

East Central BOCES Board Meeting

April 15, 2026

7:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Diana Elliot – board president over Zoom; the following Board members were in attendance:

Doug Purdy - Agate	Todd Tagtmeyer - Hi-Plains
Lindsey Michal - Arriba/Flagler	Craig Soehner - Idalia
Nancy Barden - Bennett	Kurt Dutro - Karval
Scott Powell - Bethune	Andrew Pruitt - Kiowa
George Homm - Burlington	Kari Schultz - Liberty
Allison Harris - Byers	Jake Herrera - Limon
James Halde - Cheyenne Wells	Diana Elliott - Strasburg
Gale Bell - Deer Trail	Darren Hornung - Stratton
Mark Hollowell - Genoa/Hugo	

Those Board members not in attendance were:

Jennifer Koolstra - Arickaree	Jason Vermillion - Kit Carson
Brandy Cutshaw - Woodlin	

Those Superintendents in attendance were:

Robin Purdy - Bennett	Myles Johnson - Kit Carson
Shane Walkinshaw - Burlington	Rhonda Puckett - Liberty
Tom Turrell - Byers	Kelle Bongard - Strasburg
Mike Jobman - Deer Trail	Julie Shue - Stratton
Kristi Minor - Idalia	

Those Superintendents not in attendance were:

Malinda Walls - Agate	Giget Brubacher - Hi-Plains
Mike Page - Arickaree	Sarah Nuss - Karval
Kelly Packer - Arriba/Flagler	Clough or Wise - Kiowa
Terry Weber - Bethune	Rob McMullen - Limon
Corey Doss - Cheyenne Wells	Paul Griese - Woodlin
Dan Melendrez - Genoa/Hugo	

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

II. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Nancy Barden - Bennett to approve the agenda as presented. A second by Darren Hornung - Stratton. Jason wanted to amend the agenda because of the updated 2026-2027 Salary Schedules. Nancy Barden made the motion to amend that approval of the agenda with the updated 2026-2027 Salary Schedules. A second by Allison Harris - Byers. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried.

III. Approval of Minutes

Lindsey Michal - Arriba/Flagler, made the motion to approve the minutes from the January 28, 2026 meeting as presented. Jake Herrera - Limon, seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried.

IV. Public Comments

There were none.

V. Consent Agenda Items

Jake Herrera - Limon made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented with the following items:

- Resignation of Gail Wellman, SLP
- Employment of Teresa Maximilian - West CBLP, Ann Marie Peak, - Central CBLP
- Termination of KamRon Muelhausen - West CBLP
- Auditor Agreement for 2026
- Approval of 2026-2027 EC BOCES Calendar
- Approval of 2026-2027 Consortium Consolidated Application Activities Plan
- Approval of 2026-2027 Professional Development Priorities
- Approval of EC BOCES Salary Schedule with proposed increases - we are proposing a 3% increase to the base with a step increase. There will be no negative effects on the budget.

A second by Darren Hornung. There was a question about whether Shane Walkinshaw would receive an increase in his pay before he even starts? Jason explained that when the Executive Director's contract has to be offered in January with the contingency that if there is a raise to the base salary they would also receive that so that they are on the correct salary schedule for moving forward.

A roll call vote was taken; motion carried.

VI. Business – Action Items

A. 2026-2027 East Central BOCES Proposed Preliminary Budget

Jason shared the following information about the Proposed Preliminary Budget:

- We have pretty much flat funded everything from last year until we know exactly what we are getting. We should be getting an increase in SPED funding.
- We have good reserves and have used some of our reserves to do some much needed upgrades to our building. Such as resurface and paint the parking lot, a new update to the carpet and paint throughout the building.
- You will see a spend down in June due to the salary increases.
- We are required to have a reserve of \$700,000 to \$900,000 at all times to cover expenditures of State and Federal Funds to our districts until we get reimbursed, which sometimes takes a while. This also would cover salaries to our staff.
- Slight increase in ECEA dollars
- Out of District Placement and Sierra School - we are discussing a better process to do this. Right now it is more complex than it needs to be.
- Preliminary House Bill dollars doesn't change much
- Federal Source IDEA Part B dollars; we will have to wait and see what happens. If there is a big increase in dollars that would likely be from increased enrollment at the Byers online school and those dollars would go to them.
- 90% of our budget is expended to our districts for professional services and support.
- We hope to have hard numbers by our June meeting and be able to present you with the most accurate budget for the FY 2026-2027.

VII. Discussion Items

A. Single and PERA Audits

The Single Audit was on Federal Programs, it could not be done earlier due to the availability of guidance from the government for documentation.

We were randomly selected by PERA to be audited at our expense. Scott Szabo was able to do this for us but at a cost of \$5,500. Craig shared that Scott does a lot of school districts and this is the first one he has done in a very long time.

Neither audit showed any abnormalities. A copy of it is included in your packet.

B. June Board Meeting

Our next meeting will be on June 24, 2026 over Zoom and will need to approve the final budget for 2026-2027 and any new hires. Also will need to do paperwork and documentation for a smooth transition to the new Executive Director. Please get that date on your calendar so we have a quorum and can get the business taken care of. Again, Wednesday, June 24th over Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

VIII. Reports - Enclosed

A. Executive Director – Enclosed

Diana Elliott - Strasburg, thanked Jason for such a detailed report. Another board member asked about whether you have more dates set up to work together with Shane for a smooth transition? Jason shared that they have met a couple of times and have gone through several things, but we will need a few more dates to go through the complete list of items that need to be addressed before Jason leaves. Shane would also like to start meeting with each individual person of the Leadership Team to get to know them and what their roles are here at the BOCES.

B. Additional Staff Reports – Enclosed

Diana Elliott commented on the work that was done by the SPED team on the Integrated Monitoring - Facilitated Assessments.

C. Quarterly Financial Report

Nothing more to add unless there were questions. No questions.

IX. Adjournment

The next BOCES Board meeting will be June 24, 2026 starting at 7 p.m. over Zoom.

There was a motion by Allison Harris - Byers, to adjourn the meeting. A second by Jake Herrera - Limon. A roll call vote was taken; motion carries. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

BOCES Board Secretary

Date Approved