

**Southern Plains Education Cooperative Board Meeting**  
**Monday, January 26, 2016**  
**5.00 P.M.**  
**SPEC Classroom**  
**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm. Board members present: Mike Pfeil, Truman Schools; Julie Laue, Fairmont Area Schools; Wendi Russenberger, Martin County West Schools; Bryan Nowicki, Granada Huntley-East Chain Schools; Sheila Ripley, Blue Earth Area Schools; Sarah Mittelstadt, Director.

**II. Approval of Agenda:**

A motion was offered by Wendi Russenberger, seconded by Bryan Nowicki and carried to approve the January 26, 2015 Board Agenda.

**III. Recognition of Visitors:** Joy Rachuy, Joe Brown

**IV. Guest Presentation:** Kellie Fischer, Early Childhood Coordinator, servicing 86 ECSE and 150 specialized at Fairmont Elementary. She gave updates on initiatives across ECSE.

**V. Election of Officers:**

**Chair**

- 1.) Member Bryan Nowicki nominated Mike Pfeil for Chair.
- 2.) Member Julie Laue moved that the nominations cease and Mike Pfeil be elected Chair on a unanimous ballot.
- 3.) Member Sheila Ripley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Vice Chair**

- 1.) Member Wendi Russenberger nominated Bryan Nowicki for Vice Chair.
- 2.) Member Julie Laue moved that the nominations cease and Mike Pfeil be elected Vice Chair/Treasurer on a unanimous ballot.
- 3.) Member Sheila Ripley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Clerk**

- 1.) Member Mike Pfeil nominated Julie Laue for Clerk.
- 2.) Member Sheila Ripley moved that the nominations cease and Julie Laue be elected Clerk on a unanimous ballot.
- 3.) Member Bryan Nowicki seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**VI. Director's Report:** Director Mittelstadt welcomed Julie Laue and Sheila Ripley. She gave updates that the facilities study is finalized and the superintendents are discussing. She also announced that USC has expressed an interest in joining the Cooperative.

**VII. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:**

A motion was offered by Wendi Russenberger, seconded by Bryan Nowicki, and carried to approve the minutes of the SPEC Board Meeting of Monday, November 24, 2014.

### **VIII. Presentation of Bills/Finance**

Check registers for 12/1/2014, 12/11/2014, 12/23/2014, 1/8/2015 and wire transfers presented for approval.

A motion was offered by Wendi Russenberger, seconded by Julie Laue, and carried to approve the above check registers.

### **IX. Personnel**

#### **A. Hiring**

1. Michelle Anderson, Paraprofessional, Positive Approach to Learning School
2. Andrea Niss, Paraprofessional, Pathways
3. Melissa Baarson, Paraprofessional, Fairmont Elementary
4. Terry Wolfe, Paraprofessional, Fairmont Elementary
5. Laura Teveldal, Financial Secretary
6. Keith Wade, Paraprofessional, Fairmont High School

#### **B. Resignations**

1. Heidi Sanden, Paraprofessional, Fairmont Elementary
2. Marsha Malo, Financial Secretary
3. Mary Ann Childers, Paraprofessional, Early Childhood Special Education

A motion was offered by Bryan Nowicki, seconded by Wendi Russenberger, and carried to approve the above hiring/resignations.

### **X. Old Business**

#### **A. Graduation Policy**

A motion was offered by Bryan Nowicki, seconded by Wendi Russenberger, and carried to approve the Southern Plains Area Learning Center Graduation Party.

### **XI. New Business**

#### **A. Resolution to Reduce Programs/Staff 2014-2015**

Resolution authorizing the Director to explore reductions in programs/personnel.

Member Wendi Russenberger introduced the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

Whereas the financial condition of the cooperative dictates that the board must reduce expenditures and

Whereas this reduction in expenditures must include discontinuance and/or reduction of Positions and/or programs, and

Whereas a determination must be made as to which teachers' contracts must be terminated and not renewed and which teachers may be placed on unrequested leave of absence without pay or fringe benefits in effecting discontinuance of positions:

Be it therefore resolved by the Southern Plains Education Cooperative Board, District 915, as follows:

That the Board hereby directs the Director of S.P.E.C. to consider the discontinuance and/or reduction of programs and positions to effectuate economies in the cooperative district and consider appropriate staffing levels reflecting the anticipated enrollment, and make recommendations to the Board concerning the same.

The motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution was seconded by member Sheila Ripley and being voted thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Sheila Ripley, Wendi Russenberger, Mike Pfeil, Bryan Nowicki, Julie Laue

Whereupon said resolution was fully accepted.

### **B. Pay Equity Report**

A motion was offered by Julie Laue, seconded by Bryan Nowicki, and carried to approve the Pay Equity Report.

### **C. Walmart Donation**

A motion was offered by Wendi Russenberger, seconded by Sheila Ripley, and carried to approve the donation of \$750.00 from Walmart.

### **D. Target Take Charge Fundraising**

A motion was offered by Sheila Ripley, seconded by Wendi Russenberger, and carried to approve fundraising with the Target Take Charge fundraiser.

**X. Other**  
None

**XI. Next Meeting:** Monday, March 23, 2015

### **XII. Adjournment**

A motion was offered by Bryan Nowicki, seconded by Wendi Russenberger, and carried to approve adjourning the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

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