

## REGIONAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE VII

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April Williams, Executive Director  
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 August 8, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Brian Snider, President  
Gene Strickland, Vice President  
Greg Slover, Secretary  
Bruce Hatch, Member  
Pam Quinones, Member  
April Williams, Executive Director/REC VII  
Pat Jaco, Director of Finance/REC VII

Guests: Sonia Lawson, Hobbs Municipal Schools  
Christie Boyd, Eunice Public Schools

The meeting was called to order @ 10:03 a.m. by Mr. Snider.

### AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Slover for approval of Consideration of Agenda (08/08/2024); motion unanimously carried.

### MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Slover to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting (06/13/2024); motion unanimously carried.

### FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

### FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion by Mr. Slover for approval of Entitlement, Preschool, Title II, Medicaid, REC Operational, Pre-K, and State Directed Activities (July 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

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**CONSIDERATION OF  
APPROVAL OF INCREASE  
BAR FOR FUND 24154**

Motion by Mr. Strickland for approval of Increase Bar for Fund 24154 to establish an initial budget for 24-25; motion unanimously carried.

**CONSIDERATION OF  
APPROVAL OF INCREASE  
BAR FOR FUND 25153**

Motion by Mr. Strickland for approval of Increase Bar for Fund 25153 to establish an initial budget for 24-25; motion unanimously carried.

**CONSIDERATION OF  
APPROVAL OF INCREASE  
BAR FOR FUND 27149**

Motion by Mr. Hatch for approval of Increase Bar for Fund 27149 to establish an initial budget for 24-25; motion unanimously carried.

**CONSIDERATION OF  
APPROVAL OF INCREASE  
BAR FOR FUND 27200**

Motion by Mr. Hatch for approval of Increase Bar for Fund 27200 1 To 1 Friendships to establish an initial budget on remainder of grant funds; motion denied.

**CONSIDERATION OF  
APPROVAL TO INCREASE  
HOTEL ALLOWANCE FOR  
TRAININGS AND MEETINGS**

Motion by Mr. Strickland for approval to stay at the conference/training hotel or closest available accommodations even if above the state allowed \$215 per night; motion unanimously carried.

**CONSIDERATION OF  
BLANKET APPROVAL FOR  
MAINTENANCE AND  
TRANSFER BARS**

Motion by Mr. Hatch for approval of Maintenance (same fund & function) and Transfer (same fund different functions) Bars for all funds for 2024-2025 school year; motion unanimously carried.

**INFORMATION:**

**Executive Director Discussion:**

1. Medicaid Information for June 2024.
2. Medicaid Information for July 2024.
3. PreK-At the June board meeting I provided an update as to the status of requested meetings and monitoring of REC7 PreK NM budget with ECECD. We have attended many mandatory trainings including one for tomorrow in Albuquerque in which I will be traveling there directly after this meeting. They have indicated that REC7 PreK is currently under realignment which includes the practice-based coaching or Dymorie's role as well as the budget. They have requested quarterly check ins with districts regarding how money is being used/spent. Dymorie held a PreK training in Hobbs with teachers and IAs included from all districts. She went over expectations for the upcoming year as well as mandatory trainings requested by ECECD.

4. RECA Meeting with OSE-The RECA directors met with Dr. Cage and staff on July 10, 2024 through ZOOM. There has been discussion regarding trainings for member districts and what would be allowed and/or considered. We will be meeting with Jessica Dinsmore, Director for Professional Development, OSE in order to review a new OSE model for PD and the guidelines involved. During the recent RECA meeting held on August 6, 2024 it was reported that SLA (State Level Activities formerly known as State Directed) contracts were delayed amongst the RECs. An abundant number of emails have been sent in order to inquire about the contracts; however, little to no response has been provided. The RECs are creating a grid which will indicate all delayed contracts/IGAs per REC in order to send those to the Office of Special Education.
5. Academic Competition-At the previous board meeting we briefly discussed the continuance of the Academic Competition regionally. Do you all want to continue as a region? In looking at the costs from the previous competitions we paid coaching stipends as well as a stipend for the competition coordinator. We also had t shirts as a cost. We had two virtual competitions, one in person and then went to state competition. I believe the competitions were arranged on Wednesdays during PLC We could modify based on there being only a region competition at the end rather than State. How would you all like to continue as far as the finances are concerned? Does each district want to pay for their participation and the REC can coordinate or be a facilitator? The CTECH has the equipment from the previous competitions, and the questions have been purchased. We will have access to the questions. I have reached out to Jose Mares so that we can meet and discuss the organization of the competition and all involved. He was the coordinator for both years. The superintendents want to move forward with the Academic Competition as a region with each supporting their individual districts using their own funding.
6. Lovington Membership-On July 10, 2024 I reached out to staff at PED regarding the status of Lovington Schools membership with REC7. I received a reply that the request for membership had been approved. I have requested documentation to support the membership status. We are happy to have an official membership status for Lovington although they have always been considered a part of the team.

**Additional Information Items:**

There is a flyer in your folders regarding a mentorship program for Special Education teachers grade 1-3. Registration is open at this time. I believe there is certain criteria for the candidates which is currently holding a Level 2 or 3 license.

I have also printed the email for the AIM Institute for Learning and Research which is to take place on August 14, 2024 at the JF Maddox Foundation in Hobbs. The training will be held from 9:30-4:30. There are specific sessions and lessons which need to be completed prior to attending the live session. Dr. Arsenio Romero, the Secretary of Education, will be attending the training.


Discussion regarding DASH reviewers was brought up and superintendents were reminded to assign an internal coach for reviewing the plans within their districts.

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**Upcoming Trainings/Events**


- A. NM Fall PreK Administration Meeting, August 9, 2024-Albuquerque
- B. Fall 2024 Federal Program Directors Regional Meeting, August 13, 2024-Artesia
- C. August 14, 2024 Session 1 AIM in person 9:30-4:30
- D. REC7 Audit-Weeks of August 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>
- E. Secretary call August 22, 2024 9:00
- F. NMASBO Conference September 11-13, 2024 Albuquerque
- G. SPED Law Conference September 11-12, 2024 Albuquerque
- H. REC7 Closed September 2, 2024 for Labor Day
- I. Next Meeting Scheduled for September 12, 2024

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business, the Regular Board Meeting of 08/08/2024 was adjourned at 10:54 a.m., motioned by Mr. Strickland; motion unanimously carried.



**April Williams**

**REC VII Executive Director**



**Brian Snider**

**REC VII Board President**