



Four Corners

Regional Education Cooperative #1
Working for the Future

MEETING MINUTES

November 13, 2024

- I. Welcome and Introductions – The meeting was held in person and via Zoom, being called to order at 10:38 a.m.
- II. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum – A quorum was determined as follows:
 - Present:
 - Cody Diehl, Farmington Municipal Schools (Zoom)
 - Russell Florez, Aztec Municipal Schools (Proxy - Zoom)
 - Kevin Summers, Bloomfield Schools
 - Steve Carlson, Central Consolidated Schools (Zoom)
 - Absent:
 - Randy Stickney, Zuni Pueblo Schools
 - Lauren Laws, Aztec Municipal Schools
 - Mike Hyatt, Gallup-McKinley County Schools
 - Dr. Toni Pendergrass, San Juan College
 - Also in Attendance:
 - David Bowman, Director
 - Staci Babcock, Business Manager
- III. Action: Approval of Meeting Agenda – The agenda was presented and reviewed. Mr. Diehl moved to approve the meeting agenda and Mr. Florez seconded. The motion passed to approve the meeting agenda.
- IV. Action: Previous Meeting Minutes Review and Approval – The previous meeting minutes were reviewed for August 21, 2024 and September 27, 2024. Mr. Diehl moved to approve the previous meeting minutes and Mr. Carlson seconded. The motion passed to approve the previous meeting minutes.

- V. Quarterly Financial Budget Reporting – Ms. Babcock noted the financial reports included in the board packet, including the consent agenda, check listing, and revenue and expenditure report. There was one BAR entered for the Kellogg grant after the budget was approved.

VI. Discussion, Updates, and Actions

- a. Action: Approval of Quarterly Financial Budget Report – Mr. Diehl motioned to approve the Quarterly Budget Reports and Mr. Carlson seconded. The motion passed to approve the Quarterly Budget Reports.
- b. Action: Contracts for CLIA services – Mr. Summers noted that the listed contracts could be approved in one motion. Mr. Bowman reported that this funding is a continuation of the CLIA funding awarded previously. The REC provides the CLIA waiver for approximately 65 schools who provide flu and pregnancy testing. The program will provide profit for the REC which can be used for the building lease and future grant writing opportunities.
 - i. Falling Colors (CLIA services) – same contractor as previously used.
 - ii. De Anna Davis (CLIA Coordinator) – same Coordinator; however, was a Bloomfield employee and this year will be a contract service.
 - iii. Elizabeth Pettit (Site Visitor) – same Site Visitor as last time.
 - iv. Denise Merilatt (Administrative Support) – adds additional duties for the REC secretary, responsible for reporting and maintaining a database.
 - v. John Jarchow (Evaluation) – New this year. Perhaps an opportunity for future funding through legislature. Through an evaluation, will be able to provide reportable outcomes.

Mr. Diehl motioned to approve Contracts i.-v. for CLIA services and Mr. Carlson seconded. The motion passed to approve Contracts 1.-v. for CLIA services.

- c. Action: MOU for RECA Director – Mr. Bowman noted that the Board had previously approved the REC paying a portion of the RECA Director’s salary. The RECA Director, Bonnie Lightfoot has stepped down, with the previous Director, Bobbie Gutierrez, resuming the role. Mr. Carlson motioned to approve the MOU for the RECA Director and Mr. Diehl seconded. The motion passed to approve the MOU for the RECA Director.
- d. Action: OSE Contract for Support – Mr. Bowman reported to the Board regarding the receipt of a contract from the Office of Special Education (OSE) for technical support in the area. After reaching out to OSE for clarification, it was noted that the REC1 is the only REC not contracted to provide these services. The contract involves training to help districts correct non-compliance issues and to provide data. They are asking for three-year trend data for graduation rates. Mr. Bowman noted that if the REC was to accept the contract, an additional contracted person would need to be hired for the data gathering portion. The contract would be on a reimbursable basis, as up front funding is not available. The REC has enough office space to host another contractor. An Ad-hoc meeting would need to be held in December or January to approve a service contract. The

Board members agreed that the additional funding for training purposes would be welcomed to save funds for the districts. Mr. Bowman acknowledged that the REC would assist in getting districts compliant but would not determine compliance. The other RECs have been completing this contract for a few years and the likelihood that it would continue after June 30th is likely. Mr. Carlson made a motion to approve the OSE Contract for Support and Mr. Diehl seconded. The motion passed to approve the OSE Contract for Support.

- e. Discussion: Business Plan Competition – Mr. Bowman recited information gathered from the site visits, regarding the need to support CTE. As a result, the idea of hosting a business plan competition was created. The competition would go along with districts current programs in place. The timeline would be January-May for building it piece by piece. The competition would also fit into business classes, yet be unique and neat. This would build fundamentals for students wanting to start their own business, etc. The competition would result in stipends, prizes, and the college could issue scholarships. Dr. Reyes from San Juan College indicated that they could offer support for the competition.
- f. Discussion: Professional Development Survey Results – Mr. Bowman reported on the first ChatGPT training with just over 20 participants. A survey was completed and it was very well received. A second session is planned for January. He asked the Board if anyone was willing to offer a room for the 2 ½ hour training. He also noted that AI is the way of the future.
- g. Discussion: AI Policy Development Facilitation – Mr. Summers relayed to the Board that he and Mr. Bowman had been in discussions of a possible AI policy and they felt that it was a viable idea. He relayed his thought, that like cellphones, AI is not going anywhere. Could ban the software or take a different approach, but perhaps drafting an AI policy for schools to adopt would be beneficial. Mr. Bowman told the Board that he had heard that PED was working on a policy, with the draft being available as early as the end of the week. The policy would be different for students and teachers. Mr. Summers agreed that it would be a good idea. Mr. Florez also agreed and said he liked the idea and Mr. Carlson concurred.
- h. Discussion: REC-1 as an H-1B Employer – Mr. Summers began by saying that this is actually one of his pet projects. Mr. Bowman stated that some REC's offer different things, for example REC IX hosts events, while the CREC houses ancillary employees. What if the REC1 becomes the employer for HB-1 Visa employees? Mr. Diehl stated that he was in support, but it may take some convincing for his HR director to be in support. Mr. Summers noted that this would provide a stream of candidates to keep and could be where other schools pay the REC to send a teacher. Mr. Carlson mentioned that CCSD has worked with HB-1 Visas for about 15 years. At one time the district had 28 J-1 Visa employees that had to leave so the district returned to working with the HB-1 Visa employees. They have an immigration lawyer and company that they work with, so they

don't need assistance. With the HB-1 Visa employees can work for 6 years and renew for 6 years. Mr. Bowman noted that he would continue to research the topic.

- i. Discussion: Project ECHO Project Interest – Mr. Bowman reported that the project has an excellent reputation for training, etc. The requirement is that at least one involved district participate in the literacy project, with no funding for participation. The model has been proven. Mr. Summers noted that he would need to talk to others and Mr. Carlson agreed. He acknowledges that there are gaps in ELA instruction. Mr. Bowman followed up by stating that he would send a synopsis out for details.

VII. Superintendent discussions regarding REC-specific topics – No discussion was held.

VIII. Next Board Meeting: February 12, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. to be held at the REC office.

IX. Action: Approval to Adjourn – Mr. Carlson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Diehl seconded. The motion passed to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

	Vice President	2/19/25
Board Member Signature	Title	Date Approved