

UPPER VALLEY SPECIAL EDUCATION BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

Chase Building Conference Room

PRESENT: Kirk Ham, Jeff Manley, Jill Olson, Steve Swiontek, Darren Albrecht, Linda Lutovsky, Jason Keating, Dan Juve. **Guests:** Dave Wheeler, Jessica Pankow

PRESENT VIA ZOOM: **Guests:** Jami Frize, Shelly Henke

President Manley called the meeting to order.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: **MSC:** Swiontek-Lutovsky to approve minutes of the January 19, 2021 meeting as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: **MSC:** Olson-Keating to approve the January 31st Treasurer's Report as presented. **M/S:** Albrecht-Olson to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.

JANUARY BILLS: **MSC:** Olson-Keating to approve payment of all bills presented. Check numbers include 20280-20218 and direct deposit stub numbers 38784-38861. Total January expenditures: \$481,368.36.

STAFFING UPDATES: Juve presented retirement resignations:

- 1) Sarah Wollitz, Fordville Special Education Teacher (retirement)
- 2) Jim Mulligan, LSTC/Grafton HS Special Education Teacher (retirement)
- 3) Maggie Coffinet-Crean, Minto Special Education Teacher
- 4) Brianna Dungan, Cavalier SLPP

All teacher resignations are effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school term. Dungan's SLPP resignation was a two week notice. Discussion followed. **M/S:** Ham-Lutovsky to approve each of the resignations. Motion carried unanimously.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Frize reviewed/summarized current proposed ND House Bills 1416 and 1466 regarding preschool education. In addition, ND House Bill 1188 regarding Special Education Technicians and ND House Bill 1188 regarding restraint and seclusion were discussed.

PETITION FOR RECOGNITION OF NEGOTIATING UNIT: The petition from teachers requesting recognition of the negotiating unit was presented. **M/S:** Ham-Swiontek: Pursuant to NDCC Section 15.1-16-10, the Upper Valley Special Education Board recognizes as the appropriate negotiating unit all employees licensed to teach by the ESPB or approved to teach by the ESPB and employed primarily as classroom teachers. Motion carried unanimously. Board representatives on the negotiating team will be determined at the March meeting.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

- 1) **Park River Long Term Substitute:** Ham requested the Board's consideration of paying for a long term substitute teacher in PR in order to meet the needs of a self-contained student needing one-to-one instruction. This coverage would be through the end of the school term, as other placements are being considered for next school year. **M/S:** Olson-Lutovsky to approve paying for this long term substitute through the end of this school term. Motion carried 6-1, Swiontek opposed.

Meeting Minutes (February 16, 2021)

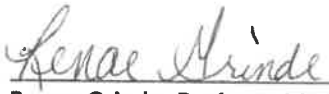
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- 2) **Grafton Preschool Staffing**: Due to increased caseload numbers and student needs, Albrecht requested the Board's consideration of adding an additional Preschool Special Needs Teacher in the Grafton District beginning 2021-2022 school year. Discussion followed. **M/S**: Ham-Keating to approve this additional staff member and begin advertising. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) **Pembina County Special Education(PCSE) Director Needs**: Juve reported that he had been contacted by PCSE's director, who will be retiring in the near future, initiating discussion of Juve acting as Director for both Units.

The meeting was adjourned.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021 AT THE CHASE BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM.

Respectfully submitted,



Renae Grinde, Business Manager



Jeff Manley, Board Chairman