

SPEED S.E.J.A. #802

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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

May 27, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bean called the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m.

ROLL CALL

On roll call the following answered present: Ms. Deborah Havighorst, District 153; Ms. Vlietstra, District 161; Mr. Ron Bean, District 162; Dr. Christina Dupee, District 163; Ms. Tammy Jones, District 168; Mr. Lawrence, District 169; (arrived at 7:45 p.m.); Dr. Todd Hall, District 201U; Ms. Cheryl Coleman, District 227 and Ms. Michelle Hoereth, District 233

Absent: Ms. Carlene Matthews, District 144; Mr. John Dixon, District 167; Ms. Sanders, District 170; Mr. Sons, District 172; Ms. Karen Turner, District 194; and Ms. Karen King, District 206.

Dr. Halliman, Superintendent was present as well as the following SPEED Staff: Ms. Brenda Murillo, Director of Business and Finance; Ms. Vanessa Duffin, Director of Human Resources; Dr. Maureen White, Director of District Services; Mr. Gregory Furgason, Director of Technology; Mr. Joe Kekelik, Director of Buildings and Grounds, Ms. Sue Janacek, Program Supervisor and Principals: Ms. April Brown, Ms. Linda Wilson and Ms. Amina Payne.

Also, present: Mr. Ray Hauser, Attorney from Hauser, Izzo, Petrarca, Gleason & Stillman, LLC

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Extended School Year

Dr. Halliman reported that the last day for students and staff was 5/26/2021. We will have a week off and then we will begin our Extended School Year (ESY) program, which is the summer school for special needs students.

The Extended School Year runs for 5 weeks. The theme for this year's program is entitled, "Under the Sea". The theme lessons will include non-fiction activities, Ocean Eco-Systems, hands on Ocean STEM activities and a virtual field trip. There were 172 students eligible to attend ESY. We currently have 163 students (95%) completely enrolled. Of those students enrolled, 132 students (81%) will be in-person for the summer and 31 students have elected remote only learning. Summer school will meet Monday – Thursday from 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

COVID Vaccination Update

We have a total of 241 employees of which 236 employees have shared their vaccination status with us. We have a total of 134 (60%) staff members that have been partially or fully vaccinated. We have approximately 25 staff members awaiting an appointment and 77 staff members that have chosen not to get the vaccination. Roughly 57/58 percent of our staff population have received the vaccination. We continue to send information on where vaccinations can be obtained weekly should they desire a vaccination.

The vaccination age has been lowered to 12. There have been several opportunities for our students to receive the vaccination and we send this information to parents as well as post on our website.

COVID Testing Update

Dr. Halliman stated that she reported some time ago that we received the CLIA certification which allows us to house COVID Rapid Test on site. We currently have 400 BINAX Now testing kits and we will pilot that program over ESY this summer. We are also working with Beth Keller with the IDPH to secure the Shield Saliva test. This is important because a positive test result from the BINAX Now requires additional testing whereas with the Shield test you would not need additional testing.

Cook Illinois Transportation

Dr. Halliman informed the Board that we received a letter from Cook-Illinois Transportation company informing us that there was a national school bus driver shortage which could potentially impact us this fall. Dr. Halliman contacted the owner, Mr. O'Sullivan to discuss the matter and a meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 2, 2021. After a verbal meeting with Mr. O'Sullivan, we do not expect an impact on our district, but we are still meeting. We have also been in contact with Attorney Hauser regarding the potential impact for the fall. Dr. Halliman committed to keep the board updated should this affect SPEED.

Instructional Technology Coach

Dr. Halliman reported that listed on the Personnel report along with the other contracts that we have for various related services, is the agreement with the Learning Technology Center for an Instructional Technology Coach for next year. We are partnering with ECHO Cooperative on this agreement. Dr. Halliman stated that what she really likes about this program is that not only will the person work one-on-one with our teachers, at least 20% of that expert's time will be spent on district-wide professional development. This PD is not only available to our staff but also to the member districts as well. Their main role is to work one-on-one with teachers.

Dr. Halliman stated that two of our member districts (168 and 161) have partnered together and also share a technology coach.

ESSER

Dr. Halliman shared that at the last Board meeting there was a rich discussion in regard to ESSER dollars and the impact on SPED Cooperatives across our state and the lack thereof resulting in a board generated request to send information on what legislators were doing on behalf of us receiving an equitable amount of ESSER \$. The information has been sent. It is a

lengthy report hence Dr. Halliman has asked Ms. Murillo, our Business Manager, to provide an update on ESSER dollars specifically for our Cooperative and then our COVID expenses.

Ms. Vlietstra stated that she is happy to hear this information being reported however her question is what our legislators are doing to help. Dr. Halliman stated that she is not quite sure how far this is going with the legislators, but Dr. Genera Walters (former SPEED Superintendent) has reached out to Dr. Ayala, State Superintendent. There was a response to her however when our group reached out, we still have not received a response.

The ESSER III allocations are an estimated allocation. Once the ESSER III allocations were put out to the state, all of the Cooperatives were taken off the list along with the any of the private schools that ISC4 has. We are hopeful that this is a sign that they are trying figure out how much they will allocate to us because they have not given school districts guidance on how to use the money that has already flowed through to our Member Districts. Ms. Murillo will provide a more granular view of what it could possibly look like should ISBE give guidance to the districts about how to allocate ESSER dollars to wherever your child is sitting, whether at a cooperative or a private institution.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget Summary Report

At the end of March, we received 55% of the budgeted revenue and expended 63%. As of April 30th, we've received 60% of our budgeted revenue and have expended 73% of our budget. We have expended \$132,000 for PPE and COVID related expenses through the end of April.

Maintenance of Effort

MOE reports were sent out on May 13 to the Special Education Directors and Business Managers. We have 4 member districts that have not met MOE and we have been in contact with each of those districts. Currently, only one of our districts has submitted a revised MOE and we are awaiting ISBE's response.

Food Service Bidding Process

The bid opening for Food Service was held on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. We had one bidder to attend and submit a proposal. That vendor was Elixir dba Preferred Meals. In the proposal, breakfast was priced at \$2.10 per meal and lunches at \$3.85. The estimated total amount of the bid is \$370,050. Both prices per unit are below the state reimbursement amount.

FEMA Reimbursement

Last month FEMA announced that they were reimbursing 100% of COVID Relief Funds to applicants. SPEED received an additional \$2,554 bring our FEMA funding total to \$10,219.

Health and Life Safety Inspection

Ms. Murillo informed the Board that we passed the Health and Life Safety Inspection. We have since found out that we actually received a perfect score. Kudos to our B & G Director, Mr. Joe Kekelik and all of our staff.

Medicaid Vendor

Ms. Murillo shared with the Board that our Medicaid Claim vendor, My Service Tracker aka Hawthorne, donated 15 HP Chrome Books in April.

ESSER Presentation

Dr. Halliman stated that a copy of the ESSER power point presentation is included in the board packet.

Ms. Murillo reviewed several charts which provided information on the ESSER dollars that were allocated to each member district in total as well as per student as compared to what SPEED has received.

Additionally, Ms. Murillo stated that grant opportunities were not provided equitably to cooperatives. There was \$80M in CARES funding that cooperatives did not receive along with other grants such as the ESSER Digital Learning and the CLC grants that were not available to SPED Cooperatives. The ESSER III grant did not include Cooperatives. SPEED did however receive small amounts from ESSER I (\$7,292) and ESSER II (\$19,781). This funding was used for disinfecting supplies, equipment and classroom tech supplies in preparation for synchronous learning. Additionally, we received FEMA money which was utilized for deep cleaning.

Ms. Murillo also informed the Board of the financial impact of COVID on our Technology and Building and Grounds departments. \$177,656 has been spent of which the majority was spent on providing devices for all staff and students. Due to tariffs on overseas imports, we had a very difficult time obtaining new devices. To assist in closing the gap in the meantime, the Technology department hand-built devices, using parts from other devices that were irreparable. Fifty percent of our staff received new devices. The other half of our staff and half of our student population are currently working with devices that are approximately 4 years old. Ms. Murillo stated that our technology infrastructure is in dire need of upgrades.

Ms. Murillo shared that the impact on the Buildings and Grounds department is that we've expended \$132,256 since the beginning of the pandemic on PPE, cleaning supplies and other supplies such as student protective desk shields, thermometers and supplies for our care room. Currently, our PPE supplies will only last through August for both staff and students. With students returning in the fall, we expect to spend much more on PPE and other protective guards.

Questions/Discussion:

Ms. Vlietstra sought clarification on who reached out to Dr. Ayala and if we received any response.

Dr. Halliman stated that along with the other 5 SPED Coops in the South-Cook area, Dr. Angie Zajac took the lead on this with a couple of other SPED Superintendents in the Northern suburbs. The e-mail was sent two months ago, and she still has not received a response. Dr. Walter and Deputy Luis did receive a response from Dr. Ayala, but we have not.

Ms. Vlietstra asked Dr. Halliman to share with the board how the Superintendents feel about all of this.

Dr. Halliman stated that she shared this same presentation to the Operating Committee last week and there really were no comments to the presentation but we have been talking about this in other arenas outside of the board meetings. One of the problems is that ISBE has not given any guidance to regular education districts specifically stating how they are to allocate any money to the SPED Cooperatives, etc. Typically, ISBE will state how much should be allocated on any money that is disbursed. There were no written guidelines in this case. Dr. Halliman stated that the only superintendent she knows of that is allocating money without direction is Dr. Walters. She stated that wherever her children's bodies sit, the money will follow that child.

Dr. Dupee asked if they (the Board members) should reach back to their Superintendents and Finance directors and request that they bring this information forward to their boards so a decision can be made as to what should be done?

Dr. Halliman stated that she could not make that decision. She was really only providing information, that is easily accessible to the general public, directly from ISBEs public website by Googling. No log-in information is required.

Ms. Vlietstra stated that she appreciated receiving the eye-opening information.

CLOSED SESSION

At 7:55 p.m. Ms. Jones, District 168 moved, seconded by Ms. Havighorst, District 153 that pursuant to the Open Meetings Act Section 2(c)(1), Section 2(c)(10) and Section 2(c)(11) the Governing Board goes into closed session to discuss the employment, compensation, and/or performance of a specific employee of SPEED and or matters regarding students. Any items needing approval will be voted on during open session.

On roll call vote: Ms. Deborah Havighorst, District 153; Ms. Vlietstra, District 161; Mr. Ron Bean, District 162; Dr. Christina Dupee, District 163; Ms. Tammy Jones, District 168; Mr. Lawrence, District 169; Dr. Todd Hall, District 201U; Ms. Cheryl Coleman, District 227 and Ms. Michelle Hoereth, District 233

Absent: Ms. Carlene Matthews, District 144; Mr. John Dixon, District 167; Ms. Sanders, District 170; Mr. Sons, District 172; Ms. Karen Turner, District 194; and Ms. Karen King, District 206.

Nays: None

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Havighorst, District 153 moved, seconded by Ms. Jones, District 168 that the Governing Board ratifies the Consent Agenda items A, B, C, D, and E as approved by the Operating Committee at its May 20th, 2021 meeting.

- A. Personnel Report
- B. Approval of Minutes of March 25, 2021
- C. Approval of Closed Session Minutes of March 25, 2021
- D. Approval of Recurring and Non-Recurring Bills
- E. Approval of Imprest and Activity Funds

On roll call vote: Ms. Deborah Havighorst, District 153; Ms. Vlietstra, District 161; Mr. Ron Bean, District 162; Dr. Christina Dupee, District 163; Ms. Tammy Jones, District 168; Mr.

Lawrence, District 169; Dr. Todd Hall, District 201U; Ms. Cheryl Coleman, District 227 and Ms. Michelle Hoereth, District 233

Absent: Ms. Carlene Matthews, District 144; Mr. John Dixon, District 167; Ms. Sanders, District 170; Mr. Sons, District 172; Ms. Karen Turner, District 194; and Ms. Karen King, District 206.

Nays: None

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Coleman, District 227 moved, seconded by Dr. Dupee, District 163 that the Governing Board ratifies the New Business Agenda Items A, B, C and D as approved by the Operating Committee at its May 20th, 2021 meeting.

- A. Administrative Contract Renewals**
- B. FY21/22 Classroom Lease Agreements**
- C. FY21/22 Tentative School Calendar**
- D. United Cerebral Palsy/Infinitec Agreement FY22 Renewal**

On roll call vote: Ms. Deborah Havighorst, District 153; Ms. Vlietstra, District 161; Mr. Ron Bean, District 162; Dr. Christina Dupee, District 163; Ms. Tammy Jones, District 168; Mr. Lawrence, District 169; Dr. Todd Hall, District 201U; Ms. Cheryl Coleman, District 227 and Ms. Michelle Hoereth, District 233

Absent: Ms. Carlene Matthews, District 144; Mr. John Dixon, District 167; Ms. Sanders, District 170; Mr. Sons, District 172; Ms. Karen Turner, District 194; and Ms. Karen King, District 206.

Nays: None

E. HUB International Annual Consulting Agreement

Dr. Halliman shared New Business Item E was not an actionable item. She wanted to share with the board that the HUB Consulting agreement would no longer be a standard item on the May agenda as we have a new liability insurance company this year which Gallagher is offering our district a self-service portal for a paperless open enrollment. In the process of offering this paperless model, we no longer have to pay a consulting fee to HUB International because Gallagher does this for free if you are paperless. We are therefore saving \$4000.

OLD BUSINESS

The proposed Operating Committee and Governing Board Meeting dates will remain the same, the 4th Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Please note the July Board meeting is the 3rd Thursday in July.

INFORMATION

- Student Enrollment Report – Dr. Halliman shared that she intended to change the report because the only information that they were receiving contained the number of students enrolled within the four walls of our district. This was not a true reflection of all the students that we serve. The updated report includes a column that shows the students that remain in the home district to whom we deploy related staff out to our member districts. We have approximately 550 students that we actually service.

- Dr. Halliman stated that she included the letter she received on the Life Safety report which yielded a perfect score.


Dr. Halliman welcomed the two new Board members, Ms. Hoerath, District 233 and Dr. Todd, District 201U. We also have an additional new board member, Ms. Matthews from SD 144, who was unable to attend due to PHSD Commencement Exercises.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS


None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bean adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.


Deborah Havighorst, Secretary
Cassandra Giles, Recording Secretary

Date: 7/20/2021


Mr. Bean, President
SPEED Governing Board