Central Center for Exceptional Children was held 7.17.23

Members Present: Jenna Helseth- Carrington Board President, Alyson Myhre- New Rockford, Janelle Helm- Carrington, Kent Dennis- Fessenden

Zoom: Natalie Becker- New Rockford-Sheyenne, Amber Krapp- Pingree-Buchanan, Matt Lokemoen- Kensal, Jordon Brown-Oberon,

Absent:

Others Present: Ashly Wolsky- East Central Director, Melanie Quinton- East Central Business Manager, Laura Risovi, Teacher representative

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:01 by Board President Mrs. Helseth and a quorum was established.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION

• **Benefits for Paraprofessionals:** Mrs. Helseth opened the floor for discussion to offer health insurance to paraprofessionals. Alyson Myhre made a motion to offer a single policy, seconded by Janelle Helm. Alyson Myhre mentioned if anything could be lowered on the budget to make up for the extra cost. Mrs. Helseth mentioned we were previously discussing lowering the mills so that gives us a little cushion. Director Wolsky spoke that the budget is tight and the only way to cut the budget would be cutting positions such as social worker and transition coordinator, but it would end up being a small, shared cost. And all other positions are required by law. Director Wolsky spoke of the benefits from the transition coordinator and the fact that this position is covered by a grant. Jordan Brown asked if it could be a direct cost to the districts for the paras that are working in those districts. Director Wolsky discussed direct billing from the perspective of the finance committee and noted costs would go up no matter what. Mrs. Helseth spoke on the finance committee and the outcomes of many scenarios that were run. Director Wolsky noted of more resignations that are coming in over the summer. Discussion was held on the budget and fund balance and the need for the high need students coming up in the school year. Mrs. Helseth brought Laura Risovi into the discussion asking to share. Laura Risovi noted over the years she has taught that we have lost many good staff due to the lack of benefits. Jordon Brown noted the financial impact on his district being the small size.

Role call vote:

Kent Dennis: Yes

Jordon Brown: No

Matt Lokemoen: No

Alyson Myhre: Yes

Natalie Becker: Yess

Jenelle Helm: Yes

Amber Krapp: Yes
Jenna Helseth: Yes
Motion passes 6 to 2.

- Paraprofessional Rates and Sub Rates (2 years) \$14.50 current, increase to \$14.88 with the 3.38%. Kent Dennis moves to raise 3.38% increase to para rates, Janelle Helm seconded. Kent Dennis discussed he gave a competitive pay raise in Fessenden. Director Wolsky noted that \$14.50 is a small wage and the \$14.88 is a better rate to start offering. Mrs. Helseth and Kent discussed \$15 is the average starting rate in the communities at other places. Kent Dennis would like to amend his motion to \$15 an hour and seconded by Janelle Helm, making it a 3.5% wage increase. With no further discussion a role call vote was held.

Role Call Vote
Kent Dennis: Yes
Jordon Brown: No
Matt Lokemoen: Yes
Alyson Myhre: Yes
Natalie Becker: Yes
Jenelle Helm: Yes
Amber Krapp: Yes
Jenna Helseth: Yes
Motion passes 7 to 1.

- 2023-24 Budget (draft) – No discussion held. Updates will be entered by Melanie Quinton and presented at the August board meeting for final approval by the board.

- Teacher Contracts: Megan Thompson step error on previous contract, Alyson Myhre made a motion to approve Megan's contract, Janelle Helm seconded. All approved, motion carried.

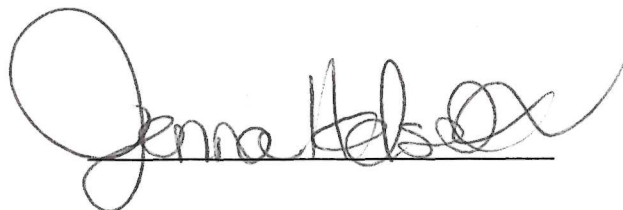
- Audit bid proposals: Widmer Roel & Brady Martz. Kent Dennis made a motion to approve Widmer Roel as our auditor, seconded by Matt Lokemoen. With no further discussion. All approved, motion carried.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

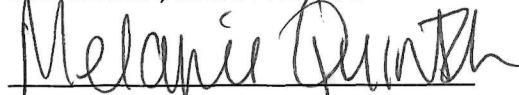
Next Board Meeting, August 10th @ 1pm

- Budget

Meeting adjourned at 10:15



Mrs. Helseth, Board President



Melanie Quinton, Business Manager

8.10.2023

Date approved