



Four Corners

Regional Education Cooperative #1
Working for the Future

MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 (ZOOM)

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Meeting was called to order at 10:13 a.m.
- II. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum – Quorum was determined as follows:

Present:

Dr. Kimberly Mizell, Bloomfield Schools
Kirk Carpenter, Aztec Municipal Schools
Dr. Eugene Schmidt, Farmington Municipal Schools
Daniel Benavidez, Central Consolidated Schools
Mike Hyatt, Gallup-McKinley County Schools
Dr. Toni Pendergrass, San Juan College @ 10:14 a.m.

Absent:

Zuni Public Schools

Also in Attendance:

Jodie Maestas, Bloomfield Schools
David Bowman, Director
Sandra Houston, RECA

- III. Agenda Review and Approval – Dr. Mizell presented the current meeting agenda. Upon review, the following revision needs to be made: VI. Quarterly Financial Budget Reporting, Audit Update and Blanket Approval of All BARs and the addition of VII. f. Engage NM. The agenda was reviewed, with revisions noted. Mr. Carpenter moved to approve the meeting agenda with the noted revision and addition and Dr. Schmidt seconded. The motion passed to approve the meeting agenda with the revision of VI to read Quarterly Financial Budget Reporting, Audit Update and Blanket Approval of All BARs and the addition of VII f. Engage NM.
- IV. Previous Meeting Minutes Review and Approval – Dr. Mizell presented the minutes of the June 16, 2020 meeting. Minutes were reviewed with no changes noted. Mr. Carpenter moved to approve the minutes and Mr. Benavidez seconded. The motion passed to approve the previous meeting minutes.

V. RECA Childcare Resources and Support Update – Mrs. Houston greeted the board and thanked them for their flexibility in working with her to determine a contact person at each school district. RECA has partnered with RECs and the New Mexico Public Education Department to implement a re-entry childcare project. Surveys were sent to childcare providers and families to determine a need and possible opportunities. A flyer has been created for distribution to REC#1 Districts for placement on websites, social media accounts, and on PowerSchool. The flyer has also been posted on the REC#1 website. RECA is still reaching out to facilities in each area to better address the needs of families including the capabilities of high speed internet and connectivity.

VI. Quarterly Financial Budget Reporting, Audit Update and Approval of All BARs – Mrs. Maestas presented the quarterly budget report. The revenue and expenditure reports were shared with no revenue to report and the only expenditures are salary. Asking for blanket approval of all BARs to continue with business as usual, eliminating the need for special board meetings to approve BARs. Any activity will be reported at the next scheduled board meeting. Mr. Benavidez moved to approve the Financial Budget Reports and Mr. Carpenter seconded. The motion passed to approve the Financial Budget Reports.

The financial audit is going well with an anticipated completion date within 2 weeks. Thank you to the board members who also serve on the audit board, your time is appreciated. The FY21 budget has been approved. Mrs. Maestas will relay any and all pertinent information to the board as it becomes available. Mr. Benavidez moved to approve the Blanket Approval of All BARs and Mr. Carpenter seconded. The motion passed to approve the Blanket Approval of All BARs.

VII. Updates, and Possible Action

- a. Kellogg Comprehensive Navajo Dual-language Program – Mr. Bowman noted that the dual language program is to provide a continuum of skills. Looking at different levels to allow for all those who enter the program to excel. Dr. Schmidt mentioned the need to learn more about the 520 licensure.
- b. Professional Development – Mr. Bowman reported on the upcoming professional development that has been scheduled. There is a good number enrolled from the partnering districts and only a few registrants in other districts. The first Google training will take place later this month.
- c. REC State Funding – Mr. Bowman stated that he has made a pitch for increased funding. The amount given to RECs has not been adjusted since 2006 and there has been no adjustment with inflation. If funding is increased the REC could have a full time staff.
- d. RECA Plan for Sharing Indirect Costs – Mr. Bowman noted that there has been talk of one REC taking the lead and then filtering out to other RECs. This is still in the thought process stage so there will be more to report on at a later date.

- e. Program Administrative Tools – Mr. Bowman presented the various tools he uses to track time and effort of the numerous REC activities.
- f. Training Opportunities – Mr. Bowman reported on training opportunities such as LETRS training
- g. Engage NM – Mr. Bowman mention the beginning of this program to help students and families who are struggling with the learning from home. The idea is to get educators and families partnering to support student success.

VIII. Report-outs by District – Mr. Benavidez began by thanking everyone for their encouragement for him accepting the Superintendent position at CCSD. He noted that the board will determine hybrid timeline at the September 14th meeting. He’s finding several things that just hasn’t been completed by previous superintendents. Dr. Schmidt stated he was hoping to draw upon Mr. Benavidez’s knowledge on connectivity, impact aide, and etc. He noted that Farmington is looking into moving into the hybrid model. He also mentioned the video series that Aztec has begun and he looks to build on that idea. Talks are being conducted with the Governor’s talk about a 5% reduction. And lastly, the District has begun having lunch with a legislator.

Mr. Carpenter began by acknowledging Dr. Schmidt’s comment on his video series with Ron Price, where he plans to invite other superintendents to join. There have been 33 videos recorded already and it seems to be very beneficial to families. He also noted that Aztec had already began the hybrid model with one day under their belt and everything ran smoothly. He’s currently watching the filter issue. Surveillance testing is affecting staff but looking at ways to maximize kids being in the classroom as it’s alarming the regression in learning. He stated he will keep progressing and will share any trials and tribulations. Mr. Hyatt stated he was very disappointed in the Governor’s recent announcement placing Gallup from the green zone to yellow. He noted that GMCS has been going to school with a 5:1 ration since August 17th. He is waiting for the next requirements to be received. He noted that it would be an estimated \$300k a year to change the filters to the required level. Doing the best they can with the purchase of laptops and hotspots. He mentioned his frustrations in getting the students to learn with all of the obstacles the District is facing.

Dr. Pendergrass noted that things are going well at San Juan College. There are several learning options being utilized. Unfortunately having to do a lot of budget cuts. A survey was conducted where the results indicated an estimated 66% of individuals have changed or cancelled their plans for a higher education. As you can imagine, many of the students are parents as well. The professional development for teachers has been delayed due to contract issues. Dr. Pendergrass complimented the Director and Superintendents for their continued fighting at the legislative session. Dr. Mizell mentioned that Bloomfield had ran into a huge stop gap with changes received from NMPED. She stated she had lost confidence in the state department. The District is

struggling to locate the required PPE equipment necessary to begin the in-person learning. Hoping to begin the hybrid learning as soon as the filters are received. Had enough PPE to start but not for the required 45 days. Had purchased 1 facemask per person, but needed 2. The District has been doing online since the beginning.

IX. Questions or Requests – None noted.

X. Superintendent Discussion Topics – Dr. Mizell mentioned the need for a resolution at the legislative session. Mr. Bowman reported on more information coming available on the Dual Navajo Language. Mr. Hyatt questioned the extended learning year, as last year when school ended abruptly in March; the state asked for the funding to be returned.

XI. Next Board Meeting – Dates were discussed, with the board agreeing to the end of November to first of December for the next meeting.

XII. Adjournment – Mr. Benavidez moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Hyatt seconded. The motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 11:41 a.m.

Board Member Signature

Title

Date Approved