MINUTES OF EARLY CHILDHOOD COOPERATIVE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

January 12, 2024

Regular WCES Conference Room 8:30 A.M.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Present Absent

Mrs. Kathy Clark, Unit I

Becky Moss, Unit II

Mr. Sy Stone, Unit III

Mr. Nathaniel Wilson, Unit IV

Mr. Keith Liddell, Unit V

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Jami Hodge, WCES Director

Jenny Malanowski, Treasurer

Kristi White, WCEA

Sarah Barnstable, Assistant Superintendent Unit V

Chairman Kathy Clark called the WCECC meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Roll call was taken with Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Moss, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Liddell in attendance. Mr. Stone entered the meeting at 8:32 a.m.

There was no visitor participation.

Mr. Liddell made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular WCECC meeting on October 16, 2023, as presented and Mr. Wilson seconded the motion.

Members Clark, Moss, Wilson and Liddell voted “yea”. Motion carried.

Mr. Liddell made the motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, Members Clark, Moss, Wilson and Liddell voted “yea”. Motion carried.

FY24 Early Childhood Block Grant presented

Preschool Screening Flyer presented

Director’s Report:

-Awarded a 1% increase to grant (first increase in five years) and private facilities received 3% increase (this was used toward coordinator salary)

-April 15 is RIF deadline

-Four teachers and four assistants are in Herrin now. Do we need those slots or reduce or move?

-Does not include EC. EC is Federal requirement.

- Questions arose regarding Herrin and grant they received and what that will look like with co-op and numbered slots. Both programs must maintain slots and that would be competing to fill. Must be filled 90% capacity or monies must be given back. You lose money if you don’t fill. Herrin forfeited monies this year from the grant and the hope was new slots from Herrin and not to take away from current numbers

-Ideas included wrap around and full day at Herrin facility

-Co-op grant money is all salary

-Carterville has 30 in wrap around

-Currently Herrin has 21 openings at this time

-Questions were asked about if that meant riffing was necessary

-Inclusion would be available at either Nside or new building

-Teachers asking questions

-Do we need a special PreK meeting?

-Herrin awarded grant because it’s a PreK desert

-Agreement with Co-op is a 12 months’ notice and July 1, 2025 would be the fastest someone could pull out of the joint agreement

-All PreKs are on an enrollment decline in the state of Illinois

Mr. Liddell made the motion to suspend the meeting and to be reconvened following the Executive Meeting. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion.

Members Clark, Moss, Stone, Wilson and Liddell voted “yea”. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 a.m.

Mrs. Clark called the meeting back to order at 9:27 a.m. and Director’s Remarks Continued:

-Building was purchased and Herrin is renting building space

-Goal is grant money helping to get more building space, not take away from co-op

-Money is based on slots and the classroom setup is the most expensive

-Supplies if classroom grant was not used later would be donated to another PFA classroom. This could be the co-op

-Little Lions is an exemplary program

-At Executive Meeting in February it will be determined if a special meeting would be needed for PreK

-Mr. Wilson and Director Hodge will meet prior to next Executive Meeting

Mr. Wilson made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Moss seconded the Motion. All present voted “yea”. Motion carried.

Members Clark, Moss, Stone, Wilson and Liddell voted “yea”. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

MINUTES ATTESTED TO:

Kathy Clark, Chairman of the Board Nathaniel Wilson, Secretary to the Board

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