

## UPPER VALLEY SPECIAL EDUCATION BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, March 14, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.

Chase Building Conference Room

**PRESENT:** Darren Albrecht, Jeff Manley (via ZOOM), Jill Olson, Shane Robinson, Steve Swiontek, Aaron Schramm, Jason Keating, Dan Juve. Guests Present: Dave Wheeler, Jami Frize (via ZOOM), Shelly Henke, Jessica Pankow, Toni Votava.

President Manley called the meeting to order.

**SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST:** School Psych Intern, Toni Votava, presented an overview of duties and responsibilities of the School Psychologist position and presented 2023-2024 salary proposals for the Board's consideration. As Option 1, Votava requested an additional increase of 20% beyond placement on the salary schedule, as well as 10 extra days beyond the regular school year contract. As Option 2, Votava requested the board create a professional pay scale specific to school social workers. Discussion followed. The Finance Committee and Board will take these requests into consideration while developing this new position.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** **MSC:** Swiontek-Keating to approve minutes of the February meeting as written.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The February 28<sup>th</sup> report was reviewed. **MSC:** Albrecht-Robinson to approve treasurer's report as presented.

**FEBRUARY BILLS:** **MSC:** Keating-Schramm to approve payment of all bills presented.

### **STAFFING:**

- Juve reported that Kirby Folkers accepted the 2023-2024 SLP position at Manvel School, along with a signing bonus of \$3000 for three years. She will have an ESY contract beginning August 1, 2023, allowing her eligibility of health insurance as of September 1<sup>st</sup>. Discussion followed. **M/S:** Olson-Albrecht to approve this contract. Motion carried unanimously.
- Juve presented resignations from the following special education teachers: Kate Heck, Cavalier Public School, Kendi Loy, Emerado Public School, and Amber Doll, Cavalier Public School. All resignations are effective at the completion of this 2022-2023 school year. **M/S:** Swiontek-Keating to accept these resignations. Motion carried unanimously.

**SICK LEAVE CARRYOVER FOR WITHIN-UNIT NEW HIRES:** Juve presented a proposed policy to allow sick leave carryover for within unit new hires. The policy will read as follows: *If the Upper Valley Special Education Unit hires a teacher transferring from a teaching position within one of our member districts, that teacher will be allowed to bring in accumulated sick leave up to a maximum of 90 days.* Discussion followed. **M/S:** Keating-Olson to approve this proposal and add to the UVSE Policy Handbook. Motion carried unanimously.

**1 FTE PROPOSAL:** Due to growing caseloads and high needs, Juve asked for consideration of an additional teaching position to serve the Midway and Fordville Schools. The position will begin with the 2023-2024 school year. Discussion followed. **M/S:** Albrecht-Robinson to approve this position. Motion carried unanimously.

**SIGNING BONUS:** Juve reported that Gabrielle Pflingston, SLP, is considering a position with UVSE, but has requested a \$2000 signing bonus for two years. Discussion followed. **M/S:** Keating-Schramm to allow Juve to offer signing bonuses as he sees fit throughout the hiring process. Motion carried unanimously.

**SALARY/BENEFITS DISCUSSION:** Juve reported the Finance Committee met and created a proposal for Nationally Certified Professional staff members. This would include OTs, SLPs, and other staff members with a National Board Certification. The proposal would include placement on the salary schedule, plus a percentage increase based on their current step (Steps 0-10 3.5%; Steps 11-20 4%; Steps 21-30 4.5%). This would provide equity to all staff holding board certifications. Discussion followed. The Board will consider this proposal at the completion of teacher negotiations.

**NEGOTIATING BOARD REPRESENTATIVES:** Juve asked for volunteers to serve on the negotiating team representing the UVSE Board. Albrecht and Robinson agreed to serve in this capacity.

**RECOGNITION OF NEGOTIATION UNIT:**

- The Board has investigated the petition filed by the Teacher Group requesting recognition as negotiating unit and has determined they do represent a majority of the teachers within that unit. **M/S:** Albrecht-Keating to recognize the Teacher Group as the representative organization for a minimum of one year. Motion carried unanimously.
- The Board has investigated the petition filed by the Coordinators Group requesting recognition as negotiating unit and has determined they do represent a majority of the teachers within that unit. **M/S:** Keating-Schramm to recognize the Coordinator Group as the representative organization for a minimum of one year. Motion carried unanimously.

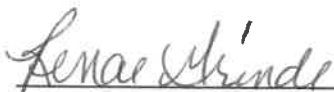
**ADDITIONAL BOARD ITEM:**

**Director Evaluation:** Manley reported that Juve's evaluation has been completed. He reviewed results with the Board. **M/S:** Schramm-Keating to approve the evaluation. Motion carried unanimously.

With no other additional items, the meeting was adjourned.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023 AT 10:00 A.M.**

Respectfully submitted,



Renae Grinde, Business Manager

---

Jeff Manley, Board Chairman