

ESU #13 ADMINISTRATIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, December, 2017
Regular Meeting – 10:00 AM
ESU #13 Center, 4021 Avenue I, Scottsbluff, NE
Broadcast Sites: Alliance, Chadron, Dalton, Oshkosh

Present: Alliance site: Patricia Jones, Board member.

Chadron site: Dr. Caroline Winchester, Kirk Hughes, Lori Liggett, Russell Lechtenberg

Dalton site: Lorrie Miller

Oshkosh site: Dr. Paula Sissel

Scottsbluff site: Tim Cody, Bob Hastings, Travis Miller, Rick Myles, Julie Newman, Lana Sides, Dr. Troy Unzicker, Kathy Urbanek, Mike Williams, Dr. Jeff West, B.J. Peters, Craig Hicks, Laura Barrett, Kiowa Rogers, Jadie Beam, George Schlothauer, Donna Jenne, and Desira Martin-Secretary.

Sidney site: Jay Ehler, Nici Johnson

Absent: Dr. Brett Gies, Ron Howard, Don King- CSC, Chuck Lambert, Casper Ningen, Joe Sherwood, WNCC- Dr. Kim Dale, Ellen Dillon, WNCC (Alliance) – Robin Iossi, WNCC (Sidney) – Paula Abbott. Julie Downing, Paul Smith

Guests: Tiffany Seibbert Joekel – Open Sky

Welcome/Introductions: None

Superintendent Items for Discussion: None

Tiffany Seibert Jokel, Policy Director – OpenSky Policy Institute – School Finance and Tax Policy – A preview of the 2018 Legislative Session

OpenSky Policy institute is a non-partisan data company that focuses on tax, budget, and education finance in Nebraska.

OpenSky analysis of data from Legislative Fiscal Office shows Education and Health Care are at the top for General Fund Appropriations for fiscal year 18-19:

1. K-12 Education: \$1,276,722,088.
2. Medicaid and CHIP: \$843,048,904
3. Health and Human Services (Non-Medicaid): \$784,536,734
4. Higher Education: \$741,179,988

Since revenue was \$34 million below forecast for FY 17, the Forecasting Board met in Oct and revised down the FY 18 revenue (-\$100 million) and FY 19 (-\$123 million). The Ag economy, tax planning, past tax cuts, tax incentives and tax on services vs goods are some of the reasons for the struggling

revenue issue. More Nebraskans are purchasing goods which are not taxed. On-line sales do not collect tax. However, Amazon is now collecting tax on products sold by them.

Notes from the federal level: the state is coupled with the federal revenue system. 30% of the state budget is funded by HHS. The House and Senate passed changes for the tax code. There will be permanent tax cuts for corporations. Some of the other tax changes proposed are:

- Repeal/increase exemptions for the alternative minimum tax (AMT)
- Repeal personal exemptions, some itemized deductions and increase the standard deduction
- Modify current brackets and rates
- Lower the CIT rate from 35 to 20%
- Lower taxes on “pass through” businesses that don’t pay the CIT
- Enhance the Child Tax Credit
- Further limit who owes the estate tax

Upcoming Nebraska Legislation: There will be an additional effort to cut state income tax. LB461 (Correct references to a federal act in a revenue statute) is still in play from last year. Income tax legislation will likely cut top income and corporate rates, primarily through “triggers” based on projected revenue growth.

LB 259: Tax Credit Scholarships on General File

LB 521: Change provisions related to early childhood education in the Tax Equity and Educational opportunities Support Act.

Here is a link to the OpenSky power point: www.esu13.org/vnews/display.v/ART/5a53bb46d258d

Laura Barrett, Director of Special Services, ESU #13 – “New Beginnings” Day Treatment/Day School update

Laura gave an update on how the process is going. Data taken from the 2017 Nebraska School District Mental Health Survey shows the need for additional support for intervening for existing student mental health and behavioral issues with people to provide the services as the highest level of priority. Funding is still an issue as we need state funding and money from foundations. The cost to a district to educate a child for a year is \$12,000. A SPED student is \$20,000 and the day treatment cost would be \$32,000 per student. As a note, residential treatment can cost more. The project would need 20 students to break even. They have met with Senator Stinner and his aide on how to fund this project. A legislative bill has been drafted to establish a pilot project collaborative therapeutic educational setting in partnership between ESU #13 and Region I Behavioral Health Authority. If anything, this bill will bring awareness of the need for this type of program in Western Nebraska.

Q&A: Is there a building code to have this treatment facility? Laura will check on this as it will need to be ADA accessible.

Q&A: Is this limited to students with an IEP? This program would serve K-12 and it is not limited to IEP students.

A comment made by Superintendent Myles: Share hard core data with senators such as number of suicide and threat assessments. These are increasing each year.

Here is the link for the Legislative Bill: www.esu13.org/vnews/display.v/ART/5a53bb147d3db

Link for 2017 Nebraska School District Mental Health Survey Results:

www.esu13.org/vnews/display.v/ART/5a53b719f1bbd

Dr. Katie Carrizales, Psychology Services, ESU #13 – IOP Update:

Dr. Carrizales gave an update on where we are with the Intensive Outpatient Therapy (IOP) program. As a recap, ESU 13 is in collaboration with Region I to provide 9 or more hours of mental health and/or substance abuse services. This will not cost the district as it will be paid for by a grant, Medicaid and private insurance. Our providers will be able to come to the student. Services can be provided at the school, however, we can provide the services at other locations. We are in the process of enrolling providers who will have orientation in January. The students will go through a referral and screening process. The student will need to have a formal diagnosis for needing the services.

Panhandle Early Childhood Services Update (Nici Johnson):

- Kim Bodensteiner of the Buffet Early Childhood Institute will connect with schools on January 3, 4, 5 to review each districts community “snapshot” containing the results of the EC Community Conversations. There will be a work group meeting on January 8th. This is a follow up to review the districts' snapshots and to view a draft of the Panhandle report of the community assessment.
- There is an Early Childhood Conference in Chadron on February 16th & 17th. See attached link: <https://esu13.socs.net/vimages/shared/vnews/stories/580f6f37dd66d/Excellence%202018.pdf>
- Kate Gallagher will be the EC speaker at the Mid-Winter conference.

Administrator’s Report:

Dr. West encouraged the Council to sign up for BlendEd Learning Pilot Project Team – Cohort 2.

ESU 13 pays for the webinars listed below presented by Perry Law Firm for our districts. If any notifications are received about webinars other than the ones below, it will be the district’s responsibility for payment.

- Future Administrator Webinar Series by Perry Law Firm
 - February 13, 2018 - Understanding “Free Speech” within the School House Gate
 - March 13, 2018 – Extracurricular Activity Issues
 - April 3, 2018 – Teacher Discipline and Termination
 - May 8, 2018 – Common Graduation Scenarios and How to Address Them
- Future ESU AAC meetings:
 - January 31, 2018 (Please note date change) – Cory Epler and Bryce Wilson, NDE
 - February 28, 2018 (via DL, hosted from Sidney) – Dr. Michael Dulaney, NCSA and Dr., Jim Tenopir (NSAA).
 - April 25, 2018 – Dr. Matthew Blomstedt, Commissioner, NDE and David Ludwig, Executive Director, ESUCC.

Director Reports: (Please access the electronic reports that were sent earlier) Highlights are below.

SOAR (Jadie Beam): 21 school districts are participating in the Science Alignment. Mid-Winter conference is approaching. Registrations closed December 8th.

Special Services (Laura Barrett): The transition department received a Voc. Rehab grant that provided “job kits”. These kits allow the student to learn about the job in school and then they can go out to a job. We have 14 kits.

Technology/DL (B.J. Peters): E-rate dollars are still available for hardware to upgrade district networks. Please let him know if you need more bandwidth in your district.

Alternative Education- (George Schlothauer) - For this quarter, the students learned about the process of coffee, from the raw beans to the finished product. Students gave a demonstration on how the beans are roasted, ground and drip processed. Members of the Advisory Council were offered to taste the coffee.

There will be 6 students graduating from VALTS next week. This will bring the total to 612 since the start of the program.

Migrant Education (Kiowa Rogers) – Kiowa told a student success story. See link below.

<https://www.smores.com/ct9gr-esu-13-migrant-education-news>

Head Start (Donna Jenne) – We are working on the continuation grant for next year. They are in the process of working on partnering with schools. Head start is fully enrolled.