

Meeting for Tri Star Audit Information
October 18, 2022

Attendance: Josh Meyer-MN, Ken Schmiesing-CE, Tom Sommer-CE, Mike Pohlman-ML, Larry Brown- FR, Julie Garke-SH, Bill Ruane-SM, Kim Waterman- NK, Jason Schrader-NB, Doug Mader-CO, Jared Ebbing, Brian Stetler, Dee Smith, and Tim Buschur

Bill talked/discussed the meeting that was held with LGS on October 13th and asked Ken to discuss the meeting on October 7th that LGS had with Ken and Tom. Ken deferred to Tom. LGS was asked by Darren (former Celina treasurer) to have a meeting and look at separate accounts for Tri Star.

Tom interjected that a meeting was held and looked at solutions.

Jared discussed, based on the auditor findings, the 2019 agreement is NOT in complaint with the current bonds. Could be an issue with bonding agents. Bonds were based on the 2016 agreement and the 2019 had unintentional consequences. Option is to hire independent counsel to amend the agreement more like the 2016 agreement. Changes were needed at that time because the # of board members and we now had a building (how to divide) that all schools help pay for. The Auditor said it gave Celina "Imposing Will". Agreement should state all schools equal, being a fiscal agent does fiscal services contracted by Tri Star. Bill Ruane said that fiscal agents cannot impose will and need to keep Tri Star running fiscally.

Based on the auditor's report, we need to get the agreement back to the 2016 agreement.

How to move forward?

Larry Brown commented to get independent counsel to get 2016 status.

Larry asked Dee if she had a recommendation for counsel and she did: Squires, Sanders, and Boggs. Deal with schools and bonding. Came a highly recommended and vetting person who has the best experience in these types of issues. The bonding question was a concern last year when the cooperative was looked at.

Bill brought up looking at the cooperative. "What do you think?" Julie Garke asked can legislation be done in lame duck? Dee said yes. Dee also said we do not have to

implement right away, just need to be in place. Several superintendents said like in 2024? Dee did say would have to proceed quickly that time is short for this lame duck session but can be done.

What can be put in? Running Compact, functions independently (all nine schools have input), does not increase cost, has its own governing body.... could be all nine superintendents.

Could a levy be run? Did not want it to be specific. If this is cutting edge thinking other compacts could be helped also and might want to use this model. Do not have to do, just an option. Just being inquired. Not main focus of the cooperative. Dee said could add language later. Could adjust if Columbus thinks it needs to be adjusted.

Jared then explained that Keith Faber wanted him to be part of the group since Tri Star affects nine communities.

Group voted on the following issues:

1. Motion by Larry Brown: seconded by Doug Mader, to go back to FY17 for audit purposes. Vote was 9-0 by superintendents.
2. Motion by Doug Mader: Seconded by Bill Ruane, to have outside legal counsel to amend 2019 agreement and align with the bonds. Vote 9-0 by superintendents
3. Motion made by Jason Shrader: seconded by Josh Meyer, to move forward developing legislation to become a cooperative. It should include the ability for a tax levy and governing body. Vote 9-0 by superintendents.

Sub Committee for the three proposed changes to meet and inform rest of superintendents:

Bill Ruane, Jason Shrader, Ken Schmiesing, Mike Pohlman, Jared Ebbing. Dee Smith will assist with the group and Tim Buschur will observe.

Ken asked about the cost of outside counsel and Dee will get an estimate. The costs are the normal cost of doing business for Tri Star and are considered the cost of doing business. It is not through a special account or fund.

Tri Star Superintendents Meeting

November 3, 2022

Attending: All 9 superintendents, Brian Stetler, and Tim Buschur. Larry Smith left around 12:10 pm

A. Competency Based Learning/Pre-Apprenticeships

Discussed WebXam and students do not have to be in a class to take the test. Went over how often can take test and it can help for graduation. Had two students take the test and met graduation requirements thru extra tutoring. Discussed work programs and the P3 will continue thru Tri Star. Schools like the option.

B. Funding-

Career Tech Funding- State is looking at balancing it out. Some schools are getting less with new funding formula

State Building Fund- State wants to put up to \$50 million to help schools build CT facilities. Tim is on the committee. JVS's think Compacts and comprehensives get more money. Not true.

Work Based Learning- Schools might get funding for each kid that reaches target. Up to \$1,000 per student.

Credential Funding- state reimbursed money for students that earn. Tri Star received around \$60,000 the last two years. Was sent to Celina and will have to reappropriate.

C. WebXam and Credential Spread Sheet- Brian handed this out and was sent to all schools to show them what students have met toward graduation requirements. Several schools replied on how helpful this was.

D. Cooperative Update

- a. Chair- Bill Ruane nominated as chair and Jason Shrader as secretary of sub-Committee. All agreed. Bill gave most of overview
- b. Proposed Engagement letter for legal counsel- motion made by Doug Mader : Seconded by Jason Shrader. Not to exceed \$15,000. All yes. Dr. Ken abstained. Dr. Ken asked if Celina board had to approve. Tim said no. The only thing the boards must approve is items listed in agreement. This is not one of those. All nine boards would get to vote on any issue. Bill also mentioned that the treasurers would like to be represented. SM's treasurer will be used as an advisory role and represent treasurers.
- c. Zoom meeting being held each Monday to update the Sub-Committee
- d. Treasurer's
- e. Dee's Activities- Working with Legislators and ODE on the working structure. Said legislators are on board and ODE has had some questions. Dee also works with the auditor's office.

- E. Licensure for Career Tech- Tim on committee looking at revamping requirements. There is a shortage of CT Teachers in the state.
- F. Job Fair is May 5th. Tri Star will pay for bussing for schools to send non-Tri Star students. Target would be seniors. Use career Development monies.
- G. Special Education- Working to give Progress Book access to the intervention specialists so they can see students' grades. Will also help regular education students. Tri Star VOSE helps all students that need extra assistance.
- H. 8th and 10th grade tours. 8th grades tours went well, and 10th grade tours start soon. Open house on December 12th from 5:30- 7:30 pm. Using Final Forms to sign up on-line. Testing with three smaller schools. Cannot do with Celina since would wipe out all information for Celina for several months.
- I. Pam Carr- Custodian will retire in December. Job has been posted. Will follow union protocol for next hire.
- J. CTE 26's- Schools have been notified which one's are due for renewal and timeline
- K. Perkins Audit- Will have this year
- L. Safety Drill- Working with Sheriffs office. Will be held November 22nd in the am. Will notify parents and community thru media and social platforms.
- M. Future Meetings- 11:45 am start for all meetings
- N. Good of the Order- Finding your Grind will be presented at the ESC on November 16th. Looks at careers. Could Tri Star pay for instead of OCIS. Tim noted the counselors like OCIS.

Doug Mader discussed the calendar that he is proposing at Coldwater and would like to do for two years. What are other schools doing? Mental health breaks for students and staff. Tri Star schools used to work better with having common calendars and many different schedules now.