In Attendance: Sue Chandler, Jennifer Churchfield, Emily Hansen and Elaine McCain

Staff: Leann Asgari, Kerry Lord, Keri Melmed, Julie Stelzer and Susan Tamulonis

Guests: Annette Fante, Douglas County Schools Service Link, Lucinda Hundley, Littleton Public Schools Service Link and Erin Boelling, Denver Public Schools Service Link

Emily Hansen called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m.

Open Forum
Today from 9 to 10 a.m., the Service Links from each district were invited to attend a meeting at RMSEL to familiarize them with RMSEL and its staff. Then, during this Open Forum, BOCES members discussed scheduling an annual Service Links meeting during November, and that standard topics would include the Expeditionary Learning School model, presentations by students, enrollment and RMSEL’s mission. If a Service Link member could not attend, a substitute would be strongly encouraged to attend and report back to the absent Service Link.

Approval of Minutes
Minutes from the September 16, 2009 board meeting were unanimously approved.

Executive Director Report
Kerry Lord reported that she had met with Dale McCall, the Executive Director of Colorado BOCES Association (CBA). She asked him to define the benefits of joining his group. Membership dues are $1,575 per year and that figure is based on a school’s annual budget. CBA members are eligible for funding. Kerry will investigate this further, but for now, Dale suggested that RMSEL reach out and discover the support that the CBA offers, such as competitive costs for employee health care, executive director evaluation tools, networking, funding that the CBA may have available, and access to Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB). Because of RMSEL’s structure and the expeditionary learning model, Dale suggested that advantages may not be easily identified. Kerry considered Dale an excellent person to be included with the Service Links annual meeting, any BOCES meeting and a panelist for passages. She will send him a schedule of the remainder of the BOCES meetings.

Kerry then detailed a disciplinary incident about which she had e-mailed previously to the BOCES and asked members for support and guidance. The board reviewed the facts and stated that a member of the public may present any issue at Open Forum and that BOCES members would ask clarifying questions, but that members would not respond at that time but later in a letter. The position of the BOCES is to uphold both the school’s and the state’s policies and laws that govern school districts.

Enrollment
The high school crew leaders feel that the best expeditionary student is a student who has been one. This year, 8th grade shadow day took place earlier in the year, with a focus on continuance of these students to RMSEL’s high school. Additionally, the high school staff will offer a lab for parents of current 8th graders which will provide a more concrete profile of the high school years.

RMSEL is at the budgeted enrollment of 351 students.
Budget
In January, Denver Public Schools will use the October count FTE numbers to calculate the PPOR funding for the second half of the year. Julie Stelzer will submit a revised budget after she receives those figures. Emily felt certain that the $52,000 fiscal emergency fund will have to be returned to the state. Julie noted that any remaining balance from financial aid awards (the deadline of which is October 31st) will be used to offset budget shortfalls for the year, a long-term substitute for a maternity leave being one example. RMSEL has been with CSafe for several years. There are legal limits for public schools concerning investments. CSafe meets the requirements for investing. The board asked Julie to present a three-year projected budget, perhaps in February. Contingency plans are helpful, even crucial for the school’s financial well-being. Because no representative from RMSEL’s Community Council could attend this meeting, Julie presented the Council’s request. The Community Council would like approval from BOCES to increase fieldwork fees 1% for 2010-2011 school year. BOCES asked the Community Council to present a written rationale for the increase at the next BOCES meeting and to assure the board that the reasons are informed by the community as a whole. Julie noted that with adequate fees, fundraising would not be critical. The increase is to keep up with increased costs of fieldwork, fuel for trips and food being two critical factors. Additionally, fieldwork fees subsidize financial aid awards. Any remaining monies at the end of the year from fieldwork roll over to the next year’s fieldwork and are not part of the General Fund because the fees are paid by parents. As in the past, BOCES defines these fees as activity or equipment fees.

Election of Officers
If Emily is not re-elected in November, she asked Kerry Lord to steer the BOCES. Julie reminded board members that the board will be asked to vote on the draft audit at the next BOCES meeting, so a quorum is crucial. With that in mind, Emily will e-mail board members about the November meeting after the elections and ask who will attend and who plans to offer a proxy vote.

IGA Status
The board continues to wait for approval to include addenda to the IGA and have asked their respective legal counsels for recommendations.

Emily adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.