

**Lincoln-Way Area Special Education
Joint Agreement District 843**

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2011

Lincoln-Way Central High School
1801 E. Lincoln Highway
New Lenox, IL 60451

I. ROLL CALL:

Chairman Wyllie called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m. in the Lincoln-Way Central High School boardroom.

Roll call was taken.

Members present: Mr. Howard Butters (District #114); Mr. Thomas Hurlburt (District #157C); Mrs. Barbara Rains (District #161) arrived at 11:40 a.m.; Dr. Michael Sass (District #122); Mr. Steve Stein (District #159); Dr. Lawrence Wyllie (District #210)

Also present: Dr. Sally Bintz, Director of District #843
Mr. Craig Englert, Assistant Director for Finance and Operations, District #843

II. VISITORS TO BE HEARD

No visitors were present.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 8, 2011

Dr. Sass moved, seconded by Mr. Stein, that the Committee approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 8, 2011.

Voting Aye: Mr. Butters, Mr. Hurlburt, Dr. Sass, Mr. Stein, Dr. Wyllie

Motion carried: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

IV. PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

Mrs. Nancy Antonini, (a Lincoln-Way District #210 parent) and her daughter, Catherine Antonini (a student at the Lincoln-Way Transition House) were in attendance to highlight the benefits of Catherine's attendance at the Transition House this year. Catherine spoke to the group using her new audio communication device. Mrs. Antonini stressed that the program has improved Catherine's independence and communication abilities this year.

V. SPECIAL EDUCATION

5.01 Financial Update

Mr. Englert presented the November financial statement for the group and explained that the district is on-track in relation to budget. He also thanked the Superintendents for adjusting their tuition payment schedules as this has resulted in a temporary increase in cash flow for the Cooperative.

5.02 Transition House – Events, Classes, Meetings

Dr. Bintz explained that the house continues to be used for field trips on a regular basis by District 157C and District 843 programs. She reminded the Committee that the house is available for their use at any time. Dr. Bintz also reported that next year students will not have as much latitude in choosing electives in order to make the daily schedule run more efficiently.

5.04 Classrooms Update / Staffing Update

Dr. Bintz reported there is not a significant change in the utilization of programs and classrooms or staffing at this point. The Cooperative will know more in April regarding its needs for next year.

5.05 Cooperative Open House – Town Meetings

Dr. Bintz informed the Committee of the upcoming holiday open house for all District 843 staff. It will be held on December 8th at 2:30 p.m. in the Pioneer Grove gym. Also, she informed the Superintendents that she continues to hold quarterly “Town Hall” style meetings for all Cooperative staff to come and ask questions or share concerns. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, December 13th at 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the Spencer Campus in New Lenox.

5.06 Discontinuance of Service

Dr. Bintz reminded the Committee of the provision in the Articles of Agreement that state that any member district that plans to discontinue services or significantly scale back services for the upcoming year must notify the Director of the Cooperative in writing no later than the last working day in January 2012.

5.07 SELF classes / Location 2012-2013

Dr. Bintz reported that the primary and intermediate SELF classes will no longer be able to be housed at Spencer Campus next year. District 122, their architects, and District 843 administration have been meeting to discuss the possibility of renovating and leasing the basement of Oakview School in New Lenox for the SELF programs. Mr. Englert presented the estimated costs of this project and presented two possibilities for division of the costs among the member districts. Discussion ensued as to the availability of space within the member districts’ elementary buildings and the timing of a decision. Dr. Sass indicated that he is in need of a decision on this in December since the District 122 Board of Education will be meeting in January to discuss summer building projects. Other committee members expressed concern with making a decision on this without having time to consider the information presented. Mrs. Rains stated that given the possible reorganization of building usage in District 161 there may be space for the program in their district that would not require renovation. However, she could not commit to that at this time as those reorganization decisions have not yet been made. Dr. Bintz indicated that if a space is not located soon, the program may need to be discontinued at the Cooperative and those students will need to return to their home districts or be privately placed. The Committee agreed to convene a special meeting on December 16, 2011 at 7:30 a.m. to come to a conclusion and make a recommendation to the Governing Board. Dr. Bintz said she would arrange a visit for anyone who would like to see the program at the Spencer Campus.

5.08 Joint Boards of Education Meeting

Dr. Bintz reminded the Committee that the Joint Boards of Education meeting will be hosted by District 843 at Pioneer Grove School. It is scheduled for February 6, 2012 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. She asked if anyone had an item they would like on the agenda for that night to contact her.

5.09 Impact of Contract Negotiations with District 159

Dr. Bintz informed the Committee that the administration is being proactive in looking at the impact a teacher strike in District 159 would have on District 843 classes. It is District 843’s intentions to continue holding Cooperative classes that are normally housed in District 159 in the event of a strike. The CD classes would be temporarily moved to District 157C and the EC and DK classes would temporarily be moved to Cherry Hill School in District 122. Dr. Bintz said that she is hopeful these plans will not be necessary but wants to be sure the Cooperative is prepared in case. Mr. Stein reported on the status of negotiations.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE: December 16, 2011, at 7:30 a.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Butter moved, seconded by Dr. Sass, that the meeting be adjourned.

Voting Aye: Mr. Butters, Mr. Hurlburt, Mrs. Rains, Dr. Sass, Mr. Stein, Dr. Wyllie
Motion carried: 6 Aye, 0 Nay

Chairman Wyllie declared the meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Sally H. Bintz, Ed.D.