

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN SCHOOL OF EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING**  
**MINUTES OF BOCES MEETING**  
**May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**8:00 a.m.**

**In Attendance:** Lindley McCrary (LPS), Kimberlee Sia (DPS), Anne Keke (APS), Emma Ershow (PEBC)

**Staff:** Tiffany Almon (Executive Director at RMSEL), Lindsay Emery (Director of Operations), Jessica Vargas (Enrollment Coordinator at RMSEL), Shannon Grant (GNG Consulting group)

**Guests:** Andres Francis and Edie Pishko - students

### **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve May's agenda as presented from Kimberlee. First motion moved by Lindley; second motion moved by Emma and Anne. May's agenda was unanimously approved.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve February's meeting minutes from Kimberlee. First motion to approve moved by Emma, second motion to approve moved by Lindley. February's meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

### **Executive Director Report**

### **Student's Updates**

Student presenters Andres and Edie shared updates from Kindergarten and First Grade expeditionary learning experiences, including:

- Kindergarten Highlights
  - Toys and play expedition
  - Tree and plant life cycle studies
  - Colorado animal research projects
  - Weather studies
  - Orton-Gillingham phonics instruction
  - Illustrative Math curriculum implementation
- First Grade Highlights
  - Tools and everyday life expedition
  - Space studies
  - Bird and environmental studies
  - Literacy development through Orton-Gillingham curriculum
  - Writing projects including narrative, informational, opinion, and poetry writing

Board members thanked the students for their presentations and provided feedback: Board member Ann Kiki encouraged the school to intentionally include a broader representation of students during future board presentations to reflect the diversity of the school community. Tiffany acknowledged the

recommendation and shared that it would be discussed with student leadership planning for the following year.

## **Celebrations**

- Crew trip season is off and the school plans to gather stakeholder feedback to improve future crew trip experiences.
  - Sand Dunes trip for fourth grade
  - Catalina Island sailing trip for fifth grade
  - Middle school and high school trips
- SLED talks (Student Learning Experiences Demonstrations), presenting reflections from job shadowing experiences and intersession projects. The presentations highlighted growth in leadership, presentation skills, and embodiment of crew values.
- Staffing Updates
  - Hiring of a new 7<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher from Soar Academy
  - Hiring of Josh Zuckerman as Director of Community and Culture
  - Ongoing hiring process for a new first grade teacher
  - Creation of a new Dean of Culture and Instruction position; this person will support restorative practices, culture development, behavioral interventions, and professional development.
- Staff solution symposium: focused on improving:
  - Exhibition Night
  - Staff retention
  - Adventure education and fieldwork
  - Culture and behavior systems
  - Student support systems
  - Technology and AI integration
  - Portfolio systems
  - The school also launched middle school visioning work to strengthen expeditionary learning alignment, improve student engagement, and support retention into high school.
- EL partnership: RMSEL will scale back Expeditionary Learning coaching days while utilizing remaining coaching support during summer planning and curriculum development.
- Crew Leadership Team model: new leadership team members joining to be the instructional leaders at RMSEL
- The school plans to purchase Amplify Science curriculum for middle school science using fundraising dollars.
  - Question from Lindley: is there a process for selecting the curriculum? Tiffany explained that due to the school size, there is not a dedicated team to do so. What we currently do is compared the curriculum from other districts, talk to teachers and research.
- HS promotional video and documentary: A promotional video highlighting RMSL High School was released. Additionally, a documentary about REMSL High School will premiere on May 28 at the People's Building in Aurora. Tiffany will share the invites with the Board members.

## **Next steps:**

- RMSL Olympics May 11<sup>th</sup>
- Portfolio Presentations and Passage Panels
- Graduation Ceremony on May 22

- Documentary Release Event on May 28
- Work planning and UIP planning sessions
- Board members were encouraged to attend graduation and upcoming school events.

Question from Lindley: what's the typical board member involvement for the graduation and ceremonies?  
Tiffany and Lindsay: no specific involvement, only attendance

#### **Enrollment Updates:**

- There is an 87% student return rate
- 311 returning students
- 48 non-returning students
- 15 graduating seniors
- 265 new student applications submitted
- Openings remain in select grade levels, while kindergarten and sixth grade are near capacity.

#### **Wants and Needs:**

- Documentary Red Carpet Event 05/28 6pm to 9pm
- Graduation 05/22 at 4pm at First University Church
- Tiffany requested insight from board members regarding district responses to concerns surrounding iReady student data security. Board members shared those discussions are occurring at the school and district levels and agreed to continue monitoring communication and guidance.

#### **No signed ups for Public Comments**

#### **Consent Agenda**

Motion to approve the consent agenda from Kimberlee. First motion to approve moved by Emma, second motion to approve moved by Lindley. The agenda was unanimously approved.

#### **25-26 supplemental budget (Lindsay)**

Lindsey presented a draft supplemental budget for the 2025–2026 school year.

- Ongoing fieldwork and trip expenses
- Additional revenue updates, including READ Act funding
- Enrollment adjustments
- Fundraising impacts
- Anticipated revisions before final approval

Board members agreed that additional review time was appropriate due to the timing and complexity of current expenditures.

#### **E-motor bikes Safety Discussion:**

Tiffany raised concerns regarding student use of e-moto bikes on and around campus, citing safety concerns and parent communication efforts:

- Similar concerns occurring in district schools
- School-level communication with families
- Potential future collaboration with law enforcement and districts
- The need for additional guidance and safety protocols
- Lindley explained that there are no talks at district level, but she'll look into a local communication. She also asked Tiffany if the parents were supportive and Tiffany shared that so far, they all have been. Anne will inquire; per Kimberlee: it's usually ruled by each school.

**Action items:**

- Approve the updated policies. Motion to approve moved by Kimberlee; Lindley first, Emma second.
- Calendars for the next years. Motion to approve calendar 27-28; Emma first, Lindley seconds

Kimberlee asked how were the calendars created. Tiffany explained that she sends out to staff to get their feedback, but they usually don't want to change anything.

There was a motion to approve the 2027–2028 and the 2028 – 2029 school calendar: Lindley moved; Emma seconded.

Question from Anne: is the approval/creation of the calendar something the board should be contributing with? Per Tiffany: yes, calendars were approved by board members in the past.

**Budget report:**

- PPR payment added
  - 4/5 fieldwork accounts are over spent, but this is typical
  - Somethings are going to be updated in the supplemental budget
- Question from Lindley: redact and GT funds, are they directly from the state, or they pass through districts and then to RMSEL? Lindsay: yes, the are directly from the state.

**Items for future agendas:**

Lindsey informed the Board that the 2024 Form 990 draft would require review before the filing deadline. The Board agreed to schedule a brief special meeting to review the document on Wednesday May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 8:15am. Tiffany will send out the invitations.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting, Lindley approved first, Emma seconded.

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Kimberlee Sia, President

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Emma Ershow, Secretary/Treasurer