



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

### **MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

**May 14th, 2024**

**The board meeting of East Central Center for Exceptional Children was held 5.14.24.**

**Members Present:** Board President, Jenna Helseth- Carrington, Kent Dennis- Fessenden, Matt Lokemoen- Kensal, Janelle Helm- Carrington, Alyson Myhre- New Rockford, Jordon Brown-Oberon

**Absent:**

**Zoom:** Amber Krapp- Pingree-Buchanan, Natalie Becker- New Rockford-Sheyenne

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am by Board President Mrs. Helseth and a quorum was established.

Widmer Roel met via zoom and explained the audit results. A draft copy of the audit was emailed to the board of directors to view.

April board minutes were presented and reviewed. A motion was made by Kent Dennis and seconded by Jordan Brown to approve the April 17th, 2024, board minutes. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

The policy minutes from April 30<sup>th</sup> were presented and reviewed. A motion was made by Janelle Helm, and Kent Dennis seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

The Financial Report was reviewed. A motion was made by Kent Dennis, and seconded by Janelle Helm to approve the May 2024 Financial Report as presented. President Helseth asked about NRS rent and student contract bills. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

April bills payable were presented and reviewed. A motion was made by Matt Lokemoen and seconded by Jordan Brown to approve May 2024 bills payable. No further discussion, the motion carried.

**Director's report:**

Director Wolsky updated the board on staffing for the 2024-2025 school year. Carrington and New Rockford-Sheyenne have special education teacher openings. New Rockford - Sheyenne's will be filled with a 2nd year Resident Teacher with additional case management provided if a more qualified candidate is not found. Carrington has an immediate paraprofessional opening.

Director Wolsky has completed transition coordinator evaluation and shared with the employee and board president.

Director Wolsky discussed the PIER Tool which was submitted on 4/18/24.

Director Wolsky explained how the Discretionary Grant of \$10,000 will be used. It includes teacher retention and paperwork time.

Director Wolsky also discussed that spring staffing meetings programming and planning for the 2024-25 school year have taken place in the schools. She is waiting on a few school schedules but looks set for next year.

In addition, Director Wolsky reported Indicator 8: Parent Surveys. She is encouraging case managers to continue sending them out for completion. Wolsky stated that we are a little lower than we have been in past years.

Director Wolsky plans to attend ND DPI State Directors meeting on 5/9/24. It will include the year end wrap up and summer initiatives updates.

Director Wolsky attended GoalBook Training on 5/6/24. She discussed the Pilot program we are using in Carrington and New Rockford. Director Wolsky noted that she encouraged case managers to continue using it as it will help make IEPs more effective and compliant.

Director's Meeting: Thursday, May 8th—Laura Booth was cancelled.

Director to attend Summer Institute-Bismarck, ND: June 11th and 12<sup>th</sup>.

Behavioral Health projections for the 2024-25 school year, 4th quarter allocations were listed. Director Wolsky asked that board members let her know if they plan to keep the funds or if they would like her to research spending opportunities.

- Carrington: \$17,303.70
- Fessenden-Bowdon: 9,414.98
- Kensal: \$323.50
- New Rockford-Sheyenne: \$12,368.36
- Oberon: \$266.07
- Pingree-Buchanan: \$0

Director summer hours: Director Wolsky will submit any grants that are due for the 2024-25 school year before the end of the 2023-24 school year.

Special Education Levels of Determination Meets Requirement: Director Wolsky stated that she likes to see green on all of them, but some of the red is going to happen due to different factors. Each school was given their results. Different factors were discussed, including dropout rates, 60 day guidelines and different areas we will always be addressing.

Draft budget discussion: Director Wolsky gave an update on the budget assumptions and some of the items that will change for the 2024-25 school year. Also discussed was new hire para training and how it will take place in the time frame of waiting for fingerprints to come back. This will ensure new paras have training they need prior to entering the classroom with students. Mariah Weber will transition to Preschool position. We will contract services from our previous teacher for preschool screenings. High cost students were discussed and their transportation plans for next year. Director Wolsky asked if we need to budget for any potential new students that may come into the unit. Alyson Myhre mentioned that we could start saving 50% towards the potential. Board President Helseth discussed the fund balance and how it effects the different line items. Alyson Myhre asked if there was any students graduating out of high cost. Ages of students were discussed for upcoming years. We are obligated for all students age 3-21 and we have 8 students. Kent Dennis and Jordan Brown discussed the fund balance and carry over and it is better to have a cushion versus needing funds and not having the funds, in response to not lower mills. IDEA B grant is anticipated to stay the same. Building updates were discussed. It has been 7 years since Director Wolsky started and no building updates have been done.

Jordan Brown made a motion, and Kent Dennis seconded the motion to approve the 1st reading of policy BDBB: Retaining an Attorney. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

C-250: Staff Release RIF: The final paragraph was discussed that 15 months was a long timeframe, possibly moving it to 6 or 9 months. Also the days were discussed. A formal motion was made for it to read: Kent Dennis moves 15 months to 9 months, 15 days to 2 business days unless otherwise approved by the director. Jordan Brown seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried. Second reading will be in June.

ESY Teacher Contracts: Director Wolsky noted that they are work agreements. ESY hours will be submitted to the district. It was determined that ESY work agreements do not need to be approved by the board. Megan will be unit wide, Lindsay in Fessenden, and Bobbi in Oberon. Speech will be covered by Erin in Carrington and Oberon.

Paraprofessional wage rates: President Helseth discussed the rate increase for teachers from last year and the fact that paras did not get a rate increase budgeted for them this year. Director Wolsky mentioned that we have had 2 empty positions for the entire year, and possibly a wage increase to encourage new hires. Janelle Helm made a motion for a base para rate and para sub rate from \$15.00 to \$15.50 and will filter into every paras wage, and Kent Dennis seconded. With no further discussion a roll call vote was held.

Jordan Brown: No

Kent Dennis: Yes

Jenna Helseth: Yes  
Janelle Helm: Yes  
Alyson Myhre: Yes  
Natalie Becker: Yes  
Matt Lokemoen: No  
Amber Krapp: Yes  
With 6 to 2, the motion carried.

Paraprofessionals, Transition Coordinator, SLPA, SLPP, wage increase: Director Wolsky recommends 2.83% rate increase. Natalie Becker made a motion to approve a 2.83% hourly rate increase for the paraprofessionals, transition coordinator, SLPA and SLPP, Janelle Helm seconded. A role call vote was held:

Kent Dennis: Yes  
Jenna Helseth: Yes  
Janelle Helm: Yes  
Alyson Myhre: Yes  
Natalie Becker: Yes  
Matt Lokemoen: No  
Amber Krapp: Yes  
Jordan Brown: No  
With 6 to 2, the motion carried.

Licensed Substitute proposed wage increase: Kent Dennis made a motion to move the substitute rate to \$170 dollars a day. Janelle Helm seconded. With no further discussion, a role call vote was held:

Jenna Helseth: Yes  
Janelle Helm: Yes  
Alyson Myhre: Yes  
Natalie Becker: Yes  
Matt Lokemoen: Yes  
Amber Krapp: Yes  
Jordan Brown: Yes  
Kent Dennis: Yes  
With 8 to 0, the motion carried.

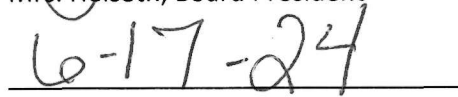
The meeting adjourned at 12:23 pm.

Next Board Meeting date: Monday, June 17th, 2024, 10:00am.

Policy committee will reconvene in the Fall.



Mrs. Helseth, Board President



Date Approved



Melanie Quinton, Business Manager