

**- MINUTES -**  
SPECIAL Executive Board Meeting  
Eastern Illinois Area of Special Education  
March 31, 2010 – 9:00 a.m.

---

**ROLL CALL**

**Board Present**

Joel Hackney, Okaw Valley (Moultrie County)  
Sharon Keck, Windsor (Shelby County)  
Charles Castle, Neoga (Cumberland County)  
Jim Littleford, Charleston (Coles County)  
\*Daniel Niemerg, Teutopolis PROXY to Scott Cameron (Effingham County)  
Dee Scott, Casey-Westfield (Clark County)  
Travis Wilson, Arthur (Douglas County)

**\*PROXY**

**Board Absent**

Lorraine Bailey, Paris #4 (Edgar County)

**Staff Present**

Michael R. Alt, Executive Director/EIASE  
Ellen Humphrey, Assistant Director-Administration/EIASE  
Jean L. Balch, Assistant Director-Business/EIASE  
Marilyn Shull, Administrative Assistant/EIASE  
Tony Reeley, Associate Director/EIASE  
Mary Nan Zimmer, Principal/ECE/EIASE

**Guest Present**

Betty Rhea, EIASEA Representative  
Shari Porter, Parent Coordinator/EIASE  
Elizabeth Day, Teacher Coordinator/EIASE  
Thomas Sherman, Mattoon Representative  
Lisa Jaco, Mattoon Special Education Director  
Norman Tracy, Superintendent Edgar County  
Mike Smith, Superintendent Oakland  
Jean Chrostoski, Superintendent Arcola  
Terry Percy, Superintendent Sullivan  
Jeff Fritchtnitch, Superintendent Altamont  
Jill Rogers, Superintendent Martinsville  
Rick Manuell, Superintendent Marshall  
Leigh Ann Heltstley, Bookkeeper, Kansas  
Gary Caldwell, Superintendent Cowden-Herrick  
Nic Groothuis, Superintendent ROE # 11  
Kevin VanMeter, Assistant Superintendent ROE # 11

## **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT/INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Dr. Alt opened the meeting by calling for introduction of guests present at the meeting. Guests present were Betty Rhea, EIASEA representative; Shari Port, Parent Coordinator/EIASE; Elizabeth Day, Teacher Coordinator/EIASE; Thomas Sherman, Mattoon CUSD # 2 representative; Lisa Jaco, Mattoon CUSD # 2 Special Education Director; Norman Tracy, Superintendent Edgar County; Mike Smith, Superintendent, Oakland; Jean Chrostoski, Superintendent Arcola; Terry Percy, Superintendent Sullivan; Jeff Fritchtnitch Superintendent, Altamont; Jill Rogers, Superintendent Martinsville; Rick Manuell, Superintendent Marshall; Leigh Ann Heltsley, Bookkeeper, Kansas, Gary Caldwell, Superintendent Cowden-Herrick. Dr Alt asked the audience if there were any questions or comments regarding agenda or non-agenda items. There were no requests or comments.

## **PRESENTATION OF MINUTES**

- *Presentation for approval of minutes* of the regular meeting of the Board held on March 25, 2010, as presented.

It was moved by James Littleford, seconded by Travis Wilson that the Executive Board approve the minutes of the Special Executive Board meeting of March 25, 2010, as presented. All voted yea-- motion carried.

## **CONTINUATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD AT-RISK PROGRAMS FOR THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR**

The Executive Director, Michael Alt, advised that on Wednesday March 17, 2010, a phone conference was held involving staff from ISBE, Early Childhood-At-Risk programs, several of EIASE's staff, and several member district superintendents whose districts receive ECE At-Risk services through EIASE. After discussing the information received in that phone conference, Dr. Lilly, Superintendent Mattoon School District; Sharon Keck, Superintendent Windsor School District (Board Chairman); and Dr. Alt made the decision that in addition to the future of the Early Childhood Program, EIASE needs to develop a plan regarding any permanent shortfall of state funding for the current year program.

Dr. Alt indicated that at present, EIASE is owed approximately \$2,000,000 in delayed payments from the state for operating ECE At-Risk programs. He stated that in order to continue operating the programs, the districts involved would need to provide funds to help offset the cost of the program until reimbursement is received from the state.

Dr. Alt also indicated that EIASE requires a fiscal agent for the At-Risk programs because the At-Risk programs are not special education, therefore the funding must go to a non-special education entity initially. Mattoon has been the fiscal agent for the At-Risk

programs for many years, and is exploring whether they want to write their own grant next year. If Mattoon does write their own grant, another district, or the Regional Superintendent's office would have to be willing to be the fiscal agent in order for EIASE to continue to operate these programs during the 2010-2011 school year.

Dr. Alt stated that ISBE will be releasing the e-grant proposals for Early Childhood At-Risk programs sometime around April 15, 2010.

A letter was presented by Dr. Larry Lilly, Superintendent of the Mattoon CUSD # 2 from the Rammelkamp Bradney law offices stating that "Based upon the foregoing information we have been provided, we are of the opinion that each school district member of EIASE is responsible for its proportionate share of budget shortfall of revenues from EIASE's operation, including the unpaid 2009-2010 Early Childhood grants..."

With the above opinion received, it was stated by Rusty Ragon, Superintendent Cumberland and Dee Scott, Superintendent, Casey-Westfield that either district would be willing to assume the responsibility of the fiscal agent for the 2010-2011 school year if an interagency agreement would be signed by all districts receiving Early Childhood At-Risk services. Nic Groothuis, Regional Superintendent of Education agreed to look at the possibility of being fiscal agent.

After considerable discussion, it was moved by, James Littleford, seconded by Dee Scott that Mattoon forfeits responsibility as fiscal agent and another district assumes the responsibility, with the option of districts hiring their own staff. All voted aye – motion carried.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Scott Cameron, seconded by Chuck Castle that Executive Board adjourn at 10:20 a.m. All voted aye – motion carried.

Submitted by:

Marilyn Shull  
Administrative Assistant