

Southwest Colorado Education Collaborative

Board Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Board Members

Present: Kevin Aten, Troy Dyer, Tom Stritikus, LaTitia Taylor, Kym Leblanc-Esparza, Sam Dosumu (joined at 10:25am)

Absent: Kim White

Quorum present? Yes

Others Present

Cara McKenna, Empower Schools Partner

Hannah Sharfman, Empower Schools Associate

Sara Butler, Empower Schools Manager

Jess Morrison, Executive Director finalist

Kristin Klopfenstein

Proceedings

Call to order at 10:05 AM by Kevin Aten

Welcome

Approval of April 26 and 27, 2021 meeting minutes

Motion to approve by Kym Leblanc-Esparza, Seconded by Troy Dryer. Roll vote approved 5-0.

Minutes from April 26 and 27 are approved. (Sam Dosumu and Kim White not present)

Discussion and possible action on the approval of Jess Morrison as the Southwest Colorado Education Collaborative Executive Director.

Motion to approve Jess Morrison as the ED by Tom Stritikus, seconded by Kym

Leblanc-Esparza. Roll vote approved 5-0 to approve Jessica Morrison as the SWCEC Executive Director. (Sam Dosumu and Kim White not present)

Discussion and welcome of Southwest Colorado Education Collaborative Executive Director Finalist Jessica Morrison.

Jessica Morrison gives remarks

Introduction of Kristin Klopfenstein, member of the public

Board Training by Empower Schools

Topic: Governance vs Management

Discussion on the need for goals to be formed in conjunction with the ED and align and clarify meeting structures.

Discussion and possible action on nonprofit budget

Presentation by Cara McKenna on the nonprofit budget.

Kevin Aten shared that there are additional dollars from the \$10,000 start up funds that can be utilized.

Tom Stritikus recommended determining what type of PD the nonprofit is seeking and if any districts or the university can give those sessions.

Budget approval for year one is coming soon.

Discussion and possible action on updated Fiscal Policies

Empower Schools presents a Fiscal Policy high level overview

Sam Dosumu asked for clarification on expenditures vs. contracts. Kevin Aten shared the amounts seem reasonable.

Sam Dosumu moves to approve Fiscal Policies. Tom Stritikus seconds. Roll call vote 6-0 passes Fiscal Policies unanimously.

Discussion and possible action on employee handbook policies

Jessica to bring a handbook for approval at the next meeting.

Discussion and possible action on benefits package for Southwest Colorado Education Collaborative employees

Jessica received her benefits package and there are 3 shifts: move to unlimited PTO for vacation policy, health insurance policies, retirement match.

Kevin Aten shared a benefit of unlimited PTO.

Sam Dosumu expressed that interpretations of a workday need to be aligned.

Tom Stritikus shared a note on tax implications for health insurance.

Latitia Taylor moves to empower the ED to make health insurance and benefits package policies that make the most sense for the organization. Troy Dyer seconds. Roll call vote 6-0 passes unanimously.

Discussion on the process and selection of new Southwest Colorado Education Collaborative board members

Empower Schools presents two options for selecting new board members. Troy Dyer reported reaching out to an industry colleague who declined. Tom Stritikus shared environmental names.

Jessica Morrison shared a nonprofit connection. LaTitia Taylor shared two ideas for board members. Kym Leblanc-Esparza to connect with Archuleta building trades teacher for connections. Troy Dyer asked for clarification on protocol/next steps.

Kevin Aten expressed that Option 1 for an informal process is the preference. Board members next step by June 4: have the first conversation with interested parties for the industry board slot and then connect them to Hannah Sharfman who will send them a board description. Names to be discussed at the next board meeting.

Discussion and possible action on a board meeting cadence

Discussion and possible action on choosing a time for future meetings

Proposed cadence/meeting cycle is shared. Tom Stritikus flagged that a retreat in July would need to be scheduled really quickly, and recommended that Jessica meet with each board member individually.

Kevin Aten proposed adding time in June and then starting the proposed quarterly meeting cycle. Empower Schools to create a doodle poll for the June, July, August meeting dates.

Discussion and possible action on future collaborative expansion

Kevin Aten shared that there is potential interest from other districts. Cara McKenna reported that Montezuma-Cortez and Animas HS are interested. Latitia Taylor shared adding a small school like Animas might be a good direction and requested we take into account the student population. Tom Stritikus expressed that the Steering Committee should come up with rules, process, and taxonomy of participation and then the Board would vote on it. Sam Dosumu and Kym Leblanc-Esparza shared that a financial component should be considered and included. Tom Stritikus agreed and highlighted that degrees of participation could be flexible. Next steps are with the Steering Committee and ED. Kym Leblanc-Esparza raised a question on adding additional pathways. Sam Dosumu shared that flexibility in future additions will be important.

Meeting adjournment

Next meeting will be determined via a doodle poll.

Tom Stritikus motioned to adjourn. Troy Dyer seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 AM.

Minutes submitted by Sara Butler, Empower Schools.