

REGIONAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE VII

April Williams, MS CCC-SLP - Executive Director
PO Box 770 Hobbs, NM 88242
621 N McKinley Hobbs, NM 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 October 10, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brian Snider, President
Gene Strickland, Vice President-Absent
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 (Proxy), Hobbs Municipal Schools
Chuck Pierce, Hobbs Municipal Schools

The meeting was called to order @ 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Snider.

AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Slover for approval of Consideration of Agenda (10/10/2024) as amended; motion to move Chuck Pierce to #2 from April's Academic Competition; motion unanimously carried.

MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Hatch to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting (09/12/2024); motion unanimously carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

BRUCE HATCH
Superintendent
Eunice Public Schools

GENE STRICKLAND
Superintendent
Hobbs Municipal Schools

BRIAN SNIDER
Superintendent
Jal Public Schools

PAM QUIÑONES
Superintendent
Lovington Municipal Schools

GREG SLOVER
Superintendent
Tatum Municipal Schools

**PAGE 2
MINUTES
OCTOBER 10, 2024**

**CONSIDERATION OF
APPROVAL OF INCREASE
BAR FOR FUND 24109**

Motion by Mr. Hatch for approval of Increase Bar for Fund 24109 to establish an initial budget for 24-25; motion unanimously carried.

**CONSIDERATION OF
RECOMMENDATION FROM
THE AUDITOR FOR \$1 RENT
PAID TO HOBBS ON THE
NEW BUILDING**

Motion by Mr. Hatch for approval for the recommendation from the REC7 Auditor to pay \$1 rent per year to Hobbs Schools for the new building; motion unanimously carried.

**CONSIDERATION OF
RECOMMENDATION FROM
THE AUDITOR TO AMEND
APRIL'S 24-25 CONTRACT TO
INCLUDE DRIVING THE REC7
CAR HOME**

Motion by Mr. Hatch for approval of the recommendation from the REC7 Auditor to amend April's 24-25 contract to include driving the REC7 car home for safety issues; motion unanimously carried.

**CONSIDERATION OF
RECOMMENDATION FROM
THE AUDITOR TO AGREE TO
ALLOW REC7 TO USE THE
SCHOOL DISTRICTS
MEDICAID MONEY TO COVER
EXPENSES FROM OTHER
FUNDS UNTIL
REIMBURSEMENTS ARE
RECEIVED**

Motion by Mr. Slover for approval of recommendation from the REC7 auditor for the Superintendents to allow REC7 to use the districts' Medicaid money to cover expenses from other funds until reimbursements are received; motion unanimously carried.

INFORMATION:

Executive Director Discussion:

1. Medicaid Information for September 2024.
2. Academic Competition-I recently met with Jose Mares and Chuck Pierce regarding the continuance of the Academic Competition as a region. I have asked Chuck Pierce to join us today in order to provide more information.
3. Professional Development and Resource Fair-This event will be held in Hobbs on October 28th and 29th. The first evening will be a resource fair for parents with community vendors there such as Parents Reaching Out. Your district can register as a vendor in order to have resources available for parents. The second day is professional development for educators. Those interested in attending will need to register individually. There are flyers in your folders regarding this event, and Sped Directors were provided with this information. This event includes attendees from Quadrant 5 which includes REC 6, REC 8 and REC 9, their member districts as well as others included in Quadrant 5.

PAGE 3
MINUTES
OCTOBER 10, 2024

4. NMRECA Directors Meeting-The NMRECA directors met in Santa Fe last week. We have proposed a meeting date to meet with Secretary Padilla in person on December 10, 2024. We are waiting for a response.

We developed an agenda for the directors quarterly meeting with the Office of Special Education which will be held here in Hobbs on November 12, 2024. There is a copy of the agenda in your folders and Dr. Cage has confirmed her attendance.

5. IEP Monitoring for Districts-Dr. Cage recently discussed the desktop/site visit monitoring at a recent face to face meeting with Secretary Padilla. She indicated that desktop letters have been sent to districts and site monitoring letters will go out in about two weeks. She indicated that OSEP requires that any type of monitoring receives corrective action. She is not issuing any corrective actions from the desktop and site visit monitoring; however, it is why the letter states that they may receive corrective actions.

There are RECs who offer IEP monitoring services to their member districts. Is there an interest in having this available? I did bring this up to Brian, and he suggested I bring it to the table today. I did some research with REC 10 who has this service available for member districts who request it. They have an established protocol which they use in the district. They do the review and then write a report indicating any areas for improvement so that professional development can be arranged in order to address those areas. They use services through Lorie Gerkey. I have spoken with Lorie regarding the options she has available for this service. She can provide a half day training for myself and 1-2 representative from interested districts. Those individuals, along with myself, can continue the monitoring every three months or increments established by the district in order to maintain compliance with the district. For example, 10 folders are chosen to include an initial evaluation, a re-evaluation, transition, manifestation, etc. They are reviewed according to protocol provided. A report is written regarding results. The district will then identify areas for professional development. Half day training would be \$2,000.00 plus her travel expenses and full day would be \$4,000.00. She has other options available for those interested.

Additional Information Items:

I represented both Tatum and Eunice at a recent job fair at USW. Positive feedback was received both from candidates as well as other vendors attending the event. I was approached by many due to being unfamiliar with REC VII. Now we are on the map!

There was discussion regarding the AIM literacy program and how districts would implement and utilize it within districts. It was suggested that TJ Parks attend our next board meeting and possibly put this as an agenda item.

PAGE 4
MINUTES
OCTOBER 10, 2024

Upcoming Trainings/Events


- A. LEA County Sped Directors Meeting October 17, 2024, REC7
- B. CES Facility Managers and Leadership Symposium October 14-17, 2024 Embassy Suites, Albuquerque
- C. LESC October 16-18, 2024
- D. LFC October 22-24, 2024
- E. Secretary Call October 19, 2024
- F. New Mexico Association of Elementary School Principals October 21-22, 2024, Albuquerque
- G. Office of Special Education Resource Fair and Professional Development October 28-29, 2024, Hobbs Training Center
- H. Lea County Transition Meeting October 30, 2024 1:00 p.m., REC7
- I. REC7 office closed November 5, 2024 Election Day
- J. Office of Special Education and RECA Quarterly meeting November 12, 2024, Hobbs Training Center
- K. Legal Counsel Call November 12, 2024 8:00 a.m.
- L. Next REC7 Board Meeting Scheduled for November 14, 2024

ADJOURN: There being no further business, the Regular Board Meeting of 10/10/2024 was adjourned at 11:10 a.m., motioned by Mr. Slover; motion unanimously carried.



April Williams

REC VII Executive Director



Brian Snider

REC VII Board President