

## REGIONAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE VII

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April Williams, Executive Director  
PO BOX 770, 621 N McKinley  
Hobbs, New Mexico 88240  
(575) 393-0755 (575) 393-0249 Fax

### MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of the REC VII Board of Directors was held at the REC 7 Board Room on June 13, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Brian Snider, President-Absent  
Gene Strickland, Vice President  
Greg Slover, Secretary  
Dwain Haynes, Member  
April Williams, Executive Director/REC VII  
Pat Jaco, Director of Finance/REC VII

Guests: Pam Quinones, Superintendent, Lovington Municipal Schools  
Bruce Hatch, Superintendent, Eunice Public Schools

The meeting was called to order @ 3:02 a.m. by Mr. Strickland.

### AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Haynes for approval of Consideration of Agenda (06/13/2024); motion unanimously carried.

### MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Slover to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting (05/09/2024); motion unanimously carried.

### FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion by Mr. Haynes for approval of Entitlement, Preschool, Title II, Medicaid, REC Operational, Pre-K, and State Directed Activities (May 2024)

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**BRUCE HATCH**  
Superintendent  
Eunice Public Schools

**GENE STRICKLAND**  
Superintendent  
Hobbs Municipal Schools

**BRIAN SNIDER**  
Superintendent  
Jal Public Schools

**GREG SLOVER**  
Superintendent  
Tatum Municipal Schools

**CONSIDERATION OF  
APPROVAL OF CONTRACT  
OT**

Motion by Mr. Slover for approval of OT contract for Teri Marie Appleton for 7/1/2024-6/30/2025; motion unanimously carried.

**CONSIDERATION OF  
APPROVAL OF CONTRACT  
SLP**

Motion by Mr. Haynes for approval of SLP contract for Lindsey Broom for 7/1/2024-6/30/2025; motion unanimously carried.

**CONSIDERATION OF  
APPROVAL OF CONTRACT  
SOCIAL WORKER**

Motion by Mr. Haynes for approval of Social Worker contract for Catherine Diosdado for 7/1/2024-6/30/2025;

**CONSIDERATION OF  
APPROVAL OF MEDICAID  
COORDINATOR**

Motion by Mr. Slover for approval of Medicaid Coordinator contract for Gilda Pena for 7/1/2024-6/30/2025; motion unanimously carried.

**CONSIDERATION OF  
APPROVAL OF CONTRACT  
BUSINESS MANAGER**

Motion by Mr. Slover for approval of Business Manager contract for Pat Jaco for 7/1/2024-6/30/2025; motion unanimously carried.

**CONSIDERATION OF  
APPROVAL OF CONTRACT  
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
INSTRUCTIONAL COACH**

Motion by Mr. Haynes for approval of contract of Early Childhood Coach for Dymorie Maker for 7/1/2024-6/30/2025; motion unanimously carried.

**CONSIDERATION OF  
APPROVAL OF CONTRACT  
REC7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Motion by Mr. Haynes for approval of contract of REC7 Executive Director for April Williams for 7/1/2024-6/30/2025; motion unanimously carried.

**CONSIDERATION OF  
APPROVAL OF ANCILLARY  
BID 2025-2**

Motion by Mr. Haynes for approval of Ancillary Bid 2025-2-REC7's Bid for Ancillary Services for 24-25 school year; motion unanimously carried.

**CONSIDERATION OF  
APPROVAL OF ANNUAL  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
REGULATIONS**

Motion by Mr. Haynes for approval of Annual Public Notice Regulations for 24-25; motion unanimously carried.

**CONSIDERATION OF  
REC7 24-25 BUDGET FOR  
FUND 24154**

Motion by Mr. Haynes for approval of 24-25 REC7 Budget for Fund 24154, pending PED approval and recommendations; motion unanimously carried.

**CONSIDERATION OF  
APPROVAL OF REMAINING  
CONTENTS IN OLD REC7  
BUILDING**

Motion by Mr. Haynes for approval of disposal of remaining contents in old REC7 building after 30 days. With member districts having first choice; motion unanimously carried.

**CONSIDERATION OF  
APPROVAL OF SPLITTING  
COST OF REC7 FURNITURE  
4 WAYS**

Motion by Mr. Slover for approval of splitting the cost of furniture for the new REC7 building between Eunice, Hobbs, Jal, and Tatum. Furniture total is \$148,290.29, split 4 ways is \$37,072.57. REC7 will invoice each school district; motion unanimously carried.

**CONSIDERATION OF  
APPROVAL OF ELECTION OF  
OFFICERS FOR REC7'S  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Motion by Mr. Strickland for approval of Election of Officers for REC7's Board of Directors. President-Brian Snider, Vice President-Gene Strickland, Secretary-Greg Slover; motion unanimously carried.

**INFORMATION:**

**Executive Director Discussion:**

1. Medicaid Information for May 2024.
2. Academic Competition Update-There appears to be an abundant amount of uncertainty regarding the future of this event. We have been told that there is no funding to proceed; however, there continues to be meetings scheduled to approve bi-laws as well as electing officers. Basically, all schools are on their own to participate. Region 9 has already seen and is expecting decline from other districts due to no funding. The districts would have to come up with the cost to participate in any capacity. The districts in Region 9 are not having to come up with funds to participate. We can have a regional competition; however, we would be responsible for any expenses. Transportation may be an issue if we decided to have in person at some point. In addition, the coaching stipends would be a cost as well as trophies and t shirts.
3. OSE Meeting in Portales-On May 28, 2024 the RECA met with Dr. Cage and staff of the OSE in Portales. Conversations were regarding SDAA funds, now known as SLA funds. It was discussed that IDEA funds were intended for all students with disabilities; therefore, when a training is arranged and provided by the RECs using these funds, all districts will be included. Non-member districts should be provided with a ZOOM link or a recording of the event which took place. When approached by a non-member district regarding individual supports, those should be directed to the OSE. The RECA indicated to the OSE that we are not the boss of our districts in regards to compliance. We are here to provide support to our districts. It was requested that RECA directors begin to attend OSEP conferences in order to become familiar with expectations, law, etc. In addition, it was stated that federal funds could be used for this travel. Dr Cage indicated that they are also focused on the spend down of allocations awarded. She stated that school districts have money; however, they are not spending it. Most are functioning on last year's allocation and have not touched the new allocation. Dr. Cage reviewed the J & M sections of our contracts and provided standard language which should be used by all RECs. The OSE will make changes to the applications and return with the contract for signature once through the approval process at PED. After the meeting Dr. Cage sent an email with attachments of documents which were discussed during the Portales meeting. In the email she indicated that she would prefer prior notice of superintendents or board members attending meetings with REC directors in order to have optimal coordination for meetings. The letter is in your folder. They are scheduled to attend a quarterly meeting here in Hobbs on November 12<sup>th</sup> as I offered for our region to host the event.
4. IDEA-B Applications- Regarding IDEA B application-currently the districts complete the application as REC7 does not have access for completion. REC7 is available for guidance and answering questions during the completion of the application and then awards are presented by the Executive Director at each district's school board meetings. Moving forward the REC7 could provide a training for the completion of IDEA application.

5. PreK-I wanted to provide an update on the current PreK monitoring issue. The ECECD sent out a proclaimer to member districts regarding our PreK coach which stated what the coach's responsibilities included and what she could and could not discuss with each district. The notification was sent out prior to my knowledge. Through consistent correspondence we provided coaching documentation as requested as well as attending meetings regarding "spend down" in order to utilize funding in a beneficial way for each district. Suggestions were provided regarding ways to spend the money throughout the year which include purchasing Waterford, stipends for attending statewide trainings and technology. The NM PreK Budget Instruction and Expenditure Guidelines are included in your folder. We had a follow up meeting with ECECD on Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> to which we provided balances for each district. There is an email in your folders regarding information addressed during the meeting. They requested a list of PreK staff from each district along with their degrees and the length of time in which they have been working in the position which included long term subs. They indicated that they would provide support to each district regarding staff in the upcoming year. They discussed the coaching piece of the grant and that it needs realignment. They would like for the TORSH model to be used in each district. If it is not used then they would like to be presented with a coaching model to be used. They indicated that they will not be able to justify the coach's salary if there is not a model in place.

Additional Information Items:

Request for approval of Lovington Municipal Schools application to become a member of REC7 was sent to Secretary Romero on June 3, 2024. We are currently waiting to receive a resolution.

In your folder is an email regarding the Tips by Text project. The program reached out in order to seek interest for Lovington, Eunice, Jal and Tatum in regards to find interested families for continuing the program. The Tips by Text project is geared toward promoting school readiness for rural students.

On June 11<sup>th</sup> RECA directors had a meeting with Secretary Romero and Antonio Ortez. Secretary Romero gave a report on the summer reading program in which there are 9,362 students enrolled and 117 different sites. He also indicated that approximately 2700 instructors applied.

He reported that a memo was sent to the superintendents regarding an amendment to SEG which was an increase from 3.2% to 5%. He also stated that the budget issues in districts are due to drops in enrollment and therefore the same numbers cannot be provided as far as budget is concerned. He spoke about the ESSR funds and how those need to be spent in the next four months. Initially the funds were in the amount of \$976 million and approximately \$562 million has been spent. Approximately \$400 million remaining funds were sent to districts statewide. He was sending a list to Bobbie regarding districts with remaining balances. Antonio Ortez was asked if the RECs would see a bump in operational funding and how that was determined. He indicated it is usually an arbitrary number that is realistic and can be defended. He stated that he would discuss with Secretary Romero during cabinet.

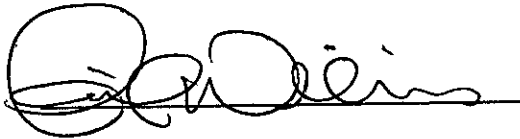
Bonnie Lightfoot will be the new director for the RECA, replacing Bobbie Gutierrez.

**PAGE 5**  
**MINUTES**  
**JUNE 13, 2024**

Upcoming Trainings/Events

- A. Legal Counsel Call-Will resume in the Fall
- B. Monthly Secretary Call-Will resume in the Fall
- C. CES AI Summit-July 15, 2024 8-4 Albuquerque
- D. CES Principal Learning Institute-June 18-19, 2024 Ruidoso HS
- E. NMCEL Summer Leadership Conference July 15-18, 2024
- F. AIM Training-August 14, 2024-All day
- G. Lea County Fair & Rodeo-August 2-10, 2024
- H. REC7 Closed June 19, 2024
- I. REC7 Closed July3, 2024
- J. Next Meeting Scheduled for August 08, 2024 (no July meeting)

ADJOURN: There being no further business, the Regular Board Meeting of 06/13/2024 was adjourned at 3:57 a.m., motioned by Mr. Slover; motion unanimously carried.



**April Williams**

**REC VII Executive Director**



**Brian Snider**

**REC VII Board President**