



Education & Administrative Resources

1420 East College Drive
Marshall, MN 56258
www.swwc.org

Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative

SUPERINTENDENTS' EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Marshall Office

Thursday, January 19, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Summary

Present:

Joe Meyer, Chair, Murray County Central
Scott Monson, Vice Chair, Minneota
Ryan Nielsen, Past Chair, Canby
John Regan, ACGC
Molly Schilling, Adrian
Dennis Laumeyer, Benson
Michelle Mortensen, Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart
Jeff Horton, Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop
Paul Bang, Heron Lake-Okabena
Todd Holthaus, Hills-Beaver Creek
Barry Schmidt, Jackson County Central
Chris Fenske, Lakeview
Melissa Radeke, Lester Prairie
Kevin Enerson, Pipestone
Ray Hassing, Round Lake-Brewster
Richard Schneider, Yellow Medicine East
Doug Froke, Renville County West
Bill Adams, Willmar
Jeff Holm, Willmar
John Landgaard, Worthington

Guest:

Sam Walseth, MREA Advocacy Director

Absent:

Terry Gaalswyk, Minnesota West
Sonya Vierstraete, SW Minnesota State University

Staff:

Cliff Carmody, Executive Director
Randy Erdman, Director of Finance
Shelly Maes, Manager of Member Services & Foundation Executive Director
Christine Schmitt, Director of Business Services
Deecy Jesse, Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order – Joe Meyer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Approval of Agenda
The agenda was reviewed. Motion by John Landgaard/, seconded by Kevin Enerson, to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Approval of Minutes (11/10/22)
The minutes from the November 10, 2022 Superintendents' executive council meeting were reviewed. Motion made by Jeff Holm, seconded by Melissa Radeke, to approve the minutes from November 10, 2022. Motion passed unanimously.
4. 2023 Legislative Session Update
Sam Walseth provided an update on the 2023 Legislative Session. Governor Walz provided a preview of his budget, which will be announced Tuesday, and is proposing to do some inflationary increase in the tails budget FY26-27 with a percentage cap. A few highlights:

- Sam's noticed challenges with meeting new House Legislators.
- New Senate Legislators have been a little easier to meet with.
- House file 5/Senate file 123 on Universal Meals is on a fast track.
- Compensatory Aid has had some push back.
- New department at MDE.
- We will see a lot of stand-alone bills.

5. Director of Finance Report – Randy Erdman

- FY22 Audit Summary
Randy shared the FY 2021-22 Audit Summary Abdo provided.
- FY23 Fund Balance Summary
FY 2024 Budget Timeline and Process shared.
- FY24 Budget Process Review
 - FY24 Fees
Discussion was held around Direct Student Services Fees and will be brought up with the Special Education Advisory Committee.

6. Time Clock/SMART Update – Christine Schmitt

Christine provided background information for the transition away from Time Clock Plus and shared that the contract will end June 30, 2023; Time Clock is transitioning away from a model where we host on our server & we would lose being able to provide support.

Time Tracker is the new model. 70 schools statewide are using Time Tracker and estimate another 70 more schools using it by the beginning of next year. Five of our schools are using at least one component of Time Tracker. We will have three staff members working on Time Tracker. Business managers have had opportunities to sit in on demos or view virtual demos of Time Tracker. An App will also be available.

7. Executive Director's Report

- SWWC Facilities Update
Priorities are:
 - Belview site move to Marshall (SMSU) Collaboration moving forward.
 - ELC – Willmar site move to New-London Spicer Collaboration moving forward. Cliff has talked with Sen. Dahms on support with authoring bills to request state money on NLS project.
 - Corporate Office/Marshall – lease ends September 2023. Fewer options statewide on funding with this location; however, we continue to look for solutions.
- Strategic Planning
SWWC Strategy Team is set up to work on planning. Outcome will be a renewed strategic plan and planning throughout organization.
- Staffing Update
SWWC has 41/42 open positions. That puts a lot of pressure on the system and especially with the ELC Sites. Continued discussion on virtual services needed.
- Summer Administrative Retreat
Planning for 2024 will be done.
- Statewide Association Updates (MHC/MS/CPC)
 - MN Service Cooperative 2023 Legislative Priorities
All Nine Cooperatives are involved in the Legislative Priorities. MSC is working to develop a stronger partnership with MDE.
 - MN Healthcare Consortium Planning
Seven of the Nine MN Cooperatives are involved in the MHC to manage costs. Looking to create more stability.

8. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee Report – Joe Meyer
Met briefly at MSBA Conference and talked about mission of the Cooperative. Want to work to get all involved in the discussion at the meetings.
- b. Special Education Advisory Committee – Melissa Radeke, Ryan Nielsen, Molly Schilling
Discussion at Advisory Committee meeting centered on financial report, special ed services, CEIS and reporting to MDE; Due Process people have been a good addition for districts; Setting IV schools and how kids are admitted.
- c. MN Telemedia – Paul Bang, Kevin Enerson, Jeff Horton
Last meeting held in October. Telemedia money request email was sent out in November and due in January. Next steps will be to meet and decide what they will fund. Next meeting is February 8.

9. Information Items

- a. AESA Conference Report – Kevin Enerson
Kevin attended the Atlanta, GA AESA Conference. Vendor hospitality was exceptional. Breakout highlights: mental wellness, crucial conversations training. Overall, a very good experience and the national perspective was good to hear about.
- b. MREA Updates – Todd Holthaus/Dennis Laumeier
Todd shared the link for MREA Platform: <https://www.mreavoice.org/platform/>; be sure to attend and share your concerns.
- c. MASA Updates – Bill Adams
MASA Platform link: <https://www.mnasa.org/legislative-platform.html>
Handbook will be reviewed, so if you have any feedback, please share with Bill.
Fall Conference – MASA may look at alternative venues.
Aspiring Superintendent Cohort is starting soon – please let Deb Henton know if you have anyone in mind. Predicting a lot of turn over.
 - i. Day at the Capitol, February 8-9
Feb 8 – Dinner/Social
Feb 9 – Meet with Legislators
- d. Post-Secondary Partners Updates
 - i. SMSU – Dr. Sonya Vierstraete
Sonja provided an update via email:
 - We have submitted our proposal to PELSB for a Para-to-ELED program. We hope to gain approval to start offering this program in the fall of 2023. Stay tuned!
 - Just a reminder we do currently have approved programs for Para-to-SPED and Para-to-TESL as well as a post-bacc licensure program in ECSE, SPED, and TESL. We have online licensure programs in ECE, ECSE, ELED, SPED, and TESL.
 - Lastly, we do offer an ED Studies degree that is non-licensure. Graduates with this degree program can be hired as tier 2 teachers.
 - All of our approved programs are located on the School of Education webpage: <https://www.smsu.edu/academics/schools/education/advising-guides.html>
 - Clinical Experience questions?
Director of Clinical Experiences – Rebecca Panka – rebecca.panka@smsu.edu
 - ii. MN West Community & Technical College – Dr. Terry Gaalswyk
Terry provided an update via two handouts (attached): Legislative Request-MWCTC and Legislative Handout 2023—Full Budget Request Final
- e. SWWC Foundation for Innovation in Education Update – Shelly Maes
Shelly shared that fundraising continues through grants to potential donors. They received a large private donation to pay for students to attend the Spring Science & Nature Conference. The Foundation raised \$42,000 this year and has a 7-member Board of Directors.

10. Open Forum/Closing Remarks

11. Adjourn

Motion by Bill Adams, seconded by Dennis Laumeyer, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.