

South Valley Multi-District Special Education

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 Wyndmere Public School

Directors Present:	Chris Larson, President	Chad Benson
	Justin Fryer	Ryan Moser, zoom
	Steve Johnson, absent	Britney Gandhi, zoom
	Daniel Warcken, zoom	Jay DeCann
	Steve Hall	
	Phil French, zoom	
	Chris Bastian, absent	

Also Present:	John Porter, Director	Brenna Janke, Bus Mgr
	Andrea Johnson, Assistant Director	Paul Fitzgerald, zoom
	Melissa Heley	Matt Ashburn

CALL TO ORDER: President Chris Larson called the South Valley Board meeting to order at 9:03

AGENDA APPROVAL: A motion to approve the agenda is made by Fryer/ DeCann. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: Benson/Fryer approve the Consent Agenda which includes the board meeting minutes, bills, check registers, and financial reports from Jan & Feb. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED & NEW BUSINESS

- a. Director Evaluation- Chris Larson highlights the positive feedback for Porter and Johnson. A motion to approve the evaluation for John Porter as satisfactory with comments DeCann/ Fryer. Discussion- Porter expresses that he thinks the partnership with Johnson couldn't have gone better. He thinks the balance between the two of them is perfect and is exactly what the schools need. Fryer agrees that the partnership is working very well. Motion carries. Larson shares that Andrea Johnson's eval was very positive as well. A motion to approve a satisfactory eval for Andrea Johnson made by Benson/DeCann. DeCann comments that Andrea has jumped in with both feet and the transition has been very smooth. Motion carries.

- b.** Shared Director- Porter suggests that South Valley continue to hold the directors' contracts as they have been. The one amendment Porter proposes is that Johnson's contract be a Co-Director instead of an Assistant Director. The board discusses if the 1.3 FTE is the right fit for the administrative director roles for Rural Cass and SV. Motion to share Andrea Johnson's contract at a 50/50 split and for South Valley to hold it is made by Gandhi/ Fryer. Motion carries. Benson wonders if the membership of the SEEC schools should be surveyed to see if they agree that Porter's contract be held by South Valley. Discussion ensues. Motion to continue to have John Porter's contract held by South Valley and Split 70/15/15 with SEEC, Rural Cass, and South Valley motioned by Fryer. Roll Call Vote: DeCann- Yes, Hall- Yes. Benson- No, Larson- Yes, Fryer- Yes, Moser- Yes, Gandhi- Yes, French- Yes, Warcken-Yes. Motion passes 8-1.
- c.** Solution Room updates- There are currently 3 students from Rural Cass and 1 being added in the next week or two from South Valley. There will be more services from the contractor while trying to hire additional para support. This is adding to excess grant funding being used from the behavior health grants. Motion to approve using the behavior health grant money for the 25-26 school year for the solutions room in Kindred next year is made by DeCann/ Fryer. Motion passes.
- d.** ESY Teacher/ Para/ Driver wage scale- Currently the pay rate for ESY is \$35/ hour for an ESY Teacher. Motion to raise ESY teachers to \$36 an hour by Warken/Gandhi. Motion carries. Para Wage Scale. Motion to move down a step by Benson/Hall. Motion Passes. Motion to increase drivers to \$17.75 by Fryer/ Steve . Motion passes.
- e.** Sign on Bonus – Two very openings likely for teachers in the schools. Porter proposes a sign on bonus. Just for new person to the district. The signing bonus paid by the unit to the school. Motion for a \$3,000 bonus for new teachers to the unit for signing on made by Hall/ French. Motion passes.
- f.** Para training update- Colfax will host. August 13th and 14th will be the para training.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy- No additional report

Personnel- No additional report

Finance- No additional report

Transportation- No additional report

Negotiations- Larson will email Fitzgerald to set up a meeting.

The next South Valley meeting will be May 14th Wyndmere.

Motion to adjourn DeCann/ Fryer. Motion Carries

Meeting adjourned at 9:54.