



# Four Corners

Regional Education Cooperative #1  
*Working for the Future*

## MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 16, 2019

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Meeting was called to order at 10:28 a.m.
- II. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum – Quorum was determined as follows:
  - Present:
    - Dr. Kimberly Mizell, Bloomfield Schools
    - Dr. Eugene Schmidt, Farmington Municipal Schools
    - Adrienne Forgette, San Juan College
    - Mike Hyatt, Gallup-McKinley County Schools
    - Daniel Benavidez, Zuni Public Schools
    - Kirk Carpenter, Aztec Municipal Schools (10:40 a.m.)
  - Absent:
    - David Goldtooth, Central Consolidated Schools
  - Also in Attendance:
    - Jodie Maestas, Bloomfield Schools
    - David Bowman, Director
- III. Agenda Review and Approval – the agenda was reviewed with no changes noted. Mr. Benavidez moved to approve the meeting agenda and Dr. Schmidt seconded. The motion passed to approve the meeting agenda.
- IV. Previous Meeting Minutes Review and Approval – the minutes were reviewed with no changes noted. Dr. Schmidt moved to approve the minutes and Mr. Benavidez seconded. The motion passed to approve the previous meeting minutes.
- V. Financial Budget Reporting and Approval – the budget was reviewed by Mrs. Maestas. She noted the establishment of an MOU between the REC and Bloomfield Schools to pay salaries. There was no audit required for year one as there were no expenditures, however the audit for year two will be an estimated \$5,000. The professional development trainings will be taking place in Farmington and Gallup, with hopes of registration fees exceeding the cost to host the two 2-day events. Budget adjustments will be completed as needed,

with blanket approval being approved at a previous meeting. All adjustments will be presented to the board at the meeting following adjustments being made. Dr. Schmidt indicated that a consensus be established that all budget adjustments be reported to the board and a minimum amount be set. Mr. Benavidez moved to approve the minutes and Dr. Schmidt seconded. The motion passed to approve the budget report.

#### VI. Discussion, Updates, and Possible Action

- a. REC Funding / PED collaboration update – Mr. Bowman reported on his meeting with the new Secretary of Education (SOE) and the Leadership team. The SOE is not familiar with RECs so it's a learning process. Looking into ways of entering into agreements with PED to bring services to the REC. An additional meeting is scheduled for this coming week. The funding level for RECs was set in 2006. Dr. Mizell indicated that she did pitch for an increase with numbers to validate the request to PED. Mr. Bowman stated he had also shared with the SOE and PED Finance Departments the need for an increase in REC funding. He established the opportunity for RECs ability to put PD into place pretty easily within the Districts versus the PED's ability. He also indicated his hope to generate funding for additional PD opportunities. RECA is trying to make it profitable, i.e.: Wi-Fi extended toward Gallup and Zuni with the REC as the agent. Dr. Mizell also mentioned the fact of proving cultural relevance in light of the Yazzie vs. Martinez ruling.
- b. Math PD update – Mr. Bowman reported on the two 2-day math mastery training. There are currently 30 enrolled in the Farmington dates with no one registered for the Gallup dates. Dr. Schmidt reported that Farmington Municipal Schools should have 31 attendees.
- c. Classroom observer update – Mr. Bowman reported on the State Department's revamping of the job description for the classroom observer. There have been a few applicants, but until the job description is finalized we cannot move forward.
- d. CTE funding update – Mr. Bowman stated he has a scheduled meeting on Monday where he is hoping to receive an update on the CTE funding. He was instructed to put people into place, however until funding is received it's not possible. Gallup and Farmington have already received their approvals with funding. Dr. Mizell noted that

there needs to be more state funding and partnerships available for this initiative. \$6 million statewide isn't near enough. In requesting funds might need to articulate the purpose for it and the acknowledgment of underserved students. Mr. Carpenter suggested a letter to PED signed by all Districts explaining what is needed and why. Ms. Forgette noted that the timing is right for our area with the closure of the plant, an energy center is needed. SJC is looking into water sustainability and the repurposing of lithium ion batteries.

- e. Virtual learning update and possible model – Mr. Bowman reported on an idea of bringing in teacher sharing or more course opportunities by creating a true virtual online school based on gaming models. With most online schools the ability for students to interact with each other is lost. Mr. Bowman has reached out to a developer company who has the majority of the code written already. Questioned whether the Districts would be interested in this idea. The possibilities are offering more courses to students and the sharing of teaching staff. There would be the issue of who would be able to count the students and teaching staff, so there are things to work on. The Districts in attendance agreed it would be worth looking into. Online schooling was introduced twenty years ago but hasn't evolved. Dr. Schmidt indicated that there were 39 students from Farmington utilizing an online school currently. Mr. Hyatt mentioned that Gallup will be submitting a RFP for an online school next year.
- f. Grant opportunities updates – Mr. Bowman noted that there are no new grant opportunities posted. They should be posted in January.

- VII. Report-outs by District – Dr. Mizell reported on the frustration over the dyslexia screening for every first grader. There hasn't been a screening tool rolled out yet. Afraid that there will be many misidentified students having the teachers do the screening. Mr. Benavidez, Mr. Hyatt and Dr. Mizell discussed the impact aide status. Numerous meetings have been held advocating on behalf of the need for the funds. Mr. Bowman asked the Districts about a need for social emotional learning, where Dr. Mizell indicated that Bloomfield has begun the training and has a trainer and Mr. Hyatt indicated that Gallup is definitely interested. Dr. Schmidt asked for a proposal outlining the social emotional needs. Districts also agreed that SAT guidance is sought as the new initiative is implemented. Graduation help is also needed.

VIII. Questions or Requests – Mr. Benavidez mentioned that Mr. Bowman will need to rewrite the CTE proposal to align with the budget that will be received. Coding is being addressed in the elementary schools in Zuni. Dr. Mizell noted that Bloomfield has 95 students in computer science at the junior high.

IX. Superintendent Discussion Topics – Mr. Carpenter noted that he is concentrating on the 2-Mill levy. Trying to get the word out. If it doesn't pass, looking at losing staffing and programs. Enrollment is down which has already impacted the district negatively. An outside advertisement agency has been hired, which is costly, but with the Aztec Schools already not being popular with the county it was needed. The hiring of the Philippine teachers helps to make the district fully staffed, the first time in 8 years. He also mentioned that he put a plug in for the Bloomfield 2-Mill election, just can't do it for your own District. If it doesn't pass, will have to cut costs to make it work.

Dr. Mizell acknowledged the struggle with the 2-Mill election. She mentioned the Turnaround Teachers initiative. Also the discussion of a student-led Native American Conference held at Navajo Prep last year, where students learned arts, culture, and etc. The Conference could be held in Bloomfield this year.

Mr. Hyatt noted his concerns with the SAT. He mentioned finding good models, test prep, curriculum and alignment options.

X. Next Board Meeting – The Board agreed that quarterly meetings would be best, however there needs to be another meeting before the end of the year. After discussion, a meeting date of December 11<sup>th</sup> was agreed upon.

XI. Adjournment – with all business matters discussed, Dr. Schmidt moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Benavidez seconded. The motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 12:21 p.m.

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| Board Member Signature | Title | December 11, 2019<br>Date Approved |
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