

COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY NO. 9
BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING
CESA 9 OFFICE
304 KAPHAEM ROAD
TOMAHAWK, WISCONSIN
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021 CESA 9 OFFICE

MINUTES

Chair Andy Merry called the April 7, 2021 Board of Control meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. The following members were in attendance:

Present:

- Carol Ballerstein - Stratford
- Jason Dananay - Rib Lake
- Bruce Krueger - DC Everest
- David Holperin - Rhinelander
- Terry McCloskey - Three Lakes
- Andy Merry - Antigo
- Helen Palmquist - Prentice
- Lee Webster - Wausau
- Shanon Peel - Athens
- Chris Petreikis - Northland Pines
- Deb Velleux - Tomahawk

CESA staff members in attendance included Hilary Cordova, Al Betry, Teri Phalin, Peggy Francour, and Agency Administrator Dr. Karen Wendorf-Heldt.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by McCloskey, second by Holperin to approve the consent agenda as presented. Agenda items included approval of meeting agenda, approval of March 3, 2021 meeting minutes, approval of March 3, 2021 closed session minutes, and approval of shared service contract with CESA 10. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Opportunity for Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Presentation: Al Betry. ETP Update

Al Betry, Director of Continuous School Improvement and of the Excellence in Teaching Program (ETP) updated the board on the growth of ETP since its inception in 2017. There has been much growth both in the number of students and the programs of study available. Many of the ETP graduates are serving schools in the CESA 9 districts and the program serves some students across the state of Wisconsin. After the presentation, he answered questions from the board.

Presentation of Financial Report and Monthly Claims

Financial reports for March were reviewed along with the updated historical monthly cash balance chart. Hilary clarified that the increase in the cash flow is because of large payments by DPI this month along with a larger than usual Wisconsin Virtual School billing that went out. Motion by McCloskey, second by Krueger to approve the March financial report and claims as presented. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion carried.

New Business

Karen reviewed the statutory timelines for nonrenewal and layoff and requested the Board authorize the Agency to issue preliminary nonrenewal and/or layoff notices if necessary by the April 30th deadline. She indicated that she is not anticipating any non-renewals but if so, none would be for performance reasons. Any non-renewals would be dependent on whether there is a change in services requested by districts. Motion by Krueger, second by Petreikis to authorize the Agency Administrator to issue preliminary notification of nonrenewal to Agency personnel as needed by the April 30th deadline. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Theresa Miles from the Wausau School District Board of Education has been the CESA 9 appointee to the School District Boundary Appeal Board for a number of years. Since she is no longer on the CESA 9 Board of Control and her term is expiring, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction is requesting that CESA 9 nominate two candidates to fill vacancies on the board. Their names, along with a brief resume, will be sent to the State Superintendent by the end of April. The State Superintendent will make the appointment in early May. A motion by Palmquist, second by Krueger to nominate Terry McCloskey and Lee Webster to be the CESA 9 nominees. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Administrator's Report

Karen provided the following shout outs: Mike Julka from Boardman & Clark. Mike recently received national recognition as a Super Lawyer. Mike has always been an incredible source of wise counsel and current legal updates to both the Agency and the CESA 9 superintendents. The superintendents created an electronic recognition of their congratulations and appreciation for Mike. Another shout out was to Mike Thompson, the Deputy State Superintendent. Karen has worked closely with Mike throughout the years and appreciates the support he provides to CESAs all around the state. Mike will be retiring on May 15th. Karen read an email that Teri Phalin, Director of Special Education and Student Services received from the Human Resources Department at Aspirus Hospital in Wausau. They recognized the amazing work and passion that CESA 9 employee, Katie Ayello, brings to her job as the Project SEARCH Teacher at the hospital.

The March PAC meeting took place virtually. In addition to the regular meeting items, Kim Kaukl, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance (WiRSA) shared a brief update on the work WiRSA is doing. Mike Julka from Boardman & Clark presented a complimentary hour long webinar on legal updates. Karen gave an update on school improvement and licensing in Al's absence. The superintendents shared post-pandemic plans for learning. They also had a discussion on strategic use of ESSER funds and accountability.

Most of the 2021-2022 Shared Services Contracts from CESA 9 districts have been received. The deadline is April 15th.

Karen shared about some potential changes that are being discussed at DPI regarding Title I funds to CESAs to provide universal level support to all districts. This possible change would take funds from Tier I and distribute them to districts that need Tier II interventions. The concern is that money might be taken from Tier I programs that are working well. Since one of the jobs of the CESAs is to be the intermediary between DPI and the school districts, they are having discussions on other sources of income for increased Title II interventions. Karen will update the board as more information is received.

Board Development - Focus 3

Karen shared a short presentation on training the entire CESA 9 staff is using. She addressed behavior skills vs. job skills and how to distinguish between opportunities for control and opportunities for influence.

Adjournment

Motion by Petreikis, second by McCloskey to adjourn. All voted aye. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.