

EAST CENTRAL BOCES BOARD MEETING

April 17, 2024

7:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Diana Elliott, President; roll call was taken; the following Board members were in attendance:

Doug Purdy – Agate
Alyssa Pae - Bennett
Stacie Perez - Burlington
Jake Pelton – Cheyenne Wells
Gale Bell – Deer Trail
Ken Stroud – Genoa/Hugo
Andrea Louthan - Idalia

Beverly Durant (arrived late)
Kaitlin Johnson – Kit Carson
Kari Schultz - Liberty
Jake Herrera - Limon
Diana Elliott - Strasburg
Darren Hornung - Stratton
Jake Coraor - Woodlin

Those Board members not in attendance were:

Drew Axsom – Arickaree
Alexander Flores – Arriba/Flagler
Amie Powell – Bethune

Allison Harris - Byers
Joel Tanner – Hi-Plains
Janet Kravig - Karval

Those Superintendents in attendance were:

Robin Purdy – Bennett
Shane Walkinshaw – Burlington
Tom Turrell – Byers
Mike Jobman – Deer Trail
Dan Melendrez – Genoa/Hugo
Myles Johnson - Idalia

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

Those Superintendents not in attendance were:

Melinda Walls – Agate
Mike Page – Arickaree
Kelly Packer – Arriba/Flagler
John Hadden – Bethune
Corey Doss – Cheyenne Wells

Jerry Monks – Hi-Plains
Sarah Nuss - Karval
Travis Hargreaves - Kiowa
Robert Framel – Kit Carson

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

II. Approval of Agenda

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

III. Approval of Minutes

Stacie Perez - Burlington, made the motion to accept the minutes as presented, a second by Andrea Louthan - Idalia. Roll call vote was taken; motion carries.

IV. Public Comments

There were none.

V. Consent Agenda Items

A motion was made by Stacie Perez - Burlington, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. A second by Jake Herrera - Limon. A roll call vote was taken; motion carries.

VI. Business – Action Items

A. Recommendation of EC BOCES Preliminary Proposed Budget for FY 2024-25

Jason highlighted the following in the Preliminary Proposed Budget for 2024-25:

On the Revenue side:

- We have a healthy fund balance and expect we won't spend everything this year and be able to add to that next year.
- BOCES Local Cost Revenue is what we assess the districts.
- Under the interest line item; by moving some of our funds into ColoTrust we have exceeded our expectations for interest income and that line is at \$50,000. Diana Elliott gave kudos for making that move.
- Under Revenue from State Sources there was an increase in ECEA dollars
- There are two grants that will be spent down to zero at the end of next year.
- There is a decrease in Federal Funds and we have done a 20% decrease to be conservative.

On the Expenditure side:

- Our biggest line items are salaries and benefits. Salaries reflect the salary increase you just approved. We budgeted for a 10% increase on health insurance benefits and it actually came back about 2% less than anticipated.
- Flow Thru line item 0599 amount is increasing due to the two charter schools. Sky Ranch Charter in Bennet and the Byers online school.

Just wanted to remind everyone that this budget is a team effort. I had the help of Bev, Moira, Nicole, Mitzi, Megan, Jodi, Traci, Jeanne and Craig who have all worked together to bring this preliminary budget to you.

Stacie Perez - Burlington, made the motion to approve the Proposed Preliminary Budget for the 2024-25 school year as presented. A second by Kari Schultz – Liberty; roll call vote was taken; motion carries.

VII. Discussion Items

A. June Board Meeting

Our next BOCES Board meeting is June 26th at 7 p.m. Burlington will host on the east end for those of you who want to have dinner before the meeting. You will need to let Shane know so he can give his Mom a head count for food. If there is anyone wanting to attend in Limon, let Lorie know and she will arrange for a meal before the meeting. Superintendents if your regular board member cannot attend, we ask that you find and alternate so that we have a quorum to be able to take care of the business at the June meeting.

VIII. Reports - Enclosed

A. Executive Director – Enclosed

At our February SAC meeting a company, SchoolSafe Communications, that has worked with the Kiowa and Woodlin school districts presented a grant opportunity. This SAFER grant will be used to equip participating schools with interoperable radio communications. This will allow schools to communicate inside their district/building and also communicate directly with law

enforcement/EMS and 911 call centers in their area. Currently we have 14 districts participating and if anyone else wants to participate, please get your information in. We maybe bae able to apply/renew our participation in another 3 years. This grant includes services and training.

Additional Staff Reports – Enclosed

Beverly wanted to share that in August 2023, Moira arranged for CDE Preschool Consultants to talk with EC BOCES related services providers about inclusion services in the preschool setting. One of the consultants from CDE was Shani O'Brien, Speech Language Pathology consultant. After this training, members of our SLP team asked Shani to come and work with them on providing inclusive speech services in the preschool setting. Shani came to Strasburg, Kiowa and Limon to meet with general education preschool teachers and speech language providers. I was impressed by BOCES SLP Team members willingness to meet with Shani and preschool teams to discuss strategies to provide more inclusive services.

Shani shared with us that EC BOCES increased their inclusive practices in preschool settings by 50%. This is amazing! Shani shared how impressed she is by all of you for making this change so quickly, and she has been letting others at CDE know about the changes made at EC BOCES. I can't put into words how great it feels to work with such wonderful people who were open to considering changes that may impact students in a positive manner. You are appreciated!

IX. Adjournment

The next BOCES Board meeting will be June 26, 2024 at 7 p.m. over Zoom.

There was a motion by Alyssa Pae - Bennett to adjourn the meeting. A second by Kari Schultz - Liberty; roll call vote was taken; motion carries. Meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

BOCES Board Secretary

Date Approved