

O.U.R. Educational Cooperative Governing Board  
Minutes of the September 3, 2010 Board Meeting

**Board Members Present:** James Trammell, Joe Couch, Dr. Randy Byrd, Donald Sharp, Wayne Carr, Dale Query, John Calaway, Kerry Saylors, Regina Brown, Joe Hulsey, Charles Trammell, and Larry Ivens.

**Board Members Absent:** Richard Denniston, Wayne Carr, and Charles Trammell.

**Cooperative Staff Present:** Rick Nance, Kim Fowler, Nathan Cline and Shane Flud.

**Guest(s) Present:** Charles Stein, Director and Terry Granderson, Assistant Director of ADE School Facilities and Transportation and Lisa Boone, EBI.

- I. Joe Couch called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
- II. Approval of Minutes

*James Trammell made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2010 Regular Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Randy Byrd with the vote to approve unanimous.*

III. Reports

- A. Financial Report – Mr. Nance presented the financial reports as of July 31, 2010. A few of the accounts have deficit balances due to the timing of funding following expenditures. (See attachment.)

*Jerry Parrett made a motion to accept the financial report. The motion was seconded by Kerry Saylors and the vote to accept was unanimous.*

- B. Director's Report—Mr. Nance welcomed Dr. Mendy Moss to the board. She started as Harrison's superintendent as of July 1 but she was unable to attend the July meeting. Mr. Nance reminded board members that the October meeting will be moved up a week and will be on October 8 due to the National Rural Education Conference being held the next week in Branson. Mr. Nance presented information regarding legislation which has been proposed by schools from the Northwest Co-op area. Ken Ramey, superintendent of Siloam Springs, visited with co-op directors concerning a legislative proposal that involved the starting date of school. This proposal would allow for the starting date of school to be the Monday of the week of August 19. (See attachment.)

*Dale Query made a motion to pass a resolution to support the resolution from Northwest Co-op to allow the start date of school to be the Monday of the week of August 19. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mendy Moss. Motion passed with a vote of 9-1.*

- C. School Facilities and Transportation—Dr. Charles C. Stein, the new director of School Facilities and Transportation presented information related to the required facilities plans schools are required to complete. In addition, he shared information on changes in procedures used by the Division which should be more efficient and effective for schools.
- D. Lisa Boone from EBI presented information related to possible changes to the benefits for staff from schools participating in the program administered through the Co-op. There is no increase on the Blue Cross Blue Shield Dental Plan. The company has also submitted a proposal for the calendar year maximum to be increased from the current \$1,000 to \$1,500

with an increase of \$1.65 for the Employee with corresponding increases for the other categories of coverage. The consensus of the board was to consider this proposal for next year as schools have already prepared budgets based on the amount for the \$1,000 calendar year maximum.

E. Teacher Center Report—Kim Fowler shared information related to the topics listed below. (See attachments.)

1. ParaPro Commissioner's Memo LS-11-016 dated 8/12/10.
2. ParaPro Assessment on September 24.
3. Science Fair—April 29, 2011.
4. Math Carnival—May 6, 2011.
5. Pathwise/Pathwise Recalibration Training
6. State Reporting Video Training Cycles 2-9 Commissioner's Memo FIN-11-009 dated 8/6/10.
7. Audio Journal
8. Lottery Scholarship Training
9. Superintendent's Conference—September 22/23 in Eureka Springs
10. Wage Hour and FMLA Seminal for Arkansas Education Institutions
11. Asbestos Training
12. School Board Training
13. IRS Training Session
14. CWT Training dates
15. Gizmo by Explore Learning
16. Arkansas Child Wellness Intervention Project CWIP Grant
17. E-Rate 2010 Training—Commissioner's Memo RT-11-003 dated 8/13/10
18. ELDA Score Interpretation Guide Videoconference
19. Power Points for Code of Ethics
20. AACIA Conference Focusing on Common Core Standards November 12 in Little Rock

IV. Business

- A. *Special Education Consolidated Preschool Grant*—Each year, we are required to have board approval for the Special Education Preschool Grant application and assurances and agreements.

***Recommendation: Approve the Special education Consolidated Preschool Grant for 2010-11. Motion made by James Trammell and seconded by Dr. Randy Byrd. The vote in favor was unanimous.***

- B. *Employee Contract Disclosure* —Tamatha McPherson, an ABC employee who works in Yellville, is a co-owner of Breadeuax Pizza at Yellville. Occasionally, we purchase food there for HIPPIE group meetings. Our earlier resolution for this situation expires on September 1, 2010. Our expenditures last year were under \$300.

***Recommendation: Approve the attached resolution. Motion to follow this recommendation was made by Dr. Randy Byrd. Second by Don Sharp. Vote to approve was unanimous.***

- C. *Building Program*—Last year was the first year in the new Co-op building. When the facility was planned, the first priority was for conference rooms in order to better serve the schools. Most of our staff is currently located next to this building in two portable double wide trailers. These units are leased for two years with an option for extension. Currently, the co-op budget is healthy and Mr. Nance recommended completing Phase 2 of our project which calls for nine additional offices, with work

cubicles and one small conference room. He projects the cost of this addition to be \$100,000-\$120,000. Completion will enable staff to move out of one portable unit by the end of this year. Finishing Phase 2 will leave us with the need for the following in Phase 3: 1—Office space for eight people (currently in portable building 1) 2—Copy program work area (currently in conference room 8), 3—Store (currently Phase 2 and rented storage), 4—Workroom for early childhood personnel (currently in portable building 1), and 5—Additional small restrooms for staff.

As always completion of this project will depend on dollars. At this time, we owe a total of \$159,000 on an ADE revolving loan. Mr. Nance recommends that the co-op not borrow any additional money and pay as we go for future projects. We could be ready to initiate this final phase as early as the 2011-12 year or a year or two down the way. Site work has been completed and most of this area is not as high dollar as that in Phase 1 and 2.

***Recommendation: Approve completing Phase 2 of the O.U.R. Building Project during the 2010-11 year. Jerry Parrett made this motion which was seconded by Don Sharp. Vote in favor was unanimous.***

D. *Annual Budget*—Mr. Nance presented the budget for 2010-11. (See attachment.)

***Dale Query made a motion to approve the budget for the 2010-11 year as presented. The motion was seconded by James Trammell and the vote to approve was unanimous.***

E. *Math Carnival* – Shane Flud, O.U.R. Co-op math specialist, presented information related to the Math Carnival plans for 2010-11. He is possible looking at obtaining professional development grants to fund summer work completed by teachers for the Math Carnival. At the present time, they are completing this work during release time from their classrooms. The consensus of the board members was to limit the number days of work to five/six days and not create new Math Jeopardy competition questions.

F. *Personnel*

1. Resignations

- a. Shannon Taylor as speech pathologist
- b. Robbie Hagemann as ABC teacher at Alpena
- c. Brittney Middleton as Deer ABC teacher

***Motion was made by James Trammell to accept these recommendations. Motion was made by Don Sharp with vote to approve unanimous.***

2. Transfer

- a. Ashley Massengale Teacher at Kingston ABC to Alpena ABC

3. Contract Offers:

- a. Amanda Breedlove as ABC lead teacher at Deer
- b. Jan Epperson Jones as Early Childhood Special Education teacher
- c. Judith Murray as para at Yellville ABC
- d. Lindsey Cross as part-time para at Mt. Judea
- e. Keesha Tolbert as ABC teacher at Kinston ABC

***Motion to approve the transfer and the contract offers was made by Dr. Randy Byrd and seconded by Jerry Parrett. The vote in favor was unanimous.***

4. Extra Duty Contract: For Pre-K ELLA and INSEX Trainings after hours and on Saturday at \$35 per hours for Judy Keith, Cindy Lambe, and Lanna Bullington.

***Motion to approve these extra duty contracts was made by Don Sharp. Motion was seconded by Dale Query with the vote to approve unanimous.***

5. *Personnel Purchased Service Contracts for 2010-11*

- a. Twin Lakes Therapy Center, Inc.—Occupational Therapy Services (\$87.04 per hour for OTR and \$69.60 per hour for COTA)
- b. Sherri Pilcher—Speech Pathology Services (\$65 per hour)
- c. Ozark Therapy Inc.—Physical Therapy Services ( Medicaid reimbursement rate of \$98.88 for physical therapy evaluations, \$87.04 per hour for physical therapy treatment, and \$69.60 per hour for treatment provided by physical therapist assistant)

*Motion to approve these personnel purchase service contracts for 2010-11 was made by James Trammell and seconded by Dr. Randy Byrd. The vote in favor was unanimous.*

**Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Kim Fowler