

EAST CENTRAL BOCES BOARD MEETING

June 29, 2022

7:00 p.m. (Over Zoom)

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Nancy Barden, President; roll call was taken; the following Board members were in attendance:

Doug Purdy – Agate
Rena Saffer – Arriba/Flagler
Nancy Barden – Bennett
Seth Ebright – Bethune
Stacie Perez – Burlington
Allison Harris – Byers
Janet Kravig – Karval

Danielle Ullom – Kiowa (Alternate)
Mike Buchannan – Kit Carson
Dayton Drullinger – Liberty (Alternate)
Ryan Frasier – Limon (Alternate)
Diana Elliott - Strasburg
Jerry Clapper - Stratton

Those Board members not in attendance were:

Drew Axsom – Arickaree
Jake Pelton – Cheyenne Wells
Candace Reed – Deer Trail
Ken Stroud – Genoa/Hugo

Joel Tanner – Hi-Plains
Andy Richards - Idalia
Jake Coraor - Woodlin

Those Superintendents in attendance were:

Robin Purdy – Bennett
Shane Walkinshaw – Burlington
Tom Turrell – Byes
Mike Vagher – Cheyenne Wells
Dan Melendrez – Genoa/Hugo
Sarah Nuss - Karval

Rhonda Puckett - Liberty
Rob McMullen - Limon
Dan Hoff - Strasburg
Kandy Davis - Stratton
Aron Jones - Woodlin

Those Superintendents not in attendance were:

Melinda Walls – Agate
Lisa Weigel – Arickaree
John Weigel – Arriba/Flagler
John Haddan – Bethune
B.J. Buchmann – Deer Trail

Jerry Monks – Hi-Plains
Myles Johnson - Idalia
Travis Hargreaves - Kiowa
Robert Framel – Kit Carson

Others in attendance were: Jason Westfall, Beverly Blagg, Mitzi Swiatkowski, Lorie Coonts, Moira Hawks, Jarred Masterson and Craig Bailey – BOCES.

II. Approval of Agenda

Tom Turrell asked to add a discussion/update on the Byers online school. Dianna Elliott – Strasburg made that motion to approve the agenda as with the addition of item C. under discussion items for update from Tom Turrell on the online school. Second by Allison Harris - Byers. Roll call vote; motion carries.

III. Approval of Minutes

Rena Saffer – Arriba/Flagler, made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. A second by Janet Kravig – Karval. Roll call vote; motion carries.

IV. Public Comments

There were none.

V. Consent Agenda Items

Jason shared that resignations and new hires are all listed on the Summary Sheet; there are no non-renewals at this time.

Also included is the recommendation from SAC to renew our lobbyist contract for 2022-2023 at \$21,000. Also included in the packet is his evaluation, he does a good job for us.

We need to approve the second reading of the policies AC and DJB with those changes coming from CASB. Nancy shared that she asked Jason to change all EC BOCES to East Central BOCES so there is no confusion.

Renee Saffer – Arriba/Flagler, made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. A second by Janet Kravig - Karval. Roll call vote; motion carries.

VI. Business – Action Items

A. Adjust Salary Scales C,D,E,F, G

We are requesting that the Board approve increases in the pay scales for our Specialized Service Providers and Center-Based teachers. This request is being made in order for East Central BOCES to keep up with salary increases for the professionals happening across the state. Over the years while districts have given percentage increases ranging from 2% to more than 5%, the BOCES stayed conservative in its spending by freezing salaries or giving single steps. While prudent at the time, our Specialized Service Providers and Center-Based Teachers are now paid less than their peers in some of our member districts as well as districts adjacent to our member districts. The requested increases will not negatively impact our budget in terms of the reserve and will be paid for with the new state special education revenue as well as the increase we are seeing in the Per Pupil Revenue (PPR) to member districts (Pink Pages). Our fear is that if we do not keep pace with salary increases we will continue to lose these professionals to other organization.

The current and adjusted pay scales are included for your information. Base increases are as follows: C- \$6,350, D- \$6,250, E- \$6,350, F- \$6,350, D- None. Clean up (Sped. Coordinator days) and added Alternative Licensure Director.

Most of our salary schedules are based on a 186 work days, but on Salary Schedule C the Early Childhood and SLP contracts are based on 186 and the center-based teacher contracts are set by the district and BOCES administration. We hire service providers for the days they want to work, we offer full and part-time in order to serve the students in your districts.

Diana Elliott – Strasburg made the motion to approve the adoption of Salary Schedules C, D, E, F, and G, as presented. A second by Renae Saffer – Arriba/ Flagler. A roll call vote was taken and all were in favor except a “no” vote from Mike Buchanan – Kit Carson. Motion carries.

B. Adoption of 2022-23 EC BOCES Budget

Jason went over the following:

Beginning Fund Balance is projected at \$2,338,987.76 and the final budget is projecting an ending balance of \$1,696,244.19. That's a spend-down of **\$642,743.57** if everything is received and spent as budgeted. Here are the Funds that make up our Fund Balance:

- 601 has a spend-down of \$24,245.25
- 603 has a spend-down of \$680,993.45
- 614 & 669 Alternative Licenses has a surplus of (69,469.22)
- 651 Local PD have a net spend-down of \$6,400.00
- 657 VNETS has a spend-down of \$574.09

Salaries & Benefits

- The budget does include a step increase for all employees on a BOCES contract for the 2022-2023 school year as well as the salaries based on the proposed revised salary schedules.
- Health, Dental & Vision benefits were budgeted in April for a projected 10% increase but the final rates saw an increase of 8.37%. The Executive Leadership Team reviewed the plans and decided to stay with Assured Partners as our broker for the next year; we did change the dental, vision and life policy carriers to save additional funds.

Other topics he went through that affect the budget

- More students in the CBLP's
- Alternative Licensure is up \$118,000 – current size is 30-31 teachers and 5 principals, but we will probably have more because districts are not done hiring yet.
- ECEA funds have increased and those flow back out to the districts
- Out of District cost are increasing and we will apply for those high cost students. We can apply for students who are over \$25,000 in district or \$45,000 for out of district. If awarded those dollars go to help offset costs for those students.
- Grant Writing – we have some local state dollars that help pay your grant writers in your local districts.
- We also receive HB 12-1345 dollars to augment professional development, incentive for your teachers to complete the READ Act modules. We also pay teachers stipends for attending classes in the summer, pay for substitutes in your districts when teachers need to be here for training. Books and training materials are also purchased if needed.
- Federal Revenue IDEA B is down \$117,000
- Title I At-Risk up \$110,000 – this is based on demographics in your districts. Census numbers change that and determines your Title I funds.
- Carl Perkins had a small bump up.
- Carl Perkins Competitive Grant is combined with NE, SE and Centennial BOCES to offer coding classes to JH and HS. We are the fiscal agent for that.

Expenditure Summary

- Salary and benefits, increases are due to Purchase Service Contractors which increase our costs by 30%-40% more than our own employees
- We are finishing up the BEST Grant which is a \$30,000 reduction; this was increase bandwidth and equipment.
- Bulk of Tier A is flow through
- Supplies, materials and curriculum for coding program

Diana Elliott – Strasburg, made the motion to approve the adoption of the 2022-2023 Budget Revisions as presented. A second by Renae Saffer – Arriba/Flagler. A roll call vote was taken; motion carries.

C. Adoption of Budget Revisions

a. Appropriate Funds for the 2022-23 EC BOCES Budget

Rena Saffer – Arriba/Flagler made read the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE SUMS OF MONEY

Be it **RESOLVED** by the Board of Education of East Central Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) in Lincoln County that the amounts shown in the following schedule be appropriated to each fund as specified in the “Adopted Budget” for the ensuing fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023.

General Fund	\$16,651,661.41
Trust Fund Scholarship	\$2,000.00

TOTAL APPROPRIATION \$16,653,661.41

A second by Dianna Elliott – Strasburg. Roll call vote was taken; motion carries

b. 2022-2023 Beginning Fund Balance Spend Down

Rena Saffer – Arriba/Flagler read the following resolution:

**A RESOLUTION TO SPEND DOWN THE BEGINNING FUND
BALANCE
OF THE BOCES GENERAL FUND**

Be it **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of East Central Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) authorizes the use of a portion of the beginning fund balance from the General Fund for FY 2022-2023. This is a planned spend down of funds. The Beginning Fund Balance will be spent down by \$642,743.57 to help support the possible deferred maintenance, Special Education purchases service contracts, and other BOCES support programs. The July 1, 2022 Beginning Fund Balance is projected to increase by \$612,070.92 from the July 1, 2021 audited beginning fund balance. We believe the beginning fund balance is adequate for cash flow for East Central BOCES and its programs.

A second by Dianna Elliott – Strasburg. Roll call vote was taken; motion carries

c. Resolution to spend down a portion of Beginning Fund Balance of L.G.L. Andersen Scholarship for fiscal year 2022-2023

Rena Saffer – Arriba/Flagler made read the following resolution:

**Lester & Georgia Lee Andersen Scholarship Fund
A RESOLUTION TO SPEND DOWN THE BEGINNING FUND
BALANCE OF THE BOCES SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Be it **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of East Central Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) authorizes the spend down of the Beginning Fund Balance from the Scholarship CD for FY 2022-2023. The portion to be overspent is approximately \$2,000. The fund spend down is due to one scholarship being awarded in this fiscal year and interest rates being too low to keep up with

the scholarship award. BOCES received permission from the scholarship benefactor to spend down the funds. Funds will eventually be spent to zero and the scholarship will be done in approximately fourteen years.

A second by Dianna Elliott – Strasburg. Roll call vote was taken; motion carries

VII. Discussion Items

A. Evaluation of the Executive Director – Progress Review

The evaluation calls for a mid-year review of performance goals. I have included the updated document and it was included in the e-mail with your packet. If anyone has concerns or questions, please let me know.

Our Superintendent Strategic Planning has been scheduled for September 6th – 8th. We just need your superintendents there to plan for moving forward.

B. August 24th meeting discussion

We need to have a short meeting in order to approve any resignations and contracts for employees hired over the summer. Diana Elliott shared that this is in conflict with the CASB Regional meetings. Jason said the meeting should only take 15-20 minutes and would appreciate if you could even call in by phone. In November we have our face-to-face meeting with dinner starting at 6 p.m.

Diana encouraged everyone to register and attend the fall meetings. There is some discord happening on the Board of Directors on the direction that CASB should be taking, mainly metro vs. rural. Board are members of CASB and it bears paying attention to. It is at Hi-Plains School on August 24th from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. The Exec. Director has already resigned effective tomorrow. CASB provides and keeps you up to date on policy manuals, lobbyist, legal services, etc.

C. Discussion of Byers online school

Thank you for allowing me time during this meeting. I would like to share charter updates and adjustments with Colorado Education Solutions, EC BOCES, and Byers had a contract in 2013-2014 which puts me directly in the middle between the school and BOCES. We are working on getting contracts updated and they have been sent to the lawyer for review. There has been some changes to language and I would like to see if we could set up a 10 minute meeting in July to ratify this contract and help Byers with a fresh start to the new year.

VIII. Reports - Enclosed

A. Executive Director – Enclosed

Jason shared about the Industrial Arts Fair here at Limon School that the BOCES sponsors and Marianne Johnson organizes it. Some of the projects those students put out are truly amazing! If you have never been, it is well worth the trip.

B. Additional Staff Reports – Enclosed

No other comments or questions.

IX. Adjournment

There was a motion by Mike Buchannan – Kit Carson to adjourn the meeting. A second by Allison Harris – Byers. Roll call vote; motion carries. Meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.