

South Valley Multi-District Special Education

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 13, 2024 Central Cass School, Casselton

Directors Present: **Chris Larson, President** **Chad Benson**
 Justin Fryer **Ryan Moser**
 Steve Johnson, absent **Britney Gandhi**
 Daniel Warcken, zoom **Jay DeCann**
 Steve Hall
 Phil French
 Chris Bastian

Also Present: John Porter, Director Brenna Janke, Bus Mgr
 Andrea Johnson, Assistant Director Jenna Farkas
 Hunter Diegel Melissa Heley
 Jolene Garty

CALL TO ORDER: President Chris Larson called the South Valley Board meeting to order at 12:35.

AGENDA APPROVAL: A motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Medicaid Administrative billing is made by Benson/ Gandhi. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: Fryer/Hall approve the Consent Agenda which includes the board meeting minutes, bills, check registers, and financial reports form July/August/ Sept & October. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED & NEW BUSINESS

- a. Shared Director update- Porter asks for the board's feedback on how the change of the structure of administration has been working. Chad Benson shares his experience of great service from the shared directors. Ryan Moser also agrees that it's been great. All the feedback is positive.
- b. SEEC Special Ed Department- Porter discusses how the first few months have been going with the new structure with Andrea Johnson as Assistant Director and his dual role as the director of SEEC and the units. The feedback has been very positive. Porter has also been providing director services for Sheyenne Valley Special Education unit as a mentor for their newly hired coordinator running the unit. This collaboration has sparked conversations about the potential to structure the administration of the three special

education units under the SEEC REA. The structure and benefits of the administration area of a special ed multi district unit is discussed by the superintendents. The main benefit discussed is the ability for sustaining the supports in all the units if there is turnover at the administrative level. Sheyenne Valley has experienced this a few times recently and this can leave the unit and the schools in a difficult position finding a replacement and having to reset every time someone new is hired. The superintendents also discuss how they would prefer to retain their own boards so that decisions could still be made at a local level. There could be cost savings potential in the future, but that may not be the case at the beginning of the transition. This conversation will be continued in the future as more pieces are explored.

- c. Solutions Academy update- Currently there are two students in the solutions room in Kindred. There has been some transition with a new school hosting the site of the program. The board discusses a FAQ sheet about the room: the process, the eligibility and other information that they could have if needed to explain it. Johnson and Porter will work on creating and distributing this to the superintendents.
- d. Behavior Health Grant- The solutions room is being funded by the Behavior Grant. The remaining funds may be used for the mental health expenses in the schools, after determining if the staffing level of the solutions room is adequate.
- e. Audit Bid- Bastian/ Ryan motion to approve audit bill of \$10k for the 2023-2024 audit. Motion passes.
- f. ABLE Games Update- The ABLE games continue to be a great opportunity for the students and the programs continues to grow. There are 34 teams this year with 68 students participating in 10 school districts. There was a grant written for the Able games for \$9,800 which will support both South Valley and Rural Cass teams.
- g. The fall evaluations have been done by the units for both Andrea Johnson and John Porter. Both evaluations were positive. Chris Larson discusses the evaluations satisfactory results. They comment on how the transition and sharing of the duties has gone very well and with ease. The superintendents thank Porter and Johnson for all their hard work. DeCann/ Bastian motion to accept John Porters satisfactory evaluation. Motion passes. Benson/ French motion to accept Andrea Johnson's satisfactory evaluation. Motion passes.
- h. MAC billing- Time sampling of administrative employees who engage in Medicaid allowable activities is something new to North Dakota Schools. The board discusses the opportunity.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy- No additional report

Personnel- No additional report

Finance- No additional report

Transportation- No additional report

Negotiations- No Report

**The next South Valley meeting will be January 8th at 10:00am in Wyndmere.
Meeting adjourned at 1:15.**

