

**San Luis Valley Board of Cooperative Educational Services  
Board of Director's Meeting – September 16, 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.

**2. Roll Call**

*Roll call was taken & the following members were present:*

Ms. Katrina Brown, Alamosa  
Mr. Lucas Casias, Centennial  
Ms. Misty Palacios, Center  
Ms. Jennifer Harbert, Creede  
Ms. Tina Freel, Moffat  
Mr. Kurt Holland, Monte Vista  
Mr. David Smalley, Mountain Valley  
Mr. Joseph Baroz, North Conejos (Arrived After Roll Call)  
Mr. Austin Miller, Sanford  
Ms. Gina Mitchell, Sargent  
Ms. Keeli Larsen, Sangre de Cristo  
Mr. Walter Roybal, Sierra Grande  
Ms. Theresa Sisneros, South Conejos  
Mr. Cory Off, Upper Rio Grande

*SLV BOCES Staff & Guests:*

Ms. Tina Goar, Executive Director	Mr. Travis Garoutte, SAC Chair
Ms. Stacey Holland, SPED Director	Ms. Staci Turner, Recording Secretary

**3. Approval of Agenda**

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. David Smalley, seconded by Mr. Kurt Holland, and the votes were cast by roll call 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. Joseph Baroz, North Conejos - Absent</i>
<i>Ms. Misty Palacios, Center – Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Austin Miller, Sanford - Aye</i>
<i>Ms. Jennifer Harbert, Creede – Aye</i>	<i>Ms. Keeli Larsen, Sangre De Cristo - Aye</i>
<i>Ms. Tina Freel, Moffat – Aye</i>	<i>Ms. Gina Mitchell, Sargent- Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Kurt Holland, Monte Vista – Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Walter Roybal, Sierra Grande - Aye</i>
<i>Ms. Theresa Sisneros, South Conejos – Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Cory Off, UR Grande – Aye</i>

The agenda was approved as presented.

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

Minutes (August 19, 2020) - Financial Reports - Personnel Reports

A motion to approve the consent agenda (BEDB – Agenda) (BBA – Agency Board Powers & Responsibilities) was made by Mr. Cory Off, seconded by Mr. Walter Roybal, 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 – Aye*  
*Ms. Jennifer Harbert, Creede – Aye*  
*Ms. Tina Freel, Moffat – Aye*  
*Mr. Kurt Holland, Monte Vista – Aye*  
*Ms. Theresa Sisneros, South Conejos – Aye*

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

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 two months of the new funding year. The audit has been moved from the week of October 19 to the week of September 21. Only had a two week notice for this change, so a lot of the focus has been around the audit. Staci has completed the EOY (end of year) finance reports for GT, Universal Screening, EARSS, Retaining Teacher, Federal grants, and McKinney-Vento.

Since it's still so early in the year there are not a lot of comparisons as not much has happened yet. Slowly receiving monthly request for funds from various grants, as well as 20/21 allocations. Have received 20/21 allocations for the BOCES (HB1345) grant in the amount of \$190,642 and the Education Stability grant in the amount of \$144,776. In addition, preliminary carryovers or no cost extensions have been processed and total approximately \$526,000.

A majority of the salaries and benefits for July and August were accrued, and the accounting software automatically placed them in the 19/20 year. So, they are not part of the finance reports or PowerPoint. Again, with it being so early in the year, the expenditures are still fairly low. New laptops were bought for the Early Child Special Education Teachers, Tina Goar, Stacey Holland, and the new Medicaid Coordinator. The purchasing of equipment for employees is done on a rotational basis. Other bigger expenses for July and August included the CSDSIP annual renewal in the amount of \$25,010; annual renewal of the accounting software in the amount of \$8,800; and LindaMood Bell annual services at \$26,880. There will be two bigger expenses throughout the year...the increase of PERA contributions, as well as health insurance.

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 report with a hot topic that everyone know about which is the football season. As of board time, it looked like football may be played in the fall with the practice possibly starting in late September and games in October. Schools can pick if they want to participate in fall or spring football. Other sports that may get the go ahead for fall are field hockey and cheer. There was a lot of discussion around Title IX and not having fall volleyball.

Other items of concern that are coming up at the weekly SAC meetings are educational inequities in rural schools, technology, shortage of bus drivers, great as well as non-great family support, and shortage of food for the students due to remote living. Also, assessment based learning gaps are a concern with kids trying to get caught up. Also, a lot of great discussions around sports, conferences, school closures as some schools are looking at going to solely remote learning from Thanksgiving break until after Christmas break, and what re-opening plans are and aren't working. Tina has also offered to look and possibly conducting a READ Act training.

Marsha Cody, interim Superintendent at Alamosa wrote a really great article that was published in the Colorado Sun about issues that rural schools are facing. The article had specifics about Alamosa, but pertains to all valley and rural schools.

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

Ms. Tina Goar began with welcoming Jennifer Harbert the new board member from Creede. Tina has offered to Jennifer, as well as the new Creede Superintendent a BOCES orientation. The orientation is open to all members, as well as Superintendents. Tina did include an Executive Director report in the board packet with important dates and information. She is also really enjoying being in this new position and getting to know everyone. The new structure of having an Executive Director, a SPED director and assistant SPED director seems to be going well. Alternative licensure is off to a great start with a very enjoyable and great group of young people. Induction has also kicked off and busy helping get teachers and districts what they need. Looking into an automated phone system in order to be able to contact staff about things such as snow days, crisis, etc. It will be similar to a robocall. Also, willing to look at some READ act training for the school districts.

e. Director Exceptional Student Services – Ms. Stacey Holland

Ms. Stacey Holland let the board members know she is proud of the BOCES staff and how great all of the service providers are doing with getting services to the kids. Working with IXL, and getting instruction to kids either remotely or in the classroom setting. Things are definitely more challenging, but everyone is really stepping up. Completed the first CPI training on September 11. The October CPI training has been postponed until November, because will be offering a training by Caplan & Earnest instead with information being emailed out at a later date. Have filled the EARSS Behavior Interventionist position.

**7. Board Member Reports & Requests**

*Ms. Katrina Brown, Alamosa, Marsha Cody has been appointed the interim Superintendent through June, will start a Superintendent search beginning in December, struggling with having 600- 700 students signed up for on-line, having to move teachers around and curriculums server cannot handle the number of online students, hoping for a fall football season, had one positive*

COVID case at high school, have four board members but need seven, had great applications submitted and held interviews for the two of the positions, after the census will look at changing district lines as this has not been done in over 40 years, looking at budget issues due to anticipation of 100ish less students on October count day, short five bus drivers, not running rural bus routes and dealing with traffic issues.

*Mr. Lucas Casias, Centennial*, very similar to Katrina's report! Having numerous work sessions/board meetings about in person versus on-line learning, currently 100% remote learning, have a parent/student survey in the community about returning to in-person learning on October 8 (end of first quarter), issues with connectivity like most rural schools/areas, sports is a concern.

*Ms. Misty Palacios, Center*, finishing the final week of cohort hybrid learning, two cohorts (a & b), each were in person two days and online two days, seems to be running smoothly for the most part, are facing the same problems as everyone else such as access to technology/internet, hoping for a fall football season, will have a track meet on Friday (September 18).

*Ms. Jennifer Harbert, Creede*, not prepared to report as this is her first meeting, are doing in school learning with seven students choosing on-line, going very well, kids are troopers and teachers are great.

*Ms. Tina Freel, Moffat*, going pretty good, three board members, announced vacancies and no interest, janitors are doing a great job, drop off of students seems to be working pretty well, used COVID money to buy parents gas gift cards to lessen bussing of students, no real issues just the normal back to school bugs, will begin with in-person board meetings on Monday (09/21) at a local restaurant so as not to bring any sicknesses into the schools or create more work for school staff.

*Mr. Kurt Holland, Monte Vista*, going good in Monte Vista, everything is going real smooth, would like to congratulate the great food service department as well as administration and staff, pushing for fall sports.

*Mr. David Smalley, Mountain Valley*, bad news for staff...no snow day last week because remote learning for all students except pre-k, will begin on following Monday (September 21) with cohorts a (mountain) and b (valley) in school with health checks, will do this through remainder of first quarter then re-address.

*Mr. Joseph Baroz, North Conejos*, board meeting the previous night with positive principal reports being presented, Plexiglas has been installed, new water dispenser for the students, student count is down due to homeschooling large families moving, struggling with 1:1 technology due to nationwide shortage of chrome books, anxious about breaking ground on the eh new school, new bus arrived.

*Mr. Austin Miller, Sanford*, overall smooth start to the year, very different but everyone is adapting well, masks are harder for the younger students, mostly in person learning, and conducting health checks with temperatures, minimal online enrollment.

*Ms. Keeli Larsen, Sangre de Cristo*, started with in-person learning about a month ago, seems to be going well, students are doing a great job of adjusting to the differences, testing has been completed, hoping for fall sports.

*Ms. Gina Mitchel, Sargent*, face-to-face learning for about a month, some sickness has moved through the schools but thankfully no COVID, large group of on-line students (more than expected), have a teacher battling cancer so conducting some fundraisers, hoping for fall sports.

*Mr. Walter Roybal, Sierra Grande*, 100% remote learning except for preschool and kindergarten, will go to in-person learning on September 28 for those that want to, working with staff to get cameras installed in each classroom for those students who will do on-line teaching as well as tracking any possible COVID cases, cross-country team did great at their first meet.

*Ms. Theresa Sisneros, South Conejos*, doing well, small increase in enrollment, 20 students participating in on-line learning, conferences started that day, technology issues with parents of younger students, hosting first ever cross-country meet on Saturday (September 19), have two bus routes instead of three.

*Mr. Cory Off, Upper Rio Grande*, first two weeks of school were remote learning online, last week the school started in person, masks are required for all staff/students except with medical issues, estimated that 25 to 30 percent of students are online instead of in person, have installed a dry hydrogen peroxide in ventilation system that has been shown to drastically reduce microbial and reduces common coronavirus.

*Misc. Topics of Discussion during Board Member Reports*, Title IX and fall sports, how Sargent is offering home school curriculums, etc. in order to count homeschool kids on October 1.

## **8. Correspondence**

There were no correspondence.

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

There were no need for an executive session.

## **10. Discussion Items (BDA – Board Organizational Meeting)**

There were no discussion items.

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

a. Second Reading & Final Approval - Policies AC; AC-E-1; AC-E-2; AC-R-1; AC-R-2; EBBA-R; EBBA; GBAB; GBGA; JBB; JII; JLCC; KI

A motion to approve the First Reading of Policies AC; AC-E-1; AC-E-2; AC-R-1; AC-R-2; EBBA-R; EBBA; GBAB; GBGA; JBB; JII; JLCC; KI was made by Mr. Kurt Holland, seconded by Mr. Cory Off & the votes were cast by roll call vote as follows:

*Ms. Katrina Brown, Alamosa – Aye*  
*Mr. Lucas Casias, Centennial - Aye*  
*Ms. Misty Palacios, Center – Aye*  
*Ms. Jennifer Harbert, Creede – Aye*

*Mr. David Smalley, Mountain Valley - Aye*  
*Mr. Joseph Baroz, North Conejos - Aye*  
*Mr. Austin Miller, Sanford - Aye*  
*Ms. Keeli Larsen, Sangre De Cristo - Aye*

