

IV. Guest Presenters: Barb Sandersfeld is one of our ECSE teachers. I have asked her to come and talk about what inclusion has done for ECSE students.

V. Director's Report:

- A. Food Service Update: We had a site visit for our initial application. There are still two steps that need to happen, and we should have final approval. This is just a lot to get this setup. I will be monitoring implementation. We will have an official site visit in April.
- B. Hiring: We ended up getting some great paraprofessionals. I am hearing rave reviews. We still need to hire one to replace Cristina that was a late resignation, but she did let us know this summer that she would be resigning. We have a fairly good substitute pool at the moment. We have a good fill rate unless the position is entered in the morning. Then we have a very hard time filling.
- C. ALC Numbers: Our ALC numbers have been very high. Last January we were a little over 20, and I was looking at cutting a position. We are now at 45. We still have a cap of 50 on the books, but I am waiting to see how many students actually attend on a regular basis after we get the school year going. A common theme I am hearing everywhere is that students are enrolling very late this year and moving around even during the year. Definitely changes in a culture.
- D. Service Dog: The student with the service dog we had has decided to go to their resident district.
- E. Fiscal Monitoring: We are due for special education fiscal monitoring for 2018-19. They will pull records for 2017-18. Southern Plains handles the bulk of the compliance items. We attended a training in Waseca this week and gave an abbreviated to do list for the member districts.

VIII. Personnel

A. Resignations/Terminations/Retirements

- 1. Cristina Gonzalez,

I recommend approving the resignation of Cristina. She has been with us for the past year and was a great asset. She and her husband are opening a restaurant in Wells. I am seeking a bilingual paraprofessional.

B. Hiring

- 1. Ana Lisa Ramon, Paraprofessional at FHS, Step 1
- 2. Karen Flores, Paraprofessional at FHS, Step 1
- 3. Lynn Fetters, Paraprofessional at FHS, Step 1

I recommend hiring these paraprofessionals to fill positions at Fairmont high school. Ana Lisa worked at Verizon, but she has always wanted to be a teacher. Karen is a recent Fairmont High School graduate and has some college education, but she took some time off. She has been working at Caribou and the hospital. Karen would like to work as an interpreter in the schools or finish a degree in elementary education. Lynn has worked in daycare and at Avery Weigh-Tronix. She has also been substituting for Chartwells.

C. Employee Work Agreement

a. Kate Hawkins, IFSP Facilitator, July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018
Kate works part-time for us helping seek out birth-3 referrals. She works on an individual contract on a year to year basis. This position has had increasing responsibilities and requirements for completing the required screening and paperwork requirements. We will likely need to make this a certified position if Kate were ever to leave Southern Plains. This agreement is consistent with the classified agreement with an increase from \$22.25 to \$22.65.

IX. Old Business

A. Second Reading of Policies

a. 616- School District System Accountability

b. 103-Complaints

c. 506-SPEC Student Discipline

This is a second reading of policies. They are consistent with MSBA; the Complaints policy has more variation due to the unique nature of our staff. I stressed that staff should notify a building administrator of any complaints.

X. New Business

A. Amend Setting VI paraprofessional substitute pay to \$14 per hour for 2017-2018 school year.

Upon further review, we realized the starting wage for Setting IV paraprofessionals increased from \$13.50 per hour to \$14.00 per hour. (They were the only group of the classified staff that received an increase.)

B. First Reading of Policies

a. 550 – Service Animals

This is the initial reading of this policy. Our cooperative had this developed for the needs of our districts due to the frequency of needs. This will be good clarification for all.

C. Revised Policies

a. 721 – Uniform Grant Guidance

The only change is to clarify what the disciplinary actions are if someone does not follow the policy related to a Conflict of Interest. This is a requirement by MDE for special education fiscal compliance monitoring. I made this recommendation to MSBA to revise their policy so that the recommended policy is in line with MDE expectations.