

## **Central Carolina RESA Board of Directors Meeting**

**NCSBA Assembly Hall**

**January 6, 2023**

**9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

### **Minutes**

#### **Board of Directors in Attendance**

Eric Bracy (Johnston), Steve Ellis (Nash), Rhonda Schuhler (Franklin), Cindy Bennett (Vance), Jamar Perry (Granville designee), Catty Moore (Wake), Frank Creech (Greene), Pascal Mubenga (Durham), Rodney Peterson (Person), Julie Thompson (RRGSD), and Keith Sutton (Warren).

#### **Affiliate Members in Attendance**

Dain Butler (Alamance Burlington), Michele Handley (ENC School for the Deaf).

#### **Guests**

Hank Hurd (Mark III), Michael Greer (NCDPS), Jake Roberts (NCDPS), Katie Cornetto (Poyner Spruill), Amy Clay (Poyner Spruill), Andrew Smith (NCDPI), Lynn Williams, and Administrative Assistants to Superintendents.

#### **Staff**

Patrick Miller, Dana Stutzman, and Katherine Chambers

#### **Call to Order and Welcome**

CCRESA Executive Director, Patrick Miller welcomed Superintendents, administrative assistants, and guests at 9:00am. Each Superintendent introduced their administrative assistant to the room. Patrick Miller introduced Hank Hurd from Mark III, our meeting sponsor. Mr. Hurd shared that the latest salary studies emphasized the importance of employee benefits. Mark III is family owned and housed in North Carolina.

Dr. Miller invited administrative assistants to join Lynn Williams in the conference room for Crucial Conversations, a professional learning opportunity, and called the Board Meeting to order at 9:30am.

### **Approval of the November 18, 2022 Minutes**

CCRESA Board Chair, Rhonda Schuhler asked members to review the November 18, 2022 minutes. Motion to approve the Minutes was given by Catty Moore, Frank Creech seconded, and the minutes were passed unanimously.

### **Approval of the Financial Reports**

Dana Stutzman, CCRESA Assistant Director, summarized the finance memo and reports shared with the Board. Rodney Peterson motioned to approve the financial documents, Keith Sutton seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

### **Cybersecurity - NCDPS**

Michael Greer and Jake Roberts from the North Carolina department of public safety (NCDPS) discussed information from the homeland security department's safety and intelligence section. When school districts become aware of a threat, they may reach out to NCDPS and have full availability of the team's resources, including a partnership with local FBI offices.

Many of the smaller districts use Secureworks and iSensorIPS, but NCDPS recommends enrolling in free services like Bitsight, JCTF with basic information, and recommends an assessment be made. Phishing is the most common cause of a cyber incident. Superintendents are encouraged to call either Mike Greer or Jake Roberts to take advantage of resources. There is not an official way to gain access to resources; superintendents just call or email a team member directly. When reports are made to the Emergency Management unit, this information is exempt from the "public information policy".

After a report is made, the Intelligence Unit has 16 sectors of critical infrastructure to analyze threats seen in North Carolina. Information Systems Analysis Center (ISAAC) begins by helping students/staff assess the incident and determine if there is a potential threat with the BETA Unit. Additional counseling will be provided if no crime is committed. The primary goal is to help get all involved on the right path. MCNC runs monitoring through NCDPI, which the Beta unit must be requested by local law enforcement. The Emergency Management (EM) unit in NCDPS offers a web-based School Emergency Response Application (SERA) and a School Risk Management Plan (SRMP), which is a web based tool to guide school officials through the creation of a school board emergency management plan.

Superintendents would be interested in having best practices for cyber security come from a state agency vs. just district plans. Districts' plans do include physical threats but would like advice on how these plans could include cyber threats. Superintendents requested a presenter from MCNC to speak at an upcoming meeting to answer these questions and speak on products available to LEAs.

A FEMA cyber security grant opportunity available to any state/local entity is getting ready to be posted. A potential use of funds would be to transfer LEAs to the .gov domain, which is more secure.

### **Poyner Spruill Legal Update**

Dr. Amy Clay and Katie Cornett presented on School Threat Assessment and Safety Considerations to Superintendents. The threat assessment is written in legislation in School Risk and Response Management System II5C-105.49A.

- There is a grant available for a school- based mental health policy.

SSCH - 000 School Violence Acts has defined what LEAs must report to School Board Education through DPI. There are federal requirements and additional requirements from states in which LEAs must report. There are different policies and procedures for each individual threat. Staff,

faculty, administrators, SRO's, and coaches are all responsible for conducting a threat assessment. It is a team effort, and every school should have a team identified that meets regularly and participates in professional development training.

A direct threat involving an EC Student often brings up arguments on disparate treatment and/or negligence. If the threat is not disability related it should follow the protocols of the threat assessment plan and involve the 504 and IEP team.

### Case Study

February 2022 *Cleveland v. Taft*: case in which a school was found negligent. A student had repeatedly threatened to bomb and shoot up the school. These threats were continuously ignored by the assistant principal who did not communicate with the school team nor parents. The school was found negligent after a school shooting occurred.

### **School Performance Grades**

Michael Maher from DPI presents the School Performance grades redesign. The current stage in the process includes new measures being examined by content experts. Separate models by grade band are being considered as well as required and optional models. The advisory group for implementation is made of Superintendents and chief academic officers. Actual models, such as student subgroup performance on time, individual group based on scale growth (not compared to a regular group), and a study of separate pay grades in districts prior to roll out (which is a few years away) will be given and shown in Greensboro. A separate measure is being developed for "school climate." An individual feedback survey was offered:

<https://tinyurl.com/DPISPG>. Superintendents request that districts be able to see all indicators, even if they are not a part of the study.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Dr. Miller gave an overview of Council meetings held over the past few months. Highlighting progress on the Equity Council's plans to hold an Equity Symposium next Fall. The CCRESA will be partnering with NC Central University and plan this session through an administrative leadership lens that will include all CCP3 participants.

The application and recruitment process for CCP3 Cohort 3 is underway. Virtual interviews will be complete by December 2022 and Superintendents will be notified of candidates selected and asked to sign-off on their enrollment in January 2023. Participants will be notified by early February and will begin coursework at Central in the fall of 2023.

### **Meeting Conclusion**

Administrative Assistants rejoined the Superintendents in the Assembly Hall. Dr. Miller adjourned the meeting and gave directions to meet at the Village Grill for a celebratory luncheon.

Dr. Miller adjourned the meeting at 11:45AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Alisa McLean

CCRESA Secretary/Treasurer