

# EAST CENTRAL BOCES BOARD MEETING

January 25, 2023

7:00 p.m.

## I. Call to Order

**Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Nancy Barden, President; roll call was taken; the following Board members were in attendance:**

Doug Purdy – Agate  
Rena Saffer – Arriba/Flagler  
Nancy Bardin – Bennett  
Seth Ebright – Bethune  
Stacie Perez – Burlington  
Jake Pelton – Cheyenne Wells  
Patrick Duff – Deer Trail  
Ken Stroud – Genoa/Hugo

Janet Kravig - Karval  
Donnie Gabehart - Kiowa  
Mike Buchannan – Kit Carson  
Kenna Dible – Liberty  
Jake Herrera - Limon  
Diana Elliott - Strasburg  
Jerry Clapper – Stratton  
Jake Coraor - Woodlin

**Those Board members not in attendance were:**

Drew Axsom – Arickaree  
Allison Harris – Byers

Joel Tanner – Hi-Plains  
Andy Richards - Idalia

**Those Superintendents in attendance were:**

Robin Purdy – Bennett  
John Haddan – Bethune  
Shane Walkinshaw – Burlington  
Tom Turrell – Byers  
Mike Vagher – Cheyenne Wells  
Mike Jobman – Deer Trail

Dan Melendrez – Genoa/Hugo  
Rhonda Puckett - Liberty  
Rob McMullen - Limon  
Dan Hoff - Strasburg  
Kandy Davis - Stratton  
Aaron Jones - Woodlin

**Those Superintendents not in attendance were:**

Melinda Walls – Agate  
Lisa Weigel – Arickaree  
John Weigel – Arriba/Flagler  
Jerry Monks – Hi-Plains

Myles Johnson - Idalia  
Sarah Nuss - Karval  
Travis Hargreaves - Kiowa  
Robert Framel – Kit Carson

Others in attendance were: Jason Westfall, Beverly Blagg, Mitzi Swiatkowski, Megan Eikleberry, Lorie Coonts, Moira Hawks, Jarred Masterson and Craig Bailey – BOCES

## II. Approval of Agenda

Diana Elliott - Strasburg, made the motion to approve the amended agenda with Item VI. B, A Resolution to Appropriate Additional Sums of Money and A Revised Resolution to Spend Down the Beginning Fund Balance of the BOCES General Fund for the FY 2022-23. A second by Rena Saffer – Arriba/Flagler; roll call vote taken; motion carries.

## III. Approval of Minutes

Rena Saffer – Arriba/Flagler, made the motion to accept the minutes as presented; a second by Donnie Gabehart – Kiowa. Roll call vote taken; motion carries.

#### **IV. Public Comments**

There were none.

#### **V. Consent Agenda Items**

Under the Consent Agenda are no resignations this time and new employees are listed. Also Revenue and Expenditure Reports and Quarterly Financial Report. Also enclosed are the second reading of the enclosed policies. Nancy shared that she had some grammatical changes and capitalization, but it did not change any of the wording of the policy.

Diana Elliott – Strasburg, made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; a second by Stacie Perez - Burlington. A roll call vote; motion carries.

#### **VI. Business – Action Items**

##### **A. Recommendation of EC BOCES 2022-23 Revised Budget**

Jason highlighted the following:

- 603, 602 & 608 – The Sped budgets have increased spending of almost \$500,000 which is primarily in purchased service contracts, salaries and benefits as well as out of district placed student tuition.
- Center Based Programs – There were some adjustments based on the addition and changes in Para’s that continue to change throughout the school year in all three programs. Gradually numbers have increased
- Alt License programs – The adjusted budgets reflect the number of participants in each program and the associated costs of presenters, mentors and field supervisors. Note the revenues have mostly moved from “local” (showing a decrease) to “state” sources (showing an increase) because of the state grants for these programs. All the participants qualify for a state funded grant that will pay for the alternative certification. In the past it has been up to the candidate to pay for it, or work with the district on a payment plan and some districts will pay for all of it if they commit to 3 years.
- This was a big number change in our budget. ESSER Rural Coaction Grant – This is a new grant that Emma Richardson wrote for and was approved that supports most all of our BOCES Schools and is the largest change to our budget with \$1,163,627.00 in new funding including one new part-time employee. Z-Space computers with various programs/curriculum that is being purchased for the districts.
- Computer Science Education Grant – Emma wrote and was awarded a new \$26,400 grant which was added to the budget. These are for coding and drones for students in our districts.
- Connecting Colorado Students Grant – This was a grant Jarred Masterson received last year and as of the June budget we thought it might be finished and at that time we didn’t have authorization to carry forward the balance. We received approval to carry forward the balance so the budget now reflects \$280,662.68 in carry forward revenue to be spent this fiscal year. This is for installing of equipment for free or reduced cost Wi-Fi connectivity at student homes.
- The total Budget expenditures are an addition of \$2,263,346.74 added to the Budget with an additional \$2,263,346.74 in revenue added as well.
- Pink pages are the revenue for the SSP’s and several other programs.
- There is a lot of spend down in 603 which we usually have a carryforward, but we will be keeping an eye on spending.
- Our big expenditures is salaries and benefits. Purchase service contracts are costing us a lot more money.
- On the district assessments you may notice that we use the numbers for 2021-2022 because those are known and firm numbers. The only thing that may change is the center-based program numbers because those are calculated from actual attendance.

Dianna Elliott – Strasburg made the motion to approve the 2022-2023 Revised Budget as presented. A second by Renae Saffer – Arriba/Flagler. Roll call vote taken; motion carries.

**B. East Central BOCES Resolutions:**

**Diana Elliott made the following motions:**

**a. 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 \$2,263,346.74 to the original amount of \$16,651,661.41 to equal a total appropriation of \$18,915,138.15 in the General Fund. With the additional source of funds coming from Local Sources, State Sources, and Federal Grants.

**b. A REVISED RESOLUTION TO SPEND DOWN THE BEGINNING FUND BALANCE OF THE BOCES GENERAL FUND FOR FY 22-23**

Be it RESOLVED that the Board of Education of East Central Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) revises its June 29, 2022 resolution to authorize the use of a portion of the beginning fund balance from the General Fund for FY 2022-2023. The portion to be overspent is approximately \$835,702.75 which is \$192,959.18 higher than originally authorized by resolution in June. This is a planned spend down of funds. The general administration budget will be spent down to help support the VNETS network build, possible deferred maintenance, Special Education purchase service contracts, salaries/benefits, increased legal costs, and other BOCES support programs. With this spend down of the reserve funds, we believe the projected ending fund balance is still adequate for cash flow for East Central BOCES and its programs.

**A second by Stacie Perez – Burlington. A roll call vote was taken; motion carries.**

**C. Executive Director Evaluation**

Thank you to the following superintendents who participated in Jason’s evaluation. They spent time gathering information from their colleagues and we spent a full morning going through the evaluation. They were Robert Framel – Kit Carson, Robin Purdy – Bennett and Rhonda Puckett – Liberty. There were 9 superintendents that returned their survey.

Board members on the committee was Nancy Barden – Bennett, Stacie Perez – Burlington, Janet Kravig – Karval. They also spent time gathering information from their colleagues and working a half day on the evaluation.

The staff member serving was Megan Eikleberry and we had 50% of staff complete the survey. We had some very good discussions and were able to come up with some good goals for Jason to work on for the coming year.

After going through the whole evaluation he earned an “exceeds expectation” ranking. Overall justification for the rating: Jason provides a safe and comfortable work environment for the ECBOCES staff. Jason is a tremendous advocate for the ECBOCES whether at the State level or in our own backyard. Jason does not make rash decisions. He reflects on issues in order to make the best decision in the interest of the ECBOCES and its 20 school district partners. As staffing issues continue to plague all aspects of education, Jason teamed up with his staff to develop coverage to meet student needs. Jason has committed to developing relationships with all superintendents which is a large task at best. Even in difficult situations, Jason maintains a high level of professionalism. A

team ECBOCES advisory board members, superintendents, and ECBOCES staff has concluded that Jason Westfall has earned Exceeds Expectations rating for his 2022-23 evaluation.

**D. Executive Director Contract – Nancy Barden**

It was discussed that based on the recommendation from the Evaluation Committee the board will be extending Executive Director, Jason Westfall’s, contract for another 2 years through 2025 and a raise in salary consistent with the rest of the staff.

Janet Kravig – Karval, made the motion to approve the Executive Director’s contract through 2024-2025 and reflect a raise consistent with the rest of the staff. A second by Renae Saffer – Arriba/Flagler; a roll call vote was taken; motion carries.

**VII. Discussion Items**

**A. April EC BOCES Board Meeting**

Our April 19<sup>th</sup> board meeting will be over Zoom. Of course here in Limon we encourage those in the central area to come and we will provide a meal. Would Bennett and Burlington like to host regional meeting with a meal also. They both said they would.

**VIII. Reports - Enclosed**

**A. Executive Director – Enclosed**

He will be putting in his new goals in his report will reflect his progress on those goals.

He is also serving on the Job Board Committee for CDE which will use an electronic map of open positions in the communities. We hope to compete with the front-range.

**B. Additional Staff Reports – Enclosed**

No other comments or questions.

**IX. Adjournment**

There was a motion by Mike Buchanan – Kit Carson, to adjourn the meeting. A second by Stacie Perez – Burlington. Roll call vote; motion carries. Meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

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BOCES Board Secretary

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Date Approved