

## SOUTHWEST COLORADO EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

Monday, April 4, 2022 at 7:30am through Zoom

### Board Members

*Present:* Gisele Pansze, Tom Stritikus, Laura Mijares, Karen Cheser, Nick Olson, LaTitia Taylor

*Absent:* Kim White, Sam Dosumu, Troy Dyer

*Quorum present? Yes*

### Others Present

Jess Morrison, SW Colorado Education Collaborative

Hannah Sharfman, Empower Schools

Sara Butler, Empower Schools

### Proceedings

- I. Call to order
  - Meeting is called to order at 7:33am
  
- II. Welcome, introductions, and review of agenda, discussion and possible action of February 7, 2021 meeting minutes
  - Interim Board Chair, Tom Stritikus requests for motion to approve February 7th meeting minutes. Gisele Pansze motions to approve minutes. Nick Olson seconds
  - Unanimous 5-0 vote approve minutes
  - Introduction of new board members Dr. Karen Cheser and Laura Mijares
  - Dr. Karen Cheser introduces herself and shares a little about her background
  - Laura Mijares introduces herself and share a little about her background
  
- III. Discussion and possible action on SWCEC Officer positions
  - Interim Board Chair, Tom Stritikus, gives background on Officer positions
  - Dr. Karen Cheser puts herself forward as Board Chair. Nick Olson nominates Karen Cheser as Board Chair. LaTitia Taylor approves. Unanimous 6-0 approval
  - Executive Director, Jess Morrison, puts forth Kim White for Treasurer. LaTitia Taylor puts forth a nomination for Kim White. Nick Olson seconds. Unanimous 6-0 approval.
  - Executive Director, Jess Morrison, puts forth Gisele Pansze, for Secretary. LaTitia Taylor puts forth a nomination for Gisele Pansze. Nick Olson seconds. Unanimous 6-0 approval.
  
- IV. Southwest Colorado Education Collaborative Updates by Executive Director Jessica Morrison
  - The Chair moves to create a consent agenda with the updated SWCEC fiscal policies and the SWCEC audit.
  - The Interim Board Chair asks if there are any questions.
  - Dr. Karen Cheser moves to approve. LaTitia Taylor seconds. Unanimous 6-0 approval of audit and fiscal policy changes as indicated in pre-read packet.

- Executive Director, Jess Morrison, gives updates on current pathways Building Trades and Environmental, as well as new pathways Education and Health Sciences.
    - Laura Mijares asked if there is a participant list of employers for the Career Symposium and whether Pagosa Springs is planning to bring students.
  - ED, Jess Morrison, gives updates on Community Engagement including presentations to Build Pagosa and the Bayfield Rotary Club as well as partnerships with TRiO Talent Search and Upward Bound
  - ED, Jess Morrison, gives updates on funding including three grants (DEAN, Rural CoAction, Counselor Corps) and next steps for district financial contributions
  - ED, Jess Morrison, gives updates on the SWCEC nonprofit regarding new presence on social media through hiring a women-owned and led social media consultant company, a podcast invitation, and a hiring update of the new Pathways Manager (Dave Dillman, starting June 1)
  - Interim Board Chair, Tom Stritikus, shares that a grant manager at Fort Lewis College is leaving his role
- V. Discussion and possible action on updating SWCEC fiscal policies (Consent agenda)
- See IV
- VI. Discussion and possible action on the SWCEC audit timeline and committee
- See IV for audit timeline approval (Consent agenda)
  - ED, Jess Morrison, requests for interested Board members to be on the audit committee.
  - Laura Mijares volunteers
- VII. Discussion and possible action on SWCEC financials, RISE Grant
- ED, Jess Morrison, shares that SWCEC financials are all on track. Supplies are over budget due to building the foundation of office supplies for the organization. There has been no response yet on the RISE grant extension. Fort Lewis College is providing an in-kind donation through office space and utilities.
  - LaTitia Taylor expresses gratitude for ED for a good job on hiring and the social media company.
- VIII. Discussion and possible action on board governance
- Interim Board Chair, Tom Stritikus, gives the background on how SWCEC started by following Colorado Open Meeting Law. Nothing legally requires SWCEC to follow those Open Meeting Laws but it is written into the by laws
  - Dr. Karen Cheser shares that she's fine changing it so the Board can be more nimble and responsive to need
  - Laura Mijares expresses concern about the use federal funds and risking eligibility of federal funding
  - Interim Chair recommends that we go back and visit the original statute and the Executive Director will outline pluses and minuses in a brief as a next step, including the financial implications.

- IX. Discussion and possible action of scheduling future SWCEC board meetings
  - ED shares that a special session will be needed in either May or June for a Year 2 budget approval and Executive Director evaluation. Poll will come to Board members to get Member availability.
  
- X. Executive session
  - A. Personnel matters
  
- XI. Meeting adjournment
  - Meeting is adjourned at 8:21am