

MINUTES
Sacramento Educational Cable Consortium
Board Meeting
Thursday, October 8th, 2020

Present:

*Jerry Jones	SCOE
Joe Parente	Process Theater Inc
Marvin Lord	Center Unified School District
*Barbara Schiffer	Twin Rivers Unified School District
*Steve Mate	Elk Grove Unified School District
*Peter Skibitzki	San Juan Unified School District
Ruben Reyes	Robla School District
Eugene Graham	Center Unified School District
David Stone	Folsom/Cordova Unified School District
*Jason Gregg	Natomas Unified School District

Liz Rhodes	SECC
Doug Niva	SECC
Abby Jaske	SECC
Jessica Rhodes	SECC
Amitie Tofanelli	SECC

Not Present:

Tara Gallegos	Sacramento City Unified School District
*Gabe Ross	Los Rios Community College District
Michael Borggaard	Elverta Joint Unified School District
Lois Yount	Galt Joint Unified School District

(* Indicates SECC Executive Board Member)

Call to Order & Order Agenda:

Jerry Jones called the meeting to order at 2:02pm.

Ruben Reyes was introduced as the newest Board member for the Robla School District.

Reports:

2019-2020 Year End Financial Report

Liz Rhodes stated her apologies for the delay in the Year-End Report and Budget, SECC had been waiting on documentation from the Cable Commission. Rhodes explained that the process has taken longer than usual, but everything looks good and the final version will be available by the December Board meeting. There will be adjustments at year-end, especially within the BESTNet Account. The account looks to have a tremendous amount of money due to site funding for Twin Rivers and Sac City which will be sent to the districts once connections are completed.

SECC ended the year under budget and there are a few revisions being made for 2020-2021. These revisions include a higher cash balance in the beginning of the year, an increase in taxes, filing fees, webpage as well as software and upgrades due to licensing needs because of COVID. The amount included for PEG Funds came from the September Commission meeting, but the documentation has still not been received. Rhodes stated that SECC is in a great position and still has contingency funds available. This is still a draft, so no approval was needed, but Rhodes wanted to ensure the Board was aware of where the organization stood.

Steve Mate asked why the amount for 2020-2021 was so much lower. Rhodes explained that the funds that came in for the BESTNet/Zayo project would be given out to the districts.

Rhodes also stated that the passthrough figure for BESTNet moves is not included. Whatever funds are not used should go back to the Commission, but Rhodes will request to keep them as PEG funds for future BESTNet expenses.

August Minutes

There were no changes or additions the minutes. Steve Mate moved to approve the August minutes, Joe Parente seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

August Financial Report

Rhodes stated the August and October Financial Report were not yet available and would be ready in December.

BESTNet/Cable Commission Update

Jones informed the Board that there is a meeting scheduled with Comcast to negotiate the cost of the backbone over the next 10 years. Rhodes added that the Commission has provided approval, this meeting is to discuss the details of cost for prepayment. Jones stated that the figure is a bit high, but if SECC can get it down the consortium will be in a very good spot. One more definition needs to be clarified as SECC was under the impression that the cost was based off of per connection and not a per fiber. Rhodes stated that Steve Bradley will also participate to help provide background given his unique understanding of the connections.

Jones also discussed that there is a focus on upgrading equipment for districts as some are missing the capabilities they need, and this could become a hinderance if not dealt with. The plan is to upgrade from 10 gigs of data to 100 gigs and to be fully supported for the next 5 years. SCOE has researched several vendors and various pricing options, these options as well as their pros and cons will be presented to representatives from the districts at 1:00pm on Tuesday. Jones would like for the project to be set in place by the end of fiscal year. Rhodes stated that funds for this project were set aside previously and suggested keeping funds free in case of emergency in the future. Since these funds came from all of the districts and the Cable Commission everyone will need to be on the same page to move forward. Rhodes thanked Jones and his team for all their research and collaboration.

Retirement:

Jones thanked Mark Lawler, not present, and Marvin Lord for their years of service. Lord expressed his thanks for SECC's support over the years and his pride is connecting all but one school in the district with SEVA Studios. Lord ended with stating that SECC and BESTNet are an asset you cannot live without.

Appoint SECC Treasurer

Jones nominated Jason Gregg for SECC Treasurer. There were no other nominations. Steve Mate motioned, and Peter Skibitzki seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jones re-ordered the agenda moving committees to the next item.

Committees:

Appoint Personnel Committee

As chairman of the Board, Jerry Jones is the chair of the personnel committee. Joe Parente and David Stone volunteered to fill the remaining two positions.

Appoint Nominating Committee

Steve Mate is the chair of the nominating committee as he is the past chair. Barbara Schieffer and Peter Skibitzki volunteered for the remaining positions.

DMCC - Next meeting: October 14, 2020

Capital Region Tech Cohorts – Next meeting: November 13, 2020

PIO – Next meeting: August 20, 2020

SEVA Teachers – Next meeting: October 12, 2020

Family Engagement – Next meeting: November 12, 2020

Round Table Sharing

Steve Mate inquired how districts are going to stream live teacher instruction for students who will continue distance learning once school is back to in person learning. Stone and Schieffer responded that they would be using YouTube for live stream. Eugene Graham added that Center will be using three cameras and using YouTube as well.

Peter Skibitzki informed the board that San Juan was back in to in-person Board meetings, but no public attendees are allowed as of yet. Panning cameras are used to zoom to each person as they speak to accommodate safety guidelines for social distancing. Mate stated that Elk Grove is using plexiglass barriers and streaming their board meeting with no audience as well. Eugene Graham added that Center is also limiting audience for Board meetings.

Jason Gregg stated that Natomas is focusing on in-person instruction and what it will look like for re-opening. The district uses hot spots for students, but the CARES act funds are running out and there will be issues for families once funds are not available. Jones responded that T-Mobile has a new program for families where the family can receive a hotspot with 100 gigs in total, districts do need to help fund the program. Mate asked if anyone had looked into Verizon home internet and how to accommodate students in rural areas. Stone responded that Folsom Cordova is looking into the T-Mobile project and has a meeting setup with Darren next week.

Jones asked if any districts have plans for reopening and what their possible timelines may be. Skibitzki responded that San Juan is planning on in-person learning for special education starting October 19th, elementary schools November 9th, middle schools November 24th or 29th, and High school will come back after the break.

Skibitzki shared that San Juan is looking into cameras that can pan the room such as the Owl, which has a built-in voice activator. Mate stated that Elk Grove has an almost identical setup to San Juan and that Owls have been tested for a possible option for cameras. He explained that at the moment the cost per classroom is looking to be \$10,000, but there are still issues to work out such as capturing the white board for Zoom students, breakout rooms within Zoom, and how to approach audio for both the classroom and distance learning students.

Mate discussed the challenges of finding headsets for each student. Stone explained that Folsom Cordova tested audio within teams, and through Zoom, and concluded that students must turn off all microphones and only use headsets. Stone also noted that headsets are very expensive due to the need to have Bluetooth. Skibitzki stated that headsets are in high demand, at this point in-time San Juan has already ordered 10,000 for TK-2nd grade which wiped out most of the headsets in stock. Mate stated that Elk Grove spoke to a sales representative for 30,000 headsets and was able to receive 15,000.

Schiffer shared that Twin Rivers approved the purchase of MX Televisions as well as an integrated sound system. At this point 500 hundred classrooms have been completed. Schiffer stated that hybrid learning is also a part of Twin Rivers' plan for reopening. The district has discussed collaboration with Verizon and Sprint, as well as Comcast in regard to Internet. Schiffer stated that Twin Rivers is covering all expenses in regard to internet and that wireless internet capabilities are also available through buses within the city of Sacramento.

Graham said that Center is using hovercams that have the capability to zoom in and out, these will be utilized once schools reopen.

Opportunity for Public to Address the Board

None.

Executive Director's Report

Programming Update:

Jessica Rhodes shared that there were major changes in programming and district blocks have been reincorporated. SCOE, Elk Grove, Sac City, and Galt have been producing a large amount of new content that has been shared. SECC partnered with Natomas to air college week presentations for numerous California Universities. Rhodes continues to keep in contact with superintendents to collaborate on creating district messaging for students and parents.

Production:

Liz Rhodes informed the Board that Doug Niva had to step away from the board meeting to prepare for SEVA CON. Rhodes shared that SECC is continuing to produce superintendent messages and collaborating with districts on creating productions that have that aspect of connection.

Cable Channels:

Jessica Rhodes noted that the cable schedule has been altered several times and continues to be fluid to accommodate school districts and be current during this time.

SEVA:

Home SEVA Labs – Update:

Liz Rhodes stated that the Cable Commission has fully funded student home studios. Rhodes expressed that some of the equipment is on backorder, but available equipment is being distributed. Rhodes also praised the incredible teachers and students that are in the SEVA.

SEVA CON:

Rhodes shared that SEVA CON occurs once every other week with students and teachers in virtual attendance. She expressed that there has been a tremendous response from both students and teachers in regard to the content that is being provided through these events.

Future Agenda Items:

None.

Meeting adjourned at 3:26pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Peter Skibitzki, Secretary, on

Approved:  05/05/2021
Secretary of the Board Date