MINUTES OF GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

WILLIAMSON COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT

March 22, 2024

Regular WCES Conference Room 7:30 A.M.

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GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT ABSENT

Kathy Clark, Unit 1 Chris Cullum, Unit 1

Becky Moss, Unit 2 John Killman, Unit 3

Sy Stone, Unit 3

Nathaniel Wilson, Unit 4

Keith Liddell, Unit 5

Jared Garrison, Unit 2

Steve Robinson, Unit 4

David Schwartz, Unit 5 Via Zoom

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Jami Hodge

Jenny Malanowski, Treasurer

Kristi White, WCEA Representative

Chairman Kathy Clark called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Roll call was taken with Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Moss, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Liddell, Mr. Garrison, and Mr. Schwartz were in attendance. Mr. Stone entered the Executive Board meeting at 7:35 a.m. and Mr. Robinson entered the meeting at 7:36 a.m.

There was no visitor participation.

Mrs. Clark recognized Mrs. Hodge for director’s remarks:

**PreK**

* Requested local match
* PreK for All Public and Community Grants has had no increase since 2019. 2012-2019 small increases were made
* 1% increase for salaries – 16 Teachers and 16 Assistants, 1 Coordinator and 3 Family Support Specialists
* State wants local match to be more
* Birth to three still receives services
* WCECC receives gold circle ratings (highest honor)
* Grant is $2 million but this goes to salaries
* Monitoring – not scheduled at this time
* Screenings conducted monthly
* Herrin numbers were unusually lower
* Herrin changing PreK structure in District Program
* Carterville numbers are higher – they have a district center
* Numbers of children being referred to special ed has increased at an alarming rate
* EC Team – Pre pandemic numbers 45-50 kids screened
* 102 EC Kids screened to date this year
* Child Count – December 5. Funds are received the following year
* Referrals come after December 5
* JC numbers decreased due to excellent work on RTI and making changes on how students are identified

**Special Education**

* Budget expected to jump. Year 2 of negotiation
* .90 increase for starting salary for paras FY25
* IL Central increase
* Need 7 additional certified staff members, classroom, speech
* Worker’s comp rates expected to jump $100,000
* Working on how to decrease Worker’s Comp Claims – lowering classroom sizes, hands off approach
* EC numbers growing
* Lack community resources – Available options are: Stress and Trauma Center, Hope Clinic, Menta Group. Hopeful for more options
* Currently have 352 people on staff. Next year 362
* Hired 24 additional para positions
* Enrollment trends – Longitudinal Trend data presented
* Poverty rates discussed
* Significant disabilities are on the rise
* EE codes and inclusion in gen ed as much as possible
* Consequences of not following the law regarding EE codes discussed
* Co-teaching is proven effective but costly
* Graduation rates

**CTE**

* Grant pays for $500,000
* Trades are coming back and less push for college bound
* Can use the grant money to offset costs for personnel

Mr. Wilson made the motion to accept the minutes of the last Governing Board meeting on September 8, 2023, as presented. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Moss.

Members Clark, Moss, Stone, Wilson, Liddell, Garrison, Robinson and Schwartz voted “yea”. Motion carried.

Mrs. Moss made the motion to accept the employment of personnel by the Executive Board September 2023 through February 2024 as presented in Attachment 2. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, Members Clark, Moss, Stone, Wilson, Liddell, Garrison, Robinson and Schwartz voted “yea”. Motion carried.

Mr. Wilson made the motion to accept the Re-employment of WCES Certified Staff for 2024-2025 school year as presented. Mrs. Moss seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, Members Clark, Moss, Stone, Wilson, Liddell, Garrison, Robinson and Schwartz voted “yea”. Motion carried.

Mr. Garrison made the motion to accept the Re-employment of WCES Non-Certified Staff for the 2024-2025 school year as presented. Mr. Stone seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, Members Clark, Moss, Stone, Wilson, Liddell, Garrison, Robinson and Schwartz voted “yea”. Motion carried.

Mr. Stone made the motion to accept the Re-employment of WCECC Certified Staff for the 2024-2025 school year as presented. Mrs. Moss seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, Members Clark, Moss, Stone, Wilson, Liddell, Garrison, Robinson and Schwartz voted “yea”. Motion carried.

Mr. Stone made the motion to accept the Re-employment of WCECC Non-Certified Staff for the 2024-2025 school year as presented. Mr. Garrison seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, Members Clark, Moss, Stone, Wilson, Liddell, Garrison, Robinson and Schwartz voted “yea”. Motion carried.

Mr. Stone made the motion to accept the minutes of WCES Executive Committee September 2023 through February 2024 as presented. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion.

Members Clark, Moss, Stone, Wilson, Liddell, Garrison, Robinson and Schwartz voted “yea”. Motion carried.

Mr. Stone made the motion to accept the minutes of the WCECC Executive Committee September 2023 through February 2024 as presented. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion.

Members Clark, Moss, Stone, Wilson, Liddell, Garrison, Robinson and Schwartz voted “yea”. Motion carried.

Mr. Stone made the motion to accept the minutes of the WCTE Board of Control September 2023 through February 2024 as presented. Mr. Garrison seconded the motion.

Members Clark, Moss, Stone, Wilson, Liddell, Garrison, Robinson and Schwartz voted “yea”. Motion carried.

No Questions or Miscellaneous Information.

Mr. Stone made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion.

Members Clark, Moss, Stone, Wilson, Liddell, Garrison, Robinson and Schwartz voted “yea”. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 a.m.

MINUTES ATTESTED TO:

Kathy Clark, Chairman Jared Garrison, Secretary