

OGLE COUNTY EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The Executive Board of the Ogle County Educational Cooperative met at the Administration Building in Byron on September 15, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order. The following members answered roll call: Mr. Craven (RT), Mr. Prusator (RE), Ms. Bua (ST), Mr. Thake (AM), Mr. Mahoney (OR), Dr. Mayberry (ES), Mr. Zick (AFC), Mr. Taylor (FO) and Mr. Morelan (ME).

Also present: Mr. Noble, Ms. Amy Jo Clemens, Terry Camplain, and Sheri Egan

Members absent: Mr. Stott (KI), Dr. Kokaska (CR), Mr. Mahoney (OR) and Mr. Rademacher (PO).

Mr. Noble introduced Ms. Sheri Egan from Juvenile Justice. The C-Cap agreement would need to be signed by Ogle County Superintendents as part of the Juvenile Justice program. This has been a signed agreement since 2008 which allows information to be shared with the district in regards to students and their progress.

Ms. Amy Jo Clemens scheduled a meeting for October 19, 2011 with Rich Volts to discuss the Senate Bill #7 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The meeting will cover topics on Special Education, 180 day timeline, & deadlines. After the superintendents attend the IAASW meeting in September, additional topics may want to be discussed at the October 19th meeting. They are to contact Ms. Clemens to add items to the agenda. Discussion followed

Mr. Taylor requested a motion to approve minutes of the August 18, 2011 Executive Board Meeting. Mr. Craven motioned and Ms. Bua seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

Mr. Taylor requested a motion to approve the financial statement and payment of bills. Mr. Noble stated there were expenses in this month's bills for A/C repairs at Chana Education Center, and an Assisted technology evaluation was completed. Also, CPI trainer certification for Amy Stephenitch was in the bills. Currently, Ralph Gleissner is the only CPI trainer and OCEC is in need of an additional trainer. Districts may want to look at certifying custodians and kitchen staff in CPI.

Dr. Mayberry made a motion to approve the financial statement and the payment of bills and Mr. Craven seconded the motion.

Ayes: Ms. Bua, Mr. Craven, Mr. Morelan, Mr. Prusator, Dr. Mayberry, Mr. Zick, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Thake.

Nays: none

The Motion passed.

Mr. Terry Camplain, Principal at Chana Education Center, presented information on the Qwest Empowerment Skills program which is implemented at the school. Several area Lions clubs sponsored a two day training and curriculum for teachers at Chana. The cost of the program and training was \$4,000. The curriculum is for Kindergarten thru twelfth grade with the same concept taught throughout the school but the material is not repetitive and works with PBIS. Students at Chana Education Center participated in a service learning project at a local food bank. They are developing fund raiser projects. Suspensions have been reduced this year compared to this time last year. At parent/teacher conferences held in October, the teachers will be informing parents of the new curriculum being taught to their children.

Mr. Mahoney entered the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

Mr. Camplain left the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

Mr. Noble requested the board to approve employment for a speech therapist. The Forrestville School District is in need of a speech therapist. Working with the district OCEC was able to secure a therapist for three days per week from Speech Language Learning Solutions, SLLS, Inc. in Freeport. The cost for therapy services will be \$60 per hour.

Dr. Mayberry made a motion to approve the director's recommendations with a second by Ms. Bua. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Noble recommended the board approve the Health Insurance Renewal with Blue Cross/Blue Shield. The submitted bids for insurance were as follows; BCBS -4.17%, Health Alliance -5.63%, Humana -12.83% and United Health Care -5.03%. A census was complete by all OCEC staff prior to the bid process. There were some staff members who retired last year which contributed in the negative bid with BCBS. Chiropractic care has a low doctor participation in our area with United Health Care, which means staff would have to use out-of-network doctors for this service. United Health Care is working on this problem to recruit more doctors into their network. In FY12 there is a \$22,000 savings in health insurance over FY11 cost. The BCBS plan is the same as in FY11 with a portion of the deductible reimbursed to the employee. Mr. Noble presented the board with a voluntary dental and vision insurance plan. Staff members have been requesting these voluntary options. The Dental and Vision plans would not be a negotiated item with the contract agreement. Mr. Taylor would like a signed contract with the association stating the Dental and Vision plan are strictly voluntary and not a negotiated item. Mr. Craven motioned to approve the Blue Cross/Blue Shield October renewal along with the Dental and Vision plans offered to employees as volunteer payroll deduction. Ms. Bua seconded the motion.

Ayes: Mr. Craven, Ms. Bua, Mr. Morelan, Mr. Thake, Mr. Prusator, Mr. Taylor, Dr. Mayberry, Mr. Mahoney, and Mr. Zick.

Nays: None

The motion passed

Mr. Noble presented the board with a list of students in the Life Skills program and the Ed Program. There has been a large increase in the Life Skills enrollment. Class size is currently at 9-13 students per classroom. The IDEA grant funds are applied to the program cost for Life Skills and Behavior Disorder. The current daily rate is \$56.77 for Life Skills and \$70.24 for Behavior Disorder. The current annual rate for a full time student in the challenge program is \$518.79. If there was a need to hire another teacher the cost of the program would increase.

Mr. Noble shared information regarding funding for children requiring special education services for FY12. A spreadsheet was distributed to the superintendents with an amount each district is expected to receive. In the past, hold harmless legislation was passed to fund those districts who received less than in previous years. Tim Imler from ISBE stated the hold harmless rule will not apply this year. In years past the district funds flowed to the OCEC which decreased their tuition invoice but now the funds flow directly to the districts. ISBE is no longer paying personnel reimbursement for non student contact staff such as office staff and custodians. Also, speech paraprofessionals no longer qualify for \$9,000 personnel reimbursement but will qualify for \$3,500 reimbursement. Mr. Noble also stated the final FY11 Personnel payment was received. The final FY11 Transportation payment is however outstanding. OCEC received \$8,000 in RSSP funds which will be reimbursed to the districts but \$17,000 still outstanding.

Mr. Noble shared information on risk management. OCEC completes a survey every other year. This is done to determine if a percentage of services delivered being delivered by OCEC employees can be funded by a local school district's risk management fund. Districts also receive information on how much they can claim for IMRF, FICA & Medicare. In October the districts will receive information from OCEC on the amount of funds each district can charge to their local IMRF, FICA & Medicare funds as well as Risk Management.

The Executive Board did not go into Closed Session.

During other business, Mr. Noble stated that with the new RKDixon contract for the laser copiers at OCEC and Chana there is no need for stand alone inkjet printers. A list of available printers was distributed to the superintendents. If the district were in need of printers they were asked to take them for their buildings.

The Proportionate Share meetings will be held on October 5th at the OCEC office and at St. Paul's in Rochelle. A notice of the meetings will appear in the papers along with personal letters sent to homes. Once the meetings are completed the proper paperwork will be sent to ISBE.

Mr. Noble reminded the superintendents of the available inservice funds for their district's Special Education teachers to attend staff development trainings. The funds will cover the cost of registration for the teachers as well as substitute salaries.

Ms. Clemens noted there is not any Mentoring grant funds available for FY12. There were some districts that included the Mentoring Program in their budget.

Mr. Prusator shared information on the new building project in Rochelle. The building plans include a life skills classroom that would cost approximately \$281,000. Is OCEC interested in contributing towards the classroom cost? OCEC currently owns the portable located in Rochelle. Mr. Taylor suggested a building committee meeting in October to discuss the OCEC and Chana building needs over the next 10 years on what expenses could incur. Discussion followed.

Mr. Taylor suggested extending an invitation to the Byron interim superintendent, Mr. Caroll Smith, to the meetings. The superintendents thought it would be courteous to invite him.

At 10:42 a.m. the Executive Board Meeting adjourned. Mr. Craven motioned to adjourn the Executive Board Meeting and Ms. Bua seconded the motion.

Vote to adjourn the meeting was unanimous.

Lowell Taylor, President

Tammy Moser, Recording Secretary