

Central Carolina RESA Board of Directors Meeting

Zoom Session

March 19, 2021

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Minutes

Board of Directors in Attendance

Debra Baggett (Pitt Designee), Mike Zalewski (Franklin Designee), Cathy Moore (Wake), Stacy Steward (Durham Designee), Tony Jackson (Vance), Eric Cunningham (Vance), Steven Ellis (Nash), Rodney Peterson (Person), Patrick Miller (Greene), Mary Young (Warren), Lane Mills (Wilson), Alisa McLean (Granville), Valerie Bridges (Edgecombe), Nyah Hamlett (CHCCS), and Eric Bracy (Johnston).

Affiliate Member Representatives in Attendance

Barbria Bacon (ESDB), Freda Hicks (NCCU), and Fran Riddick (NC State).

Staff

Ed Croom and Dana Stutzman

Call to Order

CCRESA Executive Director, Ed Croom called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Approval of the February 19th Minutes & Financial Report

Ed Croom stated Board Members receive a copy of the February 19th Minutes and the Financial Report via email. Dr. Croom asked for a motion to approve the Minutes. Patric Miller moved, and Tony Jackson seconded a motion to approve the Minutes. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. Lane Mills, CCRESA Treasurer presented the Financial Report to the Board and noted that the RESA's finances remain in good standing. Rodney Peterson moved, and Tony Jackson seconded a motion to approve the Financial Reports. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Dr. Croom reminded Superintendents that there was an agreement many years ago to lower dues to spend down the fund balance, with the expectation that dues would need to be raised. This will need to be addressed in the next couple of years.

Dr. Croom shared with members the PD opportunities that the RESA has been offering and we are looking forward to continuing to offer monthly PD for teachers. Dr. Jackson recommended a Virtual School PD due to the number of districts that will be offering this in the future.

Planning for Hotspots

Greene County is an Apple District, meaning Apple connects them with 3rd party vendors to buy their old devices and put those funds toward new technology. Districts will also be receiving substantial funds from the federal government due to the stimulus bill passed last week. It was noted to be mindful of the “cliff” that will occur in 3-4 years when the money runs out. Some districts can calculate technology funds in bonds or Capital Outlay.

Summer School

The Senate is rewriting the bill, but it is expected that districts will have to submit their plans to the state, possibly as soon as 30 days prior to last day of school. Superintendents noted this is hard to plan when they do not know the requirements. Many districts were already putting together summer school programs but have had to put them on hold, to wait and see what will be required. Some districts have surveyed staff and noted that not a lot of teachers want to participate in a summer program no matter the incentives. There is also concern that a final assessment due in September would be an unrealistic timeline. It is unlikely that one summer program would allow all students to get back on track. Superintendents would prefer a more spaced-out approach, over the next 2 – 3 years, to try to recover from the effects of the pandemic.

The new Senate Bill may also address retention, giving students a pass if they participate in a summer school program. The Curriculum Council had much discussion on this subject, and there are many issues, including budgetary, that are wrapped into this topic.

Employee Vaccinations

Districts need clarity from state before they can issue any requirements or recommendations. Tharrington Smith's stance is that districts may not require the vaccine for employment. Superintendents may need to employ a more high-touch approach and travel to staff to offer vaccinations on the spot.

2021-2022 Calendar

Currently districts are not adding on time to the school day or adding days to their school calendar. Some districts may offer an extended after-school program. Dr. Croom noted that the Equity Council had a passionate discussion over students, especially students of color, being left behind. Dr. Croom requested they work on solutions and in a few weeks, they will reconvene and have suggestions to present to Superintendents. One potential hurdle to get low-income students back into the classroom are the PEBT benefits families are receiving for participating in remote learning. Many families are faced with the choice of losing necessary funds or continuing to have their children learn from home. This aspect is another reason why many districts need effective Virtual School programs. LEAs know which students are not doing well, and they need to build confidence and trust within those communities.

Open Discussion

- Superintendents are asked to submit the names of those in charge of their Virtual School Programs to Dr. Croom. The RESA will convene a temporary Council to help support this initiative.

Meeting Adjourned

Dr. Croom adjourned the meeting at 10:00am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lane Mills

CCRESA Secretary/Treasurer