In Attendance: Chad Burns, Julie Stelzer, Marci Elder, Margaret Bierman, Mitzi Leaver, Steve Steadman, Ian Silberman, Leah Wesselman, Megan Kane, Sarah Mullaney

Executive Director Update: Chad detailed this year’s lottery: 70 openings (25 kindergarten, 28 6th, and small numbers in every other grade). There has been an influx of high school students. RMSEL continues to work with DPS on an extended lease that would allow RMSEL to update or replace the building. In parallel, other school properties are being considered. Regarding the recent school shooting, Chad talked about how social media was created with the best of intentions, but has gone terribly wrong. In a crisis situation, social media and smartphones create so many vectors of information that first responders can get lost in a cloud. Denver Police Department District 3 loves the Yondr bags, because they eliminate variables and distractions in an emergency situation. Margaret thinks that parental desire for their kids to have access to their devices comes from wanting to know that their kids are safe. Chad is not inclined to change RMSEL policy regarding the Yondr bags. In addition, Chad explained that fire pulls are no longer required due to code upgrades. The new heads installed in the building last year are gas, smoke, and fire sensors. Chad is investigating whether we can implement a small delay in exiting classrooms to ensure the alarm is valid and to prevent what happened in Parkland. Chad will follow up with the Fire Marshall for further discussion about safety.

Director of Finance Update: In Julie’s absence, Chad reported that we have positive revenue, and the early onset projection from DPS is positive as of now. Caution will be followed as the per-pupil-revenue amount can change after October 1st. On a separate note, Margaret thanked Julie for helping connect the new online auction software with school accounts for easy payments.

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Update: Marci continues her search for passage panelists. 50% of the needed volunteers are identified as of now. Margaret will ask crew parents to reach out to families to get more panelists. The group discussed the idea of asking new parents to be on panels as it is an effective way of understanding how RMSEL works. Marci also discussed assessments and noted that assessment dates are listed in Field Notes and on the school’s Google calendar. Opt outs continue to be an issue, as Marci must find a place for student who opt out to work. Marci would like parents to inform the office of an opt out at least a week before assessments begin.

Update on Building Discussions and Grant Process: As of today, DPS has said RMSEL can retain its lease terms for the current building for 30 years. The group discussed whether the proposed lease is a building lease or dirt/land lease. Chad indicated he continues to work with DPS to finalize the content of lease and clarify that issue. The goal is to present a lease to BOCES in April for review. The next step is to hire an owner representative that can help us move forward with a BEST grant proposal. Because DPS will remain the owner of the building, they must take part in the BEST process and be responsible for the major things BEST does cover, including the boiler, roof, plumbing, etc.

Community Survey Results: Chad summarized the results of the community survey, using 70% as a metric of significance. Any items receiving below 70% (meets or exceeds) need to be
worked on first. Regarding the fees section of the survey, 84% of respondents approved of an additional adventure program fee, with an average of $110.26. The supply fee approval was 77%, with an average of $86.74. The group discussed the school’s operating budget, noting that the adventure program, technology, and school supplies take $280,000 out of the operating budget. After lengthy discussion, the group decided that funding the adventure program is paramount, and will recommend a $200 per-student per-school-year fee for consideration by the BOCES Board. DAC’s recommendation will be to apply a multi-student discount to all fees, including fieldwork, adventure, and transportation. DAC does not recommend adding a supply fee at this time. Instead, DAC will pursue grants.

**Teacher Updates:** Leah reported that 4/5 crews are working on scientific inquiry. They've had several people come in and talk to students about how science affects their jobs. The 2/3 crews are working on simple machines and tying them to the Olympics. The K/1 crews are working on birds and the questions 'what is alive, what is not?'. Julia shared a list of all the fieldwork the Middle School crews have done since the beginning of the year and are planning for the rest of the school year. She reported that as of now, they have the fewest number of kids who not ready to be signed off for portfolios that they've seen in years. 8th grade is focused on the civil rights movement, in preparation for their capstone trip. The 7th graders are doing pig dissection soon. The 6th graders are doing math fieldwork, then off to Rocky Mountain National Park soon for their wildlife management activities. Ian reported that 9th and 10th graders are preparing for a debate on genetic engineering. The 11th and 12th graders are studying light and waves. In math, Marshall is teaching financial literacy to seniors. In Humanities, Auston took the seniors to Five Points for a gentrification tour. The juniors just finished Slaughterhouse Five and discussed morality and war. The sophomores finished Johnny Got His Gun and are starting Animal House. The freshmen finished Sidhartha.

**High School Fall Crew Trip Preparations:** The HS team is working on the fall trip. For the 2018-2019 school year, the South Platte Ranger District will host RMSEL HS students for 21 days. Staff continues to work on obtaining all permits required for the crews to hike the Colorado Trail.

**Auction Update:** Sarah referred the group to her latest auction communication for status updates.

Meeting adjourned.