SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT OF MCHENRY COUNTY

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

May 21, 2025

The meeting was called to order on 5-21-25 at 8:00 a.m.

Board Member Millard was absent and excused.

No comments from the public were made.

Approval of Minutes: Board Member Parks motioned to approve the minutes of April 16, 2025; it was seconded by Board Member Neiss. The motion carried.

Old Business

- Dr. Burns discussed an email from I.S.B.E. that went over the requirements for a person to be considered the state-supported director of special education for a district or a cooperative. Dr. Burns mentioned that no official reason was given as to why this email was being sent out at this time however there was speculation that it may have to do with the use of retired interims jointly serving in a role on 100-110 day contracts and that this was potentially in contrast to the language which stated that an "individual" state supported director had to be hired for at least 180 days. Board President Damisch mentioned that in a previous search that the board was advised by legal counsel that a cooperative directorship could not be split between two individuals if that person served as the official state supported director of education for the cooperative.
- Dr. Burns discussed the resignation of the County Wide School Social Worker Facilitator and reaffirmed that this he had the authority to secure a new independent contractor for this role.
- Dr. Burns discussed delays with the establishment of rules associated with SB 3603 due to the issue of controlling costs within the public schools that some have suggested may be inflated. Dr. Burns also discussed concerns with the 1% DLM/IAA Exception meetings and that this was reviewed at the most recent PPS Directors Meeting.
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NEW Business

- Dr. Burns discussed the need to maintain an "by appointment only" building access policy due to staffing levels.
- Dr. Burns discussed several legislative bills and their potential impact on public education and special education including HB 3772, HB 2390, and HB1654.
- Dr. Burns presented a draft FY 26 Budget and mentioned that the final budget would be approved at the June board meeting and put on display on July 1st. The budget would feature an increase in spending related to travel due to uncertainty within the federal government and the likely need to attend regional and or national conferences in order to assess the changes at the federal level.
- Dr. Burns presented a draft meeting schedule for approval, in addition to discussing the approval for the Treasurer's Bond and the adoption of the Prevailing Wage and Annual Audit Preparations.
- Dr. Burns reviewed the Huntley D158 rent payment and plans to close the Bank of America credit card line by December of 2025.
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Financial Reports: Dr. Burns discussed the recent and monthly financial activities and summary of the cooperative.

Disbursement List: Dr. Burns discussed recent expenditures and the current disbursement report.

Facilities-

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30a.m.
The Next meeting of the Committee of the Whole will be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. in the SEDOM Board Room.