

BITTERROOT VALLEY EDUCATION COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Tuesday, January 24, 2023
9:00 a.m. – Cooperative Office/Zoom

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** – Dr. DoBell called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. Board members in attendance: Mr. Biesiot, Mr. Fiske, Dr. DoBell, Mr. Thennis, Ms. Woodard. BVEC administration in attendance: Ms. Rammell and Mr. Hughes. Board Clerk: Jill Reynolds.
2. **Consent Agenda - approved by unanimous consent.**
 - A. Minutes
 - B. Warrants
 - C. Financial Report
 - D. Resignations
 1. Caroline (Karlle) Blair, CSCT Behavior Consultant, Stevensville Secondary-Attached
 - E. New Hires-*All Employment contingent upon completion of satisfactory background check.*
 1. Robert (Bobby) Sonsteng, CSCT Behavior Consultant Stevensville Secondary
 - F. Next Meeting – February 28, 2023, 9:00 am BVEC Conference Room
3. **Public Comment** - None
4. **Correspondence/Communications** - Retirement Letter from Terese Athman
5. **Board Action** -
 - A. **Resignation- Caroline (Karlle) Blair CSCT Behavior Consultant** – Ms. Rammell explained she received the letter from Ms. Blair on 12/15/22 citing the need to return to Oregon to help her parents who were having health issues. Ms. Blair's last day worked was 12/22/22 therefore she did not complete her 2023-24 contract. The recommendation was to impose the \$500 penalty. There was discussion regarding prior decisions on imposing the early resignation penalty, the fact that the CBA had a clause for liquidated damages and that the penalty for not completing a contract can result in a penalty fee of up to \$500. Mr. Fiske made a motion to approve the recommendation to impose the \$500 penalty fee. There was no second to the motion. There was further discussion on what had been done in the past and how penalties had been assessed. Mr. Biesiot made a motion to waive the penalty fee due to the employee leaving to care for parents. Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. There was further discussion on the impact turnover has on our kids, the cost of recruiting and training new employees, the difference in an employee leaving to accept another position locally or for assisting parents, the possibility of assessing one half the penalty or \$250. Dr. DoBell called for the vote on the motion to waive the penalty. Dr. DoBell, Mr. Biesiot and Mr. Thennis voted for the motion, Ms. Woodard and Mr. Fiske voted against the motion. Ayes 3, nays 2, motion carries.

B. Board Elected Retirement Offer - Dr. DoBell provided details from the recent bargaining session and the retirement incentive options provided in the CBA. Mr. Rammell provided additional history and explained that due to some employees being part time, even though they might have worked twenty five years, they would not have twenty five years of creditable history using TRS guidelines. Some of our part time employees are part time at the request of the cooperative in order to reduce costs, others due to caseloads, and some employees have volunteered to go to part time in order to allow the cooperative to hire full time positions. The recommendation is for the Board to Consider an Elected Retirement Offer to recognize the twenty-four years employment Ms. Athman has with the cooperative and the excellent service she has provided to most of the districts within the cooperative. Dr. DoBell made a motion to table the discussion until the March Board meeting, Mr. Biesiot seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

6. Information and Discussion

A. Monitoring – Ms. Rammell explained the monitoring process with OPI went well and continues to go well. She explained she is proud and pleased with the job employees have done on a daily basis, as well as with the monitoring process. Sixty days post monitoring will be February 6, 2023 so we are wrapping up. There was discussion on the OPI process being difficult in how students are identified with initials and dates. It would be more efficient to send encrypted files with full names so Districts can ensure they pull the correct files. There is also concern with the communication from OPI and how that was done. Ms. Rammell also mentioned she has some ideas for training and development that she could pursue with our Districts.

B. School Psychologist Candidate Interviews – Ms. Rammell announced that the cooperative has received applications for five qualified candidates for an additional School Psychologist that would split time between the Stevensville and Lone Rock Schools. She invited the superintendents from those districts to participate in the interview process that will be scheduled for early February. Ms. Rammell will send dates to the Superintendents.

C. Collective Bargaining Training – Ms. Rammell provided details on options for Collective Bargaining training. MTSBA has options for both online and face to face training. Costs would range from \$750 for half day to \$1500 for full day training. They also offer a labor relations program that would cost a one time \$1500. Kaleva Law also offers training, but we don't have costs for their programs yet. When the cooperative receives the costs from Kaleva Law she would like Board input on the options. Training would include cooperative administration, union associates, MFPE representatives, and Board representatives.

D. Rural Behavioral Health Initiative Screening Opportunity – Mr. Hughes handed out flyers to the Board regarding no costs screening opportunities to districts. The screening is designed

to identify and reduce suicide risks and the organization would then provide short term therapy to high risks students. There was discussion around the type of questions included in the surveys, how students are identified (by ID number, not name), the need for parental consent, etc. Mr. Thennis provided details around the Stevensville Board approval to use RBHI, how they will stagger the screenings, the need to pay attention to how data is used, setting up as either an opt in or an opt out program.

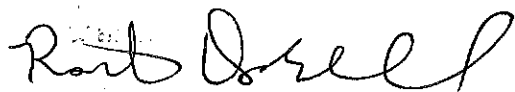
E. CSCT Match – Ms. Reynolds explained the issue with claims billed 12/20/22 as per the CSCT IGT process and how the DPHHS reporting process as run on 12/19/22 and therefore did not include most of the billing done for the past month. This will result in lower-than-normal MATCH dollars the district’s pay in January. In February, the MATCH amounts will be higher than normal because they will include two billing periods versus one.

F. IGT Process Update – Mr. Hughes explained the current legislature is considering removing OPI from the CSCT IGT process. It is believed that this will pass. If it does, it will require new MOUs and will hopefully reduce the turn around time on reimbursement, without changing the current process for schools or the cooperative.

G. LEA Assurance Form SY 2022-23 – Ms. Rammell gave each Board member the LEA Assurance Form that is due to OPI January 31, 2023. She has a meeting on 1/25/23 where she will be asking some clarifying questions she has regarding the form and process.

H. Director Evaluation – The Board went into close session to review the Cooperative Director’s performance evaluation for 2022 until 11:03 AM.

7. Adjourn – Dr. DoBell adjourned the meeting at 11:04 AM.



Board Chair Signature

2/28/23
Date



Board Clerk Signature

02/28/23
Date