



Four Corners

Regional Education Cooperative #1
Working for the Future

MEETING MINUTES

MAY 5, 2021

- V. Presentation: Bobbie Gutierrez, RECA Director – While awaiting the arrival of board members to determine a quorum, Mr. Bowman introduced Mrs. Gutierrez, RECA Executive Director, and allowed her to begin her presentation on the Regional Education Cooperative Association’s (RECA) activities. Mrs. Gutierrez began by acknowledging the hard work and dedication of the Superintendents, as she knows it has been a tough year. She then told the members about herself and her experience. As the Executive Director she will advocate on behalf of and support the ten RECs and the LEAs they represent. She will be attending legislative and organization events and will facilitate external partnerships. She has reviewed the objectives and offerings of the REC#1 and is excited to play a supportive role. She stated that her goal is to receive more funding for each REC.
- I. Welcome and Introductions – Meeting was called to order at 12:42 p.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
 - Mike Hyatt, Gallup-McKinley County Schools
 - Dr. Toni Pendergrass, San Juan College
 - Daniel Benavidez, Central Consolidated Schools @ 1:20 p.m.
- Absent:
- Mrs. Randy Stickney, Zuni Public Schools
- Also in Attendance:
- Jodie Maestas, Bloomfield Schools
 - David Bowman, Director
 - Staci Babcock, Bloomfield Schools
 - Bobbie Gutierrez, RECA Executive Director

- III. Agenda Review and Approval – Dr. Mizell presented the current meeting agenda. Mr. Carpenter moved to approve the meeting agenda and Mr. Hyatt seconded. The motion passed to approve the meeting agenda.
- IV. Agenda Review and Approval – Dr. Mizell presented the current meeting agenda. Mr. Carpenter moved to approve the meeting agenda and Mr. Hyatt seconded. The motion passed to approve the meeting agenda.
- V. Previous Meeting Minutes Review and Approval – Dr. Mizell presented the minutes of the previous meetings as follows:
 - a. February 10, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
 - b. April 7, 2021 Audit Exit Meeting
 - c. April 20, 2021 Special Board Meeting

Minutes were reviewed with no changes noted. Dr. Schmidt moved to approve the minutes and Mr. Carpenter seconded. The motion passed to approve the previous meeting minutes.

- VI. Presentation: Bobbie Gutierrez, RECA Director – See above
- VII. Financial: Preliminary FY22 Budget Review and Approval – Mrs. Maestas presented the financial reports and proposed budget including carryover. The financial audit will have to be a full audit, costing \$10,000. Extra funding has been placed in professional development. The largest expense is salaries which is paid through Bloomfield Schools with contracted employees and then invoiced. The budget has been uploaded into OBMS with no salary increase as the REC funding is flat. The IGAs will create a little revenue, once completed. For implementation of the larger IGA, had to petition the State Department to pay in advance which was approved. The reimbursement from PED has been relatively quick this year. In discussions with Mr. Bowman, we would like to give the office staff stipends for additional duties that will be added with the IGAs. Dr. Schmidt motioned to approve the budget with the addition of the stipends. The question was raised on how the stipends would be funded, in which Mrs. Maestas replied that the indirect from the IGAs would cover the cost. Dr. Pendergrass inquired about a salary increase, as the school employees received an increase. Discussion took place on whether the increase would be a 1.5% recommended by the state for district employees or a 2% increase as the Bloomfield Schools implemented. Dr. Mizell noted that the stipend amount was to cover additional time and responsibilities brought about by the IGAs. After discussions, it was determined that a special meeting would have to take place as the stipends could not be approved until the IGAs were awarded to ensure that the funds would be available for additional compensation. Dr. Mizell noted that at this time, approval would be for the preliminary FY22 budget with an increase of 2%

pay increase for the REC#1 employees and that a special meeting would be held once funding is received for stipends. Mr. Carpenter motioned to approve the preliminary FY22 budget with an increase of 2% for employees and Mr. Hyatt seconded. The motion passed to approve the FY22 preliminary budget with the 2% salary increase for employees.

VIII. Discussion, Updates, and Actions

- a. CS4MS Update: Coding Capstone Event, May 10 – Mr. Bowman reported on the two school districts participating in the Middle School Computer Science grant; Zuni and Farmington. There were 12 students who submitted projects for the Coding Capstone event on May 10th and their projects are on the website. Scoring closes on May 6th. The feedback from the participating teachers was good with students being highly engaged. With the experience gained from this project, the REC can provide coding skills training to other schools.
- b. IGA Update: Science Classroom Innovations – This IGA has been a bit of a learning curve. There was a lot of work that went into completing the PEDs requirements with only a small funding amount being received. However, it was a great opportunity to build rapport and let the PED know that the REC is capable of handling such IGAs. The final piece will be issuing of stipends to participants.
- c. IGA Update: Science Instructional Scope Procurement – This is a much larger IGA, which really took some risks. The amount of upfront funding to complete the IGA was not within our budget, however after a petition to the PED to pay portion of the IGA upfront we were able to pursue it. The company has been selected and the language on the contract has finally been nailed down. This IGA will bring a large amount to the REC.
- d. Trio Grant Update and Timeline – The grant has been submitted but awards have not been made yet. The proposed amount is \$277,375.
- e. Summer Professional Development Options – The PD options were included in the board packets. The teachers seem to be burned out right now. Last year the google forms trainings were held. The training options are available at no cost to participating districts and can be scheduled throughout the summer.
- f. One-on-One Summer Visits with Superintendents – Mr. Bowman is planning visits to each district in an effort to revisit each district's needs.
- g. Kellogg Grant Update and Career Prep Lead Contract Approval – Mr. Jose Villarreal's resume is included in the board packet. This grant is running through Bloomfield Schools as the REC did not qualify to be the fiscal agent. Mr. Villarreal will be the Career Prep Lead for the grant. A few other stipend positions

need to be met; early childhood, dual language and career path. Mr. Kirk Carpenter motioned to approve the Career Prep Lead Contract and Mr. Benavidez seconded. The motion passed to approve the Career Prep Lead Contract.

- h. RECA Director Financial Support Approval – The ten RECs under the RECA have been asked to assist with the RECA Director’s salary. The REC’s portion would be \$5,000 and has been included in the budget. Mr. Benavidez questioned the benefit to the REC, having missed the earlier presentation. Attending members stated that the RECA Director would be a benefit to the REC.
- i. REC Housing Review and Approval – The REC, when established, was to be housed in Bloomfield for the first 2 years and then reviewed. Nearing the end of the second year, for financial purposes we are wishing to keep the REC housed in Bloomfield until further notice. Mr. Carpenter moved to approve the REC to remain housed in Bloomfield and Dr. Pendergrass seconded. The motion passed to approve the REC to remain housed in Bloomfield.
- j. Superintendent Appreciation – Mr. Bowman presented Mr. Kirk Carpenter with a plaque of appreciation. Mr. Carpenter is retiring from Aztec Municipal Schools. He has shown such compassion, common sense and wisdom in the profession and he will be missed.
- k. Stipends – Stipends were discussed during the budget update.
- l. Graduation – Dr. Pendergrass asked if a congratulations letter from San Juan College could be included inside the diplomas. If not, then a list of students with email addresses and mailing addresses. Dr. Mizell noted that it might not be appropriate to include the letter and that it would be against policy to give out the student names and contact information. However, if the college wanted to send something to be shared with the graduating seniors it could be forwarded to principals to send to students via email.

IX. Report-outs by District

Mr. Carpenter noted that with the county being in turquoise, Aztec will lock it in for graduation. The seniors will learn virtual for the next two weeks with finals being taken in person prior to the remote learning and then a final project will be due.

Mr. Benavidez noted that Kirtland Central High School will be closing as well with students returning the last week of school for graduation. Discussions are taking place to do the same with the other two high schools as well. The Secretary of Education visited the Career Prep and asked questions about the decision to have all principals reapply.

Dr. Mizell mentioned that she had a discussion with principals about the seniors going remote and it was not agreed upon at this time. Project graduation will be held outside this year.

Mr. Carpenter noted that his district had some issues with staff reporting issues to PED. Project graduation will be outside in Aztec as well.

Dr. Pendergrass stated that the SJC graduation will be held remotely again this year as the design of the outdoor facilities where graduation is held is not conducive to the social distancing standards and would not allow a great number of attendees, which would not even allow all graduates to attend.

X. Questions or Requests – None noted.

XI. Upcoming Quarterly Board Meeting Dates

July 14, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

January 12, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

October 13, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

April 13, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

XII. Adjournment – Mr. Benavidez moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Hyatt seconded. The motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 2:33 p.m.



Board Member Signature

8-1-21

Title

8-1-21

Date Approved