

Paul Bunyan Education Cooperative
EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES
Tuesday, March 1, 2022 10 am - Virtual

The Paul Bunyan Education Cooperative (PBEC) Executive Board met virtually on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 10 am.

Present: Jamie Skjeveland, Mike Malmberg, Kurt Stumpf, Laine Larson, Dan Stifter, Jon Clark, Jennifer Johnson, Kim Huether, Karla Nesheim

Jen Johnson called the meeting to order.

Mike Malmberg made a motion to approve the March 1, 2022 agenda. Laine Larson seconded the motion. All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried.

Jon Clark made a motion to approve the minutes from December 16, 2021. Jamie Skjeveland seconded the motion. All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried.

Budget: Karla Nesheim, PBEC Business Manager, reviewed the projected budget that was approved last June 2021 along with the revised budget which is proposed for approval at this meeting. Karla reminded the board that revenues always match the expenditures and that there is a carryover including a small amount of interest earned and donations. A new allocation is the American Rescue Fund. There was a drop in expenditures of approximately \$160,000 from the original budget due to contracts, conferences, mileage and staff development. A summary of the federal programs and carryover was presented. Discussion was held on the high percentage of carryover and ways to reduce the amount. The board would like to see a carryover history report in the future.

Dan Stifter made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Laine Larson seconded the motion. All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried.

Donations: \$500 was received from Pohl Children's Scholarship Foundation to be used to benefit children with vision difficulties. The board will be informed how the donation is used and a thank you card will be sent.

Kurt Stumpf made a motion to accept the donation of \$500 from the Pohl Family Foundation. Mike Malmberg seconded the motion. All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried.

Staffing Proposal: A psychologist was hired to fill the vacancy left by Mike Parry. Natalia Lynch will be joining the PBEC in August 2022, moving here from Denver, CO.

An attachment was sent to the board detailing the proposed staffing additions/changes beginning FY23. Jen met with the board individually prior to this meeting to review. The proposal is to add three FTE's: 2 Coordinators K-21, and 1 DCD Consultant. The first year FY23 salaries will be funded with ARP funds. FY 24-25

the cost to each district is detailed on the attachment, along with other positions added and removed. Jen will research the possibility of using the federal funds carryover.

A motion was made by Jaime Skjevlend to approve adding three positions FY23. Kurt Stumpf seconded the motion. All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried.

Joint Powers Agreement for Evidence-Based Quality Intervention Practices (EQIP): Notification has been received from MDE that in order to continue the EQIP agreement, Policy 1446 needs to be followed. Policy 1446 states that Covid-19 vaccination proof is needed by staff or staff must undergo weekly testing. If not in compliance, the funding will not be available. This means a loss of \$3500. There is the option to pause or cancel the agreement without any repercussions other than the financial loss.

Kurt Stumpf made a motion to withdraw from the Joint Powers Agreement for EQIP and forego the \$3500. Jamie Skjevlend seconded the motion. All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried. (See Update below)

Brainerd Memo of Understanding: As discussed at the December 16, 2021 meeting, Brainerd school district enacted an MOU offering an employee support plan for those under contract with the district. Jen spent a great deal of time researching and meeting with PBEC attorney Jim Martin. It was determined that under the PBEC Joint Powers Agreement, the PBEC staff should be provided the same terms and conditions as Brainerd district employees. There will be an updated breakdown of cost each district will incur and this will be billed at the end of the school year. The statement that the attorney crafted will be emailed to the superintendents.

It was suggested to do some research on how other cooperatives with member districts operate with this topic to be added to the June agenda.

Next Meetings:

- Board of Delegates: April 21, 2022
- Executive Board June 9, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 11 am. Submitted by Kim Huether

Attachments:

- Agenda
- Minutes from December 16, 2021
- Budget FY 2022
- Summary of Federal Programs and Carryover FY 2022
- Donations received FY 22
- Proposed Staffing Additions/Changes FY 23-24-25
- Cost to Member Districts for Proposed Staffing Changes FY 24-25

Update as of 3/1/22 at 2 p.m.re: EQIP JPA/ State Policy #1446: OSP has now determined that the work associated with EQIP JPAs is not obligated to meet the Policy #1446. It has been determined that district staff

doing the work are not considered “covered staff” therefore the policy cannot be applied. PBEC board emailed their consent to **rescind the motion** to discontinue the JPA, which was previously made at the 10 am meeting.