



# Four Corners

Regional Education Cooperative #1  
*Working for the Future*

## MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 5, 2021

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Meeting was called to order at 10:17 a.m.
- II. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum – Quorum was determined as follows:

**Present:**

Dr. Kimberly Mizell, Bloomfield Schools  
Kevin Summers, Aztec Municipal Schools (Zoom)  
Dr. Eugene Schmidt, Farmington Municipal Schools (Zoom)  
Mike Hyatt, Gallup-McKinley County Schools  
Daniel Benavidez, Central Consolidated Schools

**Absent:**

Mrs. Randy Stickney, Zuni Public Schools  
Dr. Toni Pendergrass, San Juan College

**Also in Attendance:**

Jodie Maestas, Bloomfield Schools  
David Bowman, Director

- III. Agenda Review and Approval – Dr. Schmidt presented the current meeting agenda. Mr. Benavidez moved to approve the meeting agenda and Dr. Mizell seconded. The motion passed to approve the meeting agenda.
- IV. Previous Meeting Minutes Review and Approval – Dr. Schmidt presented the minutes of the previous meetings as follows:
  - a. May 5, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
  - b. June 1, 2021 Special Board Meeting
  - c. June 1, 2021 Audit Entrance Meeting

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

## V. Reports, Discussions and Actions

- a. Quarterly Financial Budget Report – Mrs. Maestas presented the financial report including BARs to close out the fiscal year, revenue and expenditure reports, and check listing. Also presented was the final FY22 Operating Budget, which has been submitted but not finalized. A Resolution was presented to approve financial matters in advance with reporting being made at the next scheduled meeting. And finally, the State made a change in the per diem rates, resulting in mileage being reimbursed at \$.44 cpm.
- b. Quarter 4 Finance Approval. – Mr. Summers motioned to approve the Quarter 4 Finance Report and Dr. Mizell seconded. The motion passed to approve the Quarter 4 Finance Report.
- c. FY22 Operating Budget Approval – Dr. Mizell motioned to approve the final FY22 Operating Budget and Mr. Benavidez seconded. The motion passed to approve the final FY22 Operating Budget.
- d. Resolution 21-22-01 Official Ratification of All Budget Adjustments Approval – Mr. Summers motioned to approve Resolution 21-22-01 Official Ratification of All Budget Adjustments and Dr. Mizell seconded. The motion passed to approve Resolution 21-22-01 Official Ratification of All Budget Adjustments
- e. State of New Mexico Per Diem Rates Approval – Dr. Mizell motioned to approve the newly released State Per Diem Rates and Mr. Benavidez seconded. The motion passed to approve the State Per Diem Rates.
- f. IGA Completion Update – Mr. Bowman reported on the two IGAs received from the NMPED which have been completed with a slight revenue received for the REC#1. With both being executed successfully, there should be more IGA opportunities in the future.
- g. American History and Civics Education Opportunity – Mr. Bowman presented on an American History grant opportunity for low-income schools and other underserved populations. There will only be an estimated 2-3 awards nationally. The Board discussed and felt that it was not a good use of sources at this time to apply.
- h. Accelerated Learning Opportunity – Mr. Bowman also presented a grant opportunity providing reading and tutoring for partnering Districts. With the Six Components Reading Approach (SRCA) proposal would be an ‘Offerer Recommended Mode’ as Mr. Bowman has experience in reading and tutoring grants with much success. The grant would be for 1-4 years through NMPED, but with federal funding. If 20 schools participated, there would be a good

revenue for the REC#1. Mr. Bowman noted that he did not feel as if there would be many competitors. And the tutoring would be very beneficial. The Board discussed and agreed to move forward with this opportunity.

- VI. Questions or Requests – Dr. Mizell posed the question to the Districts on whether they were offering remote learning this year. Mr. Hyatt indicated that GMCS will be offering remote learning this year. Mr. Benavidez stated that there will be a virtual learning option for CCSD, however it has not been finalized as they were mostly focusing on in-person learning. Dr. Mizell noted that BSD has been contacted by other Districts wanting to participate in the online school being offered, and that they were willing to give a flat rate of their SEG to participate.

Mr. Benavidez mentioned that HB128 was something to watch, there are some language issues, hiring practices, and etc. A main item is the hiring of contract coaches and abiding by the background checks and hiring practices. The HB is leaning towards the concern of NMPSIA not covering such hiring. Mr. Benavidez noted that while at ZPS, a complaint was filed that had no merit and the lowest that NMPSIA would go is \$50k but the District challenged it and the complaint was settled at \$5k. Dr. Mizell noted that the Districts needed to manage their liability costs. Mr. Benavidez also noted that they were looking at holding Districts accountable for ‘passing the trash’. Dr. Mizell also mentioned that she had complained against the NMPSIA attorneys as they try to find fault with the Districts. Mr. Benavidez stated that the NMPED should have about 20 investigators to ask questions, the right questions, and not leading questions. Mrs. Maestas noted that the NMPSIA bill is higher every year as it’s a shared bill and the smaller Districts are suffering because of the larger Districts’ claims.

- VII. Next Board Meeting – Mr. Bowman noted that the next meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. A few Board Members stated that October 10<sup>th</sup> would not work for them. Noted that the first week of November looked better. A date will be sent out regarding the first week of November for the next meeting.
- VIII. Adjournment – Dr. Mizell moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Benavidez seconded. The motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

  
Board Member Signature

SECRETARY  
Title

1/28/2022  
Date Approved