

Board of Directors Meeting

August 15, 2024

Present: Deric Owens, Sam Slott, Grover Hill, Casey Nichols, Misty Gentry, Gayla Youngblood, Jason Sanders, Jerry Strasner, Doug Graham, Tate Gordon, Ann Gardner, Adam Matthews, Dana Ray, Lee Smith, Bridget Buckley, Jondavid Amerson, Wendy Reed, and Benny Weston

Guest: Lance Taylor and Joey Walters (AAA) Sponsor: Marco Gonzalez (Volkert, Inc.)

1. Adam Matthews made the motion to approve the June Board Minutes. Gayla Youngblood seconded the motion. Approved 12-0
2. Jason Sanders made the motion to approve the July Financial Report. Grover Hill seconded the motion. Approved 12-0
3. Dana Ray provided the TCC Report (Including Data Components)
4. Jerry Strasner made the motion to approve the Recruitment and Retention Plan. Lee Smith seconded the motion. Approved 12-0
5. Stacey Southerland provided a CTE and Homeless Report (Including Data Components)
6. The Bank's checking account rate of 4.25% remains unchanged from last year to this year. Deric Owens made the motion to approve the rate. Sam Slott seconded the motion. Approved 12-0
7. Jerry Strasner made a motion to approve the Early Childhood Camera System bid through Progressive Technologies, a TIPS vendor. Adam Matthews seconded the motion. Approved 12-0
8. The board members were given the Board Training dates for this year: September 26 and October 10.
9. Preparations for the upcoming National Conference in New Orleans in March 2025 were discussed. Plans for coordinating the trip are set to begin.
10. Sam Slott motioned to approve and keep the following positions of board members to the Legislative Committee the same: Lee Smith, Curriculum, Jerry Strasner, Finance and Facilities, and Deric Owens, Governance. Approved 12-0
11. Gayla Youngblood made the motion to approve the report of the integrity audit by the DHS office. Grover Hill seconded the motion. Approved 12-0
12. Jerry Strasner made a motion to approve a payment retroactive to June 6, 2024, to a National Board Certified preschool teacher. Sam Slott seconded the motion, and it was approved 12-0. It was understood that no funds would be available for any current National Board Certified Pre-K teachers in the future, per the State Department of Education.
13. The board discussed and decided to keep their weekly Zoom meetings on Thursdays beginning at 9:30 after their AAEA Zoom.
14. A motion was made by Lee Smith to approve this year's Policy Manual for the Dequeen-Mena Education Service Cooperative. Deric Owens seconded the motion. Approved 12-0
15. The board went into an Executive Session to discuss personnel.
16. Personnel: Resignations have been accepted from the following Early Childhood employees: Melinda Deramus as an ABC Paraprofessional for Mena Preschool and Cati Davis as an ABC Paraprofessional for Mt.



Ida Preschool. Doug Graham made a motion to approve the resignations, and Lee Smith seconded the motion. Approved 12-0

Transfer requests were submitted for the following Early Childhood employees: Emily Smith from the Umpire PreSchool as the ABC Director to Early Childhood SPED, and Morgan Nance as an ABC Classroom Teacher in the Mena Preschool to an ABC Classroom Teacher in the Mt. Ida Preschool. Adam Matthews made the motion to approve the transfers, and JonDavid seconded the motion. The transfers were approved with a vote of 12-0.

New hires were submitted for the following positions in Early Childhood: Katie Ochello as an ABC Classroom Teacher for Mt. Ida Preschool, Kathryn Alexander as an ABC Classroom Teacher for Horatio Preschool, Kaylee Roberts as an ABC Paraprofessional for DeQueen Preschool, Kaydee Warren as an ABC Classroom Teacher for Ashdown Preschool, Tanesha Chambers as an ABC Paraprofessional for Mena Preschool, Bridgett McClure as an ABC Paraprofessional for Mena Preschool, Tabitha Baxter as an ABC Classroom Teacher for Mena Preschool, Teresa Hardin as an ABC Classroom Teacher for Mena Preschool, Ashton Herod as an ABC Classroom Teacher for Mena Preschool, and Rachel Hicks as an ABC Classroom Teacher for Mena Preschool. Jason Sanders made the motion to approve the new hires, and Sam Slott seconded the motion. The new hires were approved with a vote of 12-0.

17. Other- The board was reminded that Mr. Cozart will be attending September's board meeting as the guest speaker.
18. Jerry Strasner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Grover Hill seconded the motion. Approved 12-0