

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Greene-Sullivan Special Education Cooperative

Administrative Offices 77 "A" Street N.E., Linton, IN

March 10, 2020

EXECUTIVE SESSION

9:00 AM

The purpose of this executive session will be:

The discussion of confidential student records, [IC 5-14 -1.5-6.1 (b) (7), (8)],

To discuss before a placement decision an individual student's abilities, past performance, behavior and needs, [IC 5-14-1.5-6.1 (b) (8)],

To receive information about prospective employees, [I.C. 5-14 -1.5-6.1 (b) (5)],

To discuss a job performance evaluation of individual employees. This subdivision does not apply to a discussion of the salary, compensation, or benefits of employees during a budget process, [IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b) (9)],

To receive or discuss information about the budget, [IC 5-14-1.5-2 (3) (A)].

The Executive Board of the Greene-Sullivan Special Education Cooperative met in the Cooperative Board Room, 77 "A" Street N.E., Linton, IN on Tuesday, March 10, 2020. President, Jeff Gibboney, called the Board to order at 9:34 AM and called the roll with the following members present:

Jeff Gibboney, President - Bloomfield
Kathryn Goad, Vice President - Linton-Stockton
Jeff Gambill, representative - MSD Shakamak
Mark Baker, Northeast
Chris Stitzle, Southwest
Robert Hacker, White River Valley

REGULAR SESSION

9:30 AM

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the February 18, 2020 meeting were read beginning with "The minutes from the January 14, 2020 meeting were read..." through "...motion was passed unanimously."

Dr. Kathryn Goad made a motion to approve the February 18, 2020 Board of Superintendents meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robert Hacker. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report and Claim Docket

The Claim Docket in the financial report was presented and reviewed. Payroll dates and amounts since last Board meeting are as follows:

February 21, 2020 \$102,115.91

March 6, 2020 \$103,876.31

Mr. Chris Stitzle made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and payment of claims. Dr. Mark Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comments and Concerns

None noted. No members of the public were present.

4. Personnel

Resignations

- a. None

Positions to Hire

- a) White River Valley Preschool Teacher (part time until end of 19-20 school year)
- b) Bloomfield Life Skills Paraprofessional
- c) Bloomfield Life Skills Paraprofessional
- d) Linton Elementary Life Skills Paraprofessional
- e) Sullivan Middle School Life Skills Paraprofessional
- f) White River Valley Preschool Paraprofessional
- g) White River Valley Elementary Paraprofessional Maternity Leave
- h) Sullivan Middle School Paraprofessional Maternity Leave
- i) Northeast Middle School Paraprofessional Medical Leave

Recommendations to Hire

- a) Jodie Oliver – White River Valley Part Time Preschool Teacher
- b) Lana Pinnick – Bloomfield Life Skills Paraprofessional
- c) Danielle Hoffman – Bloomfield Life Skills Paraprofessional (Pending Parapro Assessment)
- d) Jennifer Wathen – Linton Elementary Life Skills Paraprofessional
- e) Jessica Blanton – Sullivan Middle School Life Skills Paraprofessional Maternity Leave
- f) Steve Asche – Northeast Middle School Paraprofessional Medical Leave

Mr. Chris Stitzle inquired why there is so much turnover. Ms. Sarah Sparks replied there were positions that were recently added and multiple maternity leaves. Mr. Jeff Gibboney asked if references and even non-references are checked. Ms. Sarah Sparks does contact references and also some employers that were not listed in the reference section if she is aware of the previous employer.

Mr. Chris Stitzle made a motion to accept all recommendations to hire. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kathryn Goad. The motion passed unanimously.

5. DOE Information

- a. RDA Planning Tool Submitted
 - b. Accommodations
 - c. ISPROUT Updates
 - d. Preschool Conference
- Promoting Positive Outcomes - November 9th and 10th

Ms. Sarah Sparks submitted the RDA Planning Tool for Northeast. Mrs. Dana Williams will continue transition meetings with teachers and is attending the Capacity Building Institute for Transition. Mrs. Dana Williams has contacted all teachers to fix the assessment accommodations within the IEPs. Most have completed the correction and just need to respond to the blue envelope in the system. Mrs. Dana Williams reviewed the state's information that no actual changes were being made to the IEPs, it was a program error that needed corrected so accommodations would process through TIDE. Ms. Sarah Sparks discussed that all preschool teachers were trained in ISPROUT assessment. ISPROUT can now be administered to typical peers without cost. Ms. Sarah Sparks attended the Early Childhood conference for Special Education Administrators. An additional conference will be in Bloomington on November 9 – 10, at an affordable cost. Ms. Sarah

Sparks suggested it may be a good opportunity to send principals for research based and practical applications information.

6. Program Information

- a. Life Skills
- b. Early Childhood
- Administrators Conference Information
- c. Speech Services
- d. Life After School Program

Ms. Sarah Sparks noted that Minds in Motion was presented at the Early Childhood conference and was very informative. Dr. Kathryn Goad stated that it is used with all students daily at Linton Elementary. Ms. Sarah Sparks felt the information reflected the students and behaviors seen in area schools and would like to consider this programing for preschool. Dr. Kathryn Goad noted the training was approximately \$600 with additional cost for materials.

7. Unfinished Business

- a. Behavior Program
- Visits and Recommendations
- Restorative Practices

Ms. Sarah Sparks shared information from her most recent visit to Vigo County to look at their behavior programming. Although she agreed that not all aspects would work for our local districts, there were some areas of their programming that could be adapted for use in the GSSEC member districts. Ms. Sarah Sparks recommended looking at two ideas for consideration. One is for each district elementary to hire a behavior interventionist, non-certified, to be direct support, share strategies and collect behavior data (MTSS Tier 2 supports). A behavior coordinator, certified, through GSSEC would train and strategize with the interventionists. A second option to consider is creating a centrally located room to act as a Day Program (MTSS Tier 3) for the most severe behavior cases or have rooms that function as a resource room (not self-contained) because students would still be attending classes. When considering adding a behavior program, Ms. Sarah Sparks recommends starting with smaller steps such as adding behavior interventionists and working to improve the MTSS structure in all districts. Ms. Sarah Sparks discussed information to consider for improving behavior programming. Currently there are not school student assistance teams that are meeting to discuss the behaviors. Often, when a student has a behavior, the response is to consider special education (MTSS Tier 3). Regular meetings would help staff consult and address behavior more efficiently. Ms. Sparks discussed the benefits of having a behavior interventionist in each school. GSSEC administration and district principals are often directed to behavioral concerns. Dr. Mark Baker inquired the difference between a behavior interventionist and the current Emotional Disability teachers. Ms. Sarah Sparks explained the difference in the two, noting that certified staff also complete Functional Behavior Assessments, Behavior Intervention Plans, and Individual Educational Plans. Dr. Kathryn Goad inquired if there is someone on staff to provide the necessary training. Discussions involved the possibility of restructuring the Autism Coordinator position to include Behavior Coordinator. Mr. Jeff Gambill shared information on his experience and knowledge of the position of behavior interventionist. Mr. Jeff Gibboney inquired if the behavior program was supported by a referendum. Vigo county's behavior program has been long standing before the referendum.

Ms. Sarah Sparks emailed additional information in Restorative Practices to think differently about how the current behavior models are implemented. Discussions included having professional development for current paraprofessionals, training for Life Skills programs, the structure of behavior programs past and present, funding, and cost-saving ideas.

Ms. Sarah Sparks discussed the third party review action plan. Everyone is trained in the plan. Life Skills has some ongoing training.

Mr. Jeff Gibboney inquired about the structure of the classroom Lisa Wilson is located in at Bloomfield and the duties of the position. Ms. Sarah Sparks explained that each Emotional Disability teacher of record is assigned to two school districts. They provide services and maintain the paperwork for their own caseload as well as assisting resource room teachers with any students with behavior plans. Mr. Jeff Gibboney asked if any non-certified positions could be re-structured. Ms. Sarah Sparks discussed the need to look at aide positions and if they are all still needed or should be moved to another need. Regarding office staff positions, Ms. Sarah Sparks indicated the student numbers for special education and related paperwork coming through the GSSEC office are the highest they have been in at least 5 years and continue to grow. It would be difficult to eliminate or add additional work to a position after responsibilities have already been restructured to meet requirements and save costs.

b.CPI – Last Initial Training March 13, 2020

c. Transition Training – April 6, 2020

d. 2019-2020 Preschool Screenings

-April 17, 2020 – Carlisle

Ms. Sarah Sparks noted there are several signed up for CPI and it will be held at WRV high school.

8. New Business

a. Board Policy for Public Comments

Ms. Sarah Sparks requested information about each districts board policy for public comments. She would like to have the policy for GSSEC updated. Mr. Jeff Gibboney and Mr. Chris Stitzle stated they use the NEOLA policy of advanced notice and a 3-minute time limit. Dr. Kathryn Goad stated there is no advance notice, but there is a time limit. She also noted that GSSEC had experienced a call in and suggested that be changed in the policy.

9. Director's Notes

- Reading Specialist Meeting – April 8, 2020

After meeting with the school psychologists, Ms. Sarah Sparks scheduled a meeting to get feedback from the reading specialists. If there are concerns of the number of students showing as possible dyslexia (40-50%) it would not be a learning disability, but possibly a need to look at the curriculum.

Ms. Sarah Sparks shared information of an upcoming Transition Fair at Vincennes University. Knox County and STEP are working together on the event.

10. Board Member Comments and Concern

Mr. Jeff Gibboney asked about Medicaid Claiming. Ms. Sarah Sparks will share the calendar and noted the information will be pulled directly from the IIEP service logging section. Dr. Kathryn Goad asked if anyone was claiming transportation. The bus drivers would keep attendance and someone from the corporation would be designated to input the data. Ms. Sarah Sparks will work with Kathy Hancock from PCG to set up transportation claiming for all districts.

11. Adjourn

Mr. Chris Stitzle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kathryn Goad. The motion passed unanimously.

The Next GSSEC Board of Superintendents' Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2020 with the executive session meeting beginning at 9:00 A.M. and public meeting beginning at 9:30 A.M.












