

# **Southwest Colorado Education Collaborative**

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

October 25, 2022

8:00 a.m.

### **Board Members**

*Present:* Kim White, Leon Hanhardt, Karen Cheser, Troy Dyer, Jenni Trujillo (joins at 8:20am)

*Absent:* Kevin Aten, Gisele Pansze, Nick Olson, LaTitia Taylor

*Quorum present? Yes*

### **Others Present**

Jess Morrison, SW Colorado Education Collaborative

Hannah Sharfman, Empower Schools

Sara Butler, Empower Schools

Claire Albert, Empower Schools

Josh Walton, Bayfield Schools

### **Proceedings**

#### **I. Call to order**

Dr. Cheser calls the meeting to order at 8:11 AM. Quorum established at 8:22.

#### **II. Welcome, introductions, and review of agenda**

Dr. Cheser reviews the agenda for the morning and board members and guests introduce themselves.

#### **III. Discussion and possible action of August board meeting minutes**

Leon Hanhardt makes a motion to approve the August board minutes. Troy Dyer seconds. 5-0 vote and board meeting minutes are approved.

#### **IV. Presentation by Bayfield teacher Josh Walton and Curtis Gillespie**

Josh Walton presents as Bayfield teacher and discusses the Environmental pathway. SWCEC has supported his role through PD, has enjoyed the summer institutes and its work in problem solving for environmental problems. This past summer was the best ECI institute so far-the activities included taking students to Molas Pass to build an elk barrier, developing a community garden in Ignacio collection of water quality samples for e.coli. This pathway has led to an access of new equipment for students and is excited for the mobile learning lab. Plans to take AP students out to Pine River to take water quality samples this year. Students benefit from meeting students in other schools across the county. Provides an example of one of the Bayfield students who has utilized and was awarded the Boettcher scholarship this past year and attributes receiving that scholarship to his involvement in the pathway. He now attends Colorado College. Thanks for the investment in the work!

Dr. Cheser- what can we do to attract more students to the pathway?

- Moving ECI institute to earlier in the summer (right after school ends)
- The coursework that he teaches fits in very well with the current environmental pathway and is looking forward to being able to access more of the equipment.
- Jess- there is a recruitment video for the EP and there are additional marketing material being created.
- Josh did a job shadow last year with his students and they went to Acedo and did tree research (measuring height, diameter, rings of trees)

#### **V. Southwest Colorado Education Collaborative Updates by Executive Director Jessica Morrison**

Jess Morrison presents her updates including the RSIZ visit to South Texas, October 21st Pathways event, the SWCEC annual report, CO Eval and Action Lab Report, social media report, and other nonprofit updates..

Leon Harnhard gives a high level overview of the RSIZ visit and what they saw. Karen Cheser shared the benefit of getting to come together and build relationships with the other districts and leaders across the SWCEC. Thinking through the specialization across the region and elevating and growing, not necessarily replicating programs.

Jenni and Troy give a high level overview of the October 21st Pathways event. Troy shared that the collaboration with other industries was huge in understanding their needs. Jenni shared that the collective of different voices there was great and the event was very well facilitated. Industry folks shared their needs around soft skills support and it really resonated.

Discussion around collaboration with other regions with Rural Coaction grants across the state.

Comment from Leon- You should absolutely share the reports with local businesses as these are highly informative and explain the model very well!

## **VI. Discussion and possible action on SWCEC Budget**

Board approved the FY23 budget in June 2022 however there are a couple of updates for the board to review, including the RISE grant ending and Rural Coaction contracts are being finalized. Also there was a shift in the staffing allocation. Even with the reworkings there is still a net of \$48k.

No action required-no vote taken.

## **VII. Discussion and possible action on the Q1 Financials**

Now operating solely with Rural Coaction 1 and 2 awards as the RISE grant has ended. Conversation around staff capacity and frontloading the team now for systems to be built out during this grant period. Additional discussion around future contributions and in-kind donations.

Board would like to have additional updates on PCC contributions and support.

No action required-no vote taken.

## **VIII. Discussion and possible action on updating the SWCEC Bylaws**

Jess provides updates on the proposed changes to the bylaws including board representation and expansion of seats as well as adjustments to the language for board functioning and effectiveness.

Comment from Dr. Cheser: consideration of the population of Western districts vs. Eastern districts with representation. Would it be possible to keep 2022 numbers with 3 supts from Eastern and 1 from Western?

**Comment from Leon-** Concern around turnover of the superintendents with that number of seats on the board.

Comment from Dr. Chester-Since the Western districts are not paying in yet how to equitably have their representation. Proposal: Community rep brought down to 1 (general community rep), industry reps stay at 3, up to 5 superintendents, 2 IHE reps.

Motion to update the bylaws as discussed during the board meeting included updated representation, residency requirements, board functioning and effectiveness, and two year term limits for all (renewable). Troy Dyer makes a motion. seconds. Vote is 5-0.

## **IX. Discussion and possible action on the formation of SWCEC subcommittees**

Formation of the SWCEC subcommittees will be as presented. Jess will reach back out to those subcommittees on next steps.

**X. Discussion and possible action on next SWCEC board meeting**

Empower Schools will follow up on January virtual meetings and set a standing time for future meetings.

**XI. Meeting adjournment**

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Leon Hanhardt . Seconded by Jenni Trujillo. Meeting adjourned at 10:22am.

Next steps:

Ignite Institute in Kentucky

Arizona C-TECH

Nov 11 Pathway session-send invite to board members

30 sec video on why educators chose that pathway