

## JESSE VISION STATEMENT

*Special Education services will be managed and provided by the nine participating School Corporations and their respective Schools. JESSE will work collaboratively with School Staff to ensure full compliance with the Law and to make certain effective, individually designed instruction is provided to maximize achievement for all of our students with disabilities.*

# Joint Educational Services in Special Education

## JESSE Board of Managers Meeting **Minutes**

JESSE Central Office

**Monday, FEBRUARY 13, 2017**

**10:00 A.M.**

### **1.0 Organization of Meeting**

**1.1 Call to Order** – Mrs. Donna Burroughs, Triton, President called the meeting to order at 10:00AM.

Board Members present were:

Dr. Robert Boyd, Argos  
Mr. Chuck Kitchell, Culver  
Mr. A. J. Gappa, Knox  
Dr. Annett Zupin, North Judson San Pierre  
Dr. Donald Harman, Oregon Davis  
Mr. Dan Tyree, Plymouth  
Mr. Andy Hartley, Plymouth Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Mitch Mawhorter, Union North  
Mrs. Linda Holland, JESSE Director  
Mr. Rob Richards, JESSE Outreach Director  
Mrs. Louise Buza, JESSE Compliance Monitor

Board Members absent:

Mr. Dick Reese, John Glenn

### **2.0 Consent Items**

**2.1 Agenda** of the FEBRUARY 13, 2017 Regular Session Meeting.

**2.2 Approve Minutes** of the JANUARY 9, 2017 2016 Regular Session Meeting.

Mr. Mitch Mawhorter made a motion to approve the Consent items as presented.  
Dr. Don Harman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **3.0 Approve Personnel Recommendations**

**3.1 Resignation:** Mrs. Kristina Snyder, Job Coach for Plymouth, Argos and La Ville resigned effective January 17, 2017.

**4.0 Approve Claims:** Vendor and Payroll Claims for JANUARY 1, 2017 to JANUARY 31, 2017 in the amount of \$182,610.57 were approved.

Dr. Annette Zupin made a motion to approve the Claims as presented. Dr. Don Harman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

### **5.0 Information Agenda**

#### **5.1 JESSE Scholarship**

Last year's Tom Dulle Scholarship winner was Ranae Johnson from Culver High School. During the 2016 Blueberry Festival Rob's 501 1<sup>st</sup> Legion raised \$500 towards the Tom Dulle Scholarship Fund. This school year's winner will be selected and announced in May. The Scholarship application information will be shared with High School Teachers and Guidance Departments.

#### **5.2 Go Solutions Medicaid Update**

Monthly Provider Utilization Reports were shared. This shows what staff members are entering in data. There are some names that should have 0. That is not a concern.

In addition, a Billing History was shared to show what areas are providing funding.

#### **5.3 Finance Committee Update**

The Finance Committee met after the January meeting. Items discussed were: JESSE's current lease status, increased staffing requirements for OT's and Interpreters that have had to be contracted out, OTA/PTA pay imbalance, Technology needs and Pre-School. At the end of March, Linda will be meeting with Kandi Tinkey, and there is a possibility that we will need to appropriate more funds to cover the current rate of expenses due to contracting employees. There are many other areas that we have not utilized within our budget so it was suggested we hold off on this action, but that Superintendents be informed it may need to be done in April.

The pay imbalance between OTA's and PTA's was also discussed. This will be brought up in the next session when looking at our Budget for next year. It was suggested we consider raising the PTA's hourly rate. Right now, there is a \$10 an hour difference for the same requirements of the job.

Interpreters are another area that may need to be increased to avoid losing our current Interpreters to neighboring schools. We are currently gathering data as to what area schools are paying if they employ their own. We contract for three at the rate of approximately \$60 an hour and there is an extreme shortage. Rob will be attending job fairs and we are working with 20+ University Job Placement Programs.

#### **5.4 Pre- School Committee Update**

A Committee representing area schools and the Preschool Program met to discuss the impact of the additional kids we now are serving and how to best meet the needs with the required paperwork and conference time. This is outgrowing the hours in a day for one person.

Ideas were discussed and the budget impact will be kept in mind. There are some recommended changes that we will be discussing at future Administrative meetings at the local level. Additional monies may need to be budgeted next year to cover the increased paperwork responsibilities out of our office. Meetings will be scheduled.

#### **5.5 Alternative Program Update**

Mrs. Holland and Mr. Richards will be meeting with Superintendents and Jr./Sr. High Administration to discuss the impact of the increased behavioral needs that we are seeing in the schools. When we reorganized 5 years ago, the ED classrooms for the most part were done away with. The self-contained classroom for behavior was taken off the table. Resource Rooms are also encouraged to stress “inclusionary services” and those Teachers are out in the General Ed, so when a student does need support in the local school, it is not an option. In addition, we have had several students just now being placed in Special Education and the Alternative Education is requested right away, without trying a continuum of service over time. We feel small group discussion is the way to address this at the local level, and then possibly at the Service District level. Meetings will be scheduled.

As far as expanding the programs, North Judson and Argos have stated that they have additional room; however, it is still in a semi-school setting.

#### **5.6 Vocational Update**

In Marshall Co., we have been unsuccessful with obtaining a staff member to work with 20+ students out in the community. Some schools have been able to send an aide with 5+ kids. There is concern about the 4 students we have on job sights without support, however; the current job placement staff has been wonderful in actually filling that role as the “job coach” for the time the students are there and they wish to do that until the end of the school year. We are spending \$2,500 a month for transportation and if we stop this process, we will save that money, as well as maintain a positive relationship with Council on Aging. They understand our dilemma and look forward to next year, should we like to use them again. Without a Job Coach, it is suggested to stop this process for the 4 kids currently out in programs on February 24 and end transportation with Council on Aging. This is listed as a “transition activity” in their IEP and does not state they must go “off campus”.

Mr. Andy Hartley made a motion to discontinue the Marshall County Council on Aging Transportation for the remainder of the 16/17 school year. Mr. Mitch Mawhorter seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7 Yes to 1 No (Argos).

The POSTIVIE side of this is we have partnered with the 5 ministries at Ancilla and applied for a Marshall Co. Foundation Grant. Our hope is to use the area of Ancilla for many jobs, as well as their Education Students for employment as Job Coaches.

Federal Government has also changed how kids are served when exiting our program. We are required to work with an outside agency for some pre-employment counseling and evaluations.

The good thing is there is no cost to us; however, students miss classroom time to get this completed. We have been working with the HS staff so they are aware of this new requirement.

## **5.7 School Psychologist Update**

The number of students assigned for evaluations for each School Psychologist was shared. If they were employed by the J.E.S.S.E. Central Office, we would be assigning some testing differently.

OD - 8

NJ - 15 (works 3 day's)

Knox - 25

JG/UN - 40

C/A/T - 36

Plymouth - 66 split w/ 2 psychologists

## **5.8 Professional Development**

### **a. Real World SLP**

Culver, Argos/Triton, John Glenn, Union North and Oregon Davis have all expressed an interest in attending. The cost is \$20 each. JESSE will process the paperwork and pay for the registration and offer transportation.

### **b. School Psychologist and JESSE Administration**

Discussions have been going great. Small group discussion does lead to increased communication. A few will continue discussion to avoid the miss communication through e-mail.

### **c. Jr./Sr. High Administration, Superintendents and JESSE Administration**

We would like to set dates to meet with Superintendents and Administration. The topics will be centered on Pre-School/Elementary issues and then Jr./Sr. High Behavioral issues as they relate to Alternative classrooms and local changes. Please send 2 options for March and April. Dates and times will then be set up and shared with all this week.

### **d. Project Success w/Life Skill Teachers - May 2 or May 3**

Life Skills staff have been working together to come up with Lesson Plan ideas to use while addressing ALL Required State Standards by grade level. They have learned how to use the content connectors to complete this process. They will wrap up this 6 meeting session in May.

**6.0 Other Business:**

**6.1** The next JESSE Board Meeting date is MARCH 13, 2017.

On April 10, a Finance Meeting will be held prior to the Board meeting at 9 am.

**7.0 Adjournment**

Dr. Robert Boyd made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mitch Mawhorter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 11:26AM.

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Mr. A. J. Gappa, Knox

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Dr. Annette Zupin, NJSP

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Secretary, Dr. Robert Boyd, Argos

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Mr. Chuck Kitchell, Culver

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Mr. Dick Reese, John Glenn

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Dr. Don Harman, Oregon Davis

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Mr. Dan Tyree, Plymouth

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President, Mrs. Donna Burroughs, Triton

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Vice President, Mr. Mitch Mawhorter, UN