

SPEED S.E.J.A. #802

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting
SPEED Governing Board
SPEED Building/Zoom Teleconference
7:00 p.m.

June 25, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bean called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

On roll call the following answered present: Ms. Taylor, District 144; Mrs. Havighorst, District 153; Ms. Vlietstra, District 161; Ms. Dupee, District 163; Ms. Tammy Jones, District 168; Ms. Sanders, District 170; Ms. Turner, District 194; Ms. Roop, District 201U; Ms. King, District 206; Ms. Bannon, District 233, Mr. Bean

Absent: Mr. Dixon, District 167; Mr. Sherman, District 169; Mr. Sons, District 172; Ms. Preston, District 227

Dr. Halliman, Superintendent was present as well as the following SPEED Staff: Mr. Kevin Slattery, Director of Business and Finance; Ms. Brenda Murillo, Director of Business and Finance; Mr. Gregory Furgason, Director of Technology, Ms. Sue Janacek, Program Supervisor; and Ms. Amina Payne, Principal at IND.

Also present: Mr. Eric Grodsky, Attorney from Hauser, Izzo, Petrarca, Gleason & Stillman, and LLC.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

No visitors were present at the meeting.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Slattery provided a detailed review of the tentative FY20/21 Budget stating that beginning July 1 the procedural change for the IDEA Grant will go in to effect. This change stipulates that the Federal IDEA Grant monies will no longer go directly to SPEED but will be sent directly to the Member Districts. This change has caused other significant changes to be made specifically to the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). The IGA was revised to include a membership fee because SPEED is no longer going to keep the 12.5% of the IDEA Grant money as in the past.

Mr. Slattery explained that the first draft budget document being presented is slightly different than what has been used in the past because of the procedural changes. Now, in the revenue section there will be a new line item to reflect the membership fees. Additionally, in the Federal section, anywhere is shows "IDEA Preschool" and "IDEA Flow Through" will now reflect a "0" because of the procedural change.

According to our IGA, SPEED will be charging the districts a 12.5% membership fee based on the IDEA Preschool and Flow-Through Allocation. Just as in previous years with the 12.5% allocation that we kept and previously called the "on behalf".

We have invoices ready to distribute and have informed the Business Managers and District Reps. The amount due is just over a million dollars (\$1,020,445). This is based on the IDEA Allotment for both the IDEA Preschool/Flow-Through that was given to the districts back in May. Please note this is a preliminary number. The State will provide a final number around October/November 2020. It's usually around 95% of the preliminary amount. The next piece of that is new is Appendix C noted in the package. It concerns the "Fee for Services" which will be discussed a little later in the presentation.

Mr. Slattery recommended a tuition increase of 3%, which is generally in line with our salary increases for FY21 (which is 2.85%). This amount is slightly higher for the few staff members that are on the retirement track.

On the expenditure side of the FY21 Draft Budget, the IDEA Grant has been removed. The salaries are increasing generally by 2.85% unless on retirement. Generally, there is about a 4-5% increase in dental and medical benefits for FY21. Most of the employees have elected coverage through the Blue Advantage HMO. One area that has increased significantly is the purchased services. This is because some of the hard to fill positions such as a School Psychologist and Speech Pathologist/OT were not filled and we did use a vendor to provide those contract services. There are no major increases expected in Supplies except the COVID related supplies which may be covered by a grant that will be discussed going forward later.

Mr. Slattery explained the final piece that would be a significant change based on the IGA which is the individual "Fee for Services" that SPEED is going to charge. The services that will be provided for the 20/21 school year have been listed in a menu format. This was a recommendation resulted from discussions with the Finance Committee and our consultant, Ms. Yasmin Dada.

During the process, Mr. Slattery and Ms. Dada took a look at area cooperatives that have this menu of services (Appendix C) and compared to SPEEDS expenses for these services to come up with the Fee for Services cost listed.

All services provided to non-member districts will be charged the regular fee along with a 10% fee. We have six students that are from non-member districts.

Mr. Slattery reported that he has met with and reviewed the budget with the new Business Manager, Ms. Murillo. They will place a Legal notice in the paper on July 27 which gives us a month to have the hearing on August 27 for the FY21 Budget.

Question: Ms. Vlietstra – Did the CARES funding change any of the budget for 2019/2020? Can the budget dollars be used during the new school year?

Mrs. Slattery replied that when the CARES Act was enacted it went through Title 1 Funds which means the COOPs did not receive any of those funds; they went straight to the districts that have Title 1. What we do have \$7200 in the "Emergency Elementary and Secondary Education Act" and that is specifically for equipment as well as materials directly related to COVID. The other piece is that we did apply for a FEMA grant in the amount of \$10k.

Dr. Halliman interjected that she lodged several complaints with our regional office, Dr. Vanessa Kinder. The Cooperatives were unfortunately left out when the money was made available through CARES. The money that we do have access to are specifically for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This leaves us little wiggle room for other costs. Dr. Halliman further shared

that Dr. Kinder there is another round of CARES money pending and due the number of complaints being lodged they are being more thoughtful on the distribution of funds.

Question: Ms. Vlietstra – Did Carmen, from ISBE, say why Special Ed Coops were exempted from this Act?

Dr. Halliman: The funds were disbursed to the school districts that have Title 1. That is just their quick and easy way to distribute money and often times we are left scrambling. They are trying to get better with that and hopefully we will be on the next round.

Question: Mr. Bean – Have other Cooperatives and SPED districts other than Illinois have chimed in on this initiative?

Dr. Halliman: Funding for school districts and different in others states and they don't have Cooperatives set up the way we have them set up. They were not excluded in some states because their financial setup is different; they don't even call them cooperatives. They consider their Special Ed districts Public school districts.

Question: Ms. Bannon – When was the last time we raised tuition?

Mr. Slattery replied that last year we increased tuition about 2.5%.

Question: Ms. Bannon – With the change in the grant, is it sort of like a wash? For example, with the IDEA going directly to the districts now, would the membership fee and the fee for service compensate for the money SPEED would have received before?

Mr. Slattery: Yes. That was our goal in the IGA buy the reason the Budget is going down from 25.3M to 18.3M is because previously, the State would give us the money (\$10M) for the 15 member Districts to hold on our books and we see the revenue coming in however we only keep 12.5% of that money. It looks a little different on the financial template because we used to show that we were getting that money from the IDEA grants but come July, we won't.

Ms. Bannon: Did anyone complain about the Membership Fee?

Mr. Slattery: No, most of the District Reps and Business Managers have accepted the membership fee. The nice option is that they can use their grant money to pay for the 12.5% membership fee. Mr. Slattery stated that he reached out to ISBE for the language the districts should put in the grant should they chose to do so.

Dr. Halliman further stated the 12.5% agreement was the result of the Finance Committee work and the IGA revamp.

Question: Ms. Taylor – How much is the service fee?

Mr. Slattery replied that Appendix C lists all of the separate individual fees for extra services that SPEED provides. These are things we already do. Not all the students that attend SPEED will need all of these related services.

Question: Ms. Bannon – Tuition is for basic and the Service Fees are for anything additional?

Dr. Halliman interjected that Appendix C list normal tuition attendance cost and other related service cost. These are services that our member districts will call us and request. These Cost are provided at the request of the districts that may have a student in your regular Education

district may need. These are services that have always been provided but were never captured in a document. Dr. Halliman explained that some services were being paid for at SPEDS expense for the member districts and SPEDD would dip into the fund balance to cover the gap.

Mr. Bean clarified that the tuition and fee for services for some member districts were subsidized with respect to services rendered because were delving into our surplus to cover these cost but now the charges are going directly to the appropriate districts.

Question: Ms. Bannon these were one off type request?

Mr. Bean explained that if a student in a district and is not a student at speed and needs that service, this time spent on that student is billed to that district. Every student does not need every service so it is not included in the general tuition.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Halliman provided the Board with an update on our end of the year activities noting that we successfully completed two virtual graduations. One was for the kindergartners in ELC, which was fabulous. We also combined the PAL and Independence Programs Graduation Ceremonies. We were able to incorporate into our virtual ceremony, the "Drive By Celebratory Parade" which included the drop off of the cap and gown pictures.

In an effort to meet our Culture and Climate goals, we did not cancel our Retirement party and End of the Year celebration. We did both of them virtually. The retirees received their gifts via expedited mail. The End of the Year celebration was really great as offered several breakout sessions. We met virtually in several breakout groups. We offered karaoke, a painting party, line dancing, comedy show, Kahoots trivia and yoga. We received rave reviews. Dr. Halliman extended kudos to the entire staff that helped with this initiative.

Extended School Year (ESY) Program began June 8 and runs through July 9, Monday – Thursday (virtually). The theme this year is "The Great Outdoors". We are at approximately 138 student enrollments. This number is down from last year (254 students). 30% of our parents declined ESY.

Dr. Halliman noted that we have begun forming at COVID-19 Educational Task Force which consists of Administrators, Teacher, Union Rep., Related Service personnel, Nurses, Building and Grounds, Parents and Paraprofessionals. We will begin planning for Fall opening and how this will look with a lot of the students we serve that are medically fragile. We already have some subcommittees pinpointed namely, the Instructional Environment Committee, Assessment/Progress Monitoring, IEP/Evaluation Timelines, District Decision Making such as Calendar, Space, Transportation and Lunch. Dr. Halliman plans to have an update at the July meeting as our kids will be returning in August.

PRESENTATION – FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Kevin Slattery reported that as of April 30, we had a fund balance of \$5.86M. As of May 30, we had a fund balance of \$4.52M noting that we are doing well. We expended about \$20.3M and realized 18.6M. We have a reimbursement coming in from IDEA that about \$1.9M.

FY21 Workers Compensation Broker Renewal

Recommending to Dr. Halliman and requesting the Board to approve the FY21 Workers' Compensation Renewal from Alliant Mesirow. It is down from last year. The cost is \$105,011 vs. last year at \$106k. SPEED has done well this FY with minimal work related injuries.

Assignment of Banking Facility

Mr. Slattery stated that he has recommended to Dr. Halliman that we switch our Imprest and Activity Fund accounts from First Midwest Bank to Old Second Bank. Old Second Bank has no fees attached to these checking account with the exception of bounced check fees. First Midwest was unwilling to waive the fees being charged to our account. Effective July 1, 2020, the accounts will be moved to Old Second Bank.

Elementary and Secondary Relief Grants

We have the opportunity to receive \$7200. The grant was approved last week and in general is for COVID related materials as well as a piece of equipment that will clean and spray disinfectant in our classrooms.

FEMA Grant

Mr. Slattery reported that he would be looking into the FEMA grant which will provide approximately \$10k.

Mr. Bean stated that this is Mr. Slattery's last meeting with us, so on behalf of both of the Boards he thanked Mr. Slattery for his dedication and commitment to our children and the district.

CLOSED SESSION

At 7:45 p.m. Ms. Havighorst moved, seconded by Ms. Jones that the Governing Board goes into Closed Session to discuss the employment, compensation, and/or performance of a specific employee of SPEED and to discuss pending, probable, and/or imminent litigation, and/or matters regarding students. Any items needing approval will be voted on during open session.

On roll call vote:

Ayes: Ms. Taylor, District 144; Mrs. Havighorst, District 153; Ms. Vlietstra, District 161; Ms. Dupee, District 163; Ms. Tammy Jones, District 168; Ms. Sanders, District 170; Ms. Turner, District 194; Ms. Roop, District 201U; Ms. King, District 206; Ms. Bannon, District 233, Mr. Bean

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Dixon, District 167; Mr. Sherman, District 169; Mr. Sons, District 172; Ms. Preston, District 227

Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Taylor moved, seconded by Ms. Vlietstra that the Governing Board ratifies the Consent Agenda items A, through E as approved by the Operating Committee at their June 11, 2020 meeting.

- A. Personnel Report
- B. Approval of Minutes of May 21, 2020 as presented
- C. Approval of Closed Session Minutes of May 21, 2020 as presented
- D. Approval of Recurring and Non-Recurring Bills for May and June, 2020
- E. Approval of Imprest and Activity Funds for April, 2020

On roll call vote:

Ayes: Ms. Taylor, District 144; Mrs. Havighorst, District 153; Ms. Vlietstra, District 161; Ms. Dupree, District 163; Ms. Tammy Jones, District 168; Ms. Sanders, District 170; Ms. Turner, District 194; Ms. Roop, District 201U; Ms. King, District 206; Ms. Bannon, District 233; Mr. Bean

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Dixon, District 167; Mr. Sherman, District 169; Mr. Sons, District 172; Ms. Preston, District 227

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Taylor moved, seconded by Ms. King that the Governing Board ratifies the New Business Agenda items A through C as approved by the Operating Committee at their June 11, 2020 meeting.

- A. FY21 Workers compensation Broker Renewal
- B. Assignment of Banking Facility
- C. Employment of Director of Business and Finance

On roll call vote:

Ayes: Ms. Taylor, District 144; Mrs. Havighorst, District 153; Ms. Vlietstra, District 161; Ms. Dupree, District 163; Ms. Tammy Jones, District 168; Ms. Sanders, District 170; Ms. Turner, District 194; Ms. Roop, District 201U; Ms. King, District 206; Ms. Bannon, District 233; Mr. Bean

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Dixon, District 167; Mr. Sherman, District 169; Mr. Sons, District 172; Ms. Preston, District 227

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None

AUDIENCE

INFORMATION

Additional comments:

Ms. Taylor volunteered to be a part the Reopening School Taskforce at SPEED.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bean adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.



Ms Deborah Havighorst, Secretary
Ms. Cassandra Giles, Recording Secretary

Date: _____

7/27/2020



Mr. Bean, President
SPEED Governing Board

