

**HIGH PLAINS REGIONAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
BOARD MEETING
September 20, 2022**

ATTENDING: Mr. Adan Estrada, Cimarron Municipal Schools
Mr. Ray Maestas, Clayton Municipal Schools
Ms. Kodi Sumpter, Des Moines Municipal Schools
Ms. Amy Roble, Maxwell 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: Ms. Johnna Bruhn, Mosquero Municipal Schools

SPECIAL GUESTS: Mr. Robert Abney, MLSS Coach
Ms. Pepper Skodak, Special Education Support
Ms. Kristen Forrester, Director of Perkins Grant/NextGen
Ms. Anne Speroni, Sea of Strengths

ACTION:

I. Call to Order

The HPREC #3 Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by the Vice Chairman, Mr. Adan Estrada. Although the Chairman was in attendance, the Vice Chairman conducted the meeting due to the Chairman having to leave early, and avoiding any interruption in the meeting proceedings.

II. Roll Call

III. *Approval of Agenda

Mr. Aguirre requested that the agenda be approved as presented. Mr. Ray Maestas made the motion to approve the agenda, as presented. Ms. Amy Roble seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

IV. *Approval and Signature of Minutes

Mr. Aguirre requested that the minutes from the May 26, 2022 Board Council meeting be approved and signed, as presented. Ms. Kodi Sumpter made the motion to approve the minutes, as presented. Ms. Kristie Medina seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

V. Executive Director's Report

1. *Election of Officers

Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that during the first meeting of each fiscal year, we elect new officers for our Board. We truly appreciate all the hard work our current Board has done over

the last year, and look forward to another great year moving forward. Mr. Aguirre stated that the current Board Chairman is Ms. Kodi Sumpter, the Vice Chairman is Mr. Adan Estrada, and the Board Secretary is Ms. Kristie Medina. Mr. Adan Estrada asked for nominations for the position of Secretary. Ms. Kodi Sumpter nominated Ms. Kristie Medina to continue as Secretary. After no additional nominations, Mr. Ray Maestas seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. Mr. Adan Estrada asked for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman. Ms. Amy Roble nominated Mr. Adan Estrada to continue as Vice Chairman. After much discussion, and no additional nominations. Mr. Edward Lee Fluhman seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. Mr. Adan Estrada asked for nominations for the position of Chairman. Ms. Amy Roble nominated Ms. Kodi Sumpter to continue as Chairman. After much discussion, and no additional nominations, Ms. Kristie Medina seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. Based on the Board's requests and nominations, the Board Officers will remain the same for fiscal year 2023. Mr. Aguirre thanked the Board for all their hard work and continued support.

2. *Open Meetings Act

Mr. Aguirre requested that the Board adopt the annual resolution for the Open Meetings Act. Mr. Edward Lee Fluhman made a motion to adopt the annual resolution for the Open Meetings Act, as presented. Mr. Gary Allison seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

3. *Certification of Fixed Assets Inventory

Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that High Plains REC completed its Fixed Asset Inventory for fiscal year ending 06/30/22, and is requesting approval for our year end audit. He provided the Board with a copy of the Fixed Asset Inventory to review, certify, and approve. Mr. Ray Maestas made a motion to certify the Fixed Assets Inventory for High Plains REC's fiscal year ending 06/30/22, as presented. Mr. Edward Lee Fluhman seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

4. Robert Abney – Region Wide Collaboration Day

Mr. Aguirre introduced Mr. Robert Abney to discuss the region-wide collaboration. Mr. Abney and the Board reviewed the last collaboration event schedule and discussed what worked and what didn't. Ms. Kodi Sumpter thanked Mr. Abney for the last event and all the planning that went into making it successful. Mr. Abney thanked the HPREC staff for their hard work and commitment in making things happen. The last event feedback mentioned several forms of communication within the groups to continue with their collaboration efforts. Mr. Abney reiterated that we want to make sure we offer any resources available out there to support them. He informed the Board that he is working with Mr. Brandon Hightree at HPREC on the upcoming newsletter, and will get it out to the region as soon as possible. His plan is to eventually begin posting it on the HPREC website. It is important for participants to have a place to go and ask questions. Mr. Abney suggested identifying a schedule for additional collaboration opportunities. The Board discussed the possible days of the week, groups for each day, and a schedule to include everyone, without interruption to the districts. Ms. Amy Roble will work with Mr. Abney to set up a schedule for the group's participation that works for everyone. Mr. Aguirre thanked Mr. Abney for his time and continued efforts to make this all work for the region. Mr. Abney thanked the Board for their support and added that he will continue to work with Ms. Marisa Aguirre and Mr. Brandon Hightree from HPREC to get things on the website as soon as possible.

5. Pepper Skodak – Special Education Support

Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that we currently contract with LSG & Associates to work directly with Ms. Pepper Skodak to provide Special Education support to the region. Ms. Pepper Skodak introduced herself, and informed the Board that she is ready, willing, and able to support districts with Special Education questions, concerns, or needs. She also informed the Board that HPREC has a wonderful contract with the Walsh, Gallegos law group, and once a month the region participates in a round table discussion with an attorney where special education educators can ask any question. They are able to send their questions directly to Ms. Skodak to submit anonymously to discuss during the round table, or participants are given the opportunity to openly discuss any other questions or concerns during the meeting. This free access to a legal attorney once a month has been invaluable to the region. Ms. Skodak informed the Board that she has provided (in their packet) information that she and Ms. Katy Marchiondo (retired HPREC Transition Counselor) put together to provide a resource for transition planning, specific to transition assessments. Ms. Skodak noted that having a Transition Counselor within the REC was definitely a unique situation, since across the state, most districts use their Special Education teachers to provide this service. Although it will now be an additional burden on districts, she is hopeful that this resource will help guide them. Ms. Skodak informed the Board that she is currently working with PED to update the current SAT forms, and Ms. Marisa Aguirre will be working with Power School Special Programs in order to figure out how the data will flow once the new forms are updated. Ms. Skodak reminded the Board that she is always available for Special Education support. Mr. Aguirre thanked Ms. Skodak for her continued support.

6. Kristen Forrester – College & Career

Mr. Aguirre invited Ms. Kristen Forrester to join the meeting via zoom to discuss the College & Career programs. He informed the Board that we have had somewhat of a roadblock in getting our funding rolling, and hope to get the award letters in early October to start this process. Ms. Forrester provided the Board with a brief presentation on the Region C-CTE Programs. We are working with Mesalands Community College for the Wind Energy Program. We have ten returning students that will receive their IRET (International Renewal Energy Technician) Occupational Certification in December. There are also twelve beginning students who will receive the same certification in May (if they continue the program). Under the MC3-Apprenticeship Readiness Program, we have eight returning students who will complete the program in December and be able to receive a direct interview or direct entry into the apprenticeship program of their choice. There are also ten beginning students who will continue the program in the spring and take the OSHA 10 and First Aid/CPR courses, and be ready for their direct interview or direct entry into a program of their choice by May. We hope to start courses soon with instructor, Cade Daugherty, from Clayton. Ms. Forrester also mentioned that the FAA Unmanned Drone Pilot Certification Program is tentatively scheduled to start around October 30th due to grant funding. There will be two students from each site. The drones, located at HPREC, will be checked out to students through the school district. It is a three-day course (Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday) since we are adding the GPS and GIS programs. Also, based on available funding, we will have to do it regionally. We are currently looking at having (3) schools per site. Ms. Forrester noted that the three days of training will be followed by a testing date the next week (after training), and is separate from the training dates. Ms. Forrester asked the Board for input on what dates worked for the projected groups. The Board

discussed, and will work with Ms. Forrester to establish students and sites. The dates will be based on funding availability. Mr. Estrada thanked Ms. Forrester for her hard work in these programs. Mr. Aguirre thanked Ms. Forrester for providing the information to the Board.

7. Anne Speroni – Sea of Strengths Dyslexia Services

Mr. Aguirre introduced Ms. Anne Speroni, from Sea of Strengths Dyslexia Services. Ms. Anne Speroni introduced herself to the group. She is an academic language specialist, as well as a special education teacher from the Questa area. She has worked both in the private sector, and in the public school system. Her passion is working with students that struggle with dyslexia and reading. She has decided to branch out and create a pilot program to reach those students in rural districts. During covid, she had the opportunity to work with students virtually, and is familiar with what works and what doesn't. She realizes that students who live in rural areas are the hardest to reach. She provided the Board with a short video on academic language therapy. Ms. Speroni discussed her presentation 'Dyslexia, the Science of Reading and Structured Literacy Approach for ALL Students' with the Board. Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that there is funding to help pay for this service, if there are students in the region that would benefit from this service. Ms. Speroni explained what her services entail and what dyslexia remediation/intervention looks like. She provides dyslexia therapy, using a program called 'Take Flight'. It is very intensive, and she will work with small groups of students (no more than 3) via zoom. At this time, she is only able to provide therapy for two groups of students. This is a pilot program, and is something that she believes will take off and be a requirement at some point to school districts. The board discussed questions about IEPs and certification with Ms. Speroni, and Mr. Aguirre thanked her for her time and presentation. He informed her that he would be in touch once the members of the Board have had time to determine if this is a service they would like to have.

8. CES – LEAP Program

Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that the Clayton, Cimarron, and Des Moines have had teachers that participate in this particular professional development through the LEAP Program. Ms. Elaine Salazar with CES is currently out recruiting for teachers to participate once a month after school, plus two hours face-to-face here at the REC. They would receive individual coaching, and the program would be customized for this particular region. Mr. Adan Estrada explained that LEAP is an alternative licensure program that allows non-traditional teachers to get their license. It has been very helpful to school districts. Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that he has given Ms. Salazar the okay to contact each superintendent individually to provide additional information. Mr. Adan Estrada mentioned that it currently costs the district \$2,000 per teacher to participate. He asked if the REC would be providing that funding. Mr. Aguirre explained that the REC would contract with CES to provide the training needed for the professional development, but if there are additional costs per teacher, the district will have to pay those costs. He also noted that he believes this cost paid by the REC would replace those individual teacher costs that were previously imposed. Mr. Aguirre stated that he would try and get more information regarding the program and the cost.

9. Full Service Community Schools Grant

Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that the Full Service Community Schools Grant is a CTE grant that HPREC submitted last week to the federal government for \$15M dollars over a 5-year

period. This will allow us to look at expanding CTE on a much broader level. There are four pillars in the grant that are required, and we hope to have two sites, one in Raton and one in Clayton with mobile vans. If we are funded, we hope to have Ms. Kris Forrester oversee the whole project. It cost \$20,000 to submit this grant, but we feel very optimistic. Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that we will let the Board know as soon as we receive word on whether or not we get funded. He noted that the award should happen in December. He also reminded the Board that we are in the final year for the Pathway 2 Career FIPSE grant, which was used to build the Algebra I and II, plus Geometry curriculum. We have requested additional funding to move forward with the next phase and hope to hear about that grant sometime in December as well. Mr. Aguirre discussed the current REC funding appropriation of \$104,000, and the goal for RECs to have that amount increased to \$350,000 per REC. He asked for regional support moving forward.

10. The Golden Apple Scholars Program

Mr. Aguirre discussed the Golden Apple Scholars Program. He was present during a zoom call with Dr. Alan Mather, who heads up this program. They are trying to recruit seniors through college sophomores. This program provides professional development and is a commitment to 5-years of teaching in your district. The funding is \$4,000 for each student. The age range for participants has been from 18-46 years of age. The application is open for high school seniors and available until April 2023. His contact information is mather@goldenapple.org or his telephone number is 505-670-5048. Mr. Aguirre encouraged superintendents to have their seniors who are interested in the education field to apply for this program.

11. Procured Contracts

Mr. Aguirre provided the Board with a list of the available procured contracts through HPREC. He reminded the Board that districts will work directly with the vendor, there are no additional membership costs, and HPREC will receive a 2% admin fee from each contract (paid by the vendor). These funds are then used to provide ongoing support to the region.

12. Bus Driver Training

Mr. Aguirre provided the Board with information on the online bus driver training program. The cost to regional drivers is \$50 per fiscal year. He included information on the available courses, and the registration brochure. We currently have several districts across the state that utilize this program to keep their current bus drivers in compliance. It is not used for new bus drivers.

13. Dossier Support

Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that HPREC will continue providing Dossier Support to our regional teachers. This type of service will eventually be going away, and move into micro-credentialing. There are still several teachers in the region that have asked for continued dossier coaching support. Ms. Marisa Aguirre noted that the current MOU for Dossier Support with Region 9 is focused primarily on reviews, and professional development, which is designed differently from coaching. Due to the large group of participants in Ms. Pam Hunnicutt's group during the August 9th PD Day, that have indicated that they would like to continue receiving the coaching support, we are working to meet this need. Based on this, the REC admin team has decided to work directly with Pam Hunnicutt in a separate agreement to continue providing the coaching support within the region. Ms. Pam Hunnicutt will reach out to the teachers who have

indicated they need or want the coaching support and work directly with them. The Board discussed the requirements leading up to a level 3 licensure, and the move into micro-credentialing from the use of dossiers.

14. Micro Credentialing Memo from NMPED

Mr. Aguirre provided the Board with a copy of the memo from NMPED discussing the advancement program for micro credentialing. Ms. Marisa Aguirre noted that NMPED is still building the framework for the upcoming transition, and we do not have much more information on the process. The Board discussed the memo and their understanding of how it will roll out.

15. Board Meeting Dates 2022-2023

Mr. Aguirre provided the Board with a list of upcoming board meeting dates for fiscal year 2023. He reminded the Board that the May meeting is typically used for budgeting the next fiscal year, and end of year business. It is the last meeting of the fiscal year.

VI. Financial Report

1. *Expenditures

Mr. Aguirre presented a list of expenditures for the period 07/01/2022 through 09/15/2022 to the Board for approval. Mr. Ray Maestas 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. Ms. Mary Lisa Gonzales reviewed the BARS and Transfers with the Board for discussion. Mr. Edward Lee Fluhman made the motion to approve the BARS and Transfers, as presented. Ms. Amy Roble seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Mr. Aguirre discussed the entrepreneurial efforts by the REC.

VII. Comments from Participants

Mr. Estrada thanked Mr. Aguirre for the continued support the region receives from the REC. He also provided some feedback on the importance of belonging to this particular agency, the numerous resources they support, and the continued entrepreneurial opportunities that they seize. He discussed how minimal the state appropriation received by RECs is, and how it does not support the budget enough to stand alone. Mr. Aguirre discussed the RfR process, and the importance of maintaining a cash balance to cover those costs until the funding is processed. Mr. Fluhman asked for clarification on how the REC receives funding. Mr. Aguirre provided the Board with information on the history of how the appropriation begin, and where we are now. He also explained the history behind providing related services to the region, by using the larger schools to pick up the majority of the FTE, and then farming out the remaining FTE to the smaller schools. The breakdown happened when the larger districts decided it was financially feasible for them to hire their own related services, and no long utilize the REC. This created a

hardship in finding part time related services for the smaller districts only. Mr. Fluhman indicated that he plans to go to the legislators to ask for more funding for the RECs to provide related services to its regional districts. The board discussed their ideas for a solution in getting the PED to give districts more funding directly to provide the services they need. They also discussed the difficulty they have in finding contracted related services. Mr. Aguirre thanked the Board for attending the meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Edward Lee Fluhman made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Amy Roble seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 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