

East Central BOCES Board Meeting

June 25, 2025

7:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Diana Elliot – board president; the following Board members were in attendance:

Lindsay Micheal - Arriba/Flagler
Alyssa Pae - Bennett
Amie Powell - Bethune
Stacie Perez - Burlington
Allison Harris - Byers
Jake Pelton - Cheyenne Wells
Ken Stroud - Genoa/Hugo
Joel Tanner - High Plains

Janet Kravig - Karval
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 Axsome - Arickaree
Amie Powell - Bethune
Joel Tanner - Hi-Place
Andrea Louthan - Idalia

Janet Kravig - Karval
Andrew Pruitt - Kiowa
Kari Schultz - Liberty

Those Superintendents in attendance were:

Tom Turrell - Byers
Corey Doss - Cheyenne Wells
Dan Melendrez - Genoa/Hugo

Rhonda Puckett - Liberty
Kelle Bongard - Strasburg
Julie Shue - Stratton

Those Superintendents not in attendance were:

Melinda Walls – Agate
Mike Page – Arickaree
Kelly Packer – Arriba/Flagler
Terry Weber - Bethune
Myles Johnson - Idalia

Sarah Nuss - Karval
Travis Hargreaves - Kiowa
Robert Framel - Kit Carson
Kandy Davis - Stratton
Jack Daly - Woodlin

Others in attendance were: Jason Westfall, Beverly Blagg, Moira Hawks, Mitzi Swiatkowski, Megan Eikleberry, Nicole Kollath, Lorie Coonts and Craig Bailey - BOCES.

II. Approval of Agenda

Alyssa Pae - Bennett, made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. A second by Stacie Perez - Burlington. Roll call vote was taken. Motion carried.

III. Approval of Minutes

Allison Harris - Byers, made the motion to approve the minutes of the for the April 16, 2025 meeting. A second by Jake Herrera - Limon; roll call vote was taken. Motion carried.

IV. Public Comments

There were none.

V. Consent Agenda Items

There was a motion by Lindsey Michal - Arriba/Flagler, to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. A second by Kari Schultz - Liberty. During discussion, Jason shared information on the resignations and the new hires and those being non-renewed.

He talked about the recommendation from the superintendents to offer a contract to our lobbyist, Ed Bowditch, for 2025-2026. We also have a 2nd reading on the policies AC, AC-R-3. GBA, GBAA, GCE-GCF, CDE-GDF and GBEE. Diana asked if anyone had questions or comments. There were none so she asked for a roll call vote to approve the Consent Agenda. Roll call vote was taken; motion carried.

VI. Business – Action Items

Adoption of 2025-26 EC BOCES Budget

Jason shared an overview of the budget:

There were not a lot of changes from the preliminary budget presented to you at the last meeting.

- Local Cost Revenues are down \$30,000 which is connected to the pink pages.
- Indirect and overhead revenue is down \$39,700, which is because we have fewer grants.
- Under Federal:
 - IDEA Part B is down \$316,421 due to smaller allocations
 - Title I Carry Forward down \$26,900 and we will most likely spend the rest next year.
 - Title IIA Carry Forward down \$59,270 and we are also spending down carry forward.
 - Carl Perkins - Basic is down \$38,700 due to smaller allocations
 - Migrant, we don't know what cuts will be made right now. But we have House Bill money if we need to cover salaries for this year if we have to, but will probably need to be making decisions in 2026.
- Under Expenditures:
 - We have salaries and benefits with the proposed raises that we brought to you at our last meeting.
 - Purchase Professional Services are down \$310,000 which is money we spend

on purchase service contract people. But Bev and her team have been working really hard in hiring service providers that are our employees which costs us much less.

- Purchased Property Services is up due to our building renovations that are being done the last two weeks of June and first two weeks of July.
- Out of District Tuition is down \$317,800 due to the Sierra School that is housed in the Bennett School District. This keeps districts from having to send students to those high cost facilities in the Denver area.
- Flow Thru to Districts is up \$560,201.76. ECEA changed its formulas and they are flowing more out to districts.
- By Program these are the percentages of the budget:
 - 6% Admin.
 - 71% Instruction
 - 19% Support of instruction

Kari Schultz - Liberty, made the motion to approve the adoption of the 2025-2026 BOCES Budget as presented. A second by Jake Herrera - Limon. A roll call vote taken; motion carried.

Adoption of Budget Resolution

a. Appropriate Funds for the 2025-26 ECBOCES Budget

Janet Kravig - Karval made the motion to approve the following resolutions. She read the following resolutions:

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, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

General Fund \$23,055,600.00

Trust Fund Scholarship \$4,000.00

Total Appropriation \$23,059,600.00

b. 2025-2026 Beginning Fund Balance Spend Down

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 2025-2026. This is a planned spend down of funds. The Beginning Fund Balance will be spent down by \$814,922.21 to help support the possible deferred maintenance, Special Education purchase service contracts, and other BOCES support programs. The projected June 30, 2025, Ending Fund Balance is projected to decrease to \$2,810,366. We believe the fund balance is adequate for cash flow for East Central BOCES and its programs.

There was a second by Lindsey Michal - Arriba/Flagler. A roll call vote taken; motion carried.

VII. Discussion Items

a. Evaluation of the Executive Director - Progress Review

Jason evaluation with progress review is in the packet and he would be glad to answer any questions or concerns you might have. I am working on the Executive Director transition, job description and timeline. We will be discussing it at our Superintendent Strategic Planning Session in September and finalizing that.

b. August meeting details

Our August meeting is on August 20th over Zoom starting at 7 p.m. Hopefully the meeting will only take 15-20 minutes but we do have to have a quorum to approve new hires and any other business that comes up between now and then.

VIII. Reports - Enclosed

Executive Director – Enclosed

- Jason gave an update on the building project. We will have the whole building painted, new carpet and countertops and we have ordered new chairs for the training room. Outside they will be resurfacing and new paint in the parking lot and then we will be getting a new roof and rewiring dormers paid for by insurance.
- Gifted/Talented Program, Jodi had her compliance review and it went very well and they shared that our ALP's were some of the best in the state. So thank you to Jodi Church, Gift & Talented Regional Coordinator, and to your local coordinators for the work they are doing.
- We have split Mitzi Swiatkowski's position in two parts; Chris McGilvery will be taking over Title II - EL and the CTE Program for next year and Megan will take the rest of the federal programs. This will be Mitzi's last board meeting and we want to wish her well in retirement.
- Just a reminder that Megan Eikleberry sends out information on upcoming training sessions so make sure your teachers and new teachers sign up through our website so they will get those notifications. She also sends it out to the superintendents and principals.

Additional Staff Reports – Enclosed

Beverly shared the following information:

East Central BOCES was recently informed by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) that we have been designated as Needs Assistance for the 2023–2024 school year data. Our overall score was 71.88%, falling just below the 73% threshold required to achieve the Meets Requirements status. As a result, we will be assigned a General Supervision and Monitoring Lead to provide support. We will have the option to consult with CDE to review our data or provide input on the development of an options AU Determination Intervention Plan. We should be contacted by our General Supervision and Monitoring Lead by June 30th.

Beginning in 2025, Colorado is aligning with the Office of Special Education Programs' (OSEP) 5-Year Overall Determination Cut Point Plan. According to this plan the criteria for "Meets Requirements" will increase annually until Spring 2029, when Administrative Units (AUs) will be expected to achieve at least 80% overall, based on both compliance and performance indicators.

We are proud to share that East Central BOCES earned 100% on Compliance Indicators, a reflection of the dedication and hard work of our district special education teachers, related service providers, and special education administrators in ensuring that all IEP processes and procedures are implemented with fidelity.

However, our Performance Indicator score was 43.75%. Performance Indicators include several student outcome measures, such as:

- Dropout rates for students with IEP's
- Proficiency on state and alternate assessments in reading and math (grades 4, 8, and high school)
- Academic growth on CMAS for grades 3–8 in reading and math
- Preschool outcomes in the areas of social-emotional development, acquisition of knowledge and skills, and use of appropriate behaviors
- Post-school outcomes for students with disabilities

CDE has East Central BOCES data at the district level. This will enable us to conduct a more targeted analysis and determine the most effective next steps to improve performance across our AU.

Preliminary review of the data indicates concerns to address include:

- Dropout rate, specifically for the Byers Online School
- State Assessment Proficiency Rates for Reading and Math at the 4th grade, 8th grade, and the High School level.
- Proficiency rates on Colorado's Alternate Academic Achievement Standards for Reading, Grade levels 4, 8, and high school, and Math for the 8th grade level.
- Growth rate for Preschool Outcomes in the areas of positive social-emotional skills, acquisition, and use of knowledge and skills.
- Students who graduated with IEPs who are enrolled in higher education, enrolled

in higher education or competitively employed, and enrolled in higher education
competitively employed enrolled in other education or other employment

Diana Elliott asked Bev if she thought this was related to the number of non-certified SPED teachers in the AU. She did not believe it was.

Mitzi Swiatkowski wanted to make sure that you see in her report about districts reviewing Perkins Inventory Requirements annually. There are inventory guidelines included and a template link for you to use. When you are audited they will be asking for these things.

Megan shared the following information:

- We will have substantial approval for Title I and Title IV soon
- Not sure when we have Title II and Title III.
- Thank you to all superintendents and their business managers for getting back to us on information that we needed.

IX. Adjournment

The next BOCES Board meeting will be June 25, 2025 starting at 7 p.m. over Zoom.

There was a motion by Lindsey Michal - Arriba/Flagler, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. A second by Jake Herrera - Limon. A roll call vote was taken; motion carries. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

BOCES Board Secretary

Date Approved