

East Central BOCES

November 20, 2024

7:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

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

Jake Smith – Arriba/Flagler
Scott Powell – Bethune
Allison Harris – Byers
Jake Pelton – Cheyenne Wells
Gale Bell – Deer Trail
Ken Stroud – Genoa/Hugo
Joel Tanner – Hi-Plains

Andrew Pruitt - Kiowa
Toby Johnson – Kit Carson
Kari Schultz – Liberty
Jake Herrera – Limon
Diana Elliott - Strasburg
Darren Hornung - Stratton
Jake Coraor - Woodlin

Those Board members not in attendance were:

Doug Purdy – Agate
Drew Axsom – Arickaree
Alyssa Pae – Bennett

Stacie Perez - Burlington
Andrea Louthan - Idalia
Janet Kravig - Karval

Those Superintendents in attendance were:

Terry Weber – Bethune
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
Kandy Davis - Stratton

Those Superintendents not in attendance were:

Melinda Walls – Agate

Mike Page – Arickaree
Kelly Packer – Arriba/Flagler
Robin Purdy – Bennett
Shane Walkinshaw - Burlington

Myles Johnson - Idalia

Sarah Nuss – Karval
Travis Hargreaves – Kiowa
Robert Framel – Kit Carson
Jack Daly - Woodlin

Others in attendance were: Jason Westfall, Beverly Blagg, Moira Hawks, Mitzi Swiatkowski, Stacey

II. Approval of Agenda

Allison Harris - Byers, made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. A second by Jake Herrera - Limon; roll call vote was taken; motion carries.

III. Approval of Minutes

Jake Herrera – Limon, made the motion to accept the minutes as presented, a second by Allison Harris - Byers. Roll call vote was taken; motion carries.

IV. Public Comments

There were none.

V. Consent Agenda Items

A motion was made by Andrew Pruitt – Kiowa, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The following are in the Consent Agenda: Resignations, New Employment, there were no Non-Renewals. The following policies are the final reading for Policies: GBJ and ACA. A second by Jake Pelton – Cheyenne Wells. Jake Coraor – Woodlin shares his concerns about Policy ACA. A roll call vote was taken; all were in favor except for Jake Coraor which was a nay vote. Motion carries.

VI. Business – Action Items

Approval of the ECBOCES 2023-24 Audit

Scott Szabo from Lauer, Szabo & Associates handed out the bound budgets. He went through the audit. The first two letters are standard communication.

Pages 1-3: is our report on your BOCES audit. Your audit always goes very smoothly because of the great staff you have.

Pages 4-8: These are your Management’s Discussion and Analysis and on page 7 is budget highlights from your staff. If you have time you should read those things that they felt were important for you to know.

Page 14: Is a standard Balance Sheet as of June 30th, 2024. You have \$1.3M in CD’s, \$1 M in investments, grants and other receivables for a total of \$4.1M. Liabilities are listed, some state and federal programs you don’t get the funds until you spend the money and they reimburse you for it. Total fund balance is \$3.3 M.

Page 16: Local Sources \$6 M, State sources \$7.1 M, Federal sources \$4.2 M for a total revenue of \$17.4 M. Total Expenditures are \$16.4 M and an excess of \$964,645. The BOCES does not need to build their fund balance but because they do have Federal and State funds that need to be spent before they are reimbursed they do need to make sure they have adequate cash on hand to meet payroll and other expenses.

Page 74: Because the BOCES has Federal Programs in excess of \$750,000 we do an independent audit at one of those programs each year. The BOCES has 2 major programs in

Title I and SPED. This year we did an in-depth look at Title I and there were no significant deficiencies or instances of noncompliance disclosed during this audit.

Page 82: is a good summary of our audit. Items 1-6 state the same, a clean audit with no inconsistencies. Item 7 is the program tested was Title I. Item 9 states that the BOCES is qualified as a low-risk auditee.

He stated that we have been doing the audit for this BOCES for many years and it is always a very clean and easy audit. He entertained any questions, there were none. Craig asked the districts to make sure that your Business Managers received a copy of our audit because they will need it.

VII. Discussion Items

Executive Director Evaluation

Jason explained how his evaluation worked and shared who had participated in the past. He would like representation for each of the regions. For board members we would need someone from the East to volunteer. Janet Kravig – Karval has agreed to do it again for the Central area and Diana Elliott – Strasburg will be representing the West area and serve as the BOCES Board president. Darren Hornung – Stratton agreed to represent the East area.

Superintendents also participate and on the East area Rhonda Puckett – Liberty, has volunteered as SAC Vice-Chair. Dan Melendrez – Genoa/Hugo will be on the committee representing the Central area and also as SAC Chair. We will need a volunteer from the West area. No one volunteered but they suggested Travis Hargreaves – Kiowa. Jason will contact him to see if he would be willing. Emma Richardson has agreed to do it on behalf of the staff.

Jason will also be sending out a Doodle schedule of dates to find what works best for everyone the first few weeks of January to get the group together for the evaluation process. We like to be able to bring it to SAC before we bring it to you, so that we can bring their recommendations to you. He will also send out a copy of the evaluation from last year along with his goals and where I am at on them. I also like to send you contact information for the other board members or superintendents in your region to get their input also.

January Meeting over Zoom

It won't be a very long meeting but we will need to go over Executive Director Evaluation and then the Final Budget; hopefully only take about 45 minutes. You can attend on Zoom or if you want to come to the BOCES Office, let Lorie know and she will have dinner here for you.

VIII. Reports - Enclosed

Executive Director – Enclosed

We have a SAFER Grant that we received for direct communication with our law enforcement agencies in our communities. We have 12 of our districts participating in this grant.

Bev and I will be having a heart to heart call tomorrow with the Sierra School in Bennett to get those costs down for our districts. The costs right now are more than you were paying when you sent them into Denver. We had originally looked at this because of the costs to our districts for

sending students into Denver facilities that can accommodate their more significant needs. We didn't end up having the number of students we had anticipated, because several of them moved out of the area. But we won't be able to continue with the current costs so we are hopeful we can come to a compromise.

Additional Staff Reports – Enclosed

Bev shared that CDE had found that EC BOCES was significantly disproportionate for white speech students. She pushed back because it would cost us about 15% in funding amounting to about \$380,000 which is a significant impact to our AU. After some investigating they were including regular ed students which we do not serve and counting students that were on consult. We were able to prove to CDE that we were not significantly disproportionate and that was taken off. There was some good that came out of it because we realized that all teachers need to be trained in specially designed instruction so we are focusing on that in our PD for All. Diana Elliott commended Bev for her work on that, it would definitely impact the AU.

Tracy Grimes is also working with our districts on compiling the December 1 Count which determines the amount of funding we will receive for your SPED students in the AU

Quarterly Financial Report

Nothing more to add.

IX. Adjournment

The next BOCES Board meeting will be January 29, 2025 starting at 7 p.m. over Zoom.

There was a motion by Allison Harris – Byers, to adjourn the meeting. A second by Andrew Pruitt - Kiowa; roll call vote was taken; motion carries. Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

BOCES Board Secretary

Date Approved