

UPPER VALLEY SPECIAL EDUCATION BOARD MEETING

Friday, January 20, 2017 – 10:30 a.m.

Chase Building Conference Room

PRESENT: Mike O'Brien, Jeff Manley, Jack Maus, Kirk Ham, Darren Albrecht, Roger Abbe, Dan Juve.

President Abbe called the meeting to order.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: **MSC:** Maus-O'Brien to approve minutes of the December meeting as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: **MSC:** Maus-Ham to approve the December 31st Treasurer's Report as presented.

DECEMBER BILLS: **MSC:** Manley-O'Brien to approve payment of all bills presented. Check numbers include 17299-17372 and direct deposit stub numbers 35675-35726. Total December expenditures: \$488,567.12.

STAFFING UPDATES:

- 1) Coordinator Scenarios – Juve presented coordinator options for 2016-2017, including 2, 2.5 and 3 FTEs. Discussion followed. Discussion followed. Consensus was that three coordinators would be ideal, but it is questionable whether or not the budget can financially sustain 3 FTEs. This item will be readdressed at future meetings.
- 2) Speech-Language Needs – Juve expressed concern with inflated SLP caseload numbers throughout the Unit, and most notably within the Grafton District. There is a need for an additional therapist to adequately meet student needs. Various building teachers and other SLPPs within the unit have assisted in meeting immediate needs, however cannot sustain this fix beyond the 2016-2017 school year. Discussion followed. Grafton administration will meet with Juve to attempt reconfiguring grade levels and teachers to allow for another SLP without increasing the total FTEs.

PRE-K POLICY: Juve presented the second reading for a policy defining the financial responsibility for special education students who are enrolled in a member districts from outside the Unit, but do not have a tuition agreement or open enrollment. Revised reading for the policy is as follows:

*"Special education costs are the responsibility of the resident special education unit through the state contract system (through open enrollment guidelines) or a tuition agreement. When and if a district allows a student to attend from outside the unit without a tuition agreement or meeting open enrollment guidelines within the resident school; the financial responsibility for special education will be from the school district allowing the enrollment of the student. A contract will be generated and billed by the Upper Valley Special Education Unit for these students enrolled. The billing costs will be determined by the student's IEP service minutes. Upon enrolling a student from outside the unit, the district must determine if they will generate a tuition agreement with the parents or resident school district. School districts must decide if they will collect reimbursement from parents when special education costs are warranted if and when eligibility is determined after enrolling into the district. *Note* Pre-K students are not subject to open enrollment and a contract cannot be generated through the state contract system. Any Pre-K students with special education services enrolled in the Upper Valley Special Education Unit will be billed to allowing districts.*

Discussion followed. **M/S:** Maus-Manley to approve the 2nd reading of this policy. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

PSN UNDERSTANDINGS: Juve relayed information regarding affirmations from the US Dept of Education and OSEP's Dear Colleague letter committing to inclusive PSN programs and the importance for educating children with disabilities in regular classes alongside peers without disabilities. It also stressed that unless the IEP requires other arrangements, the child needs to be educated in the school and he/she would attend if nondisabled. Discussion followed.

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE: Juve reported on the January 19th staff inservice presentation by Heather Schlemmer. Schlemmer's training supported our State Improvement Plan of working with students with social cognitive deficits and using other resources such as Zones of Regulation and PBIS. Curriculum will now be purchased through the grant to assist with interventions.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

Negotiations: Board discussed the upcoming negotiation process. Teachers will present their petition for recognition at the February meeting. Andrea Cota and Toni Hartje will represent the teachers as negotiators. Jeff Manley and Darren Albrecht will represent the Board as negotiators.

M/S: Ham-Albrecht to adjourn the meeting.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2017, 9:00 A.M., CHASE BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM.

Respectfully submitted,

Renae Grinde, Business Manager

Roger Abbe, Board Chairman