**Facility Schools Board**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**August 12, 2021**

**Via Zoom**

**In attendance:**

Board Members Present: Laura Writebol, Steven Ramirez, Carolena Steen, Tiffeny O’Dell, Sonjia Hunt, Kelly O’Shea

Staff Present: Judy Stirman, Wendy Dunaway, Brittany Hanley, Quinn Enright, Ann Symalla, Robin Singer, Annie Haskins, Lori Kochevar

Audience: Barb Taylor, Ed Nichols, Martha Muth, Kate Loving, Katie Burbo, Tamber Hepener, Lori McClurg, Chelsea Turco

**Approval of Minutes for June 10, 2021:** A motion was made by Carolena Steen and seconded by Sonjia Hunt to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion passed.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made to approve the agenda after the addition of the Air Quality Improvement Grant item by Kelly O’Shea and seconded by Carolena Steen. Motion passed.

**Facility Schools Office Update:**

* **CDE/Facility Internal Updates/Frontline** – Judy Stirman
	+ The current focus of CDE is learning loss of students and supporting districts with learning loss recovery.
	+ Teacher shortages have been an issue across all Colorado schools and a lot of our schools are struggling too.
		- If you hear of anyone who may be a good fit for facility schools, please let our office know.
		- A couple of sites have reduced capacity because they lack the staff to provide services.
			* Inspiring Talkers has closed.
			* Mount Saint Vincent has had a large amount of turnover and has made the decision to continue offering full residential services, but not day treatment.
				+ They will not accept students until they are adequately staffed
				+ They are doing a graduation on Tuesday evening for all of the student who they are letting go.
	+ CDE is looking at federal funding and the commissioner is holding focus groups. Judy has sent invites to facility schools to join and make sure their voices are heard
	+ Return to Office was planned for September, but the rise in Delta variant cases has changed this.
		- The Office of Facility Schools has been directed to not hold any in person meetings until December. CDE will re-evaluate the viability of in-person meetings at that time.
	+ New team members have joined the Office of Facility Schools.
		- Annie Haskins has taken Shirley Stubbs’ role after her retirement. This parttime position was moved to full time.
		- Quinn Enright has taken Erik Hilton’s role.
		- Brittany Hanley has accepted a position elsewhere and her last day will be August 20th.
		- OFS is redefining some roles to focus on support to the field as we have several new directors and a lot of new teachers.
* **Data Management and Systems Support** – Brittany Hanley and Quinn Enright
	+ All systems have rolled for the new year. Everything went smoothly.
	+ A lot of new teachers to IC, meeting with individuals virtually and providing group trainings through office hours
* **I-Ready/Tuition Cost** – Lori Kochevar
	+ Due to staffing issues, we are pushing back the Tuition Cost application deadline.
		- Judy will let State Directors Leadership Team (SDLT) know at their next meeting and will also send a few communications out to districts.
		- The extension will go to November 15th.
		- Judy and Lori will let facility schools know tomorrow at the August directors meeting.
	+ Lori is currently working to provide i-Ready trainings at Kaleidoscope.
* **Monitoring/Updates from the Field** – Robin Singer and Ann Symalla
	+ Due to Covid-related restrictions, monitoring will take place remotely.
	+ The IEP training schedule is being finalized.
	+ Ann and Robin visited 20 facilities last year remotely and only had one violation all year.
	+ Monitoring visits are currently being scheduled for this year.
	+ The policies and procedures are being finalized. Final edits were received by the Attorney General’s office
	+ Ann and Robin will serve as mentors for all new Special Education Directors.
* **Curriculum/Induction/Kaleidoscope/Out of District Consortium** – Wendy Dunaway
	+ Professional Development –
		- OFS is continuing our partnership with 7 Mindsets
			* We are working with our coach to ensure we can support our new staff.
		- We are also continuing our partnership with McREL International, which provides courses for those who work with ELL students.
		- Another continuing partnership is with Mountain BOCES, which provides licensure requirement courses for teachers.
		- Classroom Instruction That Works (CITW) courses will continue to be led by Wendy and Judy as needed.
		- Wendy will offer curriculum support as needed
		- CollaboratEd Consulting is currently offering a self-paced math academy.
			* All facility schools staff have access for 365 days.
			* Juliana, who is continuing to work with our staff this year, will provide coaching at the same time.
	+ Kaleidoscope will be all virtual again this year.
		- The official dates are Sept 30 – Oct 1.
		- Wendy will make sure board members have all necessary information.
	+ Two confirmed principals are working through the induction program
		- 7 new Directors will get support from Ann and Robin.

**New Programs**

* The Highlands program is very close to finishing their paperwork.
* Goldstar is here and is getting close to finishing their paperwork.
	+ In attendance are Lori McClurg, Chelsea Turco, Brandi Rende, Tamber Hepener, and Katie Burbo
		- Lori works with the children and is the Special Education Director.
		- Chelsea works with the adult population.
		- Brandi Rende is being mentored by Lori as the principal.
		- Tamber is the program coordinator.
	+ DHS is coming in two weeks for licensure.
	+ CDE paperwork is coming along.
	+ Services are for those students with intellectual disabilities with a focus on functional skills for society
	+ The school will be located in Denver
	+ There will be two to three areas for classrooms.
* Barb Taylor will provide an update on Keystone
	+ The zoning and health came through. However, zoning changed their mind and asked them to hire an architectural firm to give an analysis.
	+ They had interviewed teachers to be coordinators but have lost them due to the shortage and unforeseeable instances.
* Extended tuition cost allows new programs more time to get up and running.
* Board will receive approvals soon and will conduct official approvals in Sept or Oct.

**Joshua Schools New Building**

* The Joshua School’s new building was approved last year contingent on receiving their license, which they now have.
* They are here today to provide an update on this program.
	+ Ed Nichols, Martha Muth, and Kate Loving are in attendance.
* Highlights include:
	+ Having their own space,
	+ Having more room for group work and vocational work,
		- Students are transferring to group-based environments, for which they are now better prepared.
	+ Having a new kitchen,
		- The new kitchen has allowed students to learn cooking, baking, self-regulation, communication, and nutrition skills.
		- It has also allowed for students to develop small business skills.
		- Some vocational sites have dropped off due to covid-related concerns and the kitchen has been able to provide more on-campus vocational opportunities.
	+ Allowed The Joshua School to look at future environments for students that better mirror vocational opportunities,
	+ And providing a better environment for young adults without small children who are also students.
* The census for the new site has been set at 17.
* The board voted to fully approve this site now that the license has gone through.

**Board Seats/State Board of Education Presentation** – Judy Stirman

* The suggestion is that the request comes from the FS board to the SBE in September asking for the opportunity to present at a meeting.
	+ Field requests are prioritized over internal requests.
* Members of the board will present. Judy will be there to support if necessary.
* We will give SBE a couple of options on presentation dates and times.
* The goal is to let SBE know that we exist and are working hard and to lift our schools up.
* Judy will prepare the board letter to the SBE that all members will sign.

**Air Quality Improvement Grant**

* Grants are available right now in order to install new air quality improvement items such as filters
	+ Schools must go through their home district.
		- This is an opportunity for facility schools to build relationships with districts.
	+ The type of supplies acceptable for purchase is more limited than ESSR funds.
	+ There is the possibility for one district to run the paperwork for all facility schools.
		- A BOCES may be best for this (perhaps Pikes Peak BOCES).
	+ Judy will gauge director interest for completing these grants at the meeting tomorrow.

**JBC/Stakeholders Group** – Judy Stirman/Wendy Dunaway

* We are working to hire the work group facilitator and the fiscal analyst. Consulting companies such as the state temp agency are being explored as options.
	+ The plan while we wait to hire these positions is to nail down members, purpose, and game plan. However, doing these things is more of the facilitator role because taking them on gives the perception that CDE is running the group when that is not the case.
* Judy and Wendy are working with grants fiscal to disburse funding that has already been allocated.
	+ We do not yet know if it will be based on student count. We are meeting with grants fiscal to determine the answer to this question.
	+ If you have suggestions as to how this funding should be disbursed, please share so that we can make it as easy as possible to get the funding to schools as quickly as possible.

**Applied Behavior Analysis Programs**

* The majority of new programs seeking approval are Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) programs.
	+ They are different from our typical programs.
	+ The ABA program and the academic program are separate, and schools need to meet our standards, which they are not used to.
	+ Ann and Robin are running into licensing questions and are trying to learn more about ABA programs. They are working with Brooke Carson who’s the CDE autism specialist. They will also reach out to schools that use these programs.
* What are the board’s thoughts on opening the possibility of approval for these programs?
	+ Do all of our current facility schools that use the ABA program model have special education staff?
		- They all have sped teachers, but licensing has changed to allow paras to get this license. The Office of Facility Schools will ask Kate Loving more about integrating these programs.
	+ What does this look like in a district?
		- ABA programs are not counted in sped services.
	+ These programs are considered public school options versus sending a kid right to a center after diagnosis
		- CDE is not acknowledging the full spectrum of services.
		- We need to look at the criteria for different programs and the full spectrum of services.
	+ We need to make sure that, if there are potential barriers identified, we all work on how to get around or through them without sacrificing quality programming.
	+ We can add a request into the letter of intent for more detail in services outside of education and what/how they are offering.
	+ These programs need to write and case manage their own IEPs. We are not bending or changing any of our rules; we are seeing what we can add on.

**Other Topics from the Board**

* Many facilities have received calls from parents wanting to send their kids to ABA clinics.
	+ The school district does not pay for these services but recommends to the ABA clinic that they become a facility school.
		- Instead, the ABA clinic creates a BCBA behavioral program, but kids still need more to do during the day. These kids end up doing academics with no teachers.
		- The ABA clinic continues to receive pressure from the school district to become a facility school, but they do not meet the criteria for out of home placement and do not have therapeutic needs.
* Recognitions at Kaleidoscope were brought up regarding recognitions in general.
	+ The board would like to talk about a monthly recognition of facility school staff, which will be put on the agenda for September’s meeting.
	+ Recognitions let facility schools staff know that the board and OFS exist.
* Schools are getting push back because JeffCO is within RAE 6.
	+ RAE 6 is the Medicaid provider for that region.
	+ Facility schools are not accepting RAE 6 students.
	+ Everyone needs to work hard to make a relationship with that particular RAE.
* CHRP waiver questions have moved up to the AG’s office, which will come up with some guidance.
	+ There is a lot of confusion surrounding this currently so guidance will be very helpful.

**Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board**

* No public comments were made.

**Adjournment of Meeting**

Kelly O’Shea made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Laura Writebol seconded. Meeting was adjourned.

**Next meeting** – September 10, 2021, at 11:30 a.m.