

MINUTES OF GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
WILLIAMSON COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT

March 5, 2021

Regular

Herrin Administrative Offices

7:45 A.M.

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT

ABSENT

Kathy Clark, Unit 1

Chris Cullum, Unit 1

Keith Oates, Unit 2

Mark Collins, Unit 4

Derek Hutchins, Unit 3

Terry Ryker, Unit 4

Keith Liddell, Unit 5

Cindy Gibbons, Unit 2

Chris Blumenstock, Unit 3

David Schwartz, Unit 5

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Jami Hodge

Jenny Malanowski

Durenda Fuchs, WCEA

Chairman Kathy Clark called the meeting to order at 7:45 a.m.

Roll call was taken with Mrs. Clark, Dr. Oates, Mr. Hutchins, Dr. Ryker, Mr. Liddell, Ms. Gibbons, Mr. Blumenstock, and Mr. Schwartz present.

There was no visitor participation.

Director's Report:

PreK:

Preschool for All – competitive grant discussed as well as local contributions. Money has been flowing well and no bank loan at this time. RIF hearing earlier this morning.

-Little Lions PreK Center described as amazing and was a spotlight from the ROE newsletter. Several entities have contacted them to tour the building

-COVID & PreK has been okay. PreK staff have kids all day, a.m. and p.m. sessions except for the remote planning day in their district. The Ready Rosie Program is used for remote students. Some teachers are livestreaming.

Special Education

-Funding – 60% of funds/budget come from local monies. EBF levels discussed as well as freezing EBF from FY '17. December count is significantly lower based on enrollment. 125 less students

-Child count data is good. The system put in place is more accurate. This calls for more work for entering data in SIS. Decline in enrollment affects the next two years funding. If students come back in August; no funding for those students for two years.

-Budget last year to this year is up 8%. The bus contract went up and will continue to go up over the next two years. Most of the WCES budget is salary and benefits. Increasing in minimum wage with over 100 hourly employees will be significant. Health insurance went up 2.9%. Anticipate health insurance increase. WCES pays 75% of premium of any plan.

-Now each district has two grants apiece which makes it a little more difficult to share expenses.

-Transportation is a big cost. Budget is anticipated with four MCATs; however, this year we have only received two. WCES can no longer get a loan for transportation to cover costs. Now, the option is to borrow money from districts and pay when the funds are received; however, that could be the following year.

-COVID – Special Education had been meeting with students all days except the remote learning day, rather than the A/B schedule.

-Diagnostic/Therapists have offered to meet parents in the afternoon to help with in-person therapy.

-360 COVID-related absences have been tracked; however, this week there are only two persons out for COVID reasons, so numbers are declining

-Grow Your Own teachers will be graduating soon

-New legislation is being proposed to keep a student in school through their 22nd birthday; however, teachers are certified from 3-21 and what is the cut-off if a birthday is in August. Also, if all students come out in June, our adult service programs will have more difficulty placing them rather than spacing those efforts out. Increased legislation with unfunded mandates

-Timelines have been a struggle due to staff out for possibly 30 days; kids out for COVID absences. Districts will get indicators. Staff are documenting the reason.

CTE:

-Allocations and money for staff supplies have been given to department heads. Departments have been doing well with spending their allotted money and communication has been very good with department heads.

-CTE grants does not fund CTE. Some salaries are offset but how they choose to spend the money is dependent on the department chairs and through the chain of command for approvals.

-Common misconception is asking for more money after the monies have been allocated for the year.

-Dual credit has a lot of criteria and apprenticeship programs when finished have to have in-person hours

Mr. Blumenstock made the motion to accept the minutes of the last Governing Board meeting on September 18, 2020, as presented. Motion was seconded by Mr. Schwartz.

Members Clark, Oates, Hutchins, Ryker, Liddell, Gibbons, Blumenstock, and Schwartz voted “yea”. Motion carried.

The motion to go into closed session was tabled.

Mr. Schwartz made the motion to accept the employment of personnel by the Executive Board September 2020 through February 2021 as presented in Attachment 2. Ms. Gibbons seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, Members Clark, Hutchins, Ryker, Liddell, Gibbons, Blumenstock, and Schwartz voted “yea”. Dr. Oates abstained. Motion carried.

Mr. Blumenstock made the motion to accept the re-employment of WCES certified personnel for 2021-2022 as presented in Attachment 3. Mr. Schwartz seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, Members Clark, Oates, Hutchins, Ryker, Liddell, Gibbons, Blumenstock, and Schwartz voted “yea”. Motion carried.

Ms. Gibbons made the motion to accept the re-employment of WCES non-certified personnel for 2021-2022 as presented in Attachment 4. Mr. Blumenstock seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, Members Clark, Oates, Hutchins, Ryker, Liddell, Gibbons, Blumenstock, and Schwartz voted “yea”. Motion carried.

Mr. Schwartz made the motion that the Board adopt the Resolution Reference The Honorable Dismissal of Certificated Employees of Williamson County Early Childhood Cooperative as presented in Attachment 5 and that the Director be authorized and directed to deliver or cause to be delivered the notice to the employees as specified in the Resolution. Mr. Hutchins seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, Members Clark, Oates, Hutchins, Ryker, Liddell, Gibbons, Blumenstock, and Schwartz voted “yea”. Motion carried.

Mr. Blumenstock made the motion that the Board adopt the Resolution Reference The Honorable Dismissal of Certain Educational Support Personnel of Williamson County Early Childhood Cooperative as presented in Attachment 6 and that the Director be authorized and directed to deliver or cause to be delivered the notice to the employees as specified in the Resolution. Ms. Gibbons seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, Members Clark, Oates, Hutchins, Ryker, Liddell, Gibbons, Blumenstock, and Schwartz voted “yea”. Motion carried.

Ms. Gibbons made the motion to accept the minutes of the Executive Board from September 2020 through February 2021 as presented in Attachment 7. Mr. Blumenstock seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, Members Clark, Oates, Hutchins, Ryker, Liddell, Gibbons, Blumenstock, and Schwartz voted “yea”. Motion carried.

Mr. Liddell made the motion to accept the minutes of the WCECC Executive Committee from September 2020 through February 2021 as presented in Attachment 8. Mr. Schwartz seconded the motion.

Members Clark, Oates, Hutchins, Ryker, Liddell, Gibbons, Blumenstock, and Schwartz voted “yea”. Motion carried.

Mr. Blumenstock made the motion to accept the minutes of the WCTE Board of Control from September 2020 through February 2021 as presented in Attachment 9. Ms. Gibbons seconded the motion.

Members Clark, Oates, Hutchins, Ryker, Liddell, Gibbons, Blumenstock, and Schwartz voted “yea”. Motion carried.

No miscellaneous remarks

Dr. Oates made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hutchins seconded the motion.

Members Clark, Oates, Hutchins, Ryker, Liddell, Gibbons, Blumenstock, and Schwartz voted “yea”. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 a.m.

MINUTES ATTESTED TO:

Kathy Clark, Chairman

Cindy Gibbons, Secretary
