



TO: EPC Representatives

FROM: Ken Swink, Director

DATE: January 11, 2024

RE: Minutes of January 9, 2024

The Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council met in person and virtually via Zoom at its regular meeting on January 9, 2024, at 12:15 p.m. at Aullwood Audubon Center, 1000 Aullwood Road, Dayton, Ohio. Executive Board Committee Chairperson, Scott Gilbert, called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: PJ Burgett, Ansonia; John Stephens, Arcanum Butler; Dan Bassler, Carlisle; Brian Masser, Cedar Cliff; Chuck Cowgill, Centerville; Jim Atchley, Darke Co ESC; Rachel Tait, Jeff Parker, Eaton; Jeff Patrick, Fairborn; Keith Doseck, Fairlawn; Scott Butler, Lebanon; Jerry Ellender, Mad River; David Larson, Miami Co ESC; Eric Hughes, Miami East; Amy Anyanwu, Montgomery Co ESC; Robert Fischer, National Trail; John Kronour, Northeastern; Ann Ferraro, Brandon Knecht, Northmont; Ben Kitchen, Southeastern; Scott Gilbert, Springboro; Bill Derringer, Tri County North; Jeff Price, Troy; Jeff Sakal, Troy Christian; Scott Cottingim, Twin Valley; Joe Scholler, Erick Depew, Valley View; Marcus O'Brien, Vandalia Butler; Jack Haag, West Carrollton; Curt Bone, Wilmington; Belinda Kenley, Kerstin Wilson, Sara Little, Energy Optimizers USA; Mary Whitt, Evans Energy; Eric Groh, Prodigy; Shay Moran, Waibel Energy Systems; Ken Swink, Doug Merkle, Connie Wright, Bonnie Muckenthaler, Ellen Lewis, JeanAnn Cloud, Robin Houston, Brianna Listerman, EPC. **Via Zoom:** Carla Surber, Joe Hurst, Bradford; Alana Cropper, Forest Hills; Jeremy Pequignot, Franklin Monroe; Inga Fisher, Greeneview; Jenna Jurosic, Greenville; Ed Cubick, Chris Knight, Lehman Catholic; Jake Thiel, Paulding; Rachel Meyer, Southern Ohio ESC; Ken Lackey, Wayne.

2024-6. Approval of Minutes - Motion of Robert Fischer, seconded by Jeff Patrick, that the [minutes of November 7, 2023](#) be approved. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE PROGRAM REPORTS

***Air Filters** – Shay Moran of [Waibel Energy Systems](#) reported that Air Filter Pricing has been extended with no changes through June 30, 2024. [Current pricing](#) and instructions on [how to order or set up an account](#) may be found on the EPC Website.

***Classroom/Office Supplies** – Ken Swink reported that we are recommending a one-year extension with current vendors. This extension pricing with Acco/GBC, Carolina Biological, Friends Office, John R. Green/Kurtz Bros and Nasco will be valid from February 1, 2024 though January 31, 2025. Any increases from vendors will be capped off at 5% and may decrease at any amount. The [updated pricing will be available on the EPC Website](#) on February 1st.



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***Copy Paper** – Ken Swink announced that Copy Paper will be extended through February with Sterling Paper and ODP Business Solutions. The lowest-priced white 8 ½ x 11 Copy Paper from Sterling Paper is their SchoolCopy at \$34.99/case and ODP’s Boise X9 196517 is \$33.79/case. This pricing will be valid through February 29, 2024 and we will then have the option to request a monthly or quarterly extension. You may view all [copy paper pricing](#) on the EPC Website. A [flyer from ODP Business Solutions](#) was also shared with the membership.

Design Build & Performance Contracting Services – [Belinda Kenley](#) of [Energy Optimizers, USA](#), [Mary Whitt](#) of [Evans Energy](#) and [Eric Groh](#) of [Prodigy Building Solutions](#) all gave updates and were available for questions.

Disinfection as a Service – Ken stated that the Disinfection as a Service program discounts with both Alpha & Omega (Scioto) and Waibel Energy Systems are valid through June 30, 2024. If you would like contact information or pricing from either vendor, please contact [Robin at the EPC Office](#).

Food Service – Bonnie Muckenthaler reported that in the next few weeks, we plan to send out informal requests for quotes for Foodservice Equipment Repair and Commercial Foodservice Equipment. The results will be posted in the [EPC Foodservice News Dropbox Link](#).

The [summary of all EPC Food Service Updates](#) discusses a memo that was sent out recently by the SWEPC commodity coop and ODE regarding a USDA midyear reduction in entitlement along with information on the Community Eligibility Provision that is an option for districts to serve all students FREE meals. For anyone interested, there will be a short presentation on “Evaluating the CEP Option” after the next EPC membership meeting on March 12, 2024.

Insurances – Ellen Lewis announced that 1095 files are now due. Feel free to contact [Doug Merkle](#) or [Ellen Lewis](#) with any Health Insurance related questions.

LED Lighting & Energy Savings Programs – [Belinda Kenley](#) of [Energy Optimizers, USA](#) shared a [flyer on how to simplify your facility projects](#). Please contact [Belinda](#) if you have any questions or if your district is interested in a [free No Cost Energy and Lighting Audit](#). A big thank you to Energy Optimizers, USA for sponsoring today’s lunch.

Liability Fleet & Property Insurance – Ken Swink reminded the membership that our recent EPC LFP members received a flat renewal. We are currently beginning to schedule building appraisals for the first third of our school districts over the next 3 years at zero cost. If your district is interested in a quote from our EPC Liability Fleet & Property Insurance program, feel free to reach out to [Ken Swink](#) with your request.

***Transportation** – Ken Swink announced that new bus bids are due back from potential vendors this Friday, January 12th. Once received, we will email out the new pricing as well as post them on the [Bus page of the EPC Website](#).

2024 model-year Passenger Vans and Pickup Trucks were also recently bid for EPC Members. You may view the [Vehicle Packet](#) showing pricing on 2024 Passenger Vans with American Bus and 2024 Pickup Trucks with Beau Townsend Ford and Bob Ross Buick GMC on the EPC Website.



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Utilities/Natural Gas – Ken Swink reported that our current Electricity supply contract with IGS runs through December 2024. The EPC is currently working with our legal counsel, Michael Settineri of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP to write a new contract with IGS Energy and once approved by both parties, we will send the contract out to our participating members for Board approvals.

Regarding natural gas, our current contract with NRG/Direct Energy expires in June 2025 and until a new supplier contract is in place, no further market hedges can be placed. The EPC has recently sent out the language for members to pass Board Resolutions. We will soon be sending out reminders to any districts who have not yet submitted their Board Resolution back to us yet. You may view a Natural Gas Presentation by EPC Consultant Mark Jergens here on our EPC Website: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#) and [Part 3](#). (Separated into 3 files due to large file size.)

Workers Compensation – No Report.

2024-07. Motion of John Kronour, seconded by Bill Derringer, that the *programs be approved via consent. Motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Financial Report – Connie Wright reviewed the [financial summary of the general operating fund](#). The balance of the General Fund as of December 31, 2023 was \$945,421.27. Please contact [Connie](#) with any questions or concerns.

AEPA Flyer for January – [Just Right Reader](#)

Motion to adjourn by Eric Huges, seconded by Jim Atchley. Meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.