



## **EAST CENTRAL CENTER FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN**

### **MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

**June 17th, 2024**

**The board meeting of East Central Center for Exceptional Children was held 6.17.24.**

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

**Absent:** Matt Lokemoen- Kensal, Jordon Brown-Oberon, Amber Krapp- Pingree-Buchanan

**Others Present:** Ashly Wolsky- East Central Director, Melanie Quinton- East Central Business Manager, Elizabeth Ihiringer, Teacher representative

The meeting was called to order at 10:14 am by Board President Mrs. Helseth and a quorum was established.

A motion was made by Kent Dennis and seconded by Natalie Becker to approve the May 14th, 2024, board minutes. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

A motion was made by Alyson Myhre and seconded by Janelle Helm to approve the June 2024 Financial Report as presented. President Helseth asked about the grant revenue accounts. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

A motion was made by Janelle Helm and seconded by Kent Dennis to approve June 2024 bills payable. No further discussion, the motion carried.

Director Wolsky gave an update on staffing, all positions in Carrington and across the unit have been filled. NRS position is filled by a 2<sup>nd</sup> year Resident Teacher, but we are still advertising for a licensed teacher on unpaid advertising sites.

PIER Tool was discussed by Director Wolsky stating she submitted it on 4/18/24 and it was approved.

Direct Wolsky gave an update on the NDTSS Mentor programming, we have 2 teachers being mentored by Megan Thompson (NRS). Rosie Mozelle (Carrington) and Kristen Ekren (Kensal), there is no additional cost to the Unit/districts for this mentoring program.

Director Wolsky gave an update on the Indicators 7 and 12 that were submitted to ND DPI (Early Childhood indicators) EC was the first to get them submitted.

Director Wolsky attended the Summer Institute in Bismarck on June 11th and 12th. We were recognized as one of the top units in graduation rates.

Behavioral Health Grant closed and was submitted for the 2023-24 school year, most of the funds were used to purchase the Autism STAR Program and training.

Autism Star Training is August 7th and 8th with a virtual 2-day training. Training costs will be shared with Upper Valley Special Ed Unit (15 spots). We will train our case managers, SLPA, SLPP, and RT.

Safety Care 'train the trainers' is June 3rd in Jamestown. Our trainers Megan Thompson and Rosie Mozelle take the recertification training yearly at a cost of \$1750 per trainer. They train and provide recertification to staff in our unit. Training dates are as follows:

- Fessenden/Bowden, Pingree-Buchanan, Kensal, Oberon: August 12th (EC)
- Carrington: August 13th (Carrington)
- New Rockford: August 14th (EC)

GoalBook training is being held August 12th, virtually for staff from Carrington & NRS if they have missed it or need a boost in the training are required to attend. Staff have been notified.

ABEL in School a curriculum we will be using for regular and special ed students. Ashly submitted a grant application through the Bergum foundation to cover costs. Training to follow for our PE teacher in Carrington. The cost to the district is \$1,119 for 1 year. There are also 3-year subscriptions: 3 year subscription: year 1-\$1,199, year 2-\$1,080, year 3-\$1,020.

IDEA B and Preschool grant has been submitted for the 2024-25 school year. We will update the child count in December. Here are the funds that were awarded to us for the 2024-25 school year: \$407,361.14 (Increased \$6,587.48). Preschool: 2024-25: \$15,014.74 (Increase of \$268.23).

The school psychologist, Tara Hanson, who services our unit has been busy this year, as she services multiple units. The director at Lake Region Special Ed Unit, Rhandi Knutson, stated that there will be a cost increase from the current school year due to the increase of assessments and need for testing material. In addition to a cost increase for the 2024-25 school year. Director Wolsky is also looking into our current staff to see if there is a way to assist Mrs. Hanson with assessments or if there is an online or virtual option. Potentially bringing a part-time employee for classroom observations is another option.

Janelle Helm made a motion, and Kent Dennis seconded to approve the 2nd reading of policy BDBB: Retaining an Attorney. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Kent Dennis made a motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> and final reading of C-250: Staff Release RIF, and Alyson Myhre seconded to approve the changing of words in the policy from 15 months to 9 months and 15 days to 2 business days unless otherwise approved by the director. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Janelle Helm made a motion to approve the teaching contract for McKenzie Davis (Carrington Jr. HS position), Natalie Becker seconded to approve. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Vision benefits for staff were discussed. An option was presented to the board with a lower cost to staff/unit through NDPHIT with similar benefits. This option would move the staff from AVESIS to NDPHIT Vision. Kent Dennis made a motion to approve the new NDPHIT Vision plan, Alyson Myhre seconded to approve. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Janelle Helm made a motion to approve the business manager 1 year work agreement at \$29 an hour with 12 days of sick leave and 12 days of vacation leave increase from 10. Alyson Myhre seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Janelle Helm made a motion to approve the 2024-25 Budget, Kent Dennis seconded. Discussion was had on EC lowering Mills and how they affect the budget and the impact on districts. Another discussion was on reimbursement to districts if the fund balance long term continues to grow or to take out a CD to grow some interest. Discussion was held on high out of cost students and positions that have been eliminated in the past, social worker or school counselor, transition coordinator, is covered by grant, but if that grant no longer comes available it would be a cost to the unit. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Thank you notes were presented from staff for a retirement gift and students who received items to be college/career ready through the Choice Ready Grant.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40am

Next Board Meeting date: August 12th, 2024, 10:00am.

Policy committee will reconvene in the Fall, new member needed.



Mrs. Helseth, Board President



Melanie Quinton, Business Manager

8-12-24  
Date Approved

