

South Valley & Rural Cass Special Education Units Joint Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 8, 2017 – 10:00 A.M. – Kindred High School

Present:	Tom Rettig	Chad Benson	Cory Steiner
	Dan Dalchow	Tim Godfrey	Morgan Forness
	Chris Larson	Brian Nelson	John Porter
			Linda Bladow

CALL TO ORDER: The joint meeting of the South Valley Special Education Board and Rural Cass Special Education Board was called to order by Tom Rettig at 10:06 a.m.

AGENDA APPROVAL: It was moved by Morgan Forness/Randy Cale to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: It was moved by Cory Steiner/Chris Larson to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2017 joint meeting. Motion carried.

JOINT DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: John Porter reported that students' issues determine where he must spend his time in the districts, and director sharing seems to be working well in both units. John will develop a survey for staff and principals to give them an opportunity to voice any concerns or opinions.

REGIONAL DAY TREATMENT PROGRAM BEHAVIOR PROJECT: The joint boards discussed partnering with Fargo and West Fargo to start a new elementary facility for students with the most challenging behaviors, which would include mental health programming. Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is also involved with the project, as they currently have both day and residential capacities. There is a significant need for a facility to adequately meet these students' needs within the two units of South Valley and Rural Cass, as well as Wahpeton. The boards are interested in exploring a separate facility from the Fargo/West Fargo program. Site locations were considered. Two teachers, three behavior technicians and contracted support from The Village and Solutions Inc. would be necessary. Research on this project and options will continue.

JOINT UNITS SHARED SERVICES CONTINUANCE: Sharing school psychologists, the director, and also speech services, continues to work very well for both units.

NEW SHARED VISION TEACHER: The joint boards expressed approval of adding a new shared vision teacher intern for the spring semester. She is a resident of the Central Cass School District. A unit vehicle would be issued for travel between schools in the two special ed units. A vision teacher is required when any student needs braille instruction. This teacher would also be beneficial to assure accommodations and devices are used consistently, similar to a hearing impaired teacher.

PRIMARY GRADES ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT TRAINING – SOLUTIONS INC: John Porter met with Solutions Inc. regarding their "Incredible Years" classroom management program. Teachers would receive 2 days training for credit. John will obtain the cost information, and schedule the training for next August.

NEXT JOINT MEETING: Tentatively March 14, 2018 – 10:00 AM in Wyndmere.

ADJOURN: With no other business, the joint meeting adjourned at 11:16 AM.

Tom Rettig, South Valley President

Linda Bladow
Linda Bladow, South Valley Business Manager

These minutes are subject
to approval at next meeting.