

SOUTH EASTERN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Serving Clay, Crawford, Jasper, Lawrence, and Richland Counties
Kim Kessler, Director

500 S. Scott Ave. Newton, IL 62448 618-455-3396 FAX 618-455-3134

SESE Budget Hearing Wednesday, June 25, 2025 SESE Central Office Newton, IL

TENTATIVE MINUTES

The Budget meeting of the South Eastern Special Education Executive Board was held Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at 9:15 a.m., at the SESE Central Office in Newton, IL. Joel Hackney, Chairperson for the SESE Executive Board, called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

There were no questions or comments.

Roll call was taken with Joe Sornberger, Jason Fox, Travis Titsworth, Kyle Klier, Michelle Meese, Jakie Walker, Keith Price, and Chair Joel Hackney voting yea. Motion carried. Time 9:16 a.m.

Joel Hackney, Chair

Renee Barthelme, Recording Secretary



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SESE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, June 25, 2025
SESE Central Office
Newton, IL

TENTATIVE MINUTES

The June meeting of the South Eastern Special Education Executive Board was held Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at 9:30 a.m., at the SESE Central Office in Newton, IL. Joel Hackney, Chairperson for the SESE Executive Board, called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

Members present: Joe Sornberger, Jason Fox, Travis Titsworth, Kyle Klier, Michelle Meese, Jakie Walker, Keith Price, and Chair Joel Hackney

Members absent: Jessica Sisil, Doug Daugherty, and John Neubaum

The agenda was presented for review. Meese moved, seconded by Klier to approve the agenda. Roll call vote was taken with all present voting yea. Motion carried.

The consent agenda was presented for review. Walker moved, seconded by Price to approve the consent agenda. Roll call vote was taken with all present voting yea. Motion carried.

Approval of the Health Insurance Renewal for the 2025-2026 School Year was tabled at this time. A Special Board Meeting on June 30, 2025 will be scheduled to discuss bid proposals and vote for approval.

Titsworth moved, seconded by Price to approve the First Reading of the IASB Recommended Policy updates. Roll call vote was taken with all present voting yea. Motion carried.

Meese moved, seconded by Fox to approve the 2025-2026 selection of Executive Board Officers: Chairman – Supt. Hackney; Vice-Chairman – Supt. Fox; and Secretary – Supt. Titsworth. Roll call was taken with all present voting yea. Motion carried.

Fox moved, seconded by Walker to approve the 2025-2026 Executive and Governing Board meeting locations and dates. Roll call was taken with all present voting yea. Motion carried.

Approval of the Designate Depository of SESE Funds for the 2025-2026 school year was table at this time. A Special Board Meeting on June 30, 2025 will be scheduled to discuss bid proposals and vote for approval.

The Executive Board did not go into closed session.

Meese moved, seconded by Walker to approve the Leave Alteration Request for Torie Manning, ECE Teacher, retroactively to end May 29, 2025. Roll call vote was taken with Sornberger, Fox, Titsworth, Klier, Meese, Walker, Price, and Hackney voting yea. Motion carried.

Fox moved, seconded by Hackney to approve the Leave Requests for Catherine Stout, Educational Support Personnel, beginning May 12, 2025 through May 26, 2025; and Heather Wilkins, Educational Support Personnel, beginning May 19, 2025 through May 31, 2025. Roll call vote was taken with Sornberger, Fox, Titsworth, Klier, Meese, Walker, Price, and Hackney voting yea. Motion carried.

Meese moved, seconded by Fox to approve the resignations of Nathan Harper, Educational Support Personnel; Taylor Robinson, School Psychologist; Carly Selby, Autism Teacher; and Julie Warfel, Educational Support Personnel, at the end of the 2024-2025 School Year. Roll call vote was taken with Sornberger, Fox, Titsworth, Klier, Meese, Walker, Price, and Hackney voting yea. Motion carried.

Price moved, seconded by Sornberger to employ Mayana Blair, MSI Teacher, for the 2025-2026 School year. Roll call vote was taken with Sornberger, Fox, Titsworth, Klier, Meese, Walker, Price, and Hackney voting yea. Motion carried.

Hackney moved, seconded by Titsworth to employ Melody Bricker, Autism Teacher, for the 2025-2026 School year. Roll call vote was taken with Sornberger, Fox, Titsworth, Klier, Meese, Walker, Price, and Hackney voting yea. Motion carried.

Messe moved, seconded by Price to employ Tony Duenas, Next Step Teacher, for the 2025-2026 School year. Roll call vote was taken with Sornberger, Titsworth, Klier, Meese, Walker, Price, and Hackney voting yea. Fox voting nay. Motion carried.

Fox moved, seconded by Meese to employ Denise Earleywine, ECE Teacher, for the 2025-2026 School year. Roll call vote was taken with Sornberger, Fox, Titsworth, Klier, Meese, Walker, Price, and Hackney voting yea. Motion carried.

Walker moved, seconded by Titsworth to employ Heather Wilkins, ECE Teacher, for the 2025-2026 School year. Roll call vote was taken with Sornberger, Fox, Titsworth, Klier, Meese, Walker, Price, and Hackney voting yea. Motion carried.

Meese moved, seconded by Hackney to employ Mary Clark, Educational Support Personnel, for the 2025-2026 School year. Roll call vote was taken with Sornberger, Fox, Titsworth, Klier, Meese, Walker, Price, and Hackney voting yea. Motion carried.

Walker moved, seconded by Sornberger to employ Tammy Dowdy, Educational Support Personnel, for the 2025-2026 School year. Roll call vote was taken with Sornberger, Fox, Titsworth, Klier, Meese, Walker, Price, and Hackney voting yea. Motion carried.

Fox moved, seconded by Meese to employ Markie Foil, Educational Support Personnel, for the 2025-2026 School year. Roll call vote was taken with Sornberger, Fox, Titsworth, Klier, Meese, Walker, Price, and Hackney voting yea. Motion carried.

Fox moved, seconded by Walker to employ Tasha Thuftedal, Educational Support Personnel, for the 2025-2026 School year. Roll call vote was taken with Sornberger, Fox, Titsworth, Klier, Meese, Walker, Price, and Hackney voting yea. Motion carried.

Meese moved, seconded by Walker to authorize Director Kessler hiring rights between the June 25, 2025 and the July 30, 2025 meeting. Roll call vote was taken with all present voting yea. Motion carried.

Hackney moved, seconded by Fox to approve Prairie State Insurance Cooperative for the Package and Cyber Liability, and Employers for the Worker's Compensation for the 2025-2026 school years. Roll call vote was taken with all present voting yea. Motion carried.

Titsworth moved, seconded by Fox to approve the 2024-2025 Amended Budget. Roll call was taken with all present voting yea. Motion carried.

Walker moved, seconded by Sornberger to authorize the 2025-2026 Tentative Budget to be placed on 30-day public review. Roll call vote was taken with all present voting yea. Motion carried.

Sornberger moved, seconded by Hackney to approve the 2025-2026 Employee Handbook and Instructional Program Handbooks. Roll call vote was taken with all present voting yea. Motion carried.

Sornberger moved, seconded by Titsworth to approve the Rental Agreement between Willow Hill Village and South Eastern Special Education for the use of the Next Step Day School for the 2025-2026 School Year.

The Case Study Evaluation report was reviewed.

Director Kessler gave a brief summary of the summer in-services held in June.

There was a brief discussion regarding the SESE classroom locations for the 2025-2026 school year.

Director Kessler discussed the July and August Assessment invoices.

There was a brief discussion about IDEA Part B Grant Application.

Director Kessler gave an update on the Ste. Marie Building Court Case.

Director Kessler read a Thank-You card from retired employee Teresa Ochs.

There being no further business, Sornberger moved, seconded by Hackney to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote was taken with all present voting yea. Motion carried. Time: 11:05 a.m.

Joel Hackney, Chair

Renee Barthelme, Recording Secretary