



Four Corners

Regional Education Cooperative #1
Working for the Future

WORK SESSION AGENDA

October 10, 2022

1:30 p.m.

- I. Welcome and Attendance – The meeting was via Zoom and began at 1:30pm. Attendees: Mike Hyatt, Kevin Summers, Dr. Pendergrass (exited the meeting at 1:50pm), Steve Carlson, Staci Babcock and David Bowman.
- II. Discussion: MOU with Region 9 for State Technology Initiative – Mr. Bowman shared his screen with all the attendees to discuss the budget outlay for the Tech Initiative.

Began with the discussion of the student-based activities such as student led call centers, computer repair and Academic Competitions. Budget for the call center would be \$50K, budget for Repair Depot Center would be \$140K and the budget for the Academic Competition (for 3 of them) would be \$150K.

Dr. Pendergrass asked what the salary would be for the IT Support Specialist. Mr. Bowman estimates \$85K, after benefits and taxes would be around 49K for 7 months. Discussion on the salary being too high. Mr. Bowman said the salary can be adjusted. Dr. Pendergrass asked what this position would entail. Mr. Bowman said they would provide oversight and advice for the statewide initiative. Dr. Pendergrass suggested changing the title to suggest what exact skills would be needed, such as “IT Support Specialist / Project Coordinator”. Mr. Bowman said that can be looked at. Mentioned someone outside REC-1 would have to be the hiring agent. There would be a possible \$52K in revenue for REC-1 from this line item.

Mr. Bowman asked if there were any other questions on any of the remaining components. Mr. Summers asked if all of these could actually take place. Didn't think it was possible given some of them were to start next month. Mr. Bowman said some of them can be dropped. Mentioning the Repair Depot: that component would take a lot to set up.

The Academic Competitions would fall under the schools for start up. He said there was a lot of funding for the schools for this in REC-1 area.

After speaking with REC-9, it was determined the Help Centers wouldn't likely begin until December, if not later.

The Tech Bits and Data Collection would not be an issue to do. We already have Tech sessions created.

We could possibly take on the Digital Coach as well. This person would work with the schools in the REC-1 region

The issue with not having the IT Specialist would put the Help Desk and Repair Depot at risk. Mr. Summers asked about the Digital Coach. Mr. Bowmans said that person would provide support within the REC-1 area. It was discussed that person would not be able to serve all the schools within the region, a capacity issue. Mr. Summers mentioned even though there is a profit for REC-1, he didn't want a subpar product to go out. Mr. Hyatt said he understands and agrees where Mr. Summers is coming from. It all sounds grand in scope but we may not have the capacity to pull it off. Mr. Carlson had the same concerns. Mr. Bowman agreed that one person would not be able to serve all schools, but districts or schools could recommend teachers most likely to benefit from coaching. There will also be a virtual training center set up at REC-1, which can be used to provide coaching.

Mr. Bowman discussed pulling all components off except Tech Bits and Data for discussion purposes. It was also discussed of the interest in the student lead help desk during a board meeting a couple of months ago. CCSD showed and interest. Mr. Summers also mentioned an interest in this project. Mr. Bowman said this would be a good experience for students engaging in real life situations. Mr. Carlson said it would be important to put the right people in place to set this properly.

There was concern that if the job for the IT specialist were to be posted, someone might leave their current position with a school and apply for this one.

There was discussion on if FMS had an IT program but no one was sure. Mr. Summers mentioned they had IT capstones in place but it would be a year before any outcomes could be documented.

Mr. Summers mentioned since there was no longer a quorum, it was not possible to take any action at this time. It was suggested contact be made with those not here. Notes and questions should be shared with them to bring them up to date with the conversation.

Mr. Carlson asked if it was possible to do the Academic Competitions. Mr. Summers mentioned there was a large budget for this and wants to make sure the product is quality. Mentioned the need for travel and stipends. Mr. Bowman noted the two regional competitions would be virtual. Discussion on the amount of money throughout the IGA. Mr. Bowman said it was how the IGA was written and approved by the PED. Discussion on the importance of putting the funds to use for student support and stipends for faculty to assist. Mr. Summers asked if the Data collection would just be for the components we have active or for all of them. Mr. Bowman said we would be collecting data from all active components and submitting to Region 9, which would collect from all RECs.

It was suggested to meet again next Friday, October 21, at 1:30pm to discuss and take action.

The work session adjourned at 2:45pm.

III. Adjournment – the work session adjourned at 2:45pm.