

**HIGH PLAINS REGIONAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
BOARD MEETING
April 19, 2022**

ATTENDING: Ms. Kodi Sumpter, Des Moines Municipal Schools
Ms. Amy Roble, Maxwell Municipal Schools
Ms. Johnna Bruhn, Mosquero Municipal Schools
Ms. Kristie Medina, Raton Public Schools
Mr. Kamau Turner, Roy Municipal Schools
Ms. Julie Crum, Springer Municipal Schools
Mr. R.Stephen Aguirre, HPREC Executive Director
Ms. Mary Lisa Gonzales, HPREC Business Manager

ABSENT: Mr. Adan Estrada, Cimarron Municipal Schools
Mr. Ray Maestas, Clayton Municipal Schools

SPECIAL GUESTS: Mr. Anthony Burns, NMPED Instructional Materials
Dr. Joseph Goins, NS4Ed
Ms. Kristen Forrester – Perkins Grant/NextGen
Mr. Shafiq Chaudhary, NMPED Math & Science

ACTION:

I. Call to Order

The HPREC #3 Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

II. Roll Call

III. *Approval of Agenda

Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that the agenda has been revised, in an effort to move all the action items to the beginning of the meeting, due to other obligations by participating Superintendents. Mr. Aguirre requested that the revised agenda be approved as presented. Mr. Kamau Turner made the motion to approve the agenda, as revised. Ms. Julie Crum seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

IV. *Approval and Signature of Minutes

Mr. Aguirre requested that the minutes from the January 18, 2022 Board Council meeting be approved and signed, as presented. Mr. Kamau Turner made the motion to approve the minutes, as presented. Ms. Amy Roble seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

V. Executive Director's Report

1. *HPREC Proposed Salary Increase for FY 2022-2023

Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that HPREC, like all other RECs in the state, intend to meet the legislative requirement of the 7% salary increase, after July 1st. He provided the Board with a copy of the proposed salary schedules for FY23. Mr. Aguirre requested that the Board approve

the HPREC Salary Schedules, with a 7% increase, for FY23, as presented. Ms. Kristie Medina made the motion to approve the HPREC Salary Schedules, with a 7% increase, as presented. Ms. Julie Crum seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

2. *Executive Director Contract & Salary

Ms. Kodi Sumpter reminded the Board about their decision during the last meeting, during Executive Session, to increase Mr. Aguirre's contract by 2-years, making it a 3-year contract. The Board decided, at that time, to make a motion regarding the contract, and proposed salary increase, if approved, during this meeting. She asked the Board if they would like to discuss, or if someone would like to make a motion to move forward. Mr. Aguirre suggested that in order to stay within the legislative requirement, the salary be increased by 7%. Ms. Kristie Medina made the motion that as of July 1, 2022, Mr. Aguirre's contract would be rescinded and a new three (3) year contract would be issued with a salary increase of 7%, as suggested. Ms. Amy Roble seconded the motion, and the Board was polled: Ms. Kodi Sumpter-yes; Ms. Amy Roble-yes; Ms. Kristie Medina-yes; Mr. Kamau Turner-yes; and Ms. Julie Crum-yes. The motion was carried unanimously. Mr. Aguirre thanked the Board for their continued support of his efforts with HPREC. Ms. Kodi Sumpter and the Board thanked Mr. Aguirre for his dedication and commitment to the group.

3. *Expenditures

Mr. Aguirre asked Ms. Mary Lisa Gonzales to present the expenditures. Ms. Mary Lisa Gonzales presented a list of expenditures for the period 01/12/22 through 04/15/22 to the Board for approval. She informed the Board of the fund identification, and asked for any questions or needed clarification. Mr. Kamau Turner moved to approve the expenditures, as presented. Ms. Amy Roble seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

4. *BARS & Transfers

Mr. Aguirre asked Ms. Mary Lisa Gonzales to present the list of BARS and transfers. Ms. Mary Lisa Gonzales informed the Board that the list of BARS and transfers included an increase for the Carl Perkins Grant Project, based on the final award letter. It also included several maintenance BARS to begin the clean-up of project funding as we near the end of the fiscal year. She informed the Board that there are a few more BARS that are in the works and being finalized, and will be processed with this meeting date, but presented at the next regularly scheduled meeting. Mr. Kamau Turner made the motion to approve the BARS and Transfers, as presented. Ms. Kristie Medina seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

5. Mr. Anthony Burns – Instructional Materials – NMPED

Mr. Aguirre introduced Mr. Anthony Burns with the NMPED Instructional Materials Bureau. He informed the Board that Mr. Burns will be sharing an opportunity for REC and district participation. Mr. Anthony Burns provided the Board with a brief presentation regarding an invitation for HPREC to participate in a network focused on adoption and strong implementation of HQIM (high quality instructional materials), specifically for K-8 English Language Arts. He briefly recognized the work that is already being done within the region: (1) the Des Moines School participated in the strategic support for HQIM provided by Columbia University back in Feb 2020, although this project was cut short due to covid; (2) district participation in the K-8 ELA adoption for HQIM with the help of HPREC; (3) HQIM conference support and continual

annual state review/adoption processes by HPREC; and (4) Mr. Aguirre's participation on the HQIM Cross Functional Team. Mr. Burns provided the Board with a brief background of the network implementation/participation. The PED has been a part of this network through the Council of Chief State School Officers for about 3 years. There are many benefits, including access to mini-grants, which is how this project application was started, specifically through the Schusterman Family Foundation Grant. This grant will support an 18-month network focused on selecting, launching, and implementing HQIM for ELA. The network will be comprised of 2-RECs and 4-Districts (30,000 students required). They will track defined implementation metrics across districts and RECs and report transparency data across the network and state on a semi-annual basis. The grant funds will go directly to a PED selected provider, SchoolKit. Participating RECs will receive resources and deep support from a SchoolKit coach for each district that is invited to participate, guidance in supporting district HQIM adoption and implementation efforts, technical assistance to build internal capacity, support with exploring and developing business models and an implementation plan to sustain their support with HQIM adoption; and coaching to develop success metrics for building capacity. There will be about (4) remote group sessions, along with 3-4 hours per month of coaching from the SchoolKit coach during the 18-month process. The district benefits will include: districts building upon the work already being done with CES-SITE, developing capacity of HPREC to support member districts with adoption and implementation of HQIM, learning from other districts, access to an REC that can provide technical assistance, training, and resources for adoption and implementation of HQIM, and an improved coherent system for HQIM. The next step is for HPREC to send a letter of interest to Mr. Anthony Burns, wait for approval of the grant, and hopefully begin in May (or Sept if necessary). Mr. Aguirre and the Board thanked Mr. Burns for his presentation and informed him that they will discuss as a group and get back to him.

6. Dr. Joseph Goins – Pathway 2 Careers FIPSE Grant/CTE Grant

Mr. Aguirre introduced Dr. Joseph Goins from NS4Ed to the group for a brief presentation about the Pathway 2 Careers (FIPSE) Project. Dr. Goins provided the Board with information pertaining to the status of the Pathway 2 Career grant project. He informed the Board that they have given all their materials to the NMPED HQ Instructional Materials Bureau to get the ball rolling on approval for the curriculum. They are also working the CMU (Carnegie Mellon University) on an evaluation on what they are doing, and the University of Louisville and the Center for Research in Teaching of Mathematics. The Pathway 2 Career project is a career exploration grant, that focuses on career and academic learning working together. The goal is by 2023, the program will be an open source tool for every district in the country. Dr. Goins provided the Board with a presentation of the Pathway to Career Readiness system that is available to districts for free at this time. He also provided the board with a handout that provides information on the project. Dr. Goins stated that his team is very excited about this project, and will continue to make it better as they move forward. Mr. Aguirre asked if the Board had any questions for Dr. Goins, and Ms. Kodi Sumpter expressed her excitement for the project as it moves forward. Mr. Aguirre and the Board thanked Dr. Goins for his presentation.

7. Kristen Forrester – Perkins Grant/Next Gen Project (Drones)

Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that Ms. Kristen Forrester would provide an update on the Carl Perkins Project, and the Next Gen CTE Drone Project. Ms. Forrester started by stating that she feels the Pathway 2 Career Project goes very well with the Carl Perkins Grant Construction Trade Project. She informed the Board that there is a CPR/First Aid training for students in Clayton on Wednesday, April 20, 2022. The Cimarron training will be held next week, and we

should be finishing up our apprenticeship training tours by the 26th. This will be exciting for our students, who will get to see the facilities, and meet with the trainers. As we look at spending down the funding for each program, we are in the process of researching Drones with GPS and GIS capabilities for next year's Next Gen Drone Project. The drones will be assigned directly to the school districts, rather than the students. Ms. Forrester informed the Board that the first group of students went to Mesalands for their Wind Energy Climb, and they were extremely excited. They will complete their follow-up in the fall and receive their Industry IRET (International Renewable Energy Technician) Occupational Certification in December, which goes directly into the Wind Energy Associate degree. We are currently working on getting the second group with a beginning curriculum set up for training in the fall, and a spring follow-up. This will allow them to receive their beginning IRET occupational certification. It's coming along really well. Ms. Kristen Forrester thanked the Board for their continued support of these programs, and she thanked HPREC for helping things flow smoothly. We are also currently looking into the Lifepath Program, which is similar, but with more features, for schools to offer an intro to a career pathway course or a capstone course. Ms. Forrester provided the board with information pertaining to next year's funding for both Carl Perkins and Next Gen CTE. There will be some restrictions. At this time, Mesalands has not signed their MOU, and this will reduce funding by approximately \$25,000. This will make the available funding for Carl Perkins funds around \$32,215, compared to this fiscal year's funds of \$71,339. We plan to continue with Mixed Construction Trades and Wind Energy, but with less funding moving forward. The immediate cut will be applied to the Project Manager budget, and a reduction to the liaison stipends. The Next Gen CTE project funding for next fiscal year is just as shocking. It will only be for secondary schools, and it dropped down to \$32,140, compared to this year's \$110,345. The ramifications include limiting two students per school, consolidating training locations, and a reduction for the Project Manager and school liaisons. We are looking to align the Drone Project with the Intro to Agriculture course for approval. Ms. Forrester reviewed the success of the portable Welding Simulators. She also informed the Board that she is working with the NM Building Trades to submit a \$6M grant that includes pre-apprenticeship to move statewide with a Construction Trades Academies training instructors that leads to registered apprenticeship. Our region would see approximately \$2M of that money, and could potentially include a portable Welding classroom. Mr. Aguirre and the Board thanked Ms. Forrester for her continued work with all these programs, and their success.

8. Shafiq Chaudhary – NMPED Math & Science Computer Science

Mr. Aguirre introduced Mr. Shafiq Chaudhary with the NMPED Math & Science Bureau. Mr. Chaudhary provided the Board with a brief presentation about Computer Science. The five-year strategic plan was created by the task force put in place to help guide policy development. He highlighted the goals for 2026, which include a pathway for teachers to Computer Science, professional learning accessibility, and an annual review of Computer Science STARS courses. In partnership with the PED, by 2026, the goal is for 50% of districts and charter schools to have an implementation plan, and at least 25% of districts and charter schools should offer a Computer Science integrated course. Also, by 2023, the goal is for every high school to offer a secondary Computer Science course. This is not a PED mandate, but it is highly encouraged. The PED only wants to assist schools and charters to increase access to Computer Science across the state. Some schools currently offer AP Computer Science, or AP Computer Science Principles, secondary Mathematical Modeling, which are all examples of Computer Science courses that are recognized by the PED. Ms. Kodi Sumpter asked about the possibility of online courses to meet this suggested requirement. Ms. Amy Roble suggested a dual credit course to meet the requirement. Mr. Chaudhary agreed that a dual credit course could possibly meet the

Computer Science integration. One of the concerns is finding or funding an FTE for this type of course. Mr. Chaudhary mentioned that the PED is working on providing guidance to school districts to help integrate Computer Science into the core classes at the secondary level. Ms. Amy Roble mentioned that she attended the hands-on activity session provided by the Math & Science Bureau during the Spring Budget Workshop, and thinks it would be a great idea for Mr. Chaudhary and his group to offer that same session as a breakout during the regional professional development workshop on August 9th that will include teachers from the region. This would be a great way to introduce the concept of integrating Computer Science. Mr. Chaudhary said they would be more than happy to come up and present for teachers. Mr. Aguirre and the Board thanked Mr. Chaudhary for his presentation.

9. Related Services

Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that if any district needs related services, or would like HPREC to assist them with securing related services, including advertisement, send him an email and we can set up an individual meeting to discuss. We just found out that we are losing our transition counselor, who currently works in six of our eight districts. That is one area we need to look at, and will advertise for, to meet those needs. High Plains REC is more than willing to assist your district in finding these staff to meet your needs.

10. NMPED Literacy Coaches

Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that the PED would like to put a Literacy Coach in every REC across the state. They need to enroll or already be enrolled in LETRS, it needs to be a teacher who can earn a stipend, they need to be somewhat grounded in structured literacy, and it needs to be a practice for school administration. We are in the early stages of conversation with the PED. We anticipate it will be a 220-day contract. You will begin seeing advertising soon. Mr. Aguirre asked if the Superintendents could see supporting this effort. Ms. Kristie Medina indicated that her district would continue to support this effort. Ms. Amy Roble stated that in her district the secondary teachers have a need for a literacy coach, therefore her district would support this effort. Ms. Kodi Sumpter asked about sustainability. Her district would support this effort, but it would be nice if it could be sustained this time. Mr. Aguirre agreed that sustainability would be a plus, and he is hopeful at this time.

11. HPREC Procured Contracts

Mr. Aguirre provided the Board with a list of approved procured contracts that are pre-bid and available to use in their districts, any charter, and/or state agency. He reminded them that the 2% administrative fee is paid by the vendor and goes back to HPREC for future district support. He also noted that several districts are using Edgenuity (Imaginary Learning) for professional development, and he tried to get them to attend this meeting to provide a presentation, but was unable. If anyone is interesting in more information, please send Mr. Aguirre an email.

12. Medicaid

Mr. Aguirre reminded the Board to ensure their related service personnel are completing their service logs in a timely manner. He also informed the Board that Medicaid funding can be used for related services, school nurse salaries, and school nurse supplies. The Board also discussed the possibility of moving expenses for related services from Operational to Medicaid as needed, without facing the penalties of supplanting.

13. HPREC-NMPED Program Update

Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that we are starting to close out our PED IGAs as we near the end of the fiscal year. Every program is trying to finalize their expenses and spend down their funding. We ask all programs to finalize expenses by June 22nd, so we are able to close our books on June 30th. We are always hopeful that a successful year will help bring new IGAs for next fiscal year. We are starting to see those new IGAs come across our desks at this time.

14. 2022 Legislative Session

Mr. Aguirre asked if anyone wanted to discuss a specific topic from the Legislative Session. There was no discussion.

VI. Comments from Participants

Ms. Kodi Sumpter thanked the REC staff for all they do to help the regional schools, especially with the Instructional Materials piece. She also noted that her building project is moving forward in a timely manner. The other push from the PED is to add on days and participate in the ELTP (Extended Learning Time Plan). We have met with parents and have tried to sell the additional five extra days, especially since the funding is available, but we're having difficulty getting anyone on board.

Ms. Kristie Medina stated that her district is taking a break from ELTP, and they are going to apply for the K-12 Planning Grant. They hope this will allow them to do a reset, and hopefully do it more effectively in the future. They are waiting for approval to opt out of it next school year.

Mr. Kamau Turner stated that with all they have going on right now, they will not be participating in the ELTP either, despite the pressure he is receiving from the PED.

Ms. Amy Roble stated that her district is back-tracking a little bit as well. They did not participate in the ELTP or K-5 Plus, but they did have more instructional days than they were required to have. They will go back to the minimum number of days required for next school year. They will also apply for the K-12 Planning Grant, because they added additional PD days to keep the teacher contracts at the same number of days total. We are hoping to get our community to buy in with the extra field trip days idea.

Ms. Johnna Bruhn stated that they too are neck deep in planning for the upcoming school year. She agreed with using the additional days for ELTP as professional planning days for teachers. They discussed the K-12 Plus Pilot program that has the additional 5 days, but are probably going to apply for the K-12 Planning Grant instead. Ms. Kristie Medina asked Ms. Johnna Bruhn to discuss her new school and how they went about planning for that. Ms. Bruhn gave a brief explanation of how they went about qualifying for a waiver from PSFA. Ms. Kodi Sumpter stated that PSFA is really great to work with, and it has been a very positive experience.

Mr. Aguirre asked the Board about their participation in the Instructional Materials Project that was mentioned earlier in the meeting. The Board has several questions before they agree to full participation. Mr. Aguirre will ask Mr. Anthony Burns for more information. Ms. Kristie Medina stated that although the logistics will have to be ironed out, it sounds like a great

opportunity. Ms. Kodi Sumpter agreed there is interest from the group, but they do need a little more information on the logistics.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Amy Roble made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Kristie Medina seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

ITEMS LISTED WITH AN * PROCEEDING THE ITEMS ARE TO BE ACTION ITEMS. HOWEVER, THE BOARD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO TAKE ACTION ON ANY AGENDA ITEM AS IT DEEMS NECESSARY.

Chairperson

Attest