

OESU BOARD MEETING

OESU Office and via Zoom

November 16, 2021

Present:

Board Members:

BMU: Allison Ingerson

OUUSD: Angela Colbeth, Danielle Corti, Chelsey Perry

Thetford: Donna Pluta, Megan Snider

Waits River: Jason Rogers

Administration: Emilie Knisley, Linda Metcalf, Melanie Rhoads, Nicole Bell, Alison Kidder, Robin Wozny

Others: Ted Pogacar

- I. The meeting was called to order by Danielle Corti at 5:00 PM. The agenda was reviewed. The financial items, special education funding, and social media position will be moved to earlier in the meeting.
- II. Board Business
 - A. Motion by Megan Snider, seconded by Angela Colbeth to approve the Board minutes of both June 16, 2021 and Aug. 24, 2021. However, because there was not a quorum to approve those, the minutes from both meetings were tabled until next meeting.
 - B. Contracts—None
 - C. Correspondence—None
- III. Sick Bank Representative for the SU
 - A. Nomination by Megan Snider, seconded by Donna Pluta that Danielle Corti be elected to serve as Sick Bank Representative for the SU. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
- IV. Financial Update from Year's End (Linda Metcalf)
 - A. FY Unaudited Financial Statement. The Revenue from Special Education reimbursement and EEE grants were both better than expected. The year's revenue ended with about \$929,000 surplus (unaudited)
 - B. Expenses: There were some changes in ELL direct instruction and some staffing changes. Expenses totaled \$392,000 over budget. This left a net surplus of \$600,108 (unaudited).
 - C. Following a question on the special education budget, it was predicted that those numbers will be back to a more regular level in the year ahead
- V. OESU Budget Draft
 - A. It is being worked on. The Administration is hoping to have a draft to share with the Board at the December meeting.

B. For FY2023, Act 173 is replacing the way we receive our funding. The SU office does not have a finalized number yet. No funds are going into the schools for the paras. There is a lot of unrest as to how schools will handle it.

C. E. Knisley: There is a change from a reimbursement model to a block model. The legislature will get a report from the weighting committee. They will have to decide what to do. Our initial analysis does not put us in a terrible place. We hope that by waiting until December, we will have greater clarity before we set an SU budget.

D. Alison Kidder: We have looked at our projected special education costs for next year.

Linda Metcalf: A person from the State noted that A. Kidder and our Administrative team are doing the right things in preparation.

E. E. Knisley: It's really the revenue side that is not known. It is largely based on the costs of special education over the past 3 years. Do we want to allocate some of the surplus as revenue?

1. D. Corti: If they come through with the block grant, and we feel the number is inadequate, is there a chance to request a second look? E. Knisley: We need to pay close attention. If they adopt the weights in the way it came to the legislature, there are places in the SU (Thetford) that would be allocated less, while other schools in the SU would be allocated more.

2. D. Corti: Would the surplus be put in the special education contingency line?

E. Knisley: We would want to look at the contingency line and maybe put a bit more in other places.

3. E. Knisley: Asked the Board if there are priority places that the SU should consider. D. Corti: Would the Social Media person would be SU wide? Angeline Alley has heard from several different Boards that communication is something that they have an interest in. D. Corti: Feels that dividing the one person between all the schools is a "heavy lift".

4. D. Corti: Are we covered for social and emotional supports for both our students and our staff? A Kidder: is having conversations as to creative ways to support students and staff. They are starting to have conversations as to what we can do in our SU and also how we can partner with other neighboring districts. D. Corti: maybe we can add this to the agenda for next month.

F. Melanie Rhoads: In other SU's, there are various models as to how a Social Media Position is used

VI. Consistent Start Date for Kindergarten

A. E. Knisley: Do we want to have a universal start date for kindergarten and PreK across the SU? This might make people's lives easier if it's consistent. A. Kidder: it would be based on what date the student turns age five and is eligible for kindergarten and also turns three, making them eligible for universal PreK. D. Corti: Thinks it makes sense for it to be universal throughout. By Board consensus, E. Knisley will see that this is in place so that next August we are consistent

VII. Agenda Items for December meeting

A. Budget

B. ESSER Fund Update

C. Upbeat Culture Survey (not necessarily for December, but possibly)

D. Facilities Committee. D. Corti feels there should be a serious SU conversation in utilizing the ESSER funds.

VIII. Public Comment--None

IX. Motion by Megan Snider, seconded by Donna Pluta to adjourn the meeting at 5:43 PM.
Motion voted on and approved unanimously

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Perkins, Minutes Clerk

The minutes are in draft format and are unofficial until formally approved by the Board at a subsequent meeting.