

**HIGH PLAINS REGIONAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
BOARD MEETING
November 15, 2022**

ATTENDING: Mr. Adan Estrada, Cimarron Municipal Schools
Ms. Kodi Sumpter, Des Moines Municipal Schools
Ms. Kristie Medina, Raton Public Schools
Mr. Edward Lee Fluhman, Roy Municipal Schools
Mr. Gary Allison, Springer Municipal Schools
Mr. R.Stephen Aguirre, HPREC Executive Director
Ms. Mary Lisa Gonzales, HPREC Business Manager

ABSENT: Mr. Ray Maestas, Clayton Municipal Schools
Ms. Amy Roble, Maxwell Municipal Schools
Ms. Johnna Bruhn, Mosquero Municipal Schools

SPECIAL GUESTS: Mr. Bobby Cordova, Cordova CPAs
Mr. Kirk Carpenter, Carpenter Consulting, Inc.

ACTION:

I. Call to Order

The HPREC #3 Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m.

II. Roll Call

III. *Approval of Agenda

Ms. Kodi Sumpter requested that the agenda be approved as presented. Mr. Gary Allison made the motion to approve the agenda, as presented. Ms. Kristie Medina seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

IV. *Approval and Signature of Minutes

Ms. Kodi Sumpter requested that the minutes from the September 20, 2022 Board Council meeting be approved and signed, as presented. Mr. Adan Estrada made the motion to approve the minutes, as presented. Mr. Gary Allison seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

V. Executive Director's Report

1. Annual Report

Mr. Aguirre provided the Board with a copy of the 2021-2022 Annual Report. He stated that his staff has put a lot of work into preparing this data for review by the PED. He suggested the Board look through the report, and let the REC know if they see any information they feel should be corrected and/or updated. This is a requirement at the end of each fiscal year for RECs.

2. *Audit Report

Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that Cordova CPAs completed the annual fiscal audit for FY22 in August. He introduced Mr. Bobby Cordova with Cordova CPAs to provide the Board with a brief presentation. Mr. Cordova thanked the Board for allowing him to conduct the audit for FY22. Mr. Cordova stated that a lot of hard work went into the preparation of this audit, and he will be documenting this as the official presentation in a public forum. He reviewed the timeline and financial highlights, discussed his communication with the governing body during the exit conference, and reviewed the auditor's opinion and report regarding the financial statements, which ultimately determined an unmodified (clean) opinion, which means the financial statements are free of mis-statements. Mr. Cordova noted that this was the second year HPREC was subjected to a single audit, due to the organization's spending of more than \$750,000 in federal dollars. There were two funds that were audited, the Safe & Healthy Schools Project, and the corona virus relief funds through the LCB-ESSER Project. These two funds accounted for approximately 43.3% of total federal dollars administered during FY22. An unmodified (clean) opinion was rendered here also. Mr. Cordova informed the Board that there were two findings reported in the prior fiscal year that have both been resolved. One was in relation to the federal awards schedule, and the other was a minor finding regarding a travel and per diem payment. He reminded the Board that the audit is not always about findings and/or issues that are identified, but it also brings forth some healthy discussions. He suggested there are succession plans in place for the tenured administrative staff as they make decisions to retire. Mr. Bobby Cordova thanked the REC for their hard work, and noted that his firm is available year round as a resource. Mr. Aguirre thanked Mr. Cordova for his time, and his team for all their hard work.

Ms. Kodi Sumpter requested that the board accept the Annual Fiscal Audit Report from FY22 by Cordova CPAs, as presented. Ms. Kristie Medina made the motion to accept the Annual Fiscal Audit Report from FY22 by Cordova CPAs, as presented. Mr. Adan Estrada seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously

The Board discussed auditors, and the succession of qualified auditors, plus the ongoing support they give throughout the fiscal year.

3. Carpenter Consulting, LLC – Kirk Carpenter

Mr. Aguirre introduced Mr. Kirk Carpenter who will provide information on the Sandy Hook Promise program application called 'Say Something'. Mr. Kirk Carpenter does consulting work for Sandy Hook, but is not on any type of commission, but instead feels he is on a mission. He explained the Sandy Hook Promise, who's mission is to end school shootings, and create culture changes that prevents violence and other harmful acts. It is free to every school district, and funded by national grants, and foundations across the country. These anonymous reporting systems are coming to every school, and will eventually be a requirement. The piece that separates Sandy Hook from any other program, is their 24/7; 365-day, calling center. He noted that millions of students across the country are using this app. Mr. Kirk Carpenter provided the Board with a brief presentation about the Sandy Hook Promise, the app and its features, and the highlights of the program. He explained the process of utilizing this program, and how it works to get started, including implementation. He is excited for the state to get on board, and Poms & Associates to begin seeking proposals to get started. Mr. Gary Allison discussed his experience

with the program (app). He stated that it is exceptional, and he is a proponent of this program. His district, Springer Schools, will definitely be on board. Mr. Aguirre and the Board thanked Mr. Kirk Carpenter for his presentation. The Board discussed the features of this particular app, along with another app called 'Stop It'.

4. College & Career Readiness Bureau – Rick Schmidt

Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that the new contact in the College & Career Readiness Bureau for the Carl Perkins and Next Gen projects. Although as of today, we are still waiting on grant award letters for both funds. We have chosen to move forward with the project as we can. He stated that he was happy to report there were 11 students who did the Tower and Safety Climb through the Wind Energy program at Mesalands Community College the week prior. He informed the Board that Ms. Kris Forrester is working on the Drone training schedule, and is busy getting the welding simulators out to schools. The feedback on the welding simulators by both teachers and students has been very positive. Mr. Aguirre also informed the Board that he and Ms. Kris Forrester met with the President, Vice-President, and the Program Coordinator of Mesalands Community College to discuss future projects. It was a good meeting.

5. Tech Call Center

Mr. Aguirre discussed the education call center. It was launched on Monday, November 7th. There is a website, www.nmped-etcc.org, that is available, but still a work in progress. This is a call center for all IT personnel to help with questions, concerns, etc. There are eight technicians available to answer calls, and four of them are bilingual, plus we are searching for a Navajo interpreter. We are currently working on the second phase, which includes putting together three depots for computer/technology repairs and/or service, plus recycling. There will be a depot in Las Cruces, one in Albuquerque, and hopefully one in Santa Fe. We are in the trial period through June 30th, and hope it can be extended beyond the end of the fiscal year. He advised the districts to make sure and have their staff utilize the call center, to help get the feedback needed to keep this program moving forward.

6. Academic Competition

Mr. Aguirre noted that we (HPREC) have not received a great response to our request for districts to participate in the Academic Competition. The Board discussed the difficulty with getting teachers to commit at this time to having their students compete. Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that last fiscal year, both REC 9 and REC 10 did the pilot for this competition, and they felt like it was a success for the kids in their region. Mr. Aguirre stated that he wanted to bring this opportunity to the Board, but there is no requirement to participate. It is completely voluntary.

7. Tech-Bits

Mr. Aguirre discussed the other piece of the Statewide Call Center Project, which includes 'Tech-Bits'. He noted that we are struggling to find the time to provide the necessary 14 tech-bits outlined in the IGA. The idea is to create a video on 'how to' in relation to technology. Ms. Kodi Sumpter suggested having teachers participate and create the tech-bits. If there is funding available, we could give them a stipend to create a tech bit. Mr. Aguirre agreed it would be a good opportunity for teachers to get involved, and make a little extra money. Mr. Aguirre stated

that he would put together some information, along with a dollar amount, to send out to Superintendents to share with their teachers, and hopefully we can find a few that are interested.

8. NextGen/Perkins

Mr. Aguirre reiterated that we still have not received grant award letters, but we are making our best effort to move forward with these projects as we can. At this time, HPREC is funding the project until the award letters are approved and available.

9. Procured Contracts

Mr. Aguirre provided the Board with a copy of the pre-bid contracts available through HPREC. We ask that districts utilize these contracts as much as possible. He reminded the Board that we receive 2% back in administrative fees for each contract that is used. This funding goes back into the Enterprise fund for future assistance with different programs and/or projects for our regional schools.

VI. Financial Report

1. *Expenditures

Mr. Aguirre presented a list of expenditures for the period 09/16/2022 through 11/10/2022 to the Board for approval. The Board discussed expenses, the costs behind events and planning, plus the possibility of building a facility in New Mexico large enough to hold these type of events. Mr. Adan Estrada noted that there is a misunderstanding about the value RECs bring to their local districts. He thinks part of that is due to the fact that larger schools don't participate with RECs since they have the availability in-house to do most of their own PD, etc. He stated that when he went before the LFC, and Superintendents included REC funding as part of their priority list, they seemed confused by what the RECs bring to the table. He feels like they need to see the Annual Reports from RECs to understand the value added they provide in the region. The Board discussed business related issues surrounding funding, indirect cost rates, succession plans for administrative staff who are retiring, plus the Dyslexia program being utilized in the Raton school district.

Mr. Adan Estrada moved to approve the expenditures, as presented. Ms. Kristie Medina seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

2. *BARS & Transfers

Mr. Aguirre presented a list of BARS and Transfers to the Board for approval. Mr. Gary Allison made the motion to approve the BARS and Transfers, as presented. Mr. Adan Estrada seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

VII. Comments from Participants

Mr. Gary Allison asked for assistance with the planning and scheduling of the upcoming Cowbell basketball tournament. He needs feedback on the process, and his role in getting things ready. Ms. Kristie Medina mentioned she would have her staff reach out to him. Ms. Kristie Medina also discussed her concerns with the assignment and professionalism of referees from

the NMAA. Her district experienced first-hand, during a recent football game, the lack of professionalism, and disregard for student safety. Mr. Gary Allison provided Ms. Medina with phone numbers to contact the NMAA directly. She also stated that she will have a Nurse and Transportation Director position open after January 1st. Mr. Adan Estrada mentioned that he has a leadership (Principal) position available in his Eagle Nest School (K-8) if anyone has a person who is qualified and interested.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Gary Allison made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Adan Estrada seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 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