East Central BOCES

November 18, 2026

7:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Diana Elliot – board president over Zoom; the following Board members were in attendance:

Doug Purdy - Agate
Lindsey Michal - Arriba/Flagler
Scott Powell - Bethune
George Homm - Burlington
Allison Harris - Byers
James Halde - Cheyenne Wells
Gale Bell - Deer Trail
Mark Hollowell - Deer Trail
Todd Tagtmeyer - Hi-Plains
Craig Soehner - Idalia
Jason Vermillion - Kit Carson
Kari Schultz - Liberty
Amber Lorensen - Limon (7:15)
Diana Elliott - Strasburg
Darren Hornung - Stratton
Brandy Cutshaw - Woodlin

Those Board members not in attendance were:

Jennifer Koolstra - Arickaree
Nancy Barden - Bennett
Curt Dutro - Karval
Andrew Pruitt - Kiowa

Those Superintendents in attendance were:

Terry Weber - Bethune
Mike Waters - Burlington
Tom Terrell - Byers
Mike Jobman - Deer Trail
Dan Melendrez - Genoa/Hugo
Giget Brubacher - Hi-Plains
Myles Johnson - Kit Carson
Rhonda Puckett - Liberty
Rob McMullen - Limon
Kelle Bongard - Strasburg
Julie Shue - Stratton

Those Superintendents not in attendance were:

Malinda Walls - Agate
Gena Ramey - Arickaree
Kelly Packer - Arriba/Flagler
Robin Purdy - Bennett
Robert Framel - Cheyenne Wells
Kristi Minor - Idalia
Sarah Nuss - Karval
Erin Kruse - Kiowa
Paul Griese - Woodlin

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

II. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Allison Harris - Byers, to approve the agenda as presented. A second by George HOmm - Burlington. 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 August 19, 2026 meeting as presented. Kari Schultz - Idalia, seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried.

IV. Public Comments

There were none.

V. Consent Agenda Items

Mark Hollowell - Genoa/Hugo, made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented with the following items:

- Resignation of Louise Wamsley (COTA)
- Termination of Leslia Oquenda (Para)
- Employment of Alexia Heim (Para), Cincy Maranville (Alt. Licensure Field Supervisor-PT), Rylin Monroe Thomas (Para), Mia Jones (Para), Anaisha Lozano (Para)
- Policy Adoption First Reading - AC, AC-R-3, KDB, KDB-R
- Policy Adoption Second Reading - DJB, DJB-R, GBEB, GBI, JLF, JLF-R, AC-E-1
- Policy Repeal Second Reading - JKA, JKA- R, JKA-E-1, JKA-E-2

A second by Jason Vermillion - Kit Carson. Diana Elliott asked for any comments; Lindsey Michal - Arriba/Flagler, said she felt uncomfortable in voting to pass these policies without reading them all first and she was not given adequate time to do that considering the lateness of the packet. Shane apologized for it being late, it had gone through for last month's meeting without incident so we had no idea it had not this time until we started getting phone calls yesterday.

A roll call vote was taken; motion carried with a “nay” vote from Lindsey Michal - Arriba/Flagler.

VI. Business – Action Items -

A. Approval of the ECBOCES 2025-26 Audit
Scott Szabo of Lauer, Szabo and Associates, shared the following audit with the board:

- The top letter in your bound audit is a summarization of the bound audit. Pages 1-3 of your bound audit is the unmodified clean opinion.
- Pages 4-9 is the management's discussion and analysis of their programs, you will want to read this, it is letting you know what your management feels are important.
- Page 16 is a detailed Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2026.
- Page 18 is a summary of revenues of $19,937,435, Expenditures of $20,199,880 with an excess of revenues of $262,445 with a total fund balance at the beginning of the year of $3,869,071 and ending of $3,606,626.
- Page 52 is a detail of page 18 which shows the variance with the original vs. final budget. This column is a new addition for audit guidelines as of June 2025.
- Pages 62-63 is the required explanation of the significant variances and why.
- Pages 68-71 are all the different programs, the General Fund Schedule of Revenue and Expenditures by Program and the dollar amounts.
- The audit went very well and we will not be able to do the single audit of the Federal Programs until the Feds release those rules; last year it was finished in January and will likely be similar timing to this year. Again, I tell you this every year, you have a great team and they do an excellent job managing their programs.

Mark Hollowell - Genoa/Hugo, made the motion to approve the 2025-2026 Audit as presented. A second by Scott Powell - Bethune. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried.

VII. Discussion Items

A. Executive Director Evaluation

They discussed how the Executive Director Evaluation is usually handled. There are usually three superintendents and three board members each representing the west, east, and central area school districts. And one staff member, which either volunteers or Jason would appoint them. After asking for volunteers the following will be on the committee:

Superintendents:	Rhonda Puckett - SAC Chair representing East
	Tom Turrell - West
	Dan Melendrez - Central
Board Members:	Darrin Hornung - East
	Diana Elliott - Board Chair representing West
	Autumn Lorensen - Central

Shane will ask for a volunteer from the leadership staff to serve.

They usually meet early in January so that Diana has time to compile the evaluation and any goals they want to give him. She also sends it to the Evaluation Committee for them to look through and make any corrections. Then the evaluation is taken to the SAC meeting on January 13th for approval and then to the board on January 27th for final approval.

They decided to meet on January 4, 2027 from 9:30 - 11:30 A.M. here at the BOCES office and we will bring lunch in.

B. January Meeting over Zoom
A reminder that we will have our next board meeting over Zoom on January 27, 2027 at 7 p.m.

VIII. Reports - Enclosed

A. Executive Director – Enclosed
- Our Regional Superintendent Meetings are going well. We meet quarterly with the West and East area and then monthly with the Central group, just because that is what they had previously done. There are good discussions and looking at ways to improve our product to serve our districts and their students.
- The superintendents and our lobbyist spent several hours on the retreat building our Legislative Platform and talking about misinformation on Proposition 87. Even with this passing it looks like about a $1.6 M shortfall.
- Diana Elliott commented that she appreciated the belief statements that you documented, it helps her when she is representing rural schools in the various committees that she serves on. She shared how important it is that we make our voices heard. Out of 178 school districts 146 are rural and 111 are small rural. We don't want everything going to those large districts so we have to make a lot of noise. Make sure you attend the business meeting at CASB.

B. Additional Staff Reports – Enclosed
- Diana Elliott was pleased that it looked like there were more teachers attending the PD for All sessions over Zoom.

C. Quarterly Financial Report
- There were no questions for Craig on the Quarterly Financial Reports.

IX. Adjournment

The next BOCES Board meeting will be January 27, 2027, starting at 6 p.m. over Zoom.

There was a motion by Allison Harris - Byers, to adjourn the meeting. A second by George Homm - Burlington. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

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BOCES Board Secretary Date Approved