

Paul Bunyan Education Cooperative
Board of Delegates Minutes
Thursday, November 7, 2019 12 – 1:30 pm

The Paul Bunyan Education Cooperative (PBEC) Board of Delegates met on Thursday, November 7, 2019, 12 – 1:30 pm in the Washington Educational Services Building (WESB), Brainerd, MN

Present: Jamie Skjeveland, Chris Lindholm, Laine Larson, Dave Endicott, Mike Malmberg, Dan Stifter, Cindi Hills, Tom Haglin, Chris Cunningham, Scott Muddgett, Joe Dwyer, Jen Johnson and Kim Huether.

Absent: Mike Erholtz

Introductions were held. Congratulations to Crosby-Ironton for referendum passing.

Moved and seconded approval of the Agenda and the June 7, 2019 Minutes. Motion carried.

Determination of Chair and Vice Chair for 2019-2020:

Motion was made to nominate Mike Erholtz to serve as Chair. Second and carried.

Motion was made to nominate Cindi Hills as Vice Chair. Second and carried.

Staffing:

- The Executive Board voted at an earlier meeting to approve adding a 1 FTE Psychologist position. The position has been posted since January 2019. There was one applicant that accepted another position elsewhere before interviewing. Outreach has been done to colleges in Minnesota and Wisconsin. There is a candidate that may do an internship at the PBEC with the possibility of then being offered the position. There are only a few colleges that offer the required masters plus clinical to meet the educational requirement. The National Association of School Psychologists has also been contacted.
- Bonnie Henningson, Early Childhood Coordinator will be retiring February 2020. An assessment will be done with the other Early Childhood Coordinators Tyler Ihmels and Julie Domino to determine the needs at that time.

Minnesota Department of Education:

A self-review of 79 files from all PBEC districts was completed fall of 2018.

MDE completed onsite visits at all districts in April with facility tours. The focus was on accessibility. Interviews were held with staff via phone as well as interviews with PBEC Leadership Team. Final findings showed four districts 100% in compliance. There were two districts that each had one citation on timelines. Jen is working on getting the finding at Pequot Lakes district released and the Pillager citation was a timeline issue. The PBEC will have a year to fix and have a corrective action plan in place. This process does not affect funding, but does affect workload.

In the Aitkin and Pine River-Backus districts, the paraprofessionals felt that training was lacking and/or not useful. A day in January 2020 is planned for para training. Crosby-Ironton had a finding regarding a seclusion room.

Jen was excited and proud to have four districts reach 100% compliance. Special education teachers have been notified they have done a great job and their hard work was appreciated.

Professional Learning Days:

With the extended calendar days added because of weather cancellations during the 18-19 school year, PBEC took the opportunity to provide professional learning to special education staff on:

- Quality Indicators of Autism Programming,
- Best Practices for Social Communication Programming and
- Compliance and Monitoring

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC):

Parents of special education students have formed a committee to increase the involvement in district policy making and decision making. They meet a couple times a year and give feedback to Jen regarding what they see happening and to offer suggestions. Activities that were held included:

- PACER event for 38 parents at Arrowwood Lodge in Brainerd “ABC’s of the IEP”
- Private swimming event at Brainerd YMCA that 20 families attended
- A 2nd annual Sensory Friendly Movie Event will be held in February 2020. Last year there were 80 participants at the AMC Movie Theater in Brainerd. Lights remain on, lower volume and freedom to move around.

Event information is sent via email to all parents that have an email address in sped forms and there will be a posting on website. All special education case managers are asked to share the information with families as well. Events have been in Brainerd, but the committee is researching other areas to host events.

Brandon Project Update:

There is still money in the original Sourcewell grant to fund the supported employment for transition students ages 18-21. Ruttgers employed nine students through the first week of August. Cragun’s declined participation. Jen will research the possibilities to partner with other resorts and hotels in the area. Sourcewell has a new staff person that Jen will be working with to pursue these types of opportunities for students.

Lakes Area Music Festival: Lakes Area Music Festival coordinated a sensory friendly music experience that was held Monday, July 29, 4:30-6 pm. There was time for a meet and greet, a half-hour performance (string quartet) and time for Q & A afterwards. Kids were able to move around and fidgets were provided. The hope is to expand the offerings in the future.

ASD Parent Support Group:

A group of parents showed interest in facilitating an ASD parent support group providing emotional support, practical information, education and advocacy. The PBEC provides the space. The group meets monthly with childcare supervised by PBEC staff on a rotating basis with community education and high school students that need credit or volunteer hours. It has grown from last year to about 60 families participating. Because of the success, parents of students with Deaf Hard of Hearing plan to start a support group and are looking for a parent facilitator.

PBEC Website:

Thank you to Wanda Lane, PBEC secretary for designing and supporting the new PBEC website. Jen brought up the live site to show the board. Upcoming events will be added as they happen.

Special Education Data:

Jen shared district specific child count numbers for 2018 (2019 is not available until January 2020). Each slide showed district historical data comparison to 2012. These numbers are resident district counts and do not paint a clear picture of who the district is actually serving. More information on seat-based

numbers will be shared at a future meeting. Jen will share out this power point information to the superintendents.

Days/Dates for 2019-2020:

- Thursday, April 23, 12 – 1:30 pm
- If there are topics you'd like to discuss or hear about, email Jen. Possible agenda item: mental health service contract policy discussion

The meeting adjourned at 1 pm

Kim Huether, Secretary

Handouts:

- Agenda
- Minutes