

**HIGH PLAINS REGIONAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
BOARD MEETING
September 21, 2021**

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. Kamau Turner, Roy Municipal Schools
Ms. Julie Crum, 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. Michael Gallegos, Mr. Jack McLaughlin-PCG
Dr. Joseph Goins, Mr. Ricky Williams-NS4Ed
Mr. Richard Nunex, Mr. Josh Gomez-NeXus Cloud Solutions

ACTION:

I. Call to Order

The HPREC #3 Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

II. Roll Call

III. *Approval of Agenda

Mr. Aguirre requested that the agenda be approved as presented. Mr. Adan Estrada made the motion to approve the agenda, as presented. Mr. Kamau Turner seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

IV. *Approval and Signature of Minutes

Mr. Aguirre requested that the minutes from the May 25, 2021 Board Council meeting be approved and signed, as presented. Mr. Adan Estrada made the motion to approve the minutes, as presented. Ms. Julie Crum seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

V. Executive Director's Report

1. *Election of Officers

Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that due to the retirement of our Vice-Chairman at the end of June, we will need to elect new officers for FY22. Ms. Kodi Sumpter opened the floor for nominations. Mr. Adan Estrada made a motion to retain Ms. Kodi Sumpter as the Board Chairman moving forward. Mr. Kamau Turner seconded the motion to retain Ms. Kodi Sumpter as Board Chairman, and it was carried unanimously. Mr. Kamau Turner made a motion to elect Mr. Adan Estrada as the Board Vice-Chairman. Ms. Amy Roble seconded the motion to elect Mr. Adan Estrada as Board Vice-Chairman, and it was carried unanimously. Mr. Kamau Turner made a motion to elect Ms. Kristie Medina as Board Secretary. Ms. Julie Crum seconded the

motion to elect Ms. Kristie Medina as Board Secretary, and it was carried unanimously. Mr. Aguirre thanked the Board for their continued commitment to this REC.

2. *Open Meetings Act

Mr. Aguirre requested that the Board adopt the annual resolution for the Open Meetings Act. Mr. Kamau Turner made a motion to adopt the annual resolution for the Open Meetings Act, as presented. Mr. Adan Estrada seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

3. *Certification of Fixed Assets Inventory

Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that High Plains REC completed their Fixed Asset Inventory for fiscal year ending 6/30/21, and is requesting approval for our year end audit. He provided the Board with a copy of the Fixed Assets Inventory to review, certify, and approve. Ms. Kristie Medina made a motion to certify the Fixed Assets Inventory for High Plains REC's fiscal year ending 06/30/21, as presented. Mr. Ray Maestas seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

4. Michael Gallegos – PCG Presentation

Mr. Aguirre introduced Mr. Michael Gallegos and Mr. Jack McLaughlin from PCG to provide the Board with a brief presentation. Mr. Michael Gallegos thanked the Board for allowing them to come back into the region to provide services. He stated that PCG would like to give the Board some information and resources regarding Academic Recovery Services, utilizing high dosing tutoring. PCG was given the curriculum piece for the MLSS rollout that is coming soon, and they will share this information with the Board today. Mr. Jack McLaughlin provided a brief presentation, and introduced Tutor Ed, which provides tutoring interventions. He added that PCG has developed about 60 hours of curriculum on Canvas. The intent is to provide strategic supplemental academic support, which is aligned with the Cares Act and ESSER. PCG will come into the school district, and hire the tutors. This program is built on the MLSS framework. PCG will look at data, and assist in establishing priorities. The Board discussed their concerns about assigning tutors, and what platform will be used to connect these tutors with students. Mr. Jack McLaughlin noted that PCG has been providing teachers, and tutors for several years to districts needing these specialized services. He added that the intent is to meet with districts one on one to work collaboratively to meet the needs of that particular district, and coordinate the needed efforts with the district. Mr. Aguirre confirmed that tutors are hired by PCG, and then billed out to the district at the end of the needed term. The Board discussed who would be hired to be the tutors, and what type of credentials will they have to meet the needs of a particular district. Mr. Michael Gallegos informed the Board that after much discussion with other groups, the suggestion of combining funds through an REC, to hire the necessary tutors for the group, has been discussed, and will be done by other agencies. Mr. Adan Estrada asked if there would be an opportunity to provide SEL services, in addition to the tutoring. Mr. Michael Gallegos also mentioned to the Board that PCG will be working with Zia Learning to provide Social Emotional Learning services. They will send information directly to Superintendents for review. Mr. Aguirre and the Board thanked PCG for their presentation. Mr. Aguirre also informed the Board that there is a Social Emotional Learning platform that PED is putting out through a company called 7 Mindsets and will be available very soon. It is a very comprehensible platform for administrators, teachers, and staff.

5. Dr. Joseph Goins – NS4Ed – Math Project Presentation

Mr. Aguirre introduced Dr. Joseph Goins with NS4Ed, to provide information on the Math Project. Dr. Joseph Goins thanked the Board for allowing him to provide a brief presentation. Dr. Goins introduced Mr. Ricky Williams, who is a part of his team, and was a former Superintendent in the state. Dr. Joseph Goins did a quick recap of the two projects included. He stated that last year we were awarded a Math Development Grant from the federal government, with HPREC as the lead applicant. The goal was to determine how we could think differently about engaging students. We feel that letting a student see their future, has a tremendous impact. When students experience purpose in their learning, we see great things happening, including motivation, interest, effort, and performance. We took the abstract approach to math, and embedded it into careers. We conducted a pilot of this project with approximately 46 schools across the state. The feedback was amazing from both the teachers and the students. The results showed that 91% of teachers observed an increase in math performance in students as a result of using the P2C curriculum. Dr. Joseph Goins informed the Board that the 2nd grant award we received came from the US Dept of Education. They asked for one person to come up with a model that exceeds everything else that has been put out there. We are one of two organizations, in the country, that received this award. We call it the Pathway2Careers – A Student/Employer Partnership. Our goal is to develop a core exploration curriculum for grades 6 through 12. We have lots of partners on this project, including NM State University. We are working with one of the top IT-rated universities in the world on this project. We have taken the core curriculum, and developed lessons that will teach career exploration through those content areas. We want to take career exploration out of the hands of your counselor and put it into the hands of your core teachers. Dr. Joseph Goins explained to the Board that we have now taken both of these project ideas, and morphed them into one great idea digitally. Math will now be connected to Career Exploration. It is a comprehensive career exploration and pathway development system. The great thing is that every school district currently has access to this system. Dr. Joseph Goins provided the Board with a brief demonstration of how the online system works, including the Pathway 2 Careers Quantile Assessments. Mr. Ricky Williams thanked the Board for their great questions, and added that this is the solution we have been looking for a long time. Ms. Kodi Sumpter asked if this curriculum is still supplemental or has it been added to the instructional material list. Dr. Joseph Goins informed the Board that his team will meet with the Instructional Materials Bureau today to try and get it on the approved list of high quality Instructional Materials. The independent review is done through a company called EdReports. We hope to have the entire process completed by February. We are working really hard to get this done, but it is not an easy process. Mr. Ricky Williams will send information to each Superintendent to help get them started with access to this system. Mr. Adan Estrada thanked Mr. Aguirre and the REC for the work they do in getting this type of information to our schools. This is ground breaking work, always at the leading edge of technology, and we truly appreciate you bringing this to us. Mr. Aguirre thanked the Board for their support, and Dr. Joseph Goins and his team for all their hard work. The Board thanked Dr. Joseph Goins and Mr. Ricky Williams for their time and presentation.

6. Richard Nunez – Back to School App Presentation

Mr. Aguirre introduced Mr. Richard Nunez to the Board. He informed the Board that Mr. Nunez has been the IT Consultant for HPREC for many years. Mr. Nunez has put the agency in a position that we currently feel that we have a full proof cyber security network. Mr. Richard Nunez thanked the Board for the opportunity to provide them with a brief presentation. He provided the Board with a little information on his company, NuneX Enterprises, also doing business as NeXus Cloud Solutions. He informed that Board that NeXus Cloud Solutions is also

partnered with G.I. Call Center Solutions, and Mr. Josh Gomez will provide some information on his product solutions. He introduced the Back to School app that is designed to supplement the NMPED Toolkit for back to school safe practices. Mr. Nunez provided the Board with a whiteboard animation presentation that is an overview of the product. He noted that the app does have a security and privacy component, which is extensive. It also includes several modules, with most important being the Activity Tracking and Contact Tracing modules, and includes reporting features for a school district to customize. The Back to School app is available in all platforms-Web, iOS, and Android. Mr. Nunez reviewed the key terms, discussed the ability to establish user roles within a school district, and explained how to include families. Mr. Nunez also provided the Board with a real-time video presentation that outlined the app features. Mr. Nunez informed the Board that a one-on-one demo can be arranged for a school district, if necessary. Mr. Richard Nunez introduced Mr. Josh Gomez to discuss the Call Center Services. Mr. Gomez provided the Board with a brief overview of services that G.I. Call Center Solutions provides. He introduced three components: (1) Onboarding, which basically designs the call center management system, and staffing and recruitment; (2) Live Operations Support, which includes phone support, a dedicated account manager, real-time data, quality assurance monitoring, and extended hours support; and (3) Reporting & Analytics, which includes 100% interaction documentation, plus escalation reporting and analysis. These are services that compliment the mobile Back to School app. Mr. Nunez finished by reminding the Board that he is willing to schedule a demo with individual school districts, and offers a 30-day free trial. They also offer software, hardware, cloud system solutions, cyber security, and data storage that can be bundled, if interested. The Board and Mr. Aguirre thanked Mr. Nunez and Mr. Gomez for their presentations.

7. Legislative Update

Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that we had a zoom call last week with all REC Directors and their Board Chairmen from across the state. The goal was to bring everyone together to strategize and find a way to increase the amount of appropriation we receive as a group. The \$103,000 we currently receive is used to cover both the Executive Director and Business Manager salary and benefit costs, but we are planning to add the Chief Procurement Officer's costs also. We will present this information to the LFC on Thursday. Mr. Aguirre thanked Ms. Kodi Sumpter for her support of this new initiative. Mr. Aguirre also informed the Board that in regards to the 30-day session coming up, he had discussions with Senator Chatfield about a week and a half ago, and the topic of how the federal dollars are being spent came up. Ms. Kodi Sumpter noted that we are all in the process of submitting our ESSER-3 applications, and they are due by October 1st, and they must include significant community input, as well as local Board approval. These applications are in-depth, and we must identify how we are representing the needs of the district. There have been several meetings regarding this application and its process. She asked the Board for input on the hurdles they are facing as they complete their application. Mr. Adan Estrada thanked Mr. Aguirre and Ms. Kodi Sumpter for bringing this up as a topic for discussion. There is definitely a lot to consider when determining on how to spend this funding. Mr. Adan Estrada stated that he feels there is somewhat of a 'power play' in place, and we need to come together as a group in determining on how we spend our dollars, on what is acceptable, and what are some good ideas. There is a significant amount of dollars being given to our districts, and they come with a huge responsibility to meet the needs of our district. If anyone is having difficulty meeting the requirements of the application, please reach out to a colleague, because we definitely need to spend every last dollar given to us. There is a concern out there that the School Board Association, along with the advocacy of education in our schools, is asking for raises for our teachers, and these type of things include a price tag. The concern is that they continue to give us funding, and we don't typically spend what we already

have in place. Mr. Adan Estrada explained how his district plans to spend their funding, and his concerns about the continued costs once the Covid funds are gone. Mr. Aguirre noted that one of the things we have done in regards to grant money attached to contracts, is to write the language into the agreement that states once the funding runs out, the position ends. Mr. Adan Estrada added that being strategic is probably the best way to approach this dilemma, but be aware of not being coached into spending the funding unwisely. Mr. Aguirre also informed the Board that he heard that the Department of Health is going to issue every school district \$70,000 for a multitude of things, but also includes contact tracing. Mr. Aguirre has asked for the documentation regarding this funding, and will forward to Superintendents once it is received. Ms. Kodi Sumpter noted that this topic was brought up in early June, and then went silent. It should include funding for contact tracing, nurses, and mental health support. In addition, outside of legislative funding, Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that we (HPREC) submitted a federal grant for Tiny House Teacherage(s) for each of the regional communities. We have great hope that this funding is awarded, and will keep you in the know as we move forward. Mr. Aguirre also stated that he was on a zoom call with a company known as Cognia, who is working with the NMPED for the end of year assessment. The company has had difficulty reaching all the districts, and therefore, has asked the RECs to reach out and let you know that they will be conducting the year end assessments. Mr. Kamau Turner added that his district worked with Cognia for their year end assessments, and they were easy to work with.

8. Procured Contracts

Mr. Aguirre instructed the Board on how to find the approved list of procured contracts on the HPREC website. He informed the Board that all available contracts under this procurement group have been pre-bid and the use of these contracts generate a 2% administrative fee, paid by the vendor, that comes back to the region. Ms. Kodi Sumpter highly encouraged use of these contracts, and added they are very helpful. Mr. Aguirre reminded the Board that HPREC is willing to add to this list of services as needed.

9. NMPED IGAs - Snapshot

Mr. Aguirre provided the Board with a snapshot of the IGAs that HPREC is currently working with for FY22. The process of obtaining IGAs with REC's has changed this year. If there is a bureau we have been working with in prior year, we can continue to work with that bureau. The new IGAs have to be taken to the RECA group to garnish any interest in taking on the project. Those interested are narrowed down to the top 3, and then given back to the NMPED to decide who they would like to work with. It seems to be working fairly well thus far, and we are hopeful that if there is a new project we want to be a part of, we will have that chance.

10. Bus Driver Training

Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that HPREC provides online bus driver training to existing bus drivers. He provided the Board with information and a driver registration form. We do not offer the initial (new) training for bus drivers, but this training will help them keep their certification moving forward once they receive their initial bus driver license. It is not a huge money making venture, but we believe it is very beneficial to school districts. HPREC picks up the cost of driver training and offers it to our regional drivers at a discount rate of \$50 per year (per driver).

11. College & Career

Mr. Aguirre reminded the Board that there are 12 districts (our regional eight, plus House, Logan, San Jon, and Santa Rosa) in Region C who make up our group of districts that participate in the Carl Perkins and Next Gen CTE grant projects. We have teamed up with Mr. Jack Forrester, who is the Project Director for the Next Gen CTE Drone Project. We were very successful with this project last year, and plan to move forward with 3 new students from each district. Each participating student will receive training, FCC certification, and a free drone. We are also working with Ms. Kristen Forrester, who will lead the Carl Perkins wind energy maintenance project with Mesa Lands Community College, and the welding project with Luna Community College. We are working on utilizing the Welding Instructor from Raton Schools to hopefully provide training to students using the new digital welding machines we purchased last fiscal year.

12. Dossier Support

Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that we are participating in the statewide initiative through the Dossier Support Project. We have once again hired Ms. Pam Hunnicutt to provide the Dossier online support services. He asked that Superintendents share this information with their teachers. You can contact Pam directly for these services, but we ask that you also copy Marisa on those emails, so she can help monitor which schools are being serviced.

13. Instructional Support

Mr. Aguirre reminded the Board that HPREC purchased Achieve 3000, iReady, and NWEA for our regional school districts to utilize. Our SDA dollars help cover some of these costs, and the other costs are paid from the 2% admin fees we receive from the procured contracts we discussed earlier.

14. Medicaid

Mr. Aguirre provided the Board with a quick snapshot of the Medicaid services provided by HPREC. He asked that Superintendents make sure their service providers are documenting their services daily or at a minimum on a weekly basis. It is very important that services are logged in a timely manner. Mr. Aguirre also noted that the random moment samples must be completed, along with submission of timely quarterly reporting from your business office, to maintain the funding we receive for the Administrative Time Study services. Ms. Marisa Aguirre is our primary contact for the Medicaid program if you have any questions.

15. Special Education Support

Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that HPREC is working with SW REC #10 on the MLSS Support Project. We have contracted with Mr. Robert Abney to provide the MLSS coaching. If you have any questions regarding this project, please feel free to reach out to Ms. Marisa Aguirre. Mr. Aguirre also informed the Board that HPREC contracts with LSG & Associates to obtain services provided by Pepper Skodack as the SPED Consultant. She works directly with your Special Education staff to provide IEP support, SPED compliance support, file review, SAT support, and training as needed. Mr. Aguirre also reminded the Board that we will have our Special Education Law Conference next week (September 28th & 29th), which has been an annual event for 17 years now. We work collaboratively with the Walsh, Gallegos group to provide this training event. Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that we also have monthly webinars with Lori Gerkey, from the Walsh, Gallegos group, that include your special education staff, we provide GoalBook to regional Special Education Directors, that assists with IEP goal development, and

we provide Special Ed Connection from LRP Publication to your district. In addition, we work with PowerSchool Special Programs to bring the IEP module, the 504 module, the service capture module, and the RtI module directly to your desktop. These are just a few highlights of the special education support available to your school districts.

16. PPE Availability

Mr. Aguirre informed the Board that HPREC has a surplus of PPE supplies available to distribute to your districts as needed. They include youth and adult masks. Please contact Emy directly to request PPE as needed.

17. Board Meeting Dates 2021-2022

Mr. Aguirre provided the Board with a list of Board council meeting dates for FY22. The meetings are held the third Tuesday of every other month. We may have to make adjustments to the January meeting, due to the start of the legislative session, but we will make that decision as we get closer. Our board council meetings will be held virtually.

VI. Financial Report

1. *Expenditures

Mr. Aguirre presented a list of expenditures for the period 07/01/2021 through 09/15/2021 to the Board for approval. Ms. Kristie Medina moved to approve the expenditures, as presented. Mr. Adan Estrada 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 provided the Board with a brief overview of the BARs and Transfers. Mr. Adan Estrada made the motion to approve the BARS and Transfers, as presented. Mr. Ray Maestas seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

VII. Comments from Participants

Ms. Kodi Sumpter stated that her district is trying to meet all the October 1st deadlines, and they have a bond election out right now. They have been working with PSFA for the last 5 years on their building project, and now they will go to their voters for a GO bond.

Mr. Adan Estrada stated that it appears there is a much higher expectation that schools will go back in a 'normal way', but there is still lots of Covid exposure, quarantining, and staff unavailable that is hindering this seamless transition. They continue to push forward, and do what they need to make it all work. He is always open to ideas and suggestions for making this easier. He's wondering if the NeXus Back to School app will be an option. Right now the contact tracing procedure takes a whole team to identify what and where. They are managing, but are always open to suggestions.

Mr. Ray Maestas also noted that it has been a tough year to keep the doors open, but they were fortunate enough to add a second school nurse to their staff. She is able to help with contact tracing, and all other issues related to Covid. They also have a remote learning program that is up and running with about 15 students. Overall, things are staying positive for his district.

Ms. Amy Roble thanked everyone for their support and resources that have been passed along this first year. They have had a couple of phishing scams that they were able to catch, and wanted everyone to be on the lookout. There was one that included a fake unemployment claim that was filed for a current employee and they were able to identify that one pretty quickly. The second one was an email from an employee's email address, not a fake email address, requesting a new direct deposit form for payroll. They sent the form, and the person filled out the form and returned it to the right person, but the Business Manager was able to identify that the signature didn't match. The district filed a report with the NM State Police. It was the most sophisticated phishing scam that the district has ever seen. On another note, they are trying to stay in compliance with all the deadlines, and Ms. Roble appreciates all the emails that get forwarded from other Superintendents with this information. It is very helpful.

Ms. Kristie Medina also thanked the Board for their support. The number of emails with a 'to do' list have all be a little overwhelming, but they are getting there. They are working hard to ensure that their schools stay open. The Raton schools were on remote learning last week because they had several staff that tested positive for Covid, and therefore, they were short staffed to keep things going. They are now back up and back in school. It is homecoming week for their schools. Ms. Medina also informed the Board that there is a Tik Tok challenge going around the high school, which includes vandalizing and stealing. It hasn't gotten out of control, but they are having to deal with those type of behavior issues. They are also working on recruitment and retention of needed staff.

Mr. Adan Estrada informed the Board that his district does have certified bus driver trainers if anyone is interested in sending staff to be trained. Due to the shortage of bus drivers, they will be training additional staff in their district. Ms. Kodi Sumpter thanked Mr. Estrada for offering this service to the region.

Mr. Kamau Turner stated that the day to day fatigue is the hardest thing his staff is dealing with right now. He's concerned that by staying open all last year, as a small district, it is now causing fatigue amongst his staff.

Mr. Aguirre thanked the Board for their support. He also noted that he is always open to assisting them with any concerns or issues they face.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Kamau Turner made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Amy Roble seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 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.

Kodi Sumpter

Chairperson

Adan Estrada

Attest