

EAST CENTRAL BOCES BOARD MEETING

April 19, 2023

7:00 p.m.

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 Bardin – Bennett
Seth Ebright – Bethune
Stacie Perez – Burlington
Allison Harris – Byers
Jake Pelton – Cheyenne Wells
Candace Reed – Deer Trail

Ken Stroud – Genoa/Hugo
Janet Kravig - Karval
Donnie Gabehart - Kiowa
Kenna Dible – Liberty
Dianna Elliott - Strasburg
Jerry Clapper - Stratton
Jake Coraor - Woodlin

Those Board members not in attendance were:

Drew Axsom – Arickaree
Joel Tanner – H-Plains

Andy Richards - Idalia
Jake Herrera - Limon

Those Superintendents in attendance were:

Robin Purdy – Bennett
John Haddan – Bethune
Shane Walkinshaw – Burlington
Tom Turrell – Byers
Mike Vagher – Cheyenne Wells
Mike Jobman – Deer Trial

Dan Melendrez – Genoa/Hugo
Travis Hargreaves - Kiowa
Rhonda Puckett - Liberty
Rob McMullen - Limon
Kandy Davis - Stratton
Aron Jones - Woodlin

Those Superintendents not in attendance were:

Melinda Walls – Agate
Lisa Weigel – Arickaree
John Weigel – Arriba/Flagler
Jerry Monks – Hi-Plains

Myles Johnson - Idalia
Sarah Nuss - Karval
Robert Framel – Kit Carson
Dan Hoff - Strasburg

Others in attendance were: Jason Westfall, Beverly Blagg, Mitzi Swiatkowski, Megan Eikleberry, Lorie Coonts, Nicole Kollath, Jarred Masterson and Craig Bailey – BOCES

II. Approval of Agenda

Diana Elliott - Strasburg, made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. A second by Stacie Perez - Burlington; roll call vote taken; motion carries.

III. Approval of Minutes

Rena Saffer – Arriba/Flagler, made the motion to accept the minutes as presented; a second by Dianna Elliott - Strasburg. Roll call vote taken; motion carries.

IV. **Public Comments**

There were none.

V. **Consent Agenda Items**

Under the consent agenda items under resignations and hires, we have been able to hire most upcoming positions earlier

Auditors Agreement is enclosed.

East Central BOCES Calendar is enclosed. Nancy and concerns about having the March SAC meeting on the 20th with when we have 3 districts out that week and could it be moved to the week before the 11th so that those superintendents on Spring Break don't have to worry about being there or zooming in? Jason said he would take it to the Superintendents Only for their consideration.

Consortium Consolidated Application Plan for 2023-2024 is included. We will approve this under Consent Agenda but if you haven't already you need to take it to your local boards for their approval so they know what your districts Title funds are being spent on.

The 2023-2024 EC BOCES Consortium PD Needs Assessment Priorities are listed. Some of the differences from previous years is a Teacher Survival Guide which will help support how students learn and best practices to enhance and accelerate learning for all students. It can also help with classroom organization, lesson planning, classroom management, best practices, reviewing and using data, differentiation, etc.

Also, as funding allows we will provide stipends upon completion of a self-paced course in OG or DIBELS 8 for the school districts not participating with ELAT. Also continuing with Impact Tam work, EL/MLL PD opportunities, ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies teams across the BOCES, Principal Clusters will be offered quarterly and continue with Technology Grants and PD opportunities with zSpace , CTE related curriculum, and coding classes and resources for teachers. The CSED grant will continue to provide robotics and 3D printing classes and resources for teachers.

Diana Elliott – Strasburg, made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; a second by Stacie Perez - Burlington. A roll call vote taken; motion carries.

VI. **Business – Action Items**

A. **Recommendation of EC BOCES Proposed Budget for FY 2023-2024**

You will notice the new formatting of the budget this year. We had a Business Managers/Superintendent training on March 2nd with Glen Gustafson from CDE. He shared this budget format with the group. It creates pie charts and graphs that help you get a good snap shot of what our budget consists of (local, state and federal dollars) revenues and expenditures. Hopefully it is much easier to read and understand. We can also track funded pupil count and SPED count over the years and how that affects our budget.

Jason shared the following on the proposed budget FY 2023-2024. Remember this is a preliminary so things will most likely change by June. Things Jason talked about:

- Remember that our numbers run a year behind. We plan to spend down our reserves by \$40,000 if we spend everything we are planning right now.
- We have budgeted higher amounts for the Out of District students. These students that need to be sent to facilities outside of our BOCES and those student numbers continue to increase along with the rates the facilities are charging they are being sent to. Every year Tracy

Grimes puts together the Hi-Cost Application and every year it increases. The dollars awarded to us when this application is approved will help the districts recoup some of those funds paid out for those high-cost students.

- State sources are up from \$3.8 M to \$4 M.
- Increase cost of special service providers, due to the very small pool of possible candidates to choose from, we are being forced to use companies/agencies at a much higher rate. We are also competing with larger school district salaries on the front range and the medical field also in need of these service providers and able to pay much higher salaries.
- Alt. Licensure ERRP Grant paid most of the tuition for students this year. We are budgeting around \$300,000, but we don't know for sure how many students we will have in the program until August.
- Federal revenues was an increase in Part B IDEA; that was due to an increase in student count. The State is doing better at getting closer to funding SPED, the Feds however are not.
- Little change in Title I – mostly due to demographics of districts.
- We have a \$200,000 competitive grant that we have applied for and received twice. They supply training for teachers on 3D printers, drones and coding along with the equipment needed.
- We have several grants and Federal ESSR dollars we are expending and that will all go away.
- Bottom line on the budget looks fairly close to last year; beginning fund balance is down a little due to money spent on increase costs for those purchase service companies and increased costs of supplies and materials. This next year we hope that we can employ two of our OT's instead of going through those companies, that should put less of a strain on our budgets.
- Yellow pages – SSP's are harder and harder to find we are trying to get those positions filled without using purchase service companies, but it has been a very difficult challenge the last few years. We have also had increased legal fees and the Colorado School of the Deaf and Blind fees for those students they serve have increased by \$20/hour. With all of these factors we have had to adjust what percentages we keep and what percentages we flow out to the districts in order to be able to hire those SSP's that are needed to serve your students. In the past we have kept 52% and flowed out 48% to the districts; we now will increase that to 61% will stay here and 39% will be flowed out to the districts.
- There was a question on what a percentage of decrease the districts would be so they know at the board level how much to plan for. It would be a 9% decrease but hopefully the State approves more SPED dollars that would affect the yellow pages positively and that the budget stabilization buy down factor will help alleviate that decrease of funds being flowed out to the districts.

Dianna Elliott – Strasburg made the motion to approve the Preliminary Proposed Budget for Funding Year 2023-2024 as presented. A second by Renae Saffer – Arriba/Flagler. Roll call vote taken; motion carries.

B. Colorado Local Government Liquid Asset Trust (COLOTRUST)

As discussed at our last board meeting we discussed if we are maximizing our investments. At the same School Finance Training in March there were several school districts who have moved their money to COLOTRUST and are getting around a 4.5% yield. You are also able to move money in and out needed, you don't have limits

Other things we have done was moved a 12-month CD to a 15-month CD at a little better rate. That CD and our checking account is in the First National of Hugo/Limon and we still have a small account in Eastern Plains Bank.

Diana Elliott – Strasburg, read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS
of the
EAST CENTRAL BOCES
Limon, CO 80828

A resolution authorizing to East Central BOCES to join with other local governments as a Participant in the Colorado Local Government Liquid Asset Trust (the Trust) to pool funds for investment.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Part 7, Article 24 (C.R.S.), it is lawful for any local government to pool any moneys in its treasury that are not immediately required to be disbursed with the same such moneys in the treasury of any other local government in order to take advantage of short-term investments and maximize net interest earnings;
and

WHEREAS, the Trust is a statutory trust formed under the laws of the state of Colorado in accordance with the provisions of Parts 6 and 7, Article 24 and Articles 10.5 and 47 of Title 11 of the Colorado Revised Statutes regarding the investing, pooling for investment, and protection of public funds; and

WHEREAS, East Central BOCES desires to become a Participant in the Trust.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby RESOLVED as follows:

- 1) East Central BOCES Board of Directors hereby approves, adopts, and thereby joins as a Participant with other local governments pursuant to Part 7, Article 75, Title 24 of the Colorado Revised Statutes that certain Amended and Restated Indenture of Trust entitled the Colorado Liquid Government Asset Trust dated May 1, 2021 as amended from time to time, the terms of which are incorporated herein by this reference and a copy of which shall be filed with the minutes of the meeting at which this Resolution was adopted; and
- 2) The Designee and Authorized Signatories are those persons listed on the Trust Registration Form attached hereto and incorporated herein.

Jason Westfall, Executive Director

Bev Blagg, Special Education Director

Craig Bailey, Director of Financial Services

The Authorized Signatories are authorized by the Participant to direct the investment of such Participants' investment funds.

- 3) The Designee and Authorized Signatories may be changed from time to time by written notice to COLOTRUST; and
- 4) The Trust currently has three investment portfolios COLOTRUST PRIME, COLOTRUST PLUS+, and COLOTRUST EDGE. Prior to investing in any of the portfolios offered by the Trust, Participants are encouraged to review the COLOTRUST Information Statements and Investment Policies for each portfolio.

WITNESS, our hands-on behalf of said company this 19th day of April, 2023.

A second by Allison Harris – Byers; role call vote taken: motion carries.

VII. Discussion Items

A. June EC BOCES Board Meeting

Our June 28, 2023 board meeting will be over Zoom. Of course here in Limon we encourage those in the central area to come and we will provide a meal. And we will try to organize regional dinner/meetings as well.

VIII. Reports - Enclosed

A. Executive Director – Enclosed

Glen also shared at the training we do not have to have our quarterly budget reports approved under Consent Agenda. The budget has already been approved, the expenditures have already been approved, so this is just for your information.

Monday and Tuesday of this week CDE was here doing the reauthorization for all of our Alternative Programs: Regular Ed, Principal and SPED programs. CDE met with stakeholder groups such as content mentors, school district mentors, field supervisors, district leadership, past and present students in the program, Advisory Council and HR/Principals hiring candidates. CDE will be recommending to State Board of Education a full reauthorization of all three programs. They had some suggestions in some areas of the programs which were helpful. A big thank you to Traci Weisensee, Jeanne Boice-Wiley and Christine Harris for collecting all the documentation and data that was required for the reauthorization of the programs, the meetings, organization and time spent on this project. It was a job well done and they produce high quality teachers in both regular ed and special ed.

B. Additional Staff Reports – Enclosed

Bev shared that they will be working in collaboration with University of Denver for training School Phycologists as they get on the job training as they are finishing their EdS. They will be contacting her in the near future for next steps.

IX. Adjournment

There was a motion by Stacie Perez - Burlington, to adjourn the meeting. A second by Diana Elliott - Strasburg. Roll call vote; motion carries. Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

BOCES Board Secretary

Date Approved