



# EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Lexington Lansing Hotel  
Packard Room

## *Minutes*

*Monday October 11, 2010*

Executive Board Members present: John Bretschneider, Abby Cypher-Kitchen, Rachel Fuerer, Janis Gaubatz, Diane Heinzelman, Michele Harmala, Laurie Jepsen, Teri Johnson, Rick Monte, Carolyn Smith- Gerdes, Cherie Snyder, Tony Thaxton

Other Attendees/Guests: Lucy Hough-White, Laurie Montgomery, Eleanor White

I. Call to Order: *President Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM*

II. Consent Agenda Teri Johnson

- a. Approval Of Agenda
- b. Approval of July 15, 2010 Executive Board Minutes
- c. Approval of Financial Report

*John Bretschneider moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Cherie Snyder and passed unanimously.*

III. Report/Updates

a. OSE-EIS (Upon Arrival) Eleanor White

*Eleanor White informed the group that the OSE-EIS Updates will include information from the OSE-EIS and MI3. There will also be open discussion items. John noted that there may be procedural questions related to certifications and also the desk audits for Medicaid. Eleanor stated that ISDs wanted more support from the state on the Medicaid reports. The state has begun a verification process per the federal guidelines. The forms are now more detailed, and the districts are trying to keep up with compliance.*

*John asked about the certificates of completion, and whether that is considered a drop out. Eleanor said that a student with a certificate of completion is not considered a drop out for data counting purposes. There is new information in the OSE-EIS Updates to outline the descriptions.*

*Eleanor noted that there will be a Focus on Results section of the updates for information that needs attention from staff members. The updates will be broken down into sections for big information, reminders, and professional development opportunities. She stated that the intention of the organizational structure for the updates was to break down silos and give comprehensive information.*

*Eleanor stated that the MI3 updates are meant to inform members about the grants and their work. The MI3 updates are general information, but if anyone would like to hear more about certain projects and their work, Eleanor can get that information.*

*Eleanor said that she will share more on Wednesday about the OSE-EIS Updates, and if anyone would like additional items addressed, to let her know so she can prepare. She informed the board that there will not be a package at the end of the year due to the holidays, but that there will be a Spring package.*

*Abby questioned the procedures for the dropout data. She asked if the new descriptions for the categories are only counted from this point on. Eleanor said that the new descriptions apply only to new data, since we cannot go back and change data. Cherie asked about the implications for students with course changes. Eleanor said that the certificate of completion is not a high school diploma, but if the district chooses to code those students as completed at the district level, then those students are considered completers in the data. Abby wanted to know how this new change affected the students who counted as dropouts in June 2010 but who actually continued with school. Eleanor noted that when submission rules change, it is only for future data, and that the new rules only applied to data from this point forward. Diane asked if it would be appropriate to share this new information with stakeholders. Eleanor said that although the certificate counts as completion for data coding purposes, we should not pass that information on to parents because it is not a diploma. This change does not apply in districts that do not issue certificates of completion. For districts that do issue certificates of completion, those students will now count as "other completers." Diane noted that this would help schools interpret their data and target students. Teri asked whether older students would count as completers, and Eleanor will make an inquiry. Eleanor will also share Fran Loose's email with anyone with further questions. Eleanor believes that the information comes from CEPI, but she will find out for sure.*

*Eleanor asked if she should be aware of anything. Diane stated that the electronic collection of Indicator 7, Preschool Outcomes is new this fall, but the coordination between users and the CEPI office is not going smoothly. Carolyn and Abby agreed that there are data entry issues. Eleanor will share that information with the appropriate people. Diane said that people know to contact Noel, but contacting CEPI is difficult for them. Janis noted that she is often confused when trying to get answers from CEPI.*

*Teri informed the board that Eleanor will be getting the updates to us about a week ahead of time so that members would be able to prepare for future meetings. If anyone would like to discuss additional issues with Eleanor, let Teri or Tony know, and they will prepare her for the discussion. Eleanor said that she is always available, but now that 'Breakfast at 10' is no longer going on, she is aware that people may not have an avenue for discussion. Unfortunately she will not be present at Tuesday's activities this year due to the new meetings she must attend, but OSE-EIS staff will be there to answer questions.*

*Tony noted that MAASE is working to schedule these Monday meetings for everyone's convenience and information sharing. Tony stated that the partnership between MAASE and the department is going well. John noted that the OSE-EIS updates are useful.*

*Eleanor mentioned that the summer meeting updates may change for this coming year.*

*Eleanor left the meeting. Teri noted that board members should always feel comfortable contacting Eleanor with questions.*

b. President's Update

Teri Johnson

*Teri informed the board that Dawn Bentley will be the Summer Institute Chair next year. There will be some big changes, and some content might shift now that there will be less time. The first planning meeting takes place Wednesday morning. Rick expressed his concern that the committee members were unaware of the details and found out about the meeting late. Teri said that the committee had been longstanding with few membership changes, and Teri had deferred to the new committee leader to get the committee together. Teri said that they did not treat it as an intact committee, but a committee to be put together. She noted that Dawn's style will be different from Jan's, so there may be changes that people have to decide whether the committee is still right for them. Rick said that his issue was that the current members did not get any information at all regarding the meeting. Teri thinks that the misunderstanding may come from different views on committee functions, and that she considered the committee is a living, growing group, not a certain individual's permanent role. Rick said that the members did not mind the changes, but were concerned that they got no notice about them. Teri said that Dawn's style is different, and it is up to committee members to decide whether to continue to participate. Rick replied that the issue was that they did not know the new meeting time, and were disappointed with the lack of notice before the meeting. Tony noted that it is the committee leader's role to communicate with the members. Diane suggested that leaders need to know that they must communicate with the members. Tony said that he did give Dawn the members' contact information. Teri asked Janis about her contact with Dawn, and Janis said that she did not receive any contact. Cherie asked the group if we should address the communication issues so that all members are comfortable. John suggested a tip sheet for new committee members. Cherie said that we always want to improve communication. Abby acknowledged that as a committee leader, she did not know how to proceed with scheduling meetings, etc. Tony said that there are no rules for new leaders, but that usually the old and new leader meet and discuss the leadership change. Teri said this situation was especially unique as the committee was headed by the same person for a long time. Cherie said that it may be something to consider in the future.*

*Teri informed the board that the NASDSE conference would be held in Nashville next week. She and Eleanor are going.*

c. CASE

Laurie Jepsen

*Laurie Jepsen was absent from the first half of the board meeting. She had asked Tony to include something in the MAASE Activity Updates for CASE.*

*Janis asked about the pictures that were taken at the recent CASE meeting in Washington, D.C. Tony said that no one asked to have the pictures posted on the MAASE website, and that there was no story written to accompany the pictures. Diane asked if people were aware that they needed to include information for web postings. Tony said*

*that there was not a specific request along with these pictures. Diane noted that there may be a need to outline the expectations for requesting a website posting. Tony noted that he would need a prompt. Janis said there was no discussion of a caption or anything to go along with the picture. John said that it was not too late to post it. Tony noted that there was an expectation that he was unaware of due to the miscommunication, but that the pictures can still be posted if captions are provided. John said that it is a good idea for the board to discuss the protocols for marketing. Diane asked the board to consider how they are going to market MAASE. She noted that the board does not have a process for it and that leads to missed opportunities. John said that website items should have state appeal. Diane noted that marketing pieces link back to the strategic goals of MAASE. Teri asked whether the board needs to put the procedures in writing. Diane replied that it would be beneficial to have the policies and procedures in written form. Teri said that MAASE had always operated very informally in the past, but that she acknowledged that members are all used to structure and like to provide it for people. Tony said that he believed the Strategic Planning Committee would be covering this issue. Janis suggested that Tony tell people to include a caption in future requests so that he can post them. Abby stated that she would appreciate clarification on this issue since she is on that committee. Tony stated that the committee could look into the expectations for processes.*

*Laurie Jefsen joined the meeting later. She stated that the opportunity to attend the CASE Conference is open for any interested board members. Teri asked if the board wanted to discuss whether someone should attend. She asked Laurie to describe the CASE Conference so that members could make an informed decision. Laurie explained that the CASE Fall Conference will be directed at different leadership issues with sessions on a variety of topics. Teri asked if there was concern that there will not be enough attendees. Laurie said that CASE just wanted to inform the board that there is an opportunity to attend and that there will be development sessions. CASE believes it is important for every unit to be represented. Laurie noted that it is difficult for people to get to Hilton Head in this economic environment, but she is not going through MAASE for her arrangements. Teri asked the board if everyone would be comfortable with only Laurie attending, and the board affirmed the decision.*

d. MALSEA

Michele Harmala

*Michele Harmala stated that she and John Bretschneider for MAISEA would present together.*

*John stated that MALSEA and MAISEA have a current focus on teacher evaluation. Vince Dean will meet with the group in December to discuss evaluations. The group will ask him questions regarding who needs to be evaluated and who does not, and whether the process matters for retirees. John said that he and Michele would need to give Vince some questions ahead of time so that he can prepare. Diane asked what Vince's role is, and John said that he was recommended to address the group on staff evaluations. John said that his group is interested in what kind of professional development people are looking for in the next year, and that the meeting will be a discussion session. John noted that he and Michele have discussed what they need to do together and separately. Michele added that they will discuss what they would like to ask Dean at their next*

meeting. John emphasized that the meeting with Vince will be interactive.

Michele asked about how to get information as a leader. She expressed concern that there is no explanation about what she should be doing and how she should contact people. Teri replied that people have asked her and Tony for information on procedures, but that MAASE does not have formal procedures. Michele said that from a strategic point of view, more information would be helpful. Teri said that MAASE does have the goals outlined, but that the procedures have been casual. She noted that MAASE has let the committee leaders decide how to run their committees, but maybe MAASE needs to inform on the plans and goals better to prepare the new leaders. Janis suggested a planning meeting to inform leaders of expectations and provide wiki training. Tony said that John will assist with wiki training through meetings and phone calls. Teri acknowledged that the board needed to consider options to keep committee leaders informed.

e. MAISEA

John Bretschneider

See MALSEA discussion.

f. Executive Director

Tony Thaxton

Tony Thaxton noted that MAASE membership has decreased slightly. He said that MAASE membership might not reach 625 this year, but this is likely because there are fewer special education administrators this year after cut backs. Tony explained concerns about the number of unaffiliated members. He noted that when members fill out their membership information online, they can choose to be affiliated with MALSEA or MAISEA, but many are not selecting a group. Cherie suggested that the new administrators probably do not know who to align with or what the groups do. Abby informed the group that in her district, the clerical staff enroll MAASE members, and they might not know the details about membership. Michele said that the board can decide whether that enrollment procedure makes sense if it is not working. Cherie noted that those members who do not attend the MAASE meeting on Wednesday may not know the information. Tony replied that the summer institute had over 400 people, so many MAASE members are receiving the information.

Tony shared the financial report and tax statements from last year and informed the board that the taxes have been submitted for this year. He said that MAASE did show an increase in fund equity of \$64,000. He can make copies of the documents and email them to anyone who requests them. Teri noted that sometimes the firm explains the statements to the board. Tony replied that he could request that service, but MAASE would be billed.

Janis suggested that MAASE could spend some of the surplus funds on membership pins. She believes that the pins would be something people would want to wear. Janis moved that the board consider using some of the funds to purchase MAASE pins. Cherie seconded. The motion passed with Michele dissenting. Abby asked if she needed to discuss the use of funds with her region since she is a region representative. Teri replied that the motion is just to consider the purchase, so she will be able to discuss it with her region. Cherie suggested that the pins be presented at a large meeting as MAASE does

*with other gifts so that many members receive one. Janis replied that she thinks every MAASE member should get a pin no matter where they are initially given out. Diane informed Abby that her procedure could be sending a survey in her region to get input. Abby stated that her region had given her input, but that she was unsure where to include that on the agenda. John suggested that the board add regional reports to the next agenda. Michele presented an alternate thought on using the funds. She suggested that MAASE reduce the membership fee for one year and inform the members of the value being given back to them. Laurie suggested that the board also consider MAASE name badges for members who attend national meetings, as many state level organizations have. Teri again asked the board who would be in favor of considering the membership pins. Only Michele opposed. Michele asked for the definition of "consider," and asked if the regions are going to get to give input. Teri noted that the motion would be to continue to discuss the pins. Michele asked what motions people should ask for. Teri suggested that Janis may want to amend her motion. Janis amended her motion to request only some kind of membership award, but stated that she did like the idea of a membership pin. Rick noted that the discussion had turned from whether to have a discussion to how to have it. Janis replied that she thought that at the Summer Planning Retreat the leadership group members were asked to think about how to use the funds to benefit members. Tony reminded the board that the Strategic Planning Committees have just gotten underway, so that will impact available funds. Janis asked whether there was an appropriate committee to hand the issue to. Michele asked whether there was a membership committee. Tony replied that there might be a membership committee after this meeting. Teri asked if the board wanted a motion to purchase pins or to discuss other options. Laurie asked if the motion should be amended to discuss this issue at the next meeting. Teri stated that she would prefer that the board discuss the possible formation of a new membership services committee before more talk about the pins or any other issues for the committee to discuss. Diane reminded the board that they had already voted to consider purchasing the pins, so they can move on from the topic.*

*Teri asked whether Laurie's suggestion of name tags for the Executive Committee can be ordered in time for the CASE conference. Cherie asked that a motion be made. Laurie made the motion that all executive committee members have name tags. Cherie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Cherie said that she thinks the name tag should be worn at all MAASE functions. Laurie agreed that the name tags should be worn at all functions, since the Executive Committee represents the MAASE members. Rick said that Tony should have a name tag as well, and Tony replied that he would as an Ex-Officio member. Tony will get the design idea out to the board for approval as soon as possible. Abby suggested buying the template badges that are magnets, since the board members change. Tony said that he would get those.*

*Tony acknowledged that Donna Tinberg helped pull the election together.*

*Tony showed the board a Board Member Manual that he is reading. He will be sharing information from it with the Executive Committee over time.*

*Tony informed the board that Stephanie Peters will be the new chair of the Early Childhood and Community Practice Committee. Stephanie already has the list of interested members. Cherie asked how Stephanie was going to find out who the early*

*childhood people are, and whether she would work with the department to find them. Tony said that she has the names of about a dozen people who responded to the initial call for interest.*

*Tony told the group that he could assist them in communicating with the membership. He said that he can create emails to be sent to the whole membership, or break it down by region or group. The email would list the sender who requested the communication. Diane noted that it is up to the members to update their membership profiles to be included on lists. Cherie asked how to get that membership information. Tony replied that it is all on the website.*

*g. Other*

*Teri asked the region representatives to share information from their regions.*

*Region 1A:*

*Rachel shared that there are concerns in her region about a rise in reports on issues regarding special education services. Janis asked Rachel about the dates for the UP conference. Rachel replied that it would be held February 24-25.*

*Region 2:*

*Cherie stated that she had questions about how to get region input. She noted that Region 2 is a large group, and asked how she should go about getting input. She stated that she wanted to make sure she represents everyone well. She said that she thinks the board should be discussing how to get and use this information. Teri responded that no one has the answer, so it is an ongoing discussion about how to do this best. Tony reminded that he had the listservs for the members of each region, so we could send Zoomerang surveys. The email can be from the region representative. Cherie asked whether people are categorized by region when they register to attend the Institute. Tony replied no, but noted that the information is in their member profile.*

*Cherie noted that the SLD eligibility has brought forth many questions. She stated that the nonpublic service plans are also generating questions. Teri stated that Eleanor will discuss those topics on Wednesday. Cherie said that the representatives do need guidance, since they are not experts on these subjects. Tony suggested talking to Laurie VanderPloeg about any questions.*

*Region 3:*

*Carolyn informed the group of the recent retreat. She said the retreat consisted of a day on student success and also team building exercises. She is also hearing questions regarding SLD eligibility.*

*Region 4:*

*Abby noted that her region discussed feedback loops and structures on how to get information from monitors and others to the board. She stated that there is some concern in her region over how the luncheon after the Beakman Award session at the Summer Institute was handled. She asked how to address their concerns or who to direct them to. Tony stated that she could share the concerns here and Janis will listen as the planner for*

*next year. Teri responded that the planners knew the concerns at the time and it has been discussed. Tony added that the concerns had been presented to him for consideration in planning the Summer Institute for next year. Abby said she would tell her region that their concerns were already heard in other formats and that they would be addressed.*

*Laurie said that she heard a lot of concern about how to communicate with regions. She noted that the original intent for region representatives was to include people from all parts of the state. The regional people do not need to feel the pressure of being a conduit. The board members all represent the constituency, and we all are doing our best. We were elected to serve, and we need to do that while remembering that this is a diverse state.*

*Laurie Montgomery asked if there was some kind of document for people who are new to the board, and the group responded that there was not.*

#### IV. Correspondence

##### a. MAASE Early Childhood CoP Email

*Teri informed the group of the Early Childhood CoP email.*

#### V. Discussion/Action Items

##### a. Retreat Follow-up:

###### Nomination Committee

*Teri asked the board for a discussion on how to look at the nomination procedures. She noted that the brochures need updated language, and that they should clarify whether the Beakman Award is for people currently serving as Special Education Director. MAASE has different awards given throughout the year, and they should make sure people are aware of the timelines for the awards.*

###### Mini-Grant Committee

*Teri asked the board if there is a need to define how the mini-grants are used, whether it is for professional development scholarships or student activities.*

*Discussion on the awards processes and the mini-grant funds ensued:*

*Diane stated that she had looked at the procedures for MAASE awards. She asked if four awards was too many for the organization to award. She expressed concerns about keeping track of all of the submissions and the time that goes into the selection process. She suggested that the board consider awarding only three awards—the Batten Award in December, the Award of Distinction in June, and the Beakman Award in August. She drafted a schedule for the nomination and selection processes for each award. She outlined the sample schedule for the Batten Award, which would entail announcing the call for nominations at the MAASE Summer Institute and going through the selection process in time to award the recipient in December. The nominee would be made aware in a timely manner. Each award would follow a similar schedule and each leader would know how the process should go. The Beakman would recognize an individual who is distinguished in special education leadership. The Beakman Award could be awarded*

*based on overall leadership, and we could rethink the provision that it be awarded to a person currently serving as a special education administrator. Laurie noted that the qualifications for the Beakman Award specified that it go to a current special education director, but she is in favor of broadening the qualifications for the award to encourage the promotion of our state leaders at the national level. She explained that CASE considers the recipient as the nomination for national level leadership awards, but there are people in our state who have the potential to be recognized nationally but who are overlooked because they do not qualify for the award.*

*Teri asked Diane about the timelines, and Diane reiterated that each award be given out at regular intervals in a cycle. Teri asked Diane if she, as the committee leader, had a rubric for the selection process for the Beakman Award. Diane explained that the rubric is similar to the one for the Batten Award, but it contains no indicators of quality. She noted that those areas can be added. Tony stated that Penelope had put something online for the procedure, but no rubric was included. Teri said that she did appreciate the rubric from the Beakman Award selection process that Diane ran. Teri asked if there was a need for a committee to shore up some of these questions. Diane stated that the board needs to help the membership understand the logic of cutting down to three awards. Diane said that she would work with Michele and John to look at the brochures and the logic behind the rubric and put something out to the board members electronically. She acknowledged that they were behind to implement this for the Batten this year. John replied that as the leader of the Batten Award committee, he could get out the information for the nomination process quickly. Tony asked whether it made sense to put forth the motion to implement a schedule for the awards at this time and save the procedures talk for another motion. Diane made a motion for MAASE to go to a three award schedule, with the Batten Award to be presented in December, the Award of Distinction to be presented in June, and the Beakman Award to be presented in August, with the MAISEA and MALSEA presidents responsible for their respective awards. John seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Cherie suggested that the board review the timelines document at the December board meeting. Diane stated that the Batten Award process could be the dry-run this year, and then the procedures will be worked out to be approved. Cherie replied that in December the board could inform the constituent group that this is the official procedure.*

*Teri asked if the board wanted to discuss the mini-grant funds. She recapped that the board talked this summer about how they want to move to supporting professional development opportunities instead of their current support of the \$400 student activities grants. Rachel replied that she remembered that the board wanted to hold off on any change for this year and have further discussion. Tony agreed that was his recollection as well. Teri explained that MAASE may want to sponsor a member fellowship for EPFP. Cherie noted that her understanding was that the board was going to continue to support the student activities. Tony asked whether it was too late this year to implement the mini-grants. He said that Jan was going to look into it, but the group told her to put it on hold. He noted that if the board wants to change from supporting mini-grants to supporting professional development activities for members, they have until August to select a member for EPFP. Cherie said that the board did have a discussion regarding moving the funds from students to administrators. Laurie stated that the board would not want to assume that they were now supporting EPFP. Tony said that he thought a*

*recommendation would be necessary. Rachel said that she sees it as two issues—does the board want to continue the mini-grants for students this year and does the board want to consider professional development opportunities for next year. Teri asked what the group should do if they wanted to look at moving their support for this year. Cherie said that at the December meeting the board should discuss how to use the funds to align with MAASE goals, and that she does not see it is an either/or. Teri replied that the issue is on the agenda now for the board to have this conversation so that something can start happening. She asked whether the board should designate individuals to research and recommend how to use funds. Cherie replied that she would like more information on the EPFP group. Tony stated that he thought that Jan was going to make some recommendations. Diane replied that Jan had little time to prepare an idea, but that the group needed more information to discuss other options. Rachel stated that she was not necessarily in favor of mini-grants, but that was how she remembered the discussion. Laurie moved that the board ask Jan to choose members for activities for the mini-grant program for MAASE this year. John seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Teri asked whether the group wanted to look at that funding differently and if they wanted to continue to support student activities. Michele asked if there were committees that would consider this issue. Abby replied that her committee has discussed establishing partnerships and this seems to be related. She noted that there may be an opportunity here for professional development, but she does not know what that would look like yet. Michele asked if it was a protocol for MAASE to hand off issues to committees. Teri replied that it was not a protocol. Tony stated that his understanding is that Jan was going to look into better options and tell the group. Laurie said that we must be mindful that Jan is a committee of one. She suggested that the group put the issue on the April agenda, after the committees have had a chance to meet, and then they would discuss again where to put the resources based on the goals of the committees. The committees may have a variety of needs and ideas, and the board needs to honor the strategic committees' roles. Rachel asked how the strategic planning committees know that we want this from them. Teri replied that she and Tony can speak with the committee chairs and let them know the nature of our plans and the need for their involvement.*

**b. Membership Services Committee Proposal**

*Carolyn explained that she had mentioned an idea at the summer retreat she would now like to put forth before the group. She stated that the Networking Committee has been a one person committee with the role of coordinating hospitality. She said that it is not ideal to have a committee of one person just for setting up the auction. She moved that the board disband the Networking Committee and create a new Member Services Committee with Carolyn and Deb. Rachel seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Tony stated that Carolyn and Deb will be co-chairs of the Member Services Committee.*

**c. CASE/MAASE membership combination and cost considerations**

*Tony noted that in June the group discussed creating a connection between MAASE and CASE membership. Laurie suggested that the new Member Services Committee should explore this topic. She said that she does have a concern that the membership of CASE is different from the membership of MAASE. She would like to explore why and see what other states are doing. She noted that the national organization is disappointed that we do not have a larger CASE membership in our state. She feels that a lot of people do not understand the benefits of CASE membership. Tony asked whether the bylaws covered*

*the issue of making MAASE the CASE affiliate. Laurie noted that Executive Committee members must be members of CASE, so we have established this connection and expectations. She stated that around 230 MAASE members are CASE members too. Rachel asked what the national repercussions are for low state level membership in CASE. Laurie replied that they are not eligible for many national level awards. Teri replied that she thought CASE received a membership award recently. Laurie explained that CASE got an award for an increase in membership and an award for giving out awards. Laurie said that she would take these issues to the new Membership Services Committee and asked that anyone with suggestions on how CASE can get more national recognition to let her know. Abby said that she would take the issue to her region for discussion. Cherie said that she would mention this at more meetings. Abby noted that she did not understand the benefits of membership. Laurie said that this was all good feedback for them to communicate more about CASE. Tony said that the Membership Services Committee should involve Donna in discussions.*

d. MAASE proposal regarding 22 to 26 services

*Lucy Hough-Waite discussed new language for a law for providing services for students ages 22-26. Lucy asked who the board initially talked to about the response to the proposed legislation. Teri said that she had discussed the proposal with the CMH director in Lapeer County, and stated that he was very supportive because our facility would be available to him. She noted that he is knowledgeable about what other states are doing, and that is helpful for the group because CMH is very different from what the board members are all used to. Lucy said that there is no more CAUSE to use as a resource. She noted that there are obstacles around the age ranges for students receiving services—Medicaid for example will not serve individuals until 26 if another organization can. She believes that legislators should be creating good social policy. She wanted the consent of the group to continue contact with the legislator about the proposed law. She noted that the new legislation would amount to less than FAPE. Teri replied that providing FAPE for this age range is already a challenge. Lucy stated that the bill is in the legislator's drawer, but that MAASE representatives are supposed to be helping to draft it. Teri replied that they need to make sure MAASE is still involved. Lucy replied that she wanted consent from the group to initiate a conversation with the legislator about MAASE's ideas, so that at least the counties that the legislator represents have given feedback. Teri said that while we do not want to alarm people, we do need to address this issue timely. Lucy stated she believes that this legislator is unpredictable. Diane mentioned that her work with a small subcommittee showed that a good way to control a message is to build a common discussion with common understanding. Lucy said that this was a great opportunity to be involved in discussions with the mental health community. Cherie asked Lucy if she would be speaking for MAASE. Lucy replied that the group should go forth with a response to the proposed legislation. Rachel asked whether this response was fear-based. Lucy replied that she thought it was better to shape policy than respond to it after the fact. Tony agreed and stated that it was good to have MAASE's stance on the record. Lucy reminded the group that the legislation has not been introduced, but it has been proposed. Teri clarified that Lucy would like to get back with the legislator on MAASE's response. Lucy replied that the response would have draft written on it, but it delivers the message that there may be other options. Teri replied that since the legislator has only stated intent, and since Lucy has a "draft" response, the legislation is still a work in progress. She noted that what*

*goes into a new law is determined by the people who have input on the bill, who are not always the most knowledgeable people. She stated that the MAASE message can show that the groups can have more conversation and look into compromises. She reminded that this is not a formal, official message, but a response to a pre-proposed bill. Laurie made a motion that the Executive Committee support the use of the draft document as a basis for further discussion with the legislator. Several members seconded, and the motion passed with Cherie and Rachel opposed. Cherie and Rachel expressed concern that the message could be twisted. Laurie asked for and received clarification that this would not be a published message.*

e. Executive Director Contract Addition Proposals

*Tony Thaxton made two proposals for additions to the Executive Director contract:*

*Tony suggested that MAASE develop an endorsement program in special education for principals. The endorsement could be added to the professional's general education certificate. MAASE could put together their own endorsement specifications, and the endorsement would not be considered an approval or provide eligibility for funding. It would just be a certificate. Tony said that he would put together a proposal outlining the costs for the program. He noted that his work in creating the endorsement program would be an addition to his contract.*

*Tony suggested that MAASE create a CEU program for MAASE professional development activities. He explained that the CEU program would provide income for MAASE. He noted that his work in creating a CEU program would also be an addition to his contract.*

*The board discussed the two proposals. Rick asked Tony if he was going to put together a proposal for the projects. Tony replied that he would and explained that his company contracts with MAASE and that is how remuneration is set up. Lucy noted that, in her experience, social work CEUs are hard to get approved. Laurie replied that her district only has problems with getting basic level sessions approved. Abby clarified that the first proposal is twofold—whether the board thinks that we need an endorsement program for principals, and whether this is the best avenue for creating one. Laurie stated that the Strategic Planning Committee is supposed to be focused on partnerships, so the board should use the structures that are in place. She suggested that the Member Services Committee discuss professional development activities. Rachel asked whether Tony should present his proposals to the committees. Cherie said that discussion on proposals should come from committees. Laurie suggested that Tony be in contact with the committees regarding the proposals. Tony agreed that he would address the committees. Abby informed him that her committee meets on Wednesday, if he would wanted to address them at that time.*

*Diane made a motion to submit the public comment for support for model core teaching standards. The motion was seconded by John and passed unanimously.*

VI. Adjourn: *President Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:10 PM.*