

TAZEWELL-MASON COUNTIES SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
February 9, 2022

The Executive Committee of Tazewell-Mason Counties Special Education Association held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at TMCSEA/Schramm Educational Center, Room 125, Pekin, IL. Dr. Owens called the meeting to order at 8:07am. Present at roll call were: Dr. Owens, Dr. Hellrigel, Dr. Allaman, Dr. Greuter and Dr. Hill. Dr. Brooks, Dr. Link and Mr. Ingold were absent from this month's meeting.

Others in attendance: Kristina Neville and Charity Adams.

Joint Consent – Open Session Minutes of January 12, 2022, Destruction of Verbatim Records, Accounts Payable and Year to Date Expenditure Reports:

The information and materials presented outline the regular monthly business of the Association. The January 12, 2022 open and closed session minutes, destruction of verbatim records (Audio Recordings) of January 13, 2021 closed session meeting, monthly accounts payable, and cash flow statements were approved as presented. The monthly Expenditure Report, Schramm Activity Fund Report, and Imprest Fund Report were also made available at the time of this meeting.

The motion was made by Dr. Hellrigel and seconded by Dr. Greuter to approve the Joint Consent items as presented. Roll call was taken and motion carried.

Audience Participation:

There were no requests for audience participation.

Old Business

A. Districts' Financial Payments:

All districts' financial payments are current.

B. IDEA Grants:

The Director provided information to member districts from an ISBE webinar that took place on January 25 regarding how to complete the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B Consolidated and American Rescue Plan IDEA Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III grant applications.

The FY22 IDEA Excess Cost process has changed. The updated excess cost calculation should use information from the same fiscal year to determine if excess cost has been met. This change is due to many districts having difficulty meeting excess cost in states where the calculation contained information from more than one fiscal year. This has been especially true in years with increased funding for education. This adjustment should make it easier for districts to meet the excess cost requirement during this period of increased funding. Districts' excess cost applications are due to ISBE no later than March 1, 2022.

C. Skyward Software Agreement – Revised (Exhibit #1):

TMCSEA was assigned a new Skyward Account Manager who provided revised pricing and software recommendations for the Association. The Director asked for approval of the following revised agreements: 1) School Business Suite for \$3,602, which includes setup and training; and 2) Qmlativ Transition Plan for \$2,500, which includes project management, data migration services, training webinars, and conversion of existing eSignatures.

The motion was made by Dr. Hill and seconded by Dr. Hellrigel to approve the revised Skyward Software Agreements. Roll call was taken and motion carried.

D. 2020-2021 LEA Determinations – Revised (Exhibit #2):

ISBE updated their data for State Performance Plan Indicator 11, which removed a finding of noncompliance for a member district. Exhibit #2 reflects the revised 2020-2021 LEA Determinations.

E. 2021-2022 Amended School Calendar (Exhibit #3):

The 2021-2022 school calendar has been amended. Two Emergency Days were taken on February 2 and February 3, 2022, due to inclement weather. Therefore, our Teacher Institute was moved from May 31 to June 2.

The motion was made by Dr. Hellrigel and seconded by Dr. Greuter to approve the school calendar with changes. Roll call was taken and motion carried.

New Business

A. Joint Consent:

1. Approve Hiring of a School Psychologist – Candidate to be Named:

The Director asks for approval to hire Emily Hendrix as a full-time School Psychologist for the 2022-2023 school year at a salary of \$56,000.00, which includes TRS.

2. Approve Hiring of Sue Hale as a COTA Long-Term Substitute:

Sue Hale is a retired COTA and former employee of TMCSEA. One of our member districts currently contracting 1.0 FTE COTA services is in need of additional coverage to meet additional student needs. The Director asks for approval to hire Sue Hale as a long-term COTA substitute for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year at an hourly rate of \$27.

3. Approve Voluntary Reduction in Days of Laura Stuff, Program Coordinator (Exhibit #4):

Laura Stuff has requested to no longer coordinate our Extended School Year Program beginning in Summer 2023. The Director asks for approval to reduce her position from 209 days to 195 days, and her salary for the 2022-2023 school year will be reflective of this decrease in total days.

4. Approve Increase in Days of Amber Ealey, Program Coordinator:

Amber Ealey has requested to coordinate our Extended School Year Program beginning in Summer 2023. The Director asks for approval to increase her position from 195 days to 209 days, and her salary for the 2022-2023 school year will be reflective of this increase in total days.

5. Approve Leave of Absence for Lori Winkler, Paraprofessional (Exhibit #5):

Lori Winkler is employed as a full-time Paraprofessional, and she has exhausted all her paid time off. The Director asks for approval of an intermittent unpaid leave of absence of up to 10 days for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

The motion was made by Dr. Allaman and seconded by Dr. Greuter to approve the New Business Joint Consent as presented. Roll call was taken and motion carried.

B. Informational:

1. Resignation of Tim Sponsler as a School Psychologist (Exhibit #6)

The Director is informing the Executive Committee of Mr. Sponsler's resignation at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

2. Return to School Plan - Revised:

The TMCSEA/Schramm Educational Center Return to School Plan has been updated to incorporate Revised Public Health Guidance for Schools Part 5 from ISBE/IDPH on 1/11/22. The revised plan will be posted on our website and shared with staff, families, and member districts.

C. Grand Canyon University Agreement (Exhibit #7):

The Director and other IAASE representatives traveled to Grand Canyon University to the main campus located in Phoenix on January 27-28 to meet with the President and CEO, Dr. Brian Mueller where we advocated for the development of a School Psychology Program. GCU is open to exploring the creation of an online School Psychology Program leading to a Master's Degree at this time. Graduates from Arizona have reciprocity in Illinois for Professional Educator Licenses. This degree program would not initially provide National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) approval, but GCU may consider this advanced certification in the future. The Director is optimistic this strong show of support will lead to the initiation of a School Psychology Program to benefit all parties.

GCU offers the Learning, Leading and Serving (PLLS) program, which would include the cooperative and member districts. This program provides a pathway for online degrees for working professionals at a discounted rate. Other opportunities include dual enrollment of high school students to earn college credit. The Director asked for approval for this agreement with GCU as presented.

The motion was made by Dr. Hill and seconded by Dr. Allaman to approve the contractual agreement with Grand Canyon University as presented. Roll call was taken and motion carried.

D. TMCSEA Programs & Services Student Performance Data (Exhibit #8):

Student performance data was collected from January-December 2021 for Schramm, speech, hearing, vision, occupational therapy, and physical therapy services. Total percentages were based on successful completion of student IBP objectives. Overall, 83% of student IBP objectives were met across all TMCSEA programs and services, which is a 5% increase from last year's total average of 78%.

E. Cash Basis Audit Practice (Exhibit #9):

Our audit will be prepared using the regulatory provisions prescribed by the Illinois State Board of Education, which differs from accounting principles generally accepted. Russ Rumbold, CPA, is the engagement partner who is assigned to supervise this process for the Association. The total cost for FY22 audit services shall not exceed \$13,115, as compared to the FY21 cost of \$12,500. This is a 4.92% increase in the proposed total cost for services from the previous fiscal year. The Director would like approval for the audit and annual financial report to be prepared on a cash basis by Gorenz and Associates, Ltd. with acceptance of the Regulatory Basis Engagement letter as presented.

The motion was made by Dr. Hellrigel and seconded by Dr. Greuter to approve the Cash Basis Audit Practice with Gorenz and Associates as presented. Roll call was taken and motion carried.

Closed Executive Session

The Executive Committee entered closed session at 8:37am with a motion made by Dr. Greuter and seconded by Dr. Allaman to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with [the Open Meetings Act]. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), amended by P.A. 101-459.

The Executive Committee returned to open session at 9:10am with a motion by Dr. Greuter and seconded by Dr. Hill. Roll call was taken and motion carried.

Action Items

There were no action items for this month's meeting.

Other Business/Information

There was no FYI Report for this month's meeting

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 9, 2022** at the TMCSEA/Schramm Educational Center, Room 125, Pekin, IL, at **8:00am**.

Dr. Hill motioned and Dr. Hellrigel seconded to adjourn the meeting with all parties in attendance voting aye. The Executive Committee meeting ended at 9:11am.

Danielle Owens, Chairperson
TMCSEA Executive Committee

Terrie Schappaugh, Secretary
TMCSEA Executive Committee