

CARBON COUNTY BOARD OF COOPERATIVE HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICES

Board Minutes

The Carbon County Board of Cooperative Higher Education Services (BOCHES) held its regular monthly meeting on October 24, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in Rawlins, Wyoming.

Roll Call

Board members present: Mike Mann and Pam Thayer. Via Zoom: Neil Kourbelas.

Matt Feldman arrived towards the conclusion of the meeting.

Absent: Rick Greene

Others present: Jennifer Moore, Karen Webster, Shelly Collier, Janet Garcia, Candie Zumbrennan, Cory Hudson, and Mark Flaherty. Via Zoom: Roberta Corson and RYANNE MIKESSELL. Special guests: Tymlee Taffner, Jadon Martinez, Lucas Peterson, Trevor Taffner, Tana Taffner, Thure Taffner, and Trinity Taffner. Gale and Rick Taffner.

Agenda

Pam Thayer made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Neil Kourbelas and passed.

Public Comments, Presentations & Reports

Janet and Mark introduced Jadon Martinez and Lucas Peterson to the Board. Both students won \$1000 scholarships from the Steel days Welding Competition. Janet went with the students on the first day and said the students represented themselves and the Higher Ed well. Mark went with them on the second day, and he is very proud of them. The Board congratulated them on a job well done!

Candie and Cory introduced Tymlee to the Board. They said that he is a home-schooled student who has done an incredible job getting through the HiSET process. Tymlee was dedicated and worked very hard, and he flew through the tests quickly. They are both very proud of him. The Board congratulated Tymlee, well done!

Executive Session

None

Consent Agenda

- A. Neil Kourbelas made the motion to approve the minutes from September 26, 2024 meeting, Treasurer's Report, and Accounts Payable for October 2024. The motion was seconded by Pam Thayer and passed.

Action Items

None

Discussion

None

Directors Report

Jennifer reported to the Board that we met with Dr. Kirk Young, Western's new president on Monday. Several community members joined us for lunch, and Jennifer gave him a tour of the building and spoke to him about our programming here.

On Tuesday, we had two video crews in the building. The first was the RHS yearbook staff, videoing the CTE programs which will be presented at the Perkins community meeting next week. The second crew was from CGI and the City of Rawlins, for the city website. CCHEC is the focus of about half of the education video on the City's website and CCSD#1 is the other half. They took video of CTE programs, dual students, tutoring, and testing.

We also had an Open House on Tuesday. We had a handful of community members come through, not as many as past open houses, but Jennifer thinks it is likely due to the timing and being in October. As part of the open house, we had numerous student projects on display in the hallway, which was a nice touch and a positive reminder about all that we do. We also have had people come in and bid on items and purchase items. The silent auctions will end tomorrow at noon.

We have had some discussion in the past about a different location for the Higher Education Center in Baggs or potentially replacing the trailer added on to the main building. On Monday, Ryanne, Shelly, and Jennifer will be meeting Ares Planning & Development in Baggs. They have grant money that would help to create site layouts, 3d renderings, pricing, and to provide grant strategies for next steps. We are still years out from securing any funding to be able to do something like that, but they suggested that we go ahead and work with them on this first step, as they may not have grant funding down the road.

We are still promoting the renewal of our mill levy. Please feel free to share our posts on social media. If needed, Jennifer can send the graphics to those wanting to share the information.

Upcoming we have the Festival of Trees, in partnership with Boys and Girls Clubs of Carbon County, which is quickly approaching, and we will also be assisting with the Christmas event at the fairgrounds this year.

Staff Reports

Shelly reported that we have received 9% of our estimated 2024-2025 Carbon County tax income compared to 7% in 2023. We have received 26% of our estimated 2024-2025 Sweetwater County tax income compared to 18% in 2023.

Janet let the board know that we started October with Homecoming week! It was a fun week of school spirit. We hosted 2 sign painting classes, the General Election Forums for School Board, City Council, and Hospital Special District Candidates, and a full CNA II class, Winter Preparedness with Lenny Laymen, Amanda Brown, and Emily Kaluzny, another Lunch & Learn with Alex Bakken on Home Safety, so far this October. Upcoming highlights include a Lunch & Learn with Lindsey West, C.C. Treasurer, and Renee Snider, C.C. Assessor, on how property valuation effects our taxes. Also, we will have our Women's Self Defense Class with Amber Yardley, and CCHEC will be downtown for their Trick or Treat event. We are also gearing up for Festival of Trees. Janet reported that we had 1,600 views of the City Council Members and School Board Member Forum on Facebook, and a record high of 2,700 views of the Hospital Special District Board Member Forum.

Cory reported that registration for Western college classes starts November 6th, and she will be meeting with the High School Counselor and students next week to aid in pre-registration advising. Cory will also be meeting with Victory High School students. We currently have 1 student at the jail working towards their High School Equivalency. We continue to offer testing services and English Language classes for students that need them. Cory and Candie attended In-Service at Western on October 8th.

Ryanne let the board know that they had 27 participants in their Witches Broom Class. Everyone had fun. They also had their Monster Hands kids craft class with the preschool students. They had a full class of 10 students for their Conceal Carry class with Alex Bakken. They are also participating in the chili cook off contest at the preschool. Witches' Night-Out is coming up as well as the Trunk or Treat event. Tumbling starts in a couple of weeks, and they will also be doing a bread making and pasta making class. Ryanne and Roberta also went to Western for In-Service on October 8th.

Board Comments

Neil said that nothing compares to seeing students recognized for their achievements and seeing them moving on to better things.

Pam agrees with Neil about student recognition. Pam also mentioned that the luncheon with Dr. Young at CCHEC was great and it was good to hear what was coming down the pipeline with them. Pam thanked the CCHEC staff for a job well done on the video collaboration with CGI and the City. She also thanked Janet for doing the Property Valuation Lunch & Learn and for recording and posting for people to watch later that will not be able to make it in person.

Mike appreciates that staff went to In-Service and that they take the time for professional development.

Matt apologized for being late. He also expressed an interest in planning a board retreat.

Next Board Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 25, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Pam Thayer made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Matt Feldmann and passed.

Matt Feldmann, Chairperson

Rick Greene, Clerk

Karen Webster, Executive Assistant