

East Central BOCES Board Meeting

January 28, 2026

7:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Diana Elliot – board president over Zoom; the following Board members were in attendance:

Doug Purdy - Agate
Lindsey Michal - Arriba/Flagler
Nancy Barden - Bennett
Eric Ziegler - Bethune
George Homm - Burlington
James Halde - Cheyenne Wells
Gale Bell - Deer Trail

Mark Hollowell - Genoa/Hugo
Todd Tagtmeyer - Hi-Plains
Craig Soehner - Idalia
Janet Kravig - Karval
Kari Schultz - Liberty
Diana Elliott - Strasburg
Darren Hornung - Stratton

Those Board members not in attendance were:

Jennifer Koolstra - Arickaree
Allison Harris - Byers
Andrew Pruitt - Kiowa

Jason Vermillion - Kit Carson
Jake Herrera - Limon
Brandy Cutshaw - Woodlin

Those Superintendents in attendance were:

Robin Purdy - Bennett
Terry Weber - Bethune
Shane Walkinshaw - Burlington
Corey Doss - Cheyenne Wells
Mike Jobman - Deer Trail

Dan Melendrez - Genoa/Hugo
Rhonda Puckett - Liberty
Rob McMullan - Limon
Kelle Bongard - Strasburg
Julie Shue - Stratton

Those Superintendents not in attendance were:

Malinda Walls - Agate
Mike Page - Arickaree
Kelly Packer - Arriba/Flagler
Tom Turrell - Byers
Giget Brubacher - Hi-Plains

Kristi Minor - Idalia
Sarah Nuss - Karval
Clough or Wise - Kiowa
Myles Johnson - Kit Carson
Paul Griese - Woodlin

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

II. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Nancy Barden - Bennett to approve the agenda as presented. A second by Eric Ziegler - Bethune. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried.

III. Approval of Minutes

There were still a few changes in the attendance from the November 19, 2025 meeting. Those changes were noted and will be made. Nancy Barden - Bennett, made the motion to approve the amended minutes of the November 19, 2025 meeting. A second by Eric Ziegler - Bethune. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried.

IV. Public Comments

There were none.

V. Consent Agenda Items

Nancy Barden - Bennett, made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. A second by James Holde - Cheyenne Wells. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried.

VI. Business – Action Items

A. Recommendation of EC BOCES 2025-26 Revised Budget

Jason went over the following in the revised budget and highlighted the following:

- Page iv is graphs depicting the final budget by General Fund Revenues, then Expenditures by Program and finally Expenditures by Object. On the back side of this page is Pupil Count History, you will notice the spike up in student count. That was due to us counting the charter school students. We were able to get that taken out and corrected .
- You will see on page 1 that the Carry Forward is \$785,000 which is down from \$815,000. We are going to replace all the furnaces in our original building as they are getting old and hard to keep them running. That will cost about \$35,000 to do that, so the spend-down should be pretty close to the \$785,000.
- On page 2 is the line: Interest. After moving our accounts to Colorado Trust we are making between \$5,000 to \$ 7,000 a month on interest. So we have \$50,000 in interest that we can move around as needed.
- On the Center Based Programs - that is down about \$70,000 and that is due mainly to teachers that we were going to hire through purchase service companies but didn't because they cost us considerably more. We now are staffed with our own employees and have been able to cut costs there.
- Tuition, Out of District and In District is down \$361,078.00 and that is due getting several of the high cost students out of the Denver facilities, which cost considerably more, and putting them in Bennett at the Sierra School and saving some money there.

- Alternative Licensure and the SPED Alt. Licensure is up and that is due to a significant increase in the number of teachers participating. We not only have teachers from our districts but the word is out throughout the state how high quality our programs are. And that is due to those coordinators: Traci Weisensee does the regular Alternative Licensure Program and Jeanne Boice-Wiley does our SPED Alternative Program (SALT). They both do a very good job and all the regular Alt. Program applicants have received the ERR (Educator Recruitment and Retention) program through CDE and only a few of the SALT candidates have received the ERR Program, but some are able to apply for next year's round. Applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis and unfortunately even though it was targeted for rural, hard to fill positions, the front-range and larger higher education have sucked many of the grant dollars away from rural applicants.
- Line items HB 12-1345 are dollars we receive to pay district teachers stipends and materials for participating in professional development (PD). Those dollars keep going up because, unfortunately, we have much less teacher participation than we previously have had. We are looking at different strategies to bring more teachers into our PD opportunities.
- Title IIA - Carry Forward is because we don't know if or when they cut those funds. So we like to keep about a year of salaries there just in case.
- Migrant Grant Revenue is up \$16,700.00. We thought we were going to have a cut in that program, and we only have one employee in that program. But if those funds go away or are drastically cut, we want to be able to fund the employees salary and continue to help those students and their families for at least one more year.
- Overall our Revenue is down \$155,782.47.
- On page 3 is Expenditure by Object Code. Out of District and In District and has decreased considerably and we discussed earlier because we are not sending as many of the students into those expensive facilities in Denver. Also, mileage has decreased by \$68,311.84. We are spending less that we thought and have increased the flow-through to districts by \$127,656.09.
- By Program: if you notice that Instructional Services and Support Services are 90% of our budget and that is what we are here for is to support our 20 districts and their students and staff. Central Support is about 10%.
- Jason also talked about a SAFER Grant that was over \$1M that several districts got in order to purchase equipment to communicate with staff and local law enforcement quicker in case of an emergency. Those funds are all spent.

Jason asked if anyone had any questions; there were none. Diana asked for a motion a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Revised Budget. Nancy Barden - Bennett, made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Revised Budget. A second by Kari Schultz - Liberty. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried.

- B. EC BOCES 2025-2026 Budget Appropriation Resolution
Janet Kravig - Karval, read the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL SUMS OF MONEY

Be it RESOLVED by the Board of Education of East Central Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) in Lincoln County to appropriate the additional amount of \$88,000 to the original amount of \$23,055,600 to equal a total appropriation of \$23,143,600 in the General Fund. With the additional source of funds coming from the beginning fund balance, local sources, state sources, and federal grants.

Adopted this 28th day of January, 2026.

BY: EAST CENTRAL BOCES

Signature: Board President in accordance with 22-44-110(4) DATE

Kari Schultz - Liberty, made the motion to approve the EC BOCES 2025-2026 Budget Appropriation Resolutions as read. A second by Lindsey Michal - Arriba/Flagler. Roll call vote was taken; motion carried.

C. Executive Directors Evaluation

Diana Elliott wanted to thank all of those that served on the committee and those that responded to the evaluation that was sent out. We met together on January 6, 2026. You were sent a copy of the evaluation and Mr. Westfall received Exceeds Expectations in all areas. Diana asked if there were any questions or comments; if not can we get a motion to accept the Exec. Director Evaluation. Eric Ziegler - Bethune, made the motion to accept the Executive Director Evaluation as presented. A second by Kari Schultz - Liberty. A roll call vote taken; motion carries.

Jason and Diana shared that they have discussed revising the evaluation and the rubric. Nancy Barden asked if it will be sent out to all board members so that we can have some input. Yes, however this will not require board vote.

D. New Executive Director's Contract Offer

Diana Elliott wanted to thank the committee for the diligence in the hiring of the new Executive Director for East Central BOCES. A committee of Dan Melendrez - SAC Chair (Genoa-Hugo Superintendent), Rhonda Puckett- SAC Vice Chair (Superintendent Liberty), Tom Turrell, Superintendent- Byers, myself, Darren Hornung- Stratton Board Member, Janet Kravig- Karval Board Member, and BOCES staff members Megan Eikleberry, Jodi Church and Moira Hawks interviewed four candidates for the position of East Central BOCES Executive Director. We met on January 6th and looked at 4 applicants and they were all very good and qualified candidates so we decided to interview all of them on January 13th. It was a very hard decision but we have offered Shane

Walkinshaw a contract for the Executive Director position. A copy of his contract is in your packet and the contract offer is for two years, 2026-2028 for \$124,975.00.

Part of Mr. Westfall's goals is to support the implementation and onboarding of the new Executive Director. Jason shared that he and Shane have got several dates on the calendar to work on building the budget for 2026-2027 and then taking some time to meet staff members and understand their pieces of building next year's budget along with their roles with the BOCES.

Nancy Barden - Bennett, made the motion to approve the two-year contract starting July 1, 2026 and going through June 30, 2028 for new Executive Director, Shane Walkinshaw, at the salary of \$124,975.00. There was a second from Lindsey Michal - Arriba/Flagler; a roll call vote was taken and all were in favor except Darren Hornung - Stratton, who voted nay. Motion passed.

E. EC BOCES Treasurer

Jason wanted to first of all thank Janet Kravig for her years of service to East Central BOCES. She has gone above and beyond by serving as a BOCES Board member for the last 12+ years. During that time she has volunteered for numerous committees such as the Exec. Director Evaluation Committee, our LGLA Scholarship Committee, Executive Director Search Committee, and is always willing to read the numerous resolutions that need to be read in order to vote. She will be going off the Karval board at the end of this month so we need to vote in a new Treasurer to take her place.

Diana Elliott shared in thanking Janet for her commitment to the EC BOCES Board and thanked Darren Hornung from Stratton who graciously agreed to serve as the new treasurer. Unless there is anyone else that would like to serve in that capacity? If not, can we get a motion to accept the resignation of Janet Kravig as the EC BOCES Treasurer and appoint Darren Hornung as the new EC BOCES Treasurer.

Kari Schultz - Liberty made the before said motion; a second from Nancy Barden - Bennett. Roll call vote was taken; motion passed.

F. Banking Resolution

Janet Kravig - Karval, read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS
of the
EAST CENTRAL BOCES

Limon, CO 80828

TO: First National Bank of Hugo - Limon Branch, Colo.
AUTHORIZING SIGNING OF CHECKS AND NOTES

The Board of Directors of the EAST CENTRAL BOCES, do hereby certify that the following resolution was adopted at a board meeting, duly called and held on January 28, 2026 at which said meeting more than a quorum of said directors was present, that said resolution is attached to the minutes of said meeting, and that the same have

never been amended, rescinded or revoked:

RESOLVED, That on the following Account: NOW Checking (General Fund), ANY TWO of the following officers and employees of this company be, and they hereby are authorized, in the name of this company, to collect, discount, negotiate, endorse and assign all checks, drafts, notes and other negotiable or non-negotiable instruments payable to this company, or in which this company has an interest, and to draw, sign and deliver, in the name of this company, checks or drafts against the funds of this company on deposit in said bank. Signature

requirements do not apply to electronic transactions.

Treasurer Darren Hornung _____
Secretary Jacob Herrera _____
Executive Director Jason Westfall _____
Director of Financial Svs. Craig Bailey _____

FURTHER RESOLVED, That for the purpose of making a deposit in the account or accounts of this company with said bank, any officer or employee of this company may endorse, sign or deliver on behalf of this company, any checks, orders or other evidence of indebtedness for the payment of moneys payable to the order of this company;

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the authority of the aforesaid officers and employees to perform each and all of the powers conferred by the foregoing resolutions shall continue until notice in writing, terminating such authority, shall be served upon said bank, and shall be noted upon the original copy of such resolutions delivered to said bank.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the authority previously granted to Janet Kravig identified in a Resolution dated November 29, 2023, Authorizing Signing of Checks and Notes, is hereby terminated.

WITNESS, our hands on behalf of said company this 28th day of January, 2026.

EAST CENTRAL BOCES

By _____
President

ATTEST:

Secretary

Nancy Barden - Bennett made the motion to approve the aforesaid resolution regarding Authorizing Signing of Checks and Notes. A second by Lindsey Michal - Arriba/Flagler. Roll call vote was taken; motion carried.

VII. Discussion Items

A. April Meeting over Zoom

Our next meeting will be on April 15, 2026 over Zoom and will need to approve the proposed budget for 2026-2027. Please get that date on your calendar so that we have a quorum and can get the business taken care of that we need to on that date. Remember, Wednesday, April 15th over Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

VIII. Reports - Enclosed

A. Executive Director – Enclosed

Diana Elliott had a question about the information attached to his report. He shared that this is from the Accountability Work Group that he has served on. This bill was passed last session and it deals with our small districts that either their whole community has decided that the state tests are not important to them and all parents have opted out of state testing. And there are school districts with not enough students to count for accountability purposes. We want to make sure this doesn't hurt those districts. I have already signed Shane Walkinshaw up to continue to serve on this committee. It is very important that we have representation for our small rural schools to protect them when decisions are made.

B. Additional Staff Reports – Enclosed

Nothing more to add unless you have questions. There were no questions.

C. Quarterly Financial Report

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

IX. Adjournment

The next BOCES Board meeting will be April 15, 2026 starting at 7 p.m. over Zoom.

There was a motion by Nancy Barden - Bennett, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. A second by Kari Schultz - Liberty; roll call vote was taken; motion carries. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

BOCES Board Secretary

Date Approved