

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SCHOOL OF EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING
MINUTES OF BOCES MEETING
October 28, 2025
8:00 a.m.

In Attendance: Angela Christensen (LPS), Anne Keke (APS), Emma Ershow (PEBC RMSEL Board), Kimberlee Sia (DPS)

Staff: Tiffany Almon (Executive Director at RMSEL), Margaret Bierman (Finance Director at RMSEL), Kandice Wheeler (Enrollment Coordinator at RMSEL) and Lindsay Emery (Director of Elementary Education)

Guests: Ruthie Beugg (PTSA RMSEL)

Greetings. Those attending introduced themselves.

Approval of Agenda

There was a motion to approve the agenda. First motion to approve, second motion to approve. The agenda was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes

There was a motion to approve September's minutes. September's meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Executive Director Report

Treat and Charlotte presented 7th and 8th grade updates:

- Buffalo Creek Adventure hike was completed successfully.
- Curt Gowdy: friendships started and bonds strengthened.
- 8th grade: Algebra working with partners tessellations.
- 7th grade: pre-algebra, scaling of a snack wrapper
- 8th grade literacy: omnivore's dilemma and documentaries on the impact of food.
- 7th grade literacy: Percy Jackson and the Lightning thief, reading journals, analysis and figurative language.
- 8th grade science: finished space unit
- 7th grade science: potential and kinetic energy, and simple machines
- 8th grade humanities: Revolution project and colonial cities.
- 7th grade humanities: non-violence.

Tiffany thanks the board and explains that we're working with students to work on leadership and presenting skills to overcome nerves.

Tiffany's update:

Successfully completed Q1. Crew trips were successful despite the weather; Phillip helped with plan Bs for all trips.

Had student led conferences focused on goal settings (academic and character)

We had an incredible fundraising event: \$20K raised; another nurse will be hired for a 2nd day of the week with these funds.

Last week 2nd and 3rd graders went to the Capital and met Gov. Polis and the Attorney General, being able to apply our learning through expeditions.

Teachers are collectively working on designing products and projects of high quality.

Continue to elevate student and staff voice with surveys making sure students are empowered to exhibit our values.

High school task force: documentary on high school experience, creating flyers; families helping with Open House tours.

Strategic plan alignment: Curriculum camp coming up for learning and realignment with core practices, making connections, etc.; focusing on planning and high-quality work.

Tiffany and 2 teachers went to a conference to network with other EL leaders and dug into practices for deep instruction. Worked with a school designer to identify 5 school practices to include in curriculum camp. Another next step PEBC offered us a spot-on mind on math institute, Hannah Starbuck will attend RMSEL. 4th grade teacher Enya Brass will participate in the PEBC fellow cohort. She will host teachers at RMSEL. We continue to focus on service; woodchoppers have gone to Pine Ridge. They went in October and will go again in November. (Pine Ridge reservation).

Cereal box challenge: 6th grade project for Food Bank of the Rockies

2nd and 3rd graders applied math and measurement skills to build planter boxes

Always focused on increasing enrollment.

Kimberlee asked about surveys; will we do a mid-year survey with families? Tiffany responded yes.

No other questions

The final number for October count is 377. 2 more than projected.

Wants and needs:

Exhibition night Broken up by grade levels:

- December 11th: K – 6, 5:30pm – 7:00pm
- December 17th Middle School and High School, 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Tiffany will share an invite.

Kimberlee introduces Dr. Keke as she has joined Dr. Keke Aurora Public Schools

No public comments

Policies for review:

Kimberlee gives the board a heads up that Tiffany worked in the spring to look at all the RMSEL policies to make revisions. Kimberlee will send out the redlined versions of policies so everyone can review before the next board meeting.

No questions

Fee recommendation:

Margaret: DAC met last month and decided to leave fees as is and make no adjustments for the 26 / 27 school year.

Motion to approve flat fee:

1st - Angela

2nd - Anne Keke

Motion approved

Margaret budget report:

Continuing to work on audit, no anticipated changes. The presentation to the board will be in November, everything on track.

Student count 377. CDE assumed we would have 380 so there will need to be a budget revision in January.

BOCES funding: we budget \$155k and it came in lower. There was a \$50k difference from last year; we'll have to make a minor adjustment to the budget.

Last month we had 3 dedicated adults. We are now down to 2 because of a student withdrawing.

Legal costs are over budget by 25% due to the policy review; we budgeted 10K and we are at 12K.

Financial aid: 15 students receiving partial aid or full aid, 3 more requests came in and we have money to support them (\$37,407 available). The number of requests increased from last year.

Kimberlee asked about the impact on staffing budgets with the reduction in the BOCES funding – Margaret confirmed there was no impact.

No questions.

Open Forum

There were no requests to speak during the Open Forum.

Discussion Items

Policies for next agenda.

Items for Future Agenda

This will be Angela's last meeting. There is a new DPS liaison starting next month. Policies on discussion items will be added for November, and action items for January. Emma will stop by the school to sign any pending items before she leaves on maternity.

Adjournment

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting. There was a second motion to adjourn. The meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Kimberlee Sia, President

Emma Ershow, Secretary/Treasurer