



Four Corners Regional Education Cooperative #1

*Aztec Municipal Schools – Bloomfield Public Schools—Central Consolidated Schools—Farmington
Municipal Schools—Gallup-McKinley County Schools—Zuni Public Schools—San Juan College*

MEETING MINUTES

August 13, 2025

10:00 AM

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Meeting was held in-person and via Zoom and was called to order at 10:08 am.
- II. Roll Call and determination of Quorum – Quorum was determined as follows:

Present:

Cody Diehl – Farmington Municipal Schools
Mike Hyatt – Gallup McKinley County Schools
Lauren Laws – Aztec Municipal Schools
Steve Carlson – Central Consolidated School District
Lynda Spencer – Bloomfield Schools (Zoom)

Absent:

Dr. Toni Hopper Pendergrass – San Juan College
Dr. Randy Stickney – Zuni Pueblo Schools

Also in Attendance:

David Bowman – Director REC-1
Laverne Brown – Bloomfield Schools / Finance Director REC-1 (Z)

- III. Action: Approval of Meeting Agenda – The meeting agenda was presented and reviewed. Mr. Bowman noted that two items needed to be added under item VI. d.; VI.d.1 IGA Youth Homeless discussion and VI.d.2. Out of School Time Funding. Mr. Hyatt moved to approve the meeting agenda with the addition of VI.6. 1 and 2, and Mr. Diehl seconded. The motion passed to approve the meeting agenda with the addition of items VI.6. 1 and 2.
- IV. Action: Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – The previous meeting minutes were reviewed for the May 7, 2025, regular Board Meeting, the May 21, May 28, and the June 26, 2025, special Board Meetings. Mr. Diehl moved to approve the previous meeting minutes, and Mrs. Laws seconded. The motion passed to approve the previous meeting minutes.
- V. Action: Review and Approval of Quarterly Financial Budget Reports – Mrs. Brown reported on the expenditure and revenue reports. With recently taking over the financial responsibilities for the REC, still familiarizing herself with the REC funding. Access has already been granted for OBMS drawdowns for a smooth

transition. Mr. Hyatt moved to approve the quarterly financial budget, and Mrs. Laws seconded. The motion passed to approve the quarterly financial budget.

VI. Discussion, Updates, and Actions

- a. Action: Approval to Remove Staci Babcock, former Finance Director, from REC-1 Bank Accounts – Mr. Bowman noted that with Staci Babcock resigning from Bloomfield Schools, there is a need to remove her from the REC-1 bank accounts. Mr. Diehl moved to approve the removal of Staci Babcock from the REC-1 accounts, and Mr. Hyatt seconded. The motion passed to remove Staci Babcock from the REC-1 bank accounts.
- b. Action: Approval to Add Laverne Brown, interim Finance Director, to the REC-1 bank accounts – Mr. Bowman noted that Laverne Brown has been named the interim Finance Director for Bloomfield Schools, and therefore has taken on the responsibilities for the REC. Mr. Diehl moved to approve the addition of Laverne Brown to the REC-1 accounts, and Mr. Hyatt seconded. The motion passed to add Laverne Brown to the REC-1 accounts.
- c. Action: Approval of Finance Director Stipend – Mr. Bowman acknowledged that with Mrs. Brown taking on the role of Finance Director for the REC, she should be entitled to the stipend previously offered for the role. The question was asked as to the amount of the stipend, which was stated \$12,000 for the fiscal year. Mr. Hyatt moved to approve the stipend, and Mr. Diehl seconded. The motion passed to approve the stipend.
- d. Action: Approval of MOA with REC-8 for RECA Executive Director Salary – Mr. Bowman referenced the previous approval of the executive director's salary, which is split between other RECs. The amount of obligation is 10% for salary and travel expenses. Mr. Hyatt moved to approve the MOU with REC-8, and Mrs. Laws seconded. The motion passed to approve the MOU with REC-8.
 - i. Discussion: PED IGA for Homeless Population – Mr. Bowman shared the federal proposal to assist the homeless population within the region. The IGA would include a coordinator contract, conferences, stipends, and collaborative meetings. There is an option to contract instead of employing a contractor. A contract has been made in San Juan County to contract with an organization for a scope of work. The REC would profit a small amount, and there would be funds for supplies and materials for the events and stipends to the participating youth. The project period would be two years. The superintendents discussed their level of interest, with the consensus being that it needed to be more beneficial for the REC to pursue the award.

- ii. Discussion: Out-of-School Funding – Mr. Bowman reported on the funding of \$85k being awarded, although the proposal was for much more. The award will be beneficial in future awards and the ability to reapply. With his contract ending and the grant director being in limbo, the award may not be able to transfer to a new director. The conversation may lean toward Aztec taking over the grant. There may be a need for an ad hoc meeting to approve or rescind the award. PED would have to approve, and the requirements would have to be met.
- e. Discussion: Review of REC-1 Programs, Plans, Actions, and Needs – Mr. Bowman provided a full description of all ongoing projects and initiatives. This does not include the regional meeting with the Kellogg grant, which is the dual language initiative. Also not included is the EEDW annual performance report (APR). There were plans of an early childhood conference, which would incorporate SPED funding.

The CLIA program is set to end June of 2026. The waiver will need to be reapplied for with the new Director being listed as the laboratory director. It is important to not let the waiver period lapse. The program ensures that sites are functioning properly to ensure compliance. Sites have the ability to administer testing, and the REC does not track services rendered. The collaboration is minimal for the REC, with holding two conferences for school health employees, and receiving an estimated 50% profit.

OSE funding is still in negotiations. If awarded, will need to apply for a new project director. There were other staff written into the proposal, both contracted and employed. With negotiations still pending, the funding amount is not known either. If awarded, a meeting to approve/accept funding will be needed.

OSCAD – Navajo Nation collaboration for having a local hub so that participants would not have to travel to Window Rock for services. Talks have just begun, so still in the preliminary stages. There is also a request for HR Directors to begin collaborations and possibly host a meeting/conference.

There have been discussions of a summer math camp for elementary teachers. This would offer benefits and follow-up support. Currently looking for funding. The college is also looking to partner for a regional business plan competition, but will require substantial funding.

In terms of funding, Mr. Bowman noted that there would be a need for website hosting, email hosting, a domain name, and various accounts. Mr. Hyatt inquired as to why the email hosting was created off a personal account instead of creating one for the REC alone. Mr. Bowman followed up by

noting that there would be no way to set up monitoring. Mr. Hyatt also noted that the accounts associated with the REC should have been purchased on a purchasing card, and not on a personal credit card. He explained that Mr. Bowman mixed his personal property with the REC property, which should never have been done. Mr. Bowman noted that the domain is being paid by the REC, but that it is hosted under his personal account, and it would need to be transferred.

As for tracking and obligations, Mr. Bowman mentioned that some were public while others were shared. For example, the REC Executive Director's salary is 50% REC-funded and 50% grant-funded. Mr. Hyatt suggested that the REC Director be paid solely through the REC instead of being tied to a grant. Mr. Carlson noted that it would be difficult to find a director for \$50,000 a year. It was agreed upon that Farmington would post the Director position as a full-time, 249-day position at \$108,000 plus benefits. A Master's degree would be required with a level 3B Administration License. The employee would be considered a Bloomfield employee.

Mr. Bowman reported on the EIR grant, which is a little different than most federal grants. Usually there is a 90-day window to replace a grant director; however, the EIR grant cannot be without a director. With that, a temporary director can be named until a permanent one is assigned. The process is the same for both. This would require a formal letter on REC letterhead as notice of the change and the reason why. If no director is named, the funding is in jeopardy. A no-cost extension has been requested to expend the remaining funds.

VII. Next Board Meeting: November 12, 2025, at 10:00 am to be held at the REC Office.

VIII. Action: Approval to Adjourn – Mr. Diehl made a motion to adjourn the current meeting, and Mrs. Laws seconded. The motion passed to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 am.


Board Member Signature

president
Title

11/12/2025
Date Approved