

MINUTES
Sacramento Educational Cable Consortium
Board Meeting
Thursday, April 9, 2020

Present:

*Marvin Lord	Center Unified School District
*Gabe Ross	Los Rios Community College District
*Jerry Jones	SCOE
* Barbara Schiffner	Twin Rivers Unified School District
*Mark Lawler	Robla School District
Peter Skibitzki	San Juan Unified School District
*Kim Harrison	Folsom Cordova Unified School District
Joe Parente	Process Theater Inc
*Jason Gregg	Natomas Unified School District
*Steve Mate	Elk Grove Unified School District
Liz Rhodes	SECC
Jessica Rhodes	SECC

Not Present:

	Sacramento City Unified School District
Michael Borggaard	Elverta Joint Unified School District
Lois Yount	Gault Joint Unified School District

(* Indicates SECC Executive Board Member)

Call to Order & Order Agenda:

Jerry Jones called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.

Reports:

Financial Report

Mark Lawler reported that there was nothing out of the ordinary or unexpected in the financial report. Lawler recommended that Board moved to accept.

Liz Rhodes confirmed that the financial report was looking on target.

Peter Skibitzki moved to accept the Financial Report. Marvin Lord seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report:

2020-2021 Draft Budget

Rhodes stated that Commission has requested the Community Programmers to submit their proposed budgets by May 1st for operation expenses only. PEG Funding requests, including SEVA Labs and capital expenditures, will wait until September. Basic operational funds will be reviewed by the Commission in June, and if approved by the county, a COLA will be added. The budget that has been provided to the Board does not include this amount. Rhodes plans to continue with existing staff, will discuss further in closed session.

The budget includes a few equipment purchases, projected cost for insurance and operations and some flexibility in terms of salaries, but that will be adjusted in June. Budget assumes that membership dues and Commission funding will remain the same.

There is a large increase included for accounting, Dan Ross, CPA, has spent additional hours in support of looking at CARES Act. SECC will not be applying for the act as it does not meet the requirements given that funding will continue. Ross has been taking a loss with SECC over the past few years and this increase will also balance that out.

BESTNet is not included mainly because the funding for current sites has already been received and is being held in an account until sites are completed.

Jerry Jones spoke about the needed upgrade. There was a refresh done four years ago but it was not meant to be permanent. Equipment is currently much less in price, also new capabilities for the backbone are needed so now is a good time for the upgrade. Jones is currently doing research on the different options for companies and equipment. One challenge is there may need to be multiple 10gbs due to challenges with distance. Jones is also looking to create redundant connection through CSUS in case something happens to the SCOE connection. The plan is to have an estimate in cost by June. Galt and Elk Grove are the two furthest connections. For these sites there won't be a simple 100 gig connection due the distance, it is possible just will be a little different.

Rhodes stated that the upgrade would not cost the districts anything as the funds are already set aside, so this would be included with membership. Also, the funds are separate from operation of SECC so the Commission would not need to approve. The Board would need to come to consensus on what the upgrade will look like. Jones is looking for something that would work for now with the mindset that it could change in the future. Rhodes, in response to a question from Mark Lawler, said that the BESTNet Reserve Funds are sitting in an account that is gaining interest, and are federally insured. A large amount of these funds will go out for the backbone and the upgrade, but there will still be remaining funds.

Gabe Ross moved to approve the draft budget for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year, Barbara Schiffner seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.

BESTNet/Cable Commission Update:

Rhodes has spoken to the Commission, and BESTNet will not be on the June agenda. The approval of the renewal language will be pushed until the September meeting. Rhodes spoke to Comcast and informed them that they need to get figure to the SECC Board, so the Board has seen the amount before the meeting. The language has been approved for now, unless there are any major changes. For now, the process is the Commission legal team provides approval, then Commission staff and then the Board. If all approve the agreement will move forward. Jerry Jones shared the idea with K-12 highspeed network, who were excited to hear about the project. K-12 can pay for the cost to downtown.

The meeting entered into closed session at 12:36pm.

At 12:45pm the Board came back from closed session. No action taken during closed session.

Round Table Sharing:

Jerry Jones (SCOE) – Jones thanked everyone that had reached out regarding district Chromebook needs. SCOE is looking at hot spots and those that qualify for Internet Essentials, which is changing its requirements. There are requests to change the E-Rate program to allow use of funds for Hotspots and possibly Chromebooks. But there is also discussion around the need for a long-term solution to funding for technology. The County Office is working with CDE to find the best way to gather information from districts in terms of technology needs and hopes to streamline the process of getting this information to the state. The major focus is what do families need and how can the State/County Office help meet these needs.

Mark Lawler (Robla) – Lawler thanked Jerry for working at state level on behalf of districts. Robla's last school board meeting was live streamed to YouTube, which seemed to go over well.

Marvin Lord (Center) – Lord explained that Center is a little ahead, as they are a smaller district. Center has been working on one-to-one for the last six years. During this time the big stumbling block has been hot spots for the district. Center is in the second year of updating the backbone to all of the schools. Lord did ask what the process would look like if the state decides to give out funds as the district does not need any more Chromebooks. Jones responded that there is no answer at this time, but will bring this item up in a meeting. Lord announced that Center will start distance learning on Monday and expects a smooth transition with little to no problems.

Barbara Schiffner (Twin Rivers) – Twin Rivers is focusing on getting Chromebooks out to students, which began last Wednesday. The district sent a survey to figure out where parents would go to pick up the Chromebooks, utilizing the high school sites. So far, the district has handed out 1,500 Chromebooks a day, and will start hot spot roll-out tomorrow. Schiffner also said that a big focus is making sure teachers have the resources they need to teach, and making sure teachers understand that they can't teach the same way as they did in the classroom. In total Twin Rivers will distribute about 13,000 Chromebooks. A concern for the district is hotspots since they know about 3,200 requests came in and there were 2,500 in first order. Focus now is on other options other than coming to districts for hotspots.

Kim Harrison (Folsom) – Harrison stated that Folsom rolled out about 3,000 Chromebooks by March 30th. Principals surveyed families to find out where the need was and handled the distribution for their site. The district had about 3,000 720's that were going to be e-wasted at the end of the year but were given to families instead. The district originally wanted the survey to be done by the district, but it did not get out in time, so it became school site specific. The

challenge with the survey being site specific is some families might have multiple Chromebooks in their home. Training for distance learning was completed by March 30th and there was a soft launch last week. Next week will be official start of schooling for the district. The big challenge that remains are hot spots. There will be a special board meeting on Tuesday to approve the purchase 1,500 hotspots. The district adopted Schoology to be able to collect data and analytics that are needed for the state, unfortunately Google Classroom does not provide the same information. Teachers jumped on board with Zoom, who would do it for free, but have security gaps that are a concern. Given all of this the district will be launching Microsoft teams next week as official platform. Training and rollout will be around teams.

Joe Parente (Process Theater) – Parente has been working with teachers on Zoom, especially around security. Parente is interested to see how learning will change in the future due to all the changes in the last few months. The question is who will adapt and who will try to revert back to old method once this is done?

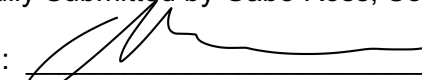
Jason Gregg (Natomas) – Natomas has handed out 6,400 Chromebooks and 300 plus hotspots. The district also set up virtual offices for each site including, an email and forwarding phones to cell phones, which were provided by the district.

Future Agenda Items:

Meeting adjourned at 1:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Gabe Ross, Secretary, on

Approved:


Secretary of the Board

10/6/20

Date