Executive Director Report

Jim McDermott distributed several Safety Assurance Policies for BOCES’ review and will send copies electronically. Those distributed would be standard language in terms of content for the BOCES’ approval including safe schools, personnel, building operations, mission statement and others. In April the Colorado Association of School Board’s (CASB) classifications, “J” for student-related policies will be ready but are now being reviewed by the Administrative Team. Jim pointed out the “GCE”, Professional Recruiting, continues to be discussed, i.e., the NCLB aspects of this policy. RMSEL’s situation is that over the years we have preferred candidates to hold teaching licenses even though RMSEL has a state waiver for licensure exemption. However, the highly qualified aspect is not easily solved for each content area. For example, it is rare for a middle school teacher to be highly qualified in both science and math. RMSEL has never received Federal or "pass-through" funds for these hires. Since this is the first time BOCES has received such policies for review and adoption, Emily noted that the role of BOCES governance with the school is not clearly defined. She proposed to the rest of the members that the BOCES more clearly define their role, possibly using a "policy governance" model. With a transition to a new executive director, this BOCES needs to work with the new executive director to develop an evaluation process for the executive director position. With more interaction, she envisions BOCES as a vehicle to build good will and better understanding of roles between the board and the school.

Calendar

Leann Asgari stated that there are three calendars (one for each school level) for the 2009-2010 school year. The beginning and end dates on each calendar are the same. Emily asked how the calendar is developed for the year. Jim noted that the calendar goes through Lead Team which assures that the calendar meets the required number of hours, and it is then reviewed by Community Council. The Lead Team does not count the additional hours for fieldwork which would cover snow days. The lowest common denominator (the grade that has the least amount of time on overnight trips) would be the base line for emergency situations. One big attraction for staff to teach at RMSEL is the dedication to professional development. He wants to make certain that professional development time is well-used. Family conferences have increased for next year from two to three. The winter faculty retreat has been eliminated from this calendar. Teachers are bound by a 190 day contract. This year, the professional development days are at the end of the year in order to build a strong framework for expeditions that begin the following school year. Over the years, staff has realized that there is not enough time in the beginning of the year to plan the current expedition, so staff has decided to hold professional development at the end of the year. Overall, the number of professional development days has
decreased from 14 to 12. Conference days are considered non-contact. Emily noted that the BOCES has not approved the calendar and wasn’t sure if BOCES should. Sue Chandler asked about the evaluation process for professional development. Emily and Sue want to see results-based information and outcome of expeditions. Keri Melmed suggested that staff and community surveys can provide this information. Emily and Sue also noted that there are budgetary considerations connected to the calendar. Jim recommended that calendar development should begin in September.

Executive Director Hiring Update
Keri detailed the strategies for the search to date. Two candidates have been identified, and the BOCES received the search committee’s individual preferences and their pros and cons for each. Emily, as a member of the EDSAC, distributed the pro and con information, interview questions and job description to the BOCES. Emily developed the interview questions and criteria from the job description and questions from pro/cons, and additional questions submitted to Emily for the BOCES to consider for the interviews. The BOCES members provided feedback on the interview questions. The BOCES then discussed the criteria for questions for the upcoming interviews for each candidate and weighed on the importance of whether the candidates should be expected to have a vision of the school or have a process in mind to attain the vision. BOCES will work with the executive director to clearly define the school’s vision. Emily left the decision to Jim as to whether he attended the interviews. The members agreed that his attendance would be beneficial. Follow-up questions would be appropriate and legally acceptable. Emily described the intent of the board for the executive session which was, after the two interviews, to deliberate the pros and cons of each candidate and decide which one would be tendered an offer for the position. If a decision is not possible today, BOCES would then continue the discussion into the week. Jill Conrad stated a concern about conflict of interest because each of the candidates is a member of one of RMSEL’s participating districts. However, Emily and Amy Prince did not feel that there was a conflict nor did they feel protective about having either candidate leave their respective districts.

Executive Session
Emily entertained a motion to move into executive session concerning the executive director interviews and deliberations toward a final decision, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

BOCES reconvened from the executive session, and the BOCES meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

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Emily Hansen, President

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Mario Giardiello, Vice President