

South Valley Multi-District Special Education

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 10th – 10 :00 AM – Wyndmere School

Directors Present: Chris Larson, President
Justin Fryer, zoom
Steve Johnson, zoom
Steve Hall
Chris Bastian
Daniel Warcken, zoom

Chad Benson, zoom
Ryan Moser
Britney Gandhi, zoom
Phil French, zoom
Jay DeCann

Also Present: John Porter, Director Brenna Janke, Bus Mgr , zoom

CALL TO ORDER: President Chris Larson called the South Valley Board meeting to order at 10:04

AGENDA APPROVAL: Adding Dyslexia specialist to the agenda. A motion to approve the amended agenda is made by DeCann/ Bastian. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: Moser/ Hall approve the Consent Agenda which includes the board meeting minutes, bills, check registers, and financial reports, mileage rate change, and Semi- Annual Pledge of Assets.

UNFINISHED & NW BUSINESS

- a. SLP Medicaid Billing Stipend- Currently we reimburse all the certifications for the SLPs which totals to about \$300-400. The workload has gone up for these staff members to do Medicaid billing over the past few years. Porter presents data on the number of students billed for, billed claims, and time the therapists spend on Medicaid billing. The board discusses offering stipends to SLPPs in place of reimbursing the licenses required.

Porter suggests putting a range on the stipend according to number of students billed for in the year. This would be an end of year payment received after showing verified licensing, and number of students billed. The stipend amount would be awarded by the following range: 1-5 students: \$750, 6-10 Student: \$1,000, 11-15 students \$1,250, and 16-20 students: \$1,500. A motion to approve this stipend and range calculation is made by Steve Hall and seconded by Steve Johnson. Motion passes. If the Rural Cass board approves a higher stipend, the board would like to revisit the amount.

- b. Vision-Samantha Anderson has been a great asset working in the vision area and the unit has invested in her tuition. Anderson is now moving to Wahpeton, but she would like to continue to work with the unit. Two students in Gwinner receive services, and another preschool student in Lisbon. Northern Cass also has a new preschool student needing vision services. Porter would like to continue to offer her a contract and contract part to Rural Cass. Currently, North Sargent pays half of her salary but will no longer need her next year. The board discusses the change and agrees that Porter will move ahead with changing her contract to a full-time vision teacher.
- c. Academy for Challenging Behaviors-in Kindred-The room that we have had in Casselton until this year will now be changed to the Kindred school district. The superintendent has gone to the board for approval to have the room there. Porter would like to hire a teacher/coordinator for the position. Porter would approach SEEC to employ that person and hire a Registered Behavior Tech for the room. The BCBA would be involved there too, but that cost is currently grant funded and contracted, and that will not change. Porter will discuss with Rural Cass and the topic will be on the agenda for the joint board meeting in March.
- d. Schools Psych Update- Porter recently was able to talk to students at MSUM about School Psych positions at an open forum before their class. Many students attended, and all were excited and had great questions. Porter is hoping for a couple of applications to come from that group. If the unit doesn't find a school psych, Porter wonders if the board would entertain a proposal to invest in a teacher becoming a school psych by paying tuition. The board agrees that it would investigate doing that if there were no applicants.
- e. Dyslexia- Porter wants the units to start thinking about the state's future asks in this area. Does the board feel that the unit should be investing at a unit level in a dyslexia specialist or is each district going to do this on their own? Porter would like to meet with the school psychs to create a flow chart of screening to services for the March board meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy- No additional report

Personnel- No additional report

Finance- No additional report

Transportation- An ice storm dropped a tree on one of the Ford Fusions. Porter is going to test drive a Ford Fusion at Luther in Fargo today.

Negotiations- No Report

The next South Valley meeting will be on March 15th in Casselton for Joint meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:13.