

# SOUTH EASTERN SPECIAL EDUCATION

*Serving Clay, Crawford, Jasper, Lawrence, and Richland Counties*  
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**SESE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, February 18, 2026**  
**SESE Central Office**  
**Newton, IL**

**TENTATIVE MINUTES**

The February meeting of the South Eastern Special Education Executive Board was held Wednesday, February 18, 2026 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 9:39 a.m.

Members present: Joe Sornberger, Jason Fox, Travis Titsworth, Klye Klier, Jessica Sisil, Michelle Meese, Jakie Walker, John Neubaum, Keith Price, and Chair Joel Hackney.

Members absent: Doug Daugherty.

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

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

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

Klier moved, seconded by Sornberger to approve posting of a School Psychologist Position for the 2026-2027 school year. Roll call vote was taken with all present voting yea. Motion carried.

At 9:44 a.m., Price moved, seconded by Meese to go into executive closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees and collective negotiations. Roll call vote was taken with all present voting yea. Motion carried.

At 10:05 a.m., Neubaum moved, seconded by Fox to return to regular session. Roll call vote was taken with all present voting yea. Motion carried.

Walker moved, seconded by Meese to approve Family Medical Leave Requests for Abby Goss, Educational Support Personnel, beginning March 16, 2026 through May 25, 2026; and Paige Klingler, Teacher, beginning May 4, 2026 through June 30, 2026. Roll call vote was taken with Sornberger, Fox, Titsworth, Klier, Sisil, Meese, Walker, Neubaum, Price, and Hackney voting yea. Motion carried.

Neubaum moved, seconded by Titsworth to approve Family Medical Leave Request Alteration for Ann Hixon, Teacher, retroactively beginning January 16, 2026 through March 9, 2026. Roll call vote was taken with Sornberger, Fox, Titsworth, Klier, Sisil, Meese, Walker, Neubaum, Price, and Hackney voting yea. Motion carried

Meese moved, seconded by Klier to accept the resignations of Vanessa Garcia, Educational Support Personnel, retroactive to February 12, 2026; and Morgan Schmidt, Educational Support Personnel, retroactive to January 29, 2026. Roll call vote was taken with Sornberger, Fox, Titsworth, Klier, Sisil, Meese, Walker, Neubaum, Price, and Hackney voting yea. Motion carried.

Neubaum moved, seconded by Titsworth to employ Rebekah Bell, Educational Support Personnel, retroactive to February 17, 2026. Roll call vote was taken with Sornberger, Fox, Titsworth, Klier, Sisil, Meese, Walker, Neubaum, Price, and Hackney voting yea. Motion carried.

Meese moved, seconded by Sisil to employ Lauryn Frichtl, Educational Support Personnel, retroactive to February 2, 2026. Roll call vote was taken with Sornberger, Fox, Titsworth, Klier, Sisil, Meese, Walker, Neubaum, Price, and Hackney voting yea. Motion carried.

Klier moved, seconded by Neubaum to employ Mindy Hill, Educational Support Personnel, retroactive to February 2, 2026. Roll call vote was taken with Sornberger, Fox, Titsworth, Klier, Sisil, Meese, Neubaum, Price, and Hackney voting yea and Walker voting nay. Motion carried.

Fox moved, seconded by Titsworth to employ Alexis Russell, Educational Support Personnel, retroactive to February 9, 2026. Roll call vote was taken with Sornberger, Fox, Titsworth, Klier, Sisil, Meese, Walker, Neubaum, Price, and Hackney voting yea. Motion carried.

Hackney moved, seconded by Meese to employ Christina Schallmo, Educational Support Personnel, retroactive to February 17, 2026. Roll call vote was taken with Sornberger, Fox, Titsworth, Klier, Sisil, Meese, Walker, Neubaum, Price, and Hackney voting yea. Motion carried.

Neubaum, seconded by Sisil to approve the reemployment of non-bargaining administrative and clerical staff, Morgan Fehrenbacher, Jane Gregory, Beth Leggitt, Katelyn Lidy, Lisa McMorris, Robyn Payne, Renee Barthelme, Tiffany Snider, Gina Niemerg, and Chad Traub for the 2026-2027 school year. Roll call vote was taken with Sornberger, Fox, Titsworth, Klier, Sisil, Meese, Walker, Neubaum, Price, and Hackney voting yea. Motion carried.

Sornberger moved, seconded by Titsworth to approve the reemployment of Probationary Licensed: Educational and Medical Staff, per Attachment A, for the 2026-2027 school year. Roll call vote was taken with Sornberger, Fox, Titsworth, Klier, Sisil, Meese, Walker, Neubaum, Price, and Hackney voting yea. Motion carried.

Neubaum moved, seconded by Klier to approve the reemployment of Probationary Educational Support Personnel, per Attachment B, for the 2026-2027 school year. Roll call vote was taken with Sornberger, Fox, Titsworth, Klier, Sisil, Meese, Walker, Neubaum, Price, and Hackney voting yea. Motion carried.

Fox moved, seconded by Hackney to approve a Resolution Authorizing the Reduction in Force of Brooke Seesengood, Physical Therapist, from a 200-day contract to a 190-day contract for the 2026-2027 school year. Roll call vote was taken with Sornberger, Fox, Titsworth, Klier, Sisil, Meese, Walker, Neubaum, Price, and Hackney voting yea. Motion carried.

Fox moved, seconded by Titsworth to approve the Resolutions authorizing non-reemployment of Special Education Teachers - Melody Bricker, Mariah Goode, Emma Johnson, Paige Klingler, Samantha Knoblett, Mark Luzadder, Brock McMorris, Ashleigh West, and Heather Wilkins. Roll call vote was taken with Sornberger, Fox, Titsworth, Klier, Sisil, Meese, Walker, Neubaum, Price, and Hackney voting yea. Motion carried.

The Case Study Evaluation Report was reviewed.

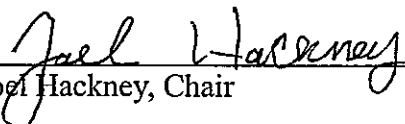
Economic Interest Statements were distributed.


The IDEA Part B Grant amendment was discussed.

The Executive Board Meeting for March 18, 2026 was rescheduled to March 9, 2026.

Director Kessler reminded the Board of the Governing Board Meeting on March 17, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in Casey.

There being no further business, Fox moved, seconded by Titsworth to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote was taken with all present voting yea. Motion carried. Time: 10:21 a.m.

  
Joel Hackney, Chair

  
Renee Barthelme, Recording Secretary