

# SPEED S.E.J.A. #802

## OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting  
SPEED Operating Committee  
Zoom Teleconference  
9:00 a.m.

March 18, 2021

### CALL TO ORDER

At 9:02 a.m. Mr. Bean called the meeting to order.

### ROLL CALL

On roll call the following members answered present: Ms. Hardmon, 144; Dr. Mitchell, 153; Dr. Smith, 161; Ms. Goodley, 162; Dr. White, 163; Ms. Lindsay, 167; Dr. Leak, 168; Dr. Jackson, 169; Mr. Amadio, 170 (arrived at 9:08 a.m.); Dr. Sutton, 172; Ms. Belotti, 201U; Dr. Navarre, 206; Dr. Harris, 227; Dr. Taylor, 223 and Mr. Bean.

Absent: Dr. Smith, 161 and Dr. Coglianese, 201U

Dr. Halliman, Superintendent was present as well as the following SPEED Staff: Ms. Brenda Murillo, Director of Business and Finance; Ms. Vanessa Duffin, Director of Human Resources; Dr. Maureen White, Director of District Services; Ms. Sue Janacek, Programs and Services; Mr. Gregory Furgason, Director of Technology, Mr. Joseph Kekelik, Buildings and Grounds Director; Principals: Ms. April Brown, Ms. Amina Payne, Ms. Nicole Taylor and Ms. Linda Wilson.

Also present were Mr. Ray Hauser, Attorney from Hauser, Izzo, Petrarca, Gleason & Stillman, LLC and Atty. Jason Stetz, Inman & Fitzgibbons, LTD.

### RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Ms. Jane Cornelius, Union President was in attendance.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Halliman reported on the following:

- **Vaccinations**

Currently we have 242 employees at SPEED. Based on the most recent survey data, 201 of these employees have responded. 30% (65) of those who have responded have chosen not to be vaccinated at this time. 10% (22) still need an appointment be vaccinated. As vaccination is received, it is shared with staff. 4% (9) of our employees currently have an appointment to get vaccinated and 56% (118) of our employees are either partially or fully vaccinated. We will continue to send vaccination information to staff as received. Additionally, Dr. Halliman thanked all of our partners that made obtaining the vaccinations possible namely Chicago Heights SD 170, Prairie Hills SD 144, IASA South Cook, Cottage Grove Cook County Health Department and TF South.

- **School Reopening Plan**

Last week we resumed seeing students for therapy services or instructional pods. Next week, Monday, March 22, we are excited to begin our Hybrid Model. Currently we have 304 students enrolled in our SPEED Program. 60% (183) of these students have selected to participate in our in-person instruction. 10% (32) will receive remote instruction but will attend in-person for by-appointment therapy sessions. Finally, 30% (89) students will be remotely only. Dr. Halliman thanked the COVID Task Force team and the administrators and staff that helped to coordinate all the moving process to this process.

- **TRS Supplemental Savings Plan**

In last month's SPEEDY Board Briefs, we shared information concerning the TRS Supplemental Savings plan indicating that we needed to bring information to the Board for approval on March 31. This has now been placed on hold pending further instructions from TRS. TRS is revising their instructions to districts. Once we receive it, we will work with our attorney and bring the topic back to the Board.

- **eLearning Plan Approval**

We had a hearing earlier in the school year and now have received notification that ISC4 has approved our plan. The plan will be good for a period of 3 years and will expire on June 30, 2023. Dr. Halliman thanked Dr. White and Jane Cornelius (Union President) for their collaborative work on getting this completed.

- **CLIA Certification**

Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments application (CLIA Certification) has been completed and we were approved in two days. This allows us to host rapid on-site COVID testing. Dr. Halliman thanked Drs. Leak, Patterson and McConnell (Palos) assisted us in this process.

- **Mobile Museum of Tolerance**

Dr. Halliman reported that we were one of the selected South Suburban districts (maybe the only SPED Cooperative) to have the Mobile Museum of Tolerance on site (3/17) for our students. The goal of this traveling classroom is to provide our students and community members across Illinois with powerful interactive lessons about the Holocaust, Civil Rights, Discrimination and becoming an upstanding citizen. We had a total of thirty-three 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders who participated either in-person or via remote. Dr. Halliman thanked Principal Nicole Taylor and Assistant Principal Matthew Williams for providing this enriching an engaging learning opportunity for our students.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

- **Budget Summary Report**

At the end of February, we received 45% of the revenue and expended 57%. As of February 28<sup>th</sup>, we spent \$42,032 on PPE. This does not include technology, cleaning supplies, labor or other purchases related to COVID.

- **Grant Revenue Update**

In March, we were award \$19,781 from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief. We received \$7,292 in the first round of distributions.

- Invoices

The invoices for February will be sent out by the end of the week along with past due reminders.

- BMO Past Due Balances

Ms. Murillo reported that she was made aware of some past due balances on the credit card which caused us to reconcile some past due invoices. These amounts are reflected on this month's vouchers.

- Open Enrollment.

We will be hosting Open Enrollment May 1 – 21, 2021.

- 410 S. Ashland

An ad has been placed in the Chicago Heights Patch to run February 20 – March 7 and in the Chicago Tribune from March 4 – 7, advertising our Ashland properties. We've had a few inquiries and have scheduled visits to view the space.

- Inspections

The Chicago Heights Code Enforcement department conducted an inspection of our kitchen and we received a perfect score.

A Health and Life Study Inspection was conducted on February 11 and there were no violations issues.

Ms. Murillo extended kudos to our Building and Grounds Director, Mr. Joe Kekelik and his staff who make sure our buildings stay in compliance.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

At 9:13 a.m., Dr. Jackson moved, seconded by Dr. Leak pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Section 2(c)(1), the Operating Committee will enter into closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee.

On a roll call vote: Ms. Hardmon, 144; Dr. Mitchell, 153; Dr. Smith, 161; Ms. Goodley, 162; Dr. White, 163; Ms. Lindsay, 167; Dr. Leak, 168; Dr. Jackson, 169; Mr. Amadio, 170; Dr. Sutton, 172; Ms. Belotti, 201U; Dr. Navarre, 206; Dr. Harris, 227; Dr. Taylor, 223 and Mr. Bean.

Nays: None

Absent: Dr. Smith, 161 and Dr. Coglianese, 201U

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Jackson moved, seconded by Dr. White that the Operating Committee approves the Consent Agenda items A, B, C, D and E as presented.

- A. Personnel Report
- B. Approval of the February 18, 2021 Operating Committee Meeting Open Session Minutes
- C. Approval of the February 18, 2021 Operating Committee Closed Session
- D. Approval of Non-Recurring and Recurring Bills
- E. Imprest and Activity Funds

On roll call vote: Ms. Hardmon, 144; Dr. Mitchell, 153; Dr. Smith, 161; Ms. Goodley, 162; Dr. White, 163; Ms. Lindsay, 167; Dr. Leak, 168; Dr. Jackson, 169; Mr. Amadio, 170; Dr. Sutton, 172; Ms. Belotti, 201U; Dr. Navarre, 206; Dr. Harris, 227; Dr. Taylor, 223 and Mr. Bean.

Nays:

Absent: Dr. Smith, 161 and Dr. Coglianese, 201U

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Consideration of the Superintendent's Extended Employment Agreement for the School Years 2021-2026**

Dr. Navarre moved, seconded by Dr. White that the Operating Committee approve the School Year 2021-2026 Superintendent's Extended Employment Agreement and the increase for the school year 2025-2026 at 3.0% for Dr. Tina Halliman.

On roll call vote: Ms. Hardmon, 144; Dr. Mitchell, 153; Dr. Smith, 161; Ms. Goodley, 162; Dr. White, 163; Ms. Lindsay, 167; Dr. Leak, 168; Dr. Jackson, 169; Mr. Amadio, 170 (arrived at 9:08 a.m.); Dr. Sutton, 172; Ms. Belotti, 201U; Dr. Navarre, 206; Dr. Harris, 227; Dr. Taylor, 223 and Mr. Bean.

Nays:

Absent: Dr. Smith, 161 and Dr. Coglianese, 201U

#### **B. IEP Software**

Dr. Halliman stated that our current IEP Software IEP Plus is a product of PowerSchool and we were informed that they were no longer be offering this product which put us in the position of looking for a new IEP software management system. Our Director of Technology, Mr. Furgason devised an IEP Transition team consisting of technology staff, teachers and administrators. They analyzed options and tendered the recommendation that is being brought to the Board today. We currently have member districts in our cooperative that use both of the systems that were being considered. Dr. Halliman recommended that Embrace be selected as the IEP software. The bonus in this selection is the cost will be \$5,380 which yields a savings of \$3,800 annually.

Dr. Jackson moved, seconded by Dr. Leak that the Operating Committee approves going forward with Embrace IEP software for SPEED's IEP Management System starting the 2021-2022 school year as recommended by the Superintendent

On roll call vote: Ms. Hardmon, 144; Dr. Mitchell, 153; Dr. Smith, 161; Ms. Goodley, 162; Dr. White, 163; Ms. Lindsay, 167; Dr. Leak, 168; Dr. Jackson, 169; Mr. Amadio, 170; Dr. Sutton, 172; Ms. Belotti, 201U; Dr. Navarre, 206; Dr. Harris, 227; Dr. Taylor, 223 and Mr. Bean.

Nays:

Absent: Dr. Smith, 161 and Dr. Coglianese, 201U

Dr. Halliman stated that items being presented for Township Treasurer and the banking facilities are listed annually in March to continue with the services of Bloom Township as our treasurer as well as the continued use of the current banking facility to manage our Imprest and Student Activity Fund accounts. Dr. Halliman reminded the Board that the banking accounts were moved from First Midwest to Old Second Bank and that is working out well for us and we would like to continue using their services.

Although the items were presented as one agenda item, Mr. Bean indicated that we would vote on each item separately.

### **C. Appointment of Township Treasurer for SPEED**

Dr. Navarre motioned, seconded by Dr. Leak that the Operating Committee approves to utilize the services of the Bloom Township School Treasurer for the 2021/2022 school year as recommended by the Superintendent.

On roll call vote: Ms. Hardmon, 144; Dr. Mitchell, 153; Dr. Smith, 161; Ms. Goodley, 162; Dr. White, 163; Ms. Lindsay, 167; Dr. Leak, 168; Dr. Jackson, 169; Mr. Amadio, 170; Dr. Sutton, 172; Ms. Belotti, 201U; Dr. Navarre, 206; Dr. Harris, 227; Dr. Taylor, 223 and Mr. Bean.

Nays:

Absent: Dr. Smith, 161 and Dr. Coglianese, 201U

### **D. Assignment of Banking Facility**

Dr. Jackson motioned, seconded by Dr. Mitchell that the Operating Committee approves to continue utilizing Old Second Bank as the depository for SPEED S.E.J.A. #802 Imprest and Activity Funds as recommended by the Superintendent.

On roll call vote: Ms. Hardmon, 144; Dr. Mitchell, 153; Dr. Smith, 161; Ms. Goodley, 162; Dr. White, 163; Ms. Lindsay, 167; Dr. Leak, 168; Dr. Jackson, 169; Mr. Amadio, 170; Dr. Sutton, 172; Ms. Belotti, 201U; Dr. Navarre, 206; Dr. Harris, 227; Dr. Taylor, 223 and Mr. Bean.

Nays:

Absent: Dr. Smith, 161 and Dr. Coglianese, 201U

### **E. Election of Operating Committee Secretary**

Dr. Leak motioned, seconded by Dr. Navarre that the Operating Committee retain Dr. Gregory Jackson as secretary of the SPEED Operating Committee for the 2021/2022 school year as per the SPEED Articles of Agreement.

Motion carried by voice vote.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Auditing Firm Agreement**

Mr. Bean stated that our current auditing vendor, Legacy, indicated that they would not continue in the business however subsequent to that they sent us notification that they were going to

continue in the business but that was after the current candidates had submitted their bids. Based on concerns raised by several superintendents, Mr. Bean stated he had a conversation with our legal counsel and his recommendation is that because Legacy indicated after the other candidates, that we should not consider their submission. Hence, the materials presented are the companies that submitted within the allotted timeframe.

Mr. Bead added that we asked the superintendent to provide information that the Board could use to decide. Since this auditor audits on behalf of the Board, the superintendent has no recommendation in that this is the Boards auditing firm and her role was to provide information from which they could choose a firm. She began by asking the 15 members of the board which used different auditing firms, and these are the results. It is appropriate that the Board would select a firm from these candidates to provide auditing services.

Dr. Halliman added that the charts being displayed has been updated from the last board meeting at the request of several board members. The information added includes how long the auditing firm has been in business but also how long they have been working specifically with school districts, how many school districts are they currently servicing and of those school districts how many are SPED Cooperatives. The chart is listed in the order of cost, lowest to highest.

Dr. Navarre stated that they have had GW has serviced Bloom Township for the past 4-5 years and it has been great. Mr. Amadio agreed that GW was good for their district as well after years of having Legacy. He was very pleased with their professionalism and the young people they employ.

Ms. Lindsay stated that the proposal states that 3 of our member districts use the services of Miller Cooper and they are also at the lowest proposal. Ms. Lindsay asked if any of those member districts present on the call?

Dr. Leak said that her district uses Miller Cooper; they do a good job. They had a delay this year but solely because of the COVID. A couple of their staff members contracted COVID, so they were not able to complete the audit in time. She stated that they do a fine job and they have had no issues with them.

Dr. Jackson stated that his district uses Miller Cooper as well and they just celebrated 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary.

Dr. Navarre interjected that GW also services the Bloom Township Treasurer and they recently voted to retain the services of GW for another year.

Mr. Amadio stated that he was not familiar with the other firms presented but he was very pleased that they employ a lot of minority accountants. He felt that this was a more progressive way to get more representation in the South Suburbs with minorities working in the field as well. He was not sure if the other firms did this as well but felt it was worth mentioning.

Ms. Lindsay asked if there was anyone on the call that worked with Mueller as they service 8 school districts. Dr. Halliman stated that none of our member districts work with Mueller.

Mr. Bean clarified that there were no member districts being serviced by Mueller and asked if we knew which ones they serviced?

Dr. Leak asked if GW services are greater than that of Miller Cooper? Is there something they do outside of the auditing services that would give them leverage over Miller Cooper.

Mr. Bean polled the board to determine which auditing firm would be selected. Six (6) board

members selected GW, four (4) selected Miller Cooper, four (4) abstained and two (2) were absent. Mr. Bean did not vote. The results of the poll are as follows:

**GW:** Ms. Goodley, 162; Dr. White, 163; Dr. Leak, 168; Mr. Amadio, 170; Dr. Navarre, 206; Dr. Harris, 227.

**Miller Cooper:** Ms. Hardmon, 144; Dr. Mitchell, 153; Ms. Lindsay, 167

**Abstain:** Dr. Jackson, 169; Dr. Sutton, 172; Dr. Frusher, 194; Dr. Taylor, 233

**Absent:** Dr. Smith, 161 and Dr. Coglianesse, 201U

Mr. Bean stated that the GW Auditing firm would be presented to the Governing Board as the recommendation of the Operating Committee at its next meeting.

### INFORMATION ITEMS

Student Enrollment Report – Dr. Halliman reported the current enrollment is at 304 students.

### AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

None

### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bean adjourned the meeting at 10:18 a.m.



Dr. Gregory Jackson, Secretary  
Cassandra Giles, Recording Secretary

Date: 3/18/2021



Mr. Bean, President  
SPEED Operating Committee

