

**San Luis Valley Board of Cooperative Educational Services
Board of Director's Meeting – November 18, 2020 Minutes
(Due to COVID-19 Restrictions the Meeting was Held via Zoom)**

1. Call to Order

Ms. Tina Freel called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

***Please note that the recording secretary, Staci Turner, was having connection issues with the internet, so missed the first four minutes of the board meeting. During this time there was a brief discussion that Adeline Duarte-Lee will be taking over as the recording secretary beginning in January. Also, connection issues continued to occur for Staci throughout the board meeting.**

2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken & the following members were present:

Ms. Katrina Brown, Alamosa
Mr. Lucas Casias, Centennial
Ms. Jennifer Harbert, Creede
Ms. Tina Freel, Moffat
Mr. David Smalley, Mountain Valley
Mr. Austin Miller, Sanford
Ms. Gina Mitchell, Sargent
Ms. Theresa Sisneros, South Conejos

The following members were not present:

Ms. Misty Palacios, Center
Mr. Kurt Holland, Monte Vista
Mr. Brandon Thomas, North Conejos
Ms. Keeli Larsen, Sangre de Cristo
Mr. Walter Roybal, Sierra Grande
Mr. Cory Off, Upper Rio Grande

SLV BOCES Staff & Guests:

Ms. Tina Goar, SLV BOCES Executive Director
Mr. Travis Garoutte, SAC Chair
Ms. Stacey Holland, SLV BOCES SPED Director
Ms. Staci Turner, Recording Secretary
Ms. Adeline Duarte-Lee, SLV BOCES Medicaid Coordinator/Admin Assistant
Mr. Harvey Rude, Director Colorado Center for Rural Education
Ms. Valerie Sherman, Project Coordinator Colorado Center for Rural Education

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve an amended agenda (addition of approving the RISE proposal to the action items) was made by Mr. David Smalley, seconded by Ms. Teresa Sisneros, and the votes were cast by roll call as follows:

*Ms. Katrina Brown, Alamosa – Aye
Mr. Lucas Casias, Centennial - Aye*

*Mr. David Smalley, Mountain Valley - Aye
Mr. Brandon Thomas, North Conejos - Absent*

Ms. Misty Palacios, Center – Absent
Ms. Jennifer Harbert, Creede – Aye
Ms. Tina Freel, Moffat – Aye
Mr. Kurt Holland, Monte Vista – Absent
Ms. Theresa Sisneros, South Conejos – Aye

Mr. Austin Miller, Sanford - Aye
Ms. Keeli Larsen, Sangre De Cristo - Absent
Ms. Gina Mitchell, Sargent- Aye
Mr. Walter Roybal, Sierra Grande - Absent
Mr. Cory Off, UR Grande – Absent

The amended agenda was approved as presented.

4. Consent Agenda (BEDB – Agenda) (BBA – Agency Board Powers & Responsibilities)

Minutes (September 16, 2020) - Financial Reports - Personnel Reports

A motion to approve the consent agenda (BEDB – Agenda) (BBA – Agency Board Powers & Responsibilities) was made by Ms. Gina Mitchell, seconded by Mr. David Smalley, and the votes were cast by roll call vote as follows:

Ms. Katrina Brown, Alamosa – Aye
Mr. Lucas Casias, Centennial - Aye
Ms. Misty Palacios, Center – Absent
Ms. Jennifer Harbert, Creede – Aye
Ms. Tina Freel, Moffat – Aye
Mr. Kurt Holland, Monte Vista – Absent
Ms. Theresa Sisneros, South Conejos – Aye

Mr. David Smalley, Mountain Valley - Aye
Mr. Brandon Thomas, North Conejos - Absent
Mr. Austin Miller, Sanford - Aye
Ms. Keeli Larsen, Sangre De Cristo - Absent
Ms. Gina Mitchell, Sargent- Aye
Mr. Walter Roybal, Sierra Grande - Absent
Mr. Cory Off, UR Grande – Absent

The Consent Agenda (BEDB – Agenda) (BBA – Agency Board Powers & Responsibilities) was approved as presented.

5. Audience Comments & Questions (BEDH – Board Members)

There were no audience comments.

6. Reports from Administration & Committees (BDA – Board Organizational Meeting)

a. Finance Presentation – Ms. Staci Turner

The slides were based on the revenue & expenditure reports that were included in the finance portion of the board packet. There was a comparison of revenues and expenditures based on the current board packet reports, and reports for the same time period during the previous year's meeting.

The slides were focused on the first quarter of 20/21. Gary Waller, with Dixon, Waller, & CO, Inc. was on site the week of September 21st conducting the 19/20 audit. The audit is in its final phase of completion. December finance has been started and is also in its final phases of completion, the assurances for financial accreditation is part of December Finance and will be voted on later on. Excited to announce that will be receiving \$43,402 in ESSER funding and working on the application that is due by December 31. Starting to work on final 20/21 budget numbers that will be presented to the board for approval in January per cde requirements.

Continue to receive monthly request for funds from various grants, as well as 20/21 allocations. In September received the 20/21 allocations for SPED (\$1,323,195), Gifted and Talented (\$138,851), GERC (\$51,321), EARSS Year 1 of 4 (\$372,121), Universal Screening \$17,270), as well as some payments for Alternative Licensure \$3,800). In October received another set of payments for Alternative Licensure (\$3,800), Induction (\$1,050) and E-Rate (\$7,701).

Had normal expenditures each month in the way of salaries, benefits, out of district, utilities, mileage, contracting for OT & PT services, contracting with Netelligence for tech, supplies, etc. A few of the bigger expenses for September included retaining teacher DU support (\$10,000), printers for all of the teachers (\$3,200), and retaining teacher GSN support (\$30,000). In October larger expenditures included laptops & docking stations for the records department, the business manager, and the HR/payroll specialist in order to work remotely in the amount of \$4,600, as well as the first payment for the audit in the amount of \$9,525.

c. Superintendent's Advisory Council – Mr. Travis Garoutte

Mr. Travis Garoutte from Mountain Valley is the SAC chair for 20/21 and began the SAC reported that most everyone is dealing with COVID fatigue. Lots of discussion at the last SLV superintendent weekly meeting about if schools are going to be face to face or go remote between Thanksgiving and Christmas, believe that need to keep kids in school as much as possible. The Governor's proposed budget recommends fully restoring the budget stabilization factor to pre-COVID levels; prop EE passed and looks good for rural schools in the way of funding. The READ act training deadline could possibly be extended. Title IX regulations may be changing due to new administration at the federal level. CARES Act safe schools re-opening grant was just announced with a deadline on November 30. COVID dial capacity restriction meter has been released with the addition of purple.

d. Executive Director/Director Exceptional Student Services - Ms. Tina Goar

Ms. Tina Goar highlighted some items from her report that was included in the board packet. To begin with, working with a good group of leaders within SAC. The phone/text message system is in place and a great way to keep staff updated. Staff is currently on a staggered schedule of working two days in the building and two days remotely unless they are assigned to a school. The building is 50 years old and starting to take a lot of money to make repairs, so brainstorming some options such as selling the building and leasing somewhere else. Supporting the collaboration of districts and cde in offering a literacy instruction course that will take place on seven Fridays from January to April, and is geared towards K-3 teachers.

e. Director Exceptional Student Services – Ms. Stacey Holland

Ms. Stacey Holland included a report in the board packet but wanted to let the board members know that the BOCES has a very vigilant staff. IXL is in place for remote learning but some issues with parent engagement. Unfortunately had ES teacher assigned Monte Vista middle school resign due to moving, but already working on a plan to replace her.

7. Board Member Reports & Requests

Ms. Katrina Brown, Alamosa, currently 283 students and 35 staff members are quarantined, currently adopting a hybrid schedule due to Alamosa public health orders but Governor says to keep kids in school, will continue with hybrid schedule after Thanksgiving break, have a severe sub shortage, have received some new grants but making big budget cuts, re-working the superintendent evaluation and thankful to board members that responded/collaborated, interim superintendent is doing a phenomenal job.

Mr. Lucas Casias, Centennial, Centennial is in same boat as everyone else, hybrid schedule with kids in school only one day per week, seeing lots of struggles with students staying engaged and active on the Zoom calls, received the RISE grant.

Ms. Misty Palacios, Center, not present.

Ms. Jennifer Harbert, Creede, a big change took place in that Creede is going remote due to a positive COVID case of a student, as well as students with parents who have tested positive this was very disappointing for all involved, excited that have a new aviation program, CRT is working with students on their plays and will be presented remotely, seem to be doing pretty well.

Ms. Tina Freel, Moffat, currently in person, but have had to quarantine, it's been an interesting year, thankful for all of the collaboration & being able to bounce ideas off each other, best thing is to keep working together and to keep kids' education level as well as participation as high as possible.

Mr. Kurt Holland, Monte Vista, not present.

Mr. David Smalley, Mountain Valley, face to face learning and plan to remain that way, teachers seem happy with face to face learning, the new track and football field don't have lights, so volunteer fire department bring their trucks, etc. and light up field until 6 for practices, etc.

Mr. Brandon Thomas, North Conejos, not present.

Mr. Austin Miller, Sanford, same situation as everyone else, different groups have gone back and forth between remote and face to face due to quarantining, plan to remain in school between the Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks, football season is going well, proud of how the teachers are staying dedicated, persistent and diligent.

Ms. Keeli Larsen, Sangre de Cristo, not present.

Ms. Gina Mitchel, Sargent, doing pretty well at Sargent, have had some quarantine time with a couple of classes, doing well with staying in school/healthy/safe, parents are working on a remote learning plan, went ahead with participation in football but had several injuries, wanted to move forward with working on community relationships but can't due to COVID, currently a new/different way to educate students, have a new aviation program that is being taught through STEM.

Mr. Walter Roybal, Sierra Grande, not present.

Ms. Theresa Sisneros, South Conejos, stated that she had nothing to report at this time.

Mr. Cory Off, Upper Rio Grande, not present.

Misc. Topics of Discussion during Board Member Reports, CHSAA regulations concerning girls participating in wrestling, and how to keep participation up while participating in Zoom.

8. Correspondence

a. Letter from Dixon, Waller, & Co., Inc

A standard post-audit letter from Dixon, Waller, & Co., Inc was included in the board packet. Mr. Gary Waller will attend either the March or May board meeting to discuss the audit more in depth.

9. Executive Session – CRS 24-6-402 (4) (h)

There was no need for an executive session.

10. Discussion Items (BDA – Board Organizational Meeting)

a. Executive Director, Tina Goar, December 2020 PERA Retirement Month

Ms. Tina Goar reminded the board that when she was hired it was agreed that she could take the month of December off as her retirement month for PERA purposes. So, she will be off the clock from December 1 – 31 as she does not want to jeopardize her retirement with PERA. During this time, Stacey Holland the SPED Director will also be acting Executive Director.

b. RISE Grant Proposal

Mr. Harvey Rude, Director of the Colorado Center for Rural Education and Valerie Sherman, Project Coordinator of the Colorado Center for Rural Education introduced themselves to the board as they approached the BOCES about partnering on a Response, Innovation, and Student Equity (RISE) Education funding proposal. The RISE program came about due to the enormous impact that COVID-19 is having on the operation, education and economy on rural schools and communities throughout Colorado.

Ms. Tina Goar followed up to their introduction by letting the board know that a two-page document was included in the board packet with information concerning the RISE funding proposal. The scope of activities with RISE include recruitment, preparation & retention, statewide online PLC's, and engagement in order to recruit and retain educators and service providers in the rural school districts of the San Luis Valley.

Centennial schools have received their own RISE grant as reported by Mr. Lucas Casias in his report, and ASU is applying for the RISE grant as well. However, there will be no conflict of interest with these entities also having or applying for the grant. There are several partners that are listed in the two-page document. In conclusion, Mr. Travis Garoutte, let the board know that the SAC is in full support of the RISE funding proposal.

11. Action Items (BBA – Agency Board Powers & Responsibilities)

a. Assurances for Financial Accreditation

A motion to approve the Assurances for Financial Accreditation was made by Ms. Theresa Sisneros, seconded by Ms. Katrina Brown & the votes were cast by roll call vote as follows:

Ms. Katrina Brown, Alamosa – Aye
Mr. Lucas Casias, Centennial - Aye
Ms. Misty Palacios, Center – Absent
Ms. Jennifer Harbert, Creede – Aye
Ms. Tina Freel, Moffat – Aye
Mr. Kurt Holland, Monte Vista – Absent
Ms. Theresa Sisneros, South Conejos – Aye

Mr. David Smalley, Mountain Valley - Aye
Mr. Brandon Thomas, North Conejos - Absent
Mr. Austin Miller, Sanford - Aye
Ms. Keeli Larsen, Sangre De Cristo - Absent
Ms. Gina Mitchell, Sargent- Aye
Mr. Walter Roybal, Sierra Grande - Absent
Mr. Cory Off, UR Grande – Absent

The Assurances for Financial Accreditation was approved as presented.

b. ESSER Approval & Transmittal Form FY 2020 - 2021

A motion to approve the ESSER Approval & Transmittal Form for FY 2020 – 2021 was made by Ms. Jennifer Harbert, seconded by Mr. David Smalley & the votes were cast by roll call vote as follows:

<i>Ms. Katrina Brown, Alamosa – Aye</i>	<i>Mr. David Smalley, Mountain Valley - Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Lucas Casias, Centennial - Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Brandon Thomas, North Conejos - Absent</i>
<i>Ms. Misty Palacios, Center – Absent</i>	<i>Mr. Austin Miller, Sanford - Aye</i>
<i>Ms. Jennifer Harbert, Creede – Aye</i>	<i>Ms. Keeli Larsen, Sangre De Cristo - Absent</i>
<i>Ms. Tina Freel, Moffat – Aye</i>	<i>Ms. Gina Mitchell, Sargent- Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Kurt Holland, Monte Vista – Absent</i>	<i>Mr. Walter Roybal, Sierra Grande - Absent</i>
<i>Ms. Theresa Sisneros, South Conejos – Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Cory Off, UR Grande – Absent</i>

The ESSER Approval and Transmittal Form for FY 2020 - 2021 was approved as presented.

c. Approval of Stacey Holland as Acting Director, December 1 – 31, 2020

A motion to approve Stacey Holland as Acting Director, December 1 – 31, 2020 was made by Ms. Katrina Brown, seconded by Ms. Gina Mitchell & the votes were cast by roll call vote as follows:

<i>Ms. Katrina Brown, Alamosa – Aye</i>	<i>Mr. David Smalley, Mountain Valley - Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Lucas Casias, Centennial - Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Brandon Thomas, North Conejos - Absent</i>
<i>Ms. Misty Palacios, Center – Absent</i>	<i>Mr. Austin Miller, Sanford - Aye</i>
<i>Ms. Jennifer Harbert, Creede – Aye</i>	<i>Ms. Keeli Larsen, Sangre De Cristo - Absent</i>
<i>Ms. Tina Freel, Moffat – Aye</i>	<i>Ms. Gina Mitchell, Sargent- Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Kurt Holland, Monte Vista – Absent</i>	<i>Mr. Walter Roybal, Sierra Grande - Absent</i>
<i>Ms. Theresa Sisneros, South Conejos – Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Cory Off, UR Grande – Absent</i>

Stacey Holland as Acting Director, December 1 – 31, 2021 was approved as presented.

d. Approval of RISE Proposal

A motion to approve the RISE Proposal was made by Ms. Jennifer Harbert, seconded by Mr. Lucas Casias & the votes were cast by roll call vote as follows:

<i>Ms. Katrina Brown, Alamosa – Aye</i>	<i>Mr. David Smalley, Mountain Valley - Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Lucas Casias, Centennial - Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Brandon Thomas, North Conejos - Absent</i>
<i>Ms. Misty Palacios, Center – Absent</i>	<i>Mr. Austin Miller, Sanford - Aye</i>
<i>Ms. Jennifer Harbert, Creede – Aye</i>	<i>Ms. Keeli Larsen, Sangre De Cristo - Absent</i>
<i>Ms. Tina Freel, Moffat – Aye</i>	<i>Ms. Gina Mitchell, Sargent- Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Kurt Holland, Monte Vista – Absent</i>	<i>Mr. Walter Roybal, Sierra Grande - Absent</i>
<i>Ms. Theresa Sisneros, South Conejos – Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Cory Off, UR Grande – Absent</i>

The RISE Proposal was approved as presented.

12. Legislative Report

Tina Freel reported that Travis Garoutte covered most of this in his SAC report. To reiterate, Gallagher has been repealed and waiting to see what will be put in place of it. There looks to be some promising items due to the election, looking at future budgets, and hearing rumors that TABOR will be repealed.

13. Next Regular Board Meeting January 20, 2021

14. Adjournment

Ms. Tina Freel adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Staci Turner, Recording Secretary

Date

Tina Freel, President

Date

Katrina Brown, Secretary

Date