East Central BOCES Board Meeting

April 16, 2025
7:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Diana Elliot – board president; the following Board members were in attendance:

Doug Purdy - Agate
Lindsay Micheal - Arriba/Flagler
Alyssa Pae - Bennett
Stacie Perez - Burlington
Jennifer Borders - Byers
Jake Pelton - Cheyenne Wells
Gale Bell - Deer Trail
Ken Stroud - Genoa/Hugo
Kaitlin Johnson - Kit Carson
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:

Robin Purdy - Bennett
Shane Walkinshaw - Burlington
Tom Turrell - Byers
Corey Doss - Cheyenne Wells
Mike Jobman - Deer Trail
Dan Melendrez - Genoa/Hugo
Giget Brubacher - Hi-Plains
Rhonda Puckett - Liberty
Rob McMullen - Limon
Kelle Bongard - Strasburg

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, Stacey Brown, Lorie Coonts, Craig Bailey and Jarred Masterson - BOCES.

II. Approval of Agenda

Alyssa Pae - Bennett, made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. A second by Jake Herrera - Limon. When asked for discussion there were several dates on the agenda and the minutes that needed to be changed. There was a motion by Stacie Perez - Burlington to approve the agenda with the noted changes. A second by Jake Herrera - Limon, roll call vote was taken. Motion carried.

III. Approval of Minutes

Stacie Perez - Burlington, made the motion to approve the minutes of the for the January 29, 2025 meeting with the noted changes. A second by Jake Coraor - Woodlin; 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 Jake Pelton - Cheyenne Wells. During discussion, Jason shared that the Auditor Agreement is with Scott Szabo & Associates to do our audit in the fall; it is a standard contract. Approval of the 2025-2026 calendar; we try to line up as close as possible to the 20 school districts with holidays and spring break. Application for 2025-2026 Consortium Consolidated Application Activities Plan and the 2025-2026 Professional Development Plan has already been approved with the SAC Committee and just needs approval from the Board. The policy adoptions are in the packet with the changes or in this case it was back to a previous 2022 edition with a few minor changes. The Salary Schedule shows an increase of 5% to the base with a two-step increase to all employees. Remember that we operate a year behind the districts, so we have not increased our salaries to keep up with current trends. We have it in the budget and feel that it can be sustained. Diana asked for a roll call vote for the Consent Agenda items listed; motion carried.

VI. Business – Action Items

2025-2026 Proposed Preliminary Budget

Jason wanted to point out that remember this is just our best guess, final allocations will not be out until late May or into June. We are planning a 10% reduction in all federal funds and hoping for flat funding.

AESA - Title II dollars are in danger of being cut which is what we use for professional development. If that is the case will need to pool funds across the whole BOCES or pay as you go. We will definitely have to be more deliberate with what we offer.

There are no drastic changes in revenue or expenditures. We have good reserves and plan to use it conservatively. We have 9 to 10 people involved with building this budget and we feel good about it.

Tom Turrell - Byers had an observation that over the years the BOCES has built a pretty hefty reserve. Beverly Blagg shared that the funding formula used previously was 52% the BOCES kept and flowed 48% out to districts. We have changed that this year to 40% kept by the BOCES and 60% flowed out to the districts in order to flow more of those dollars out to districts.

Lindsay Michal - Arriba/Flagler, made the motion to approve the Preliminary 2025-2026 BOCES Budget as presented. A second by Stacie Perez - Burlington; roll call vote taken. Motion carries.

VII. Discussion Items

June EC BOCES Board Meeting

Our next BOCES Board Meeting will be June 25, 2025 at 7 p.m over Zoom. We will be approving the 2020-2026 BOCES Budget and any new employee contracts at that time. Please get that on your calendars so that we can have a quorum present; the meeting should not take too long.

VIII. Reports - Enclosed

Executive Director – Enclosed

Jason shared that he will continue to update his transition plan over the next year so that the new person coming in will have a good idea of the expectations of their new role .

Additional Staff Reports – Enclosed

Nothing else to add. Diana Elliott - Strasburg asked who the new person coming onto the SPED team was in place of Leah Price who will be leaving. Jason shared that it is Stacey Brown, she is our Early Childhood Specialist and is in a program and should be done and have her directors license by the end of the summer.

Quarterly Financial Report

Nothing more to add.

IX. Adjournment

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

There was a motion by Stacie Perez - Burlington made a motion to adjourn the meeting. A second by Alyssa Pae - Bennett; roll call vote was taken; motion carries. Meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

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BOCES Board Secretary Date Approved