



## SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT OF MCHENRY COUNTY

### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

February 15, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

Board Members Damisch, Neiss, McTague and Parks were present. Board Member Neiss mentioned that she would have to leave early due to another commitment. Prior to the beginning of the meeting, Ms. Karen Larsen of SEAL asked if she could address the board during the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Ms. Elswick, Mr. Millard and Dr. Tafoya were not present and excused.

The Committee of the Whole meeting began at 8:00am and Ms. Karen Larsen of SEAL was given permission to address the board at 8:38am. The Committee of the Whole meeting paused at 8:57am in order to call the Executive Board Meeting to order and officially pass the Consent Agenda. The Executive Board Meeting was called to order and then adjourned at 8:59am. The Committee of the Whole meeting was then re-opened at 8:59am.

**Approval of Minutes:** Board Member Parks motioned to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2023, Meeting. Motion carried.

#### **Old Business**

- Dr. Burns discussed the Historical Fund Balances of the RSSP and the correlation of the duties of the Financial Business Assistant and our role as the Fiscal Agent for the RSSP. Dr. Burns reaffirmed that if it is the board's desire to eliminate the position of Financial Business Assistant then a pre-requisite step is the cessation of our role as the Fiscal Agent of the RSSP. The board directed Dr. Burns to prepare a resolution to this effect to be voted on at the March 15, 2023, meeting.
- Dr. Burns discussed the FY 23 Budget Forecast and the deficit by design, appearing to be closer to a deficit of \$250,000.00 for the year as opposed to the projected \$340,000.00 for the year. Dr. Burns then discussed the potential transition to a balanced budget as opposed to a deficit by design and the pros and cons of such a change.
- Dr. Burns reviewed the timelines and some specific questions that would be on the 2023-24 Needs Assessment.
- Dr. Burns discussed the current status of the Request for Proposals sent to various private therapeutic day schools that may be interested in leasing the building and that was expected back by 4-15-23.
- Dr. Burns discussed concerns regarding the lease and property management portions of the Budget Preparation Calendar as it pertains to the RSSP Budget.
- Dr. Burns discussed a Financial Reserve option associated with PMA and the layering of \$2,000,000. over a two-year period at fixed intervals to which the board directed him to begin this process.
- The board continued its conversations about its classrooms in Huntley District 158 but was not able to complete its conversation due to yielding the floor to Ms. Karen Larson of SEAL.
- Ms. Karen Larson of SEAL entered the room at 8:38am and was given permission to address the board. A conversation relative to the current status of the lease ensued. Ms. Larson made several claims with regard to how the relationship changed after the retirement of Ms. Kathy Wilhoit in 2017 to which she was asked why she had not chosen to address the board in the six years since the retirement of Ms. Wilhoit. Ms. Larson then stated that she was moving a large portion of the program to its new Elgin Campus on or before 4-11-23 and a conversation ensued as to whether this represented a severing of the lease by SEAL. Ms. Larson stated that they were not severing the lease, but it remained unclear what the condition of the campus would be on 4-12-23 and after. The

board and Ms. Larson talked further regarding whether a potential partnership between SEDOM and SEAL was able to continue to which both parties expressed an openness to continue further talks and that both parties remained committed to holding a 3-7-23 meeting of the PPS Directors in which Ms. Larson would be allowed to address the PPS. Directors.

- **New Business**
- Dr. Burns again mentioned about an upcoming PPS Directors Meeting on 3-7-23 that would feature representatives from S.E.A.L.
- Dr. Burns reminded all parties about their Statement of Economic Interest responsibilities as a board member for SEDOM specifically.
- Dr. Burns discussed the issue of CLIC-Insurance Renewal and CYBER related questions and mentioned that it may be needed to anchor the district to a member districts tech/IT department if this issue becomes too complex to handle with only an outside company.
- Dr. Burns discussed a Potential Vendor/Agency Contract Dispute involving a contract that SEDOM managed on behalf of a member district and that the vendor was in a breach of contract position. A member district informed Dr. Burns of a billing related concern to which Dr. Burns was not able to assess the concern of the district because the vendor/agency was not able to acquire the log/documentation of the work that was supposed to be available to SEDOM per the contract and that the vendor/agency that was based out of a southern state had lost contact with its tele-therapist that was based out of western state. Dr. Burns mentioned that SEDOM will need to end the contract with the assistance of counsel. Dr. Burns also mentioned that SEDOM was not yet damaged but because of the breach of contract that SEDOM may have to give the member district a partial refund due to the claims that SEDOM could not assess to which the refund might then be considered a damage to which recovery efforts might be initiated.
- Dr. Burns discussed the upcoming Governing Board of Directors Meeting 3-1-23.
- Dr Burns again mentioned the upcoming IAASE Conference February in Springfield, IL and the importance for new directors to attend.

The meeting was paused at 8:57am, reopened at 8:59a.m. and subsequently adjourned at 9:37am.

The Next meeting of the Committee of the Whole will be held on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. in the SEDOM Board Room.