

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SCHOOL OF EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING  
MINUTES OF BOCES MEETING  
January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
8:00 a.m.

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

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

**Guests:** Ruthie Beugg (PTSC RMSEL), Allie Sandler (RMSEL 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher), 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students

### Approval of Minutes

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

### Student's Presentation

Students presented on their learning activities including:

- Crew: Lessons focused around character values and team building
- Writing: set-up-to-writing activities
- Math: concepts (geometry, fractions, multiplication, division, area, and measurement)
- Literacy: strategies and vocabulary building
- Real-world math applications (planter boxes)
- Community service initiatives (reading to nursing home residents, World Kindness Day)
- Field trips (Trinidad State Park camping trip; upcoming Bear Creek Lake water project)

Board Feedback: Positive engagement with follow-up questions about favorite expeditions and practical applications.

### Celebrations

iReady Mid-Year Diagnostics Results: the objective is to provide students with opportunities for growth in targeted areas of need in literacy and mathematics.

- Reading Results:
  - Kindergarten 106% of annual typical growth
  - Fourth Grade 75% of annual typical growth
  - Fifth Grade 114% of annual typical growth
  - Sixth Grade (Overall) 100% of annual typical growth
  - Sixth Grade (Jenny's Crew) 195% of annual typical growth
- Math Results:
  - Kindergarten 85% of annual typical growth

- Areas of Concern:
  - Third grade reading: 30% of annual typical growth (20% below expected 50%)
  - Third grade math: 27% of annual typical growth

#### MTSS Coordination Improvements

- Added a second dedicated MTSS coordinator to attend and facilitate MTSS meetings, ensure protocols are being followed, identifying root cause for academic, social and behavioral needs
- Also, will strengthened our four to six-week intervention protocols with consistent progress monitoring to improve processes and consistency

#### Mid-year staff changes

- Teacher Replacement: Caitlin Wills resigned over winter break. New 2/3 crew leader Tricia Sanders who is a highly qualified educator.

#### Service and Compassion

- Rapid response supply drive organized for Pine Ridge community emergency
- Supplies collected: blankets, heaters, diapers, gently used clothing
- Delivered via TP Raisers organization over weekend

#### Expeditionary Learning Alignment

- Upcoming Walkthroughs (January 30):
  - School Designer Linnae and Regional Manager of Expeditionary Learning Laura Monroe and other CLT members, will do walk-throughs
  - Focus areas: Core Practice 21 & 12 (character, belonging, quality work)
  - Nearly all classrooms to be observed
- Mid-Year Review Meeting:
  - Two-hour instructional leadership team meeting following walkthroughs
  - Data review: iReady, parent communication, walkthrough findings, survey data
  - Work plan adjustments as needed

#### Other Academic Highlights

- Spelling Bee Success: One sixth-grade student advancing to state competition
- Student Exhibitions nights: End-of-semester celebrations of learning well-received

Question from Anne to Tiffany to explain what does it mean that some students are reading at a +100% level. Tiffany explained that this refers to the median of the annual typical growth that is expected for students at this point in the year; comparing the beginning of the year and the middle of the year.

Question from Anne to Tiffany: is RMSEL receiving any grants for the science of reading from CDE? Tiffany explained that we are not receiving any grants for the science of reading from CDE.

Question from Lindley to Anne: how many students are neurodivergent or multilingual? Tiffany explained that we have a very low percentage of multilingual learners, around 6 students. Last time we checked for

grant reasons, we had 30% of our population is on an IEP or a 504. In terms of the numbers of students who are neurodivergent it's around 20%.

### **Next steps**

- Q3 Student Survey on Creating a Community of Learners
- Semester 1 parent survey data analysis, trying to reliable data
- Mid-year reflection with staff survey and CLT—continued work towards work plan goals
- Lottery and offers
- Director of Community and Culture hiring process since Bryan Terry will not continue for the 26-27 school year
- Staff letters of intent
- Curriculum camp to plan
- Staff service day
- Student-led conferences
- Lottery will take place first week of February, followed by sending offer letters on the second week of February

Question from Kimberlee: did you see more applications from High School this year? Tiffany: we haven't seen a great bump, but many 8<sup>th</sup> graders have turned in their re-enrollment commitment but these numbers might change.

Question from Anne: what is the strategy to have a balanced enrollment? How can we increase the number of students in APS?

Tiffany: we attended the Education Network School Expo, still working on the documentary, listening to HS likes, allowing students to participate in their neighborhood sports, launching a mountain bike team this spring; trying to think about transportation options and have several offerings while staying as a small high school. Also, partnered with a consultant to help us potentially apply for grants and increase found raising to offer more opportunities for students.

We don't have a specific strategy to target APS students specifically. Tiffany would also like to meet with a communication specialist to coordinate text messages. Anne will connect her with Patty Moon.

### **Enrollment Updates**

- 26 students relinquishing spots
- 41 students with pending re-enrollment/relinquishment decisions
- 292 students re-enrolled with deposits
- 271 new applications started; 198 fully submitted
- High School Applications: 7 submitted, 16 started
- Eighth grade freshman retention is very promising

### **Recruitment & Hiring Platforms**

- Question from Tiffany to the board members: what is the most effective hiring platform used by your districts?
- Current Platforms Used:
  - Indeed

- Metro State University website
- Board Input: Districts to provide feedback on preferred recruitment platforms

No public comments

### **Consent Agenda**

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

### **Audit Approval**

- Status: Pending final data from Colorado Department of Education (CDE); Shannon they are close to finishing the data pipeline
- Board members will wait until final liaising to discuss and approve the audit report (expected February); no anticipated significant changes to audit findings according to Shannon
- Kimberlee explained that there is no harm on waiting since an extension was granted for submission (March 1, 2026)
- Next Steps: Audit approval scheduled for February board meeting

### **2025-2026 Budget Amendment Review**

- The board reviewed and approved a detailed budget amendment reflecting updated enrollment and operational costs with no anticipated surprises.:
  - Category Change Reason
  - PPR (Per Pupil Revenue) Increased Actual October count: 377 students vs. 375 budgeted; per pupil rate increase
  - BOCES Funding Adjusted Different from initial projection
  - Fieldwork Fees Adjusted Reflects actual enrollment by grade level; adjustments for students who left post-October count
  - Supplies (Paper) +\$600 Tech-limited school; increased paper usage for instruction
  - Fingerprinting/Background Checks Increased Matched to actual charges
  - Professional Fees Increased Audit and consulting (G&G) fees
  - Legal Fees Increased Policy work
  - Minibus Repairs & Maintenance Increased Unexpected windshield repairs
  - Nursing Services Changed Shifted from DPS nurse to contracted services: 1 RN (1 day/week) + 1 CNA (5 days/week)
  - Nursing Donations Applied \$16,000 in donations offset nursing expenses
  - Administrative Positions Decreased Reduced from 6 to 5 positions
  - Teacher Payroll Increased Replacement teacher (Trisha) more experienced than departing teacher (Caitlin)
- Discretionary Expenses: Adjusted to maintain \$500,000 year-end rollover

Motion to approve the amended 2025-2026 budget from Kimberlee, moved by Anne, seconded by Lindley. Unanimously Approved

### **Budget Report, recent developments:**

- PPR payments received from DPS in December and January

- Upcoming adjustment: DPS "truing up" dedicated adult funding
- Current overages in legal fees, minibuses, and classroom budgets to be resolved in revised budget
- Classroom budget requires clarification on shared vs. classroom-specific fees
- High school budget overages covered by donations
- G&G consulting charges will shift to dedicated line item in revised budget

Kimberlee complemented Lindsay on the job she is doing on her new role.

**Items for Future Agenda:**

Policy Cleanup: Lindley McCrary committed to delivering cleaned-up policies with standardized headers for February board meeting

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned since there were no other items to discuss. moved by Lindley, seconded by Anne.  
Unanimously Approved

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Kimberlee Sia, President

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Emma Ershow, Secretary/Treasurer

