

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SCHOOL OF EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING
MINUTES OF BOCES MEETING
August 18th, 2026
8:00 a.m.

In Attendance: Kimberlee Sia (DPS), Emma Ershow (PEBC), Lindley McCrary (LPS)

Staff: Tiffany Almon (Executive Director at RMSEL)

Guests: Andres Francis and Edie Pishko - students

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve August's agenda moved by Emma Ershow; second motion moved by Lindley McCrary. August's agenda was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve June 9th's meeting minutes moved by Emma Ershow; second motion moved by Lindley McCrary. June's meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Executive Director Report

Student's Updates:

Staff Ground School & Launch Week: Staff participated in a retreat at Arapahoe Valley Ranch in Granby, CO. Ground school focused on setting annual academic and cultural targets.

Work Plan & UIP Goals: Overarching focus is empowering students to take ownership of their learning using evidence, feedback, and reflection across three dimensions of student achievement:

Mastery of Knowledge and Skill

- *K–12 vision for math instruction*
- *K–8 Illustrative Math curriculum implementation*
- *Formative and summative assessments for explicit reteaching*
- *Workshop model across all K–12 math classrooms (PEBC partnership)*

Student Reflection and Goal Setting

- *Data analysis and reflection opportunities*
- *Goal setting during CREW and academic contexts*
- *Student-Led Conferences (SLCs)*

Character and Culture

- *Shared K–12 character values and habits*
- *Co-creation of "I-can" statements*
- *Academic and character-focused feedback*
- *Peer-to-peer student feedback protocols*

Culture Handbook: Josh Zuckerman (Director of Community & Culture) and Alicia Blackmallon (Dean of Culture & Instruction) created a unified staff culture handbook focused on positive, restorative discipline.

Personnel Updates:

- Jessica Vargas resigned due to visa issues; Mark Otterstetter hired as Enrollment Coordinator
- Breanne Clanton resigned; Kathleen McLernan hired for Spanish
- Enya Brass resigned; replacement candidate submitted notice
- Candidate interviews ongoing for 4–5 Literacy position
- Alicia Blackmallon (Dean of Culture & Instruction) available to cover classroom if needed

Enrollment Updates:

- Current enrollment is 374 students (above projected target of 368).
- Openings remain in 3rd grade, 7th grade, and upper high school grades (specifically 10th grade).

Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Review Discussion

- The current 5-year IGA ends soon; districts must notify BOCES by November 1st if withdrawing.
- Board members will discuss renewal with respective district leadership for board approval ahead of November 1st.
- **Medical Administration Policy Issue:** Tiffany noted DPS physician authorization limits Wilderness First Responders (WFR) from administering over-the-counter medications (e.g., ibuprofen, Benadryl) during backcountry crew trips. The operations team is reviewing insurance options, and legal counsel (Coulter) will be consulted regarding IGA inclusion.
- **PEBC Signature Line:** Legal counsel will be asked why PEBC was omitted from the prior IGA signature pages.

Items for Future Agendas

Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Approval: Review feedback from member district board discussions and formalize the updated 5-year IGA.

Legal Counsel Clarifications:

- Guidance from Coulter on adding WFR/medication administration protocols to the IGA.
- Clarification on PEBC's inclusion on the IGA signature page

Adjournment Motion to adjourn the meeting moved by Lindley McCrary; second motion moved by Emma Ershow. Meeting adjourned.

Kimberlee Sia, President

Emma Ershow, Secretary/Treasurer