

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 March 21, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in Rawlins, Wyoming.

Roll Call

Board members present: Matt Feldmann, Rick Greene, Mike Mann. Via Zoom: Neil Kourbelas and Pam Thayer

Others present: Jennifer Moore, Cory Hudson, Shelly Collier, Janet Garcia, Karen Webster, Venna Oad, and a few of her family members.
Via Zoom: Ryanne Mikesell and Roberta Corson.

Agenda

Rick Greene made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mike Mann and passed.

Executive Session

None

Public Comments, Presentations & Reports

Cory introduced Veena Oad to the board. Veena is one our senior dual students. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic and positive attitude. Veena is always willing to help a classmate who has been struggling. She is an excellent advocate for herself and has excellent communication skills. Veena stays in contact with her college instructors, asks for help or clarification when she needs it, and even meets with them frequently through zoom. She has challenged herself to take more difficult college classes, such as College Algebra and Statistics, excelling in all her classes. Veena will be graduating with 30 college credits. Recently, she has been applying and interviewing at many Ivy League schools. Also, she just qualified for National FBLA in Coding and Programing. We are excited to see what the future holds for her! The board congratulated Veena on all her hard work. Matt asked Veena what she is going to major in and Veena said engineering.

Cory also mentioned that two students earned their HiSET this month, Leia Van Wagoner and Caleb Casady. The board also congratulated them a job well done.

Consent Agenda

- A. Mike Mann made the motion to approve the minutes for the February 20, 2024 meeting, Treasurer's Report, and Accounts Payable for March 2024. The motion was seconded by Rick Greene and passed.

Action Items

- A. Mike Mann made the motion to approve the resolution that the additional special school district levy in the amount of one-half (1/2) mill upon each dollar assessed valuation within Carbon County School District One (not to exceed two (2) mills) be continued for the maintenance of post-secondary education services offered by the Carbon County

Board of Cooperative Higher Education Services, doing business as, Carbon County Higher Education Center. The motion was seconded by Rick Greene and passed.

- B. Mike Mann made the motion to approve the proposed Holiday Calendar with the amendment to change the date listed on the action item from 2024-2024 to 2024-2025 on the agenda. The motion was seconded by Rick Greene and passed.

Discussion

- A. Christy Stocks Dedication: Ryanne talked with Joel about the glass, which is part of the hold up on getting the shadow box completed. Joel said that this is the 3rd time they have ordered the glass, what has been shipped so far has been the wrong size. They will also talk about stains and finishes when the correct glass piece arrives. Ryanne will put the box together then show Jennifer and the board, so they can make any changes or additions before it is displayed to the public. Jennifer added that she does not think we will be ready to do the dedication ceremony in April at the next board meeting. The next opportunity to do this at a board meeting would be in September. Ryanne said that September would be better for her, she can work on the box all summer and make sure it is good. The board agreed to hold this event on the same date as our September board meeting. Jennifer said that we would have cake and drinks and asked the board what they would like to call this event would it be a dedication reception or something else? Matt's recommendation is to call it a dedication tribute. Jennifer also said that we will create some invitations and reach out to Christy's family. Jennifer also asked for thoughts on how the dedication should go, will it have an open house feel or have an itinerary? Matt said that he thinks there should be a dedication speech with room for people to tell stories or say a few words if they would like to and then transition into an open house. More formal at the beginning then it can flow into a more relaxed atmosphere is the vision Matt has for this event. Matt asked if there was any more discussion on that. Ryanne asked if she could create the invitations. Matt said that would be fine, and thanks for stepping up.

Directors Report

Jennifer reported that the Strategic plan core group continues to meet monthly. Between last month and this month, we were able to refine and create student surveys for nearly all student populations that we serve in both Rawlins and Baggs: Community Education, Health Sciences, Vocational Courses, ELL, and dual enrollment students. Western completes their own class surveys, so we will not survey those students, with the exception of dual enrollment students, who are surveyed more so about their experience with CCHCEC in regard to taking college courses, rather than the individual course itself.

Carquest Automotive generously donated a large parts washer to the auto shop this week. They were also kind enough to bring it over to the shop. This is an exciting and much needed addition to the automotive program. The WyoTech trip that was supposed to take place last month got moved to earlier this week. JT attended with Heidi from RHS and 21 Rawlins students and 4 LSRV students.

Jennifer started the budget process for the 24-25 year. Shelly and Jennifer met with the staff yesterday to discuss the budget timeline and ask them to start thinking about and planning for next year. They will submit budget requests in early April, and we will go from there. Right now,

we are estimating 15% less on tax income for next year based on being down from this year's estimates. As we get closer, we may have better estimates.

Congrats and thank you to Candie and Natalie for achieving their SafeSitter credentials. Candie will be teaching SafeSitter in Rawlins this summer and Natalie will be teaching it in Baggs.

Next Monday and Tuesday with the rest of the Western Presidential Search Committee, I will be interviewing several candidates via zoom and helping to narrow down the search to the three or four final candidates.

Jennifer reminded the board to follow up with Karen on the Public Officer Training.

Jennifer had one more thing to talk about and it was not in her report because she was waiting for the district to make a public announcement. They did announce in the CTE meeting yesterday that with Val Jennings retiring as of right now they are not planning to offer the business program or pathway next year. Jennifer would like Higher Ed to consider taking on this program. Jennifer plans to meet with Mr. Hamel and Mrs. Garner to talk more about it right after Spring Break. Jennifer would also like to get the board's thoughts and input. We would have to pay the teacher's salary and Jennifer feels comfortable doing this. We also have the space available to do this. A sticking point would be the equipment/computers needed. Most of what they have has to stay in the CTE realm, most of it was paid for with Perkins funds. There would be some future costs, but a lot of this program would be covered by Perkins. Jennifer envisions this program leaning more towards things like entrepreneurship and marketing. It could tie in well with our current trade's programs. Mike said it has to go on, whether it's under this umbrella or the other. Matt doesn't think the district will have a problem relinquishing the equipment if the Higher Ed takes over the program. Neil agrees that this is a program that needs to continue and asked if there are any classes at Western that can also be used by dual enrollment students. Jennifer said yes, ideally, she would like to find a teacher with an MBA that could teach Western classes. The board said they would support Higher Ed with whatever plan they have for it. Even if we don't find someone with a master's degree, a person with a business degree could earn their pic license and teach the high school classes and help students that are taking college business classes. Jennifer also thinks we could grow our own teacher within High Ed, if needed.

Staff Reports

Shelly reported that we have received 58% of our estimated tax income for Carbon County. The five-year average for March is 69%. We have received 54% of our estimated tax income from Sweetwater County. The five-year average for March is 60%. We are estimating our tax income for this year to be 85%. Shelly also mentioned that as Jennifer said in her report, we are starting the budget process for the next fiscal year. There are currently several bill on the Governor's desk in regard to residential property tax that we are keeping an eye on.

Janet reported that by popular demand we offered 2 plasma cutting classes. Our own Greg Garner was the instructor. Both classes went well, good job Greg! Our CNA II class is next month, and it is almost completely full. We will have students traveling from different parts of Wyoming to come take this class with Barb James. Registrations are rolling in for our Medication Assistant-Certified class and we hope that some of our CAN II participants will be able to also take this valuable class this summer. They are both great credentials to have. We have a couple of paint nights coming up, the signs are dog themed and mushroom themed. The

Get Your Stuff Together workshop will be on April 10th. Amy Bach and Edward Jones will be here talking about Will and Estate Planning. Barbara James will present on DNR, Advanced Directive. Dani Jaber from Casada Funeral Home will be presenting on Funeral Planning for Yourself and Family. Green Thumb 101 With Katrina James will be April 24th. Pet CPR & First Aid will be April 17th, with Dr. McFarland. Carbon County Conversation are ongoing, the next one is on Alcohol Awareness, April 19th.

Cory reported that the dual and concurrent students are doing well. Barb's adult CNA class ends tomorrow. Western Summer registration is open, and the Fall catalog is available for students to start pre-registration. Cory will be meeting with the RHS counselor for dual student pre-registration the first week of April. Cory said that two students (Leia Van Wagoner and Caleb Casady) completed their HSEC this month and we posted congratulations to both of them on Facebook. Sandy has one student that she is tutoring at the jail, and they have one test left to get their certificate. We will be hosting CNA testing on March 27th.

Ryanne reported that they have a suncatcher class set for tomorrow with 12 people enrolled. Other classes coming up include Medicare 10, it has 8 people registered. Life and Times, an avalanche class with instructor, Alex Bakken. They are also adding a Barre class on Monday afternoons. Lastly, Daddy does Hair class, for dads and daughters. Swimming lessons paperwork went out this week. There have been a lot of changes to this class this year, changing the location to Rawlins and doing the classes in June but the feedback has been positive so far. Greg set up the computer for the Pearson Vue testing site, they took pictures and will send them for review. They contacted the government trapper to come take care of animals that are living under the building, cats, skunks, etc. Ryanne also said they are handing over the reigns to the high school and middle school volunteers to continue planning and running Camp Peak. They will come up with their own budget for approval and activities and then run them.

Board Comments

Neil appreciated seeing Veena at the meeting and was very impressed that she is taking statistics while still in high school. He said this brings you back to basics and why you ran for this sort of responsibility. She is the reason he ran for the school board and the college board. It is success stories like that and bringing them to meetings brings you back to your fundamentals. Thank you!

Mike echoed Neils sentiments. Mike said it makes you look back and say to yourself, "I wish I would have tried harder!" He is so impressed with the kids today. Mike also mentioned the repeal of the gun free zone bill weighs heavy on his mind and hopes that it does not pass.

Rick said Veena's story is a great success story and enjoyed seeing that. He also hopes that the repeal bill does not pass.

Matt said the stories of the HiSET graduates and Veena are the reason he is on the school board. Helping staff and students really helps even out the other harder things and issues that need to be taken care of on the school board. Matt also really appreciates being able to hear about and see success stories. He also shared that he doesn't want to see the gun free zone bill repealed.

Next Board Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in Baggs. Matt said that this might change to Tuesday, April 23, 2024. He will let us know.

Adjournment

Rick Greene made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mike Mann and passed.

Matt Feldmann, Chairperson

Rick Greene, Clerk

Karen Webster, Executive Assistant