

**MINUTES FOR,
LEYDEN AREA SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING**

Held at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, in the Faculty Lounge of Pennoyer School District 79 at 5200 N. Cumberland Ave. Norridge, IL 60706.

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mr. Jonak called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Mr. John Jonak, Dr. Kristin Kopta, Dr. Diego Giraldo, Dr. David H. Katzin, Dr. Jan Rashid, Mr. Michael Maguire, & Dr. Nick Polyak

Absent: Mr. Jim Prather & Dr. Jennifer Kelsall

The Pennoyer School Structured Learning staff and students showcased the “Brew Crew” to the Executive Committee. The students were able to display how they are building their vocational skills in the following areas; money management, organization, social skills, problem solving, and navigating the community. The Structured Learning staff reviewed how the students are developing lifelong skills to support their independence and inclusion in their local community.

2. CLOSED SESSION

Motion to move to closed session at 8:41 am as presented by Mr. Maguire and seconded by Dr. Rashid for the purpose of:

“The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, and or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.” 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1)

Roll Call:

Ayes: Mr. John Jonak, Dr. Kristin Kopta, Dr. Diego Giraldo, Dr. David H. Katzin, Dr. Jan Rashid, Mr. Michael Maguire, & Dr. Nick Polyak

Nayes: none

Absent: Mr. Jim Prather & Dr. Jennifer Kelsall

Motion Carried

The EC Committee moved to Closed Session at 8:41 am.

The EC Committee exited the Closed Session at 8:55 am and returned to Open Session.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Mr. John Jonak, Dr. Kristin Kopta, Dr. Diego Giraldo, Dr. David H. Katzin, Dr. Jan Rashid, Mr. Michael Maguire, & Dr. Nick Polyak

Absent: Mr. Jim Prather & Dr. Jennifer Kelsall

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

4. DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS

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4.1. Director's Report

The report was reviewed as presented with clarification regarding assistive technology (AT). It was reviewed that AT includes some common universal assistive technology that special education teachers need to explicitly teach students who need the resources to access FAPE.

4.2. Illinois Department of Human Resources (DRS-STEP grant)

The report was reviewed as presented and updates will be provided to the committee.

4.3. Staffing Allocations

The report was reviewed as presented with no further discussion.

4.4. Stipends

The report was reviewed as presented with no further discussion.

4.5. Professional Learning Update

The report was reviewed as presented with a review of Champs training. The IRC is providing for free. Dr. Rashid reviewed D85.5 is using the program and it aligns with the school-wide system for supporting students. It supports consistent language for classroom expectations across classrooms.

4.6. ESY 2024

The report was reviewed as presented and clarified the staff positions available for ESY.

4.7. Early Childhood Services

The needs assessment will highlight each district's current reality and projected reality for the fall. The information will be brought back to the Executive Committee throughout the spring to review resources and determine how to support gaps as a cooperative.

4.8. Cash Flow-January 2024

The report was reviewed as presented with no further discussion.

4.9. FOIA requests

4.9.1. Jill Thompson Calian - Attorney at Matt Cohen and Associates, LLC

4.9.2. Nathan Mihelich - Illinois Retired Teachers Association

5. CONSENT AGENDA

5.1. Accounts Payable Dated: 1/4/2024-2/8/2024 -

5.2. The EC Minutes for Meeting January 9, 2024

5.3. The EC Minutes for Special Meeting January 29, 2024

5.4. Closed Session Minutes for January 9, 2024

5.5. Closed Session Minutes for Special Meeting January 29, 2024

5.6. Personnel:

Resignations and Hires-none

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented by Dr. Katzin and seconded by Dr. Polyak
Roll Call:

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Ayes: Mr. John Jonak, Dr. Kristin Kopta, Dr. Diego Giraldo, Dr. David H. Katzin, Dr. Jan Rashid, Mr. Michael Maguire, & Dr. Nick Polyak

Nayes: none

Absent: Mr. Jim Prather & Dr. Jennifer Kelsall

Motion Carried

6. ACTION ITEMS

Motion to approve Action Item 1. Staff Leave of Absence as presented by Mr. Maguire and seconded by Dr. Katzin.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Mr. John Jonak, Dr. Kristin Kopta, Dr. Diego Giraldo, Dr. David H. Katzin, Dr. Jan Rashid, Mr. Michael Maguire, & Dr. Nick Polyak

Nayes: none

Absent: Mr. Jim Prather & Dr. Jennifer Kelsall

Motion Carried

7. ITEMS INITIATED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Jonak reviewed he will need to fill a maternity leave for a special education teacher position in the fall at the middle school level. He also indicated he has an opening for a speech and language pathologist. Dr. Katzin reviewed his speech and language pathologist opening and will share candidates once his position is filled. Dr. Rashid asked for an update regarding the Assistant Director position. It was reviewed that interviews are ongoing.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 am as presented by Mr. Maguire and seconded by Dr. Katzin.

Ayes: Mr. John Jonak, Dr. Kristin Kopta, Dr. Diego Giraldo, Dr. David H. Katzin, Dr. Jan Rashid, Mr. Michael Maguire, & Dr. Nick Polyak

Nayes: none

Absent: Mr. Jim Prather & Dr. Jennifer Kelsall

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin M. Wolf
Executive Director