Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative

**Superintendents’ Executive Council**

Marshall Lyon County Library

Thursday, March 23, 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

Todd Holthaus, Hills-Beaver Creek   
Barry Schmidt, Jackson County Central

Chris Fenske, Lakeview

Melissa Radeke, Lester Prairie  
Terry Gaalswyk, Minnesota West   
Kevin Enerson, Pipestone

Richard Schneider, Yellow Medicine East

Bill Adams, Willmar

Jeff Holm, Willmar

John Landgaard, Worthington

**Guest:** Sam Walseth, MREA Advocacy Director

**Absent:** Paul Bang, Heron Lake-Okabena

Doug Froke, Renville County West  
Sonya Vierstraete, SW Minnesota State University

Ray Hassing, Round Lake-Brewster

**Staff:** Cliff Carmody, Executive Director

Randy Erdman, Director of Finance

Shelly Maes, Manager of Member Services & Foundation Executive Director   
Deecy Jesse, Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order – Joe Meyer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. Motion by John Landgaard/, seconded by Molly Schilling, to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

1. Approval of Minutes (1/19/23)

The minutes from the January 19, 2023, Superintendents’ Executive Council meeting were reviewed. Motion made by Kevin Enerson, seconded by Barry Schmidt, to approve the minutes from January 19, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

1. 2023 Legislative Session Update – Sam Walseth

Sam provided a Q & A Legislative Session with the Council. A few highlights:

* 5 and 5 is 1.06 billion.
* Get the feeling that Governor Walz likes 4 and 2 with inflation.
* The omnibus bill will come out the last week of March. Starting to see bigger picture of the moving parts.
* MREA Tuesday AM virtual updates will keep us up to speed on the Omnibus bills.

1. Director of Finance Report – Randy Erdman
   1. FY23 Final Budget Update

Randy provided the FY23 Final Budget Review.

* Salary and Benefits are lower due to staffing shortage.
* Used current staffing for the Special Education budgets.
  1. FY24 Capital Budget Update

Randy shared the FY24 Capitol Budget Update. Discussion followed.

* 1. SWWC Membership Agreement Renewal Update
* Agreements are due April 1, 2023.
  1. Facility Update
     1. SWWC ELC – New London

Bonding bill for $6mil request from Representative Baker & Senator Lange. Bids will go out in mid-April. Plan for this site to open August 2024. SWWC contracts with BCI Construction/ORB Management.

* + 1. SWWC ELC – Marshall

Relocating ELC – Belview to the SMSU Social Science Building. SWWC Board approved this move at the March 22, 2023 meeting. There is a $5mil bonding bill request in the Legislature. Bids will go out in September. Plan for this stie to open August 2024.

* + 1. SWWC Headquarters

SWWC’s lease is up in September 2023. Working on space planning with HayDobbs for 14-15,000 sq. feet to accommodate our staff and future needs. Exploring open buildings or spaces to build. Potential opening in July-August 2024.

1. Minnesota Healthcare Consortium Update – Doug Deragisch & Carli Bothun

Doug and Carli provided an update and discussion followed.

* The pools are half the size today from the past.
* In 2020, we moved to a small group state pool.
* Want to have a stable pool, stable rates for those in the pool and high-quality benefits.
* The purpose of a statewide group is to help with sustainability and manage the risk.

1. Committee Reports
   1. Executive Committee Report – Joe Meyer

At the last meeting, discussed how to provide better communication on contracts/fees; MHC Statewide Pool and Special Ed update.

* 1. Special Education Advisory Committee – Melissa Radeke, Ryan Nielsen, Molly Schilling

Good discussion on coordinating early education services and about the Ready Clinic. Discussion held on CEIS and how it works.

* 1. MN Telemedia – Paul Bang, Kevin Enerson, Jeff Horton  
     MN Telemedia received one proposal for a grant on a 3D kit for virtual upgrades from the SWWC.

1. Information Items
   1. MREA Updates – Todd Holthaus/Dennis Laumeyer

The MREA Tuesday morning updates are very good and have a good turn-out.

* 1. MASA Updates – Bill Adams

MASA Region 3 Day at the Capitol – went well and was a good opportunity to meet with Legislators and key people. Region 3 Admin of Excellence Nominee certificate provided to Joe Meyer and Award winner Todd Holthaus was recognized.

* 1. Post-Secondary Partners Updates
     1. SMSU – Dr. Sonya Vierstraete   
        We had 56 complete student teaching in the fall and 30 will complete student teaching this spring for a total of 86 candidates recommended for licensure. Additionally, there are 29 licensure-only completers, who were seeking additional licensures. The Para to SPED and Para to TESL are included in the spring group.
     2. MN West Community & Technical College – Dr. Terry Gaalswyk
  2. SWWC Foundation for Innovation in Education Update – Shelly Maes  
     The Foundation goal is to have enough funds to help with costs to put on student enrichment projects. The goal of $40,000 was met. Shelly is busy applying for grants.

1. Open Forum/Closing Remarks

MHC – any questions please ask Doug or Carli. The goal is to try to help you understand and answer any questions.

Good thing Legislative targets will come out early so we can figure out what we’ll do about it.

1. Adjourn   
   Motion by Kevin Enerson, seconded by Melissa Radeke, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.