

MINUTES
Sacramento Educational Cable Consortium
Board Meeting
Thursday, April 8, 2021

Present:

*Jerry Jones	SCOE
* Barbara Schiffner	Natomas Unified School District
*Steve Mate	Elk Grove Unified School District
Eugene Graham	Center Unified School District
Joe Parente	Process Theater Inc
*David Stone	Folsom Cordova Unified School District
Peter Skibitzki	San Juan Unified School District
Liz Rhodes	SECC
Jessica Rhodes	SECC

Not Present:

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

(* Indicates SECC Executive Board Member)

Call to Order & Order Agenda:

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

Reports:

A. February Minutes

There were no changes or additions to the February minutes.

B. February Financial Report

Liz Rhodes stated that the figures in the year-to-date column of the budget were updated after February which is why the numbers do not match the February Financial Statement. The proposed column in the budget will also be updated before the end of the fiscal year. There are areas where SECC is currently over budget, but staff is leaving the numbers as is to help ensure budget numbers for next year are more accurate. Overall, the financials and budget are in good shape.

Jones asked why the Cable Commission income numbers reflect fifty percent of the budgeted number. Rhodes explained that the Commission pays their contribution out in two installments, the second half of the funds were not received until last week so they will not be reflected until the next statement.

Peter Skibitzki moved to accept the February Financial Report and approve the February minutes. Barbara Schiffner seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

BESTNet/Cable Commission Update:

Backbone Upgrade

Jerry Jones shared that SCOE ordered the equipment for the backbone upgrade in September and expected to have everything before Spring break. The reseller of the Arista equipment, ENS, has created a large delay. Jones encouraged fellow Board Members to keep this in mind if they are thinking about moving forward on a project with ENS.

The backbone equipment arrived at SCOE early last week, just in time as schools have been retuning and bandwidth needs have drastically increased. David Stone of Folsom Cordova was the test site and was able to work with Dustin Koelzer to do a trial run so when Elk Grove needed an install Koelzer and his team already knew what was needed. Steve Mate shared that Elk Grove returned on Tuesday and was only using about fifty percent of the district bandwidth, however there was a firewall issue. Mate worked with Jones and found that the additional screens being used on site were creating challenges. The next day the district went up to 9.5 gigs. Elk Grove is bringing back secondary sites next week and does not plan on having any additional challenges with the updates that have been made. Jones reminded the Board that it is important to know about the firewall challenge Elk Grove faced and to ensure they do not have the same issue. Jones encouraged everyone to make sure to check the district's filters.

This week Koelzer is updating San Juan's connection, Comcast was completed on Tuesday. Center will be completed on Friday while Sac State, Sac City, Consolidated Communications, Natomas and Twin Rivers will be done next week. The week of the 26th smaller districts will be completed. By May 7th the backbone will be fully upgraded and operational.

MOU Renewal

Liz Rhodes explained that there was a challenge with Comcast that prevented the renewal from moving forward. The needed documents were received from Comcast, but the Commission deadline was missed. The group agreed that SECC will give a cleaned-up version of the agreement, which has been approved by SECC, to Harriet. Harriet will go over the documents and put together a final version to be shared with Comcast. Comcast, the Commission and SECC will sign off on the prepayment of the backbone. Rhodes hopes it will take less than a month to complete this process as Harriett is retiring in a month and would like to have this project complete before then.

Rhodes apologized for holding up the documents, Jones explained that it was not her holding up the process. It is a very large and complicated process to ensure all of the changes are included. Rhodes voiced her frustration towards the salespeople at Comcast, which has been the cause in delay. LeAnn is a huge supporter of the project and has been a great advocate for the deal.

Jones will double check the documents once Rhodes is done and then Harriett should be able to put together a document that Comcast will sign.

2021-2022 Draft Budget

Rhodes stated that all of the income has been received. The basic premise is that when SECC enters into the coming year there will be \$100,000 in carryover. Rhodes will give the Board a projected year-end for all accounts, including the reserve accounts, at the

next meeting. The \$100k is in addition to the reserve accounts. The expected BESTNet costs for the next fiscal year include over \$400,000 for the upgrade and \$260k to Comcast for the backbone, this will bring the BESTNet reserve funds way down.

Rhodes is projecting status quo in terms of staff as there is no plan of losing anyone.

The PEG fees are projects that will need funds from the Commission. It is Rhodes' hope that although things will be different, there will be some similarities when it comes to funding. SECC has the need to be able to do live and remote projects and will be asking the Commission for funds to help. The request includes robotic cameras and equipment that will provide the ability to originate live content using the van from school districts and sites. If the Commission does not approve the PEG request Rhodes will adjust the budget to be able to accommodate these purchases.

Rhodes updated the Board on the SEVA lab project explain that some equipment is gone while other equipment is getting older. The Commission members, especially new ones, are very impressed with what they've seen. SECC is asking for \$180,000 that will be spent on new sites, updating existing sites (5 years or older) and provide the ability to continue support and equipment for students who will remain at home (based on the request/feedback from teachers).

Rhodes spoke to the Commission about the request for audits and financial reviews. The Commission does want some type of review from SECC and approved Dan Ross, or the firm that completes their audit. SECC reached out for quotes and found the cost will be about \$14-\$16k. Doing an audit is outrageously expensive and is not needed based on Federal guidelines so SECC plans on completing a financial review.

For the BESTNet line-item Rhodes stated that there will always be money in and money out. This is based on contract work completed for the districts which comes through SECC but is completed mostly outside of the organization by Steve Bradley.

Jones asked about the income listed for SEVA Award Night. Rhodes explained that \$3,000 is the sponsorship from Comcast. The rest comes from general funds.

Rhodes added that there will be a few minor modifications to the numbers based on quotes that are still outstanding.

Steve Mate moved to approve the draft budget. Eugene Graham seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report:

A. 2021 SEVA Celebration

Rhodes shared that the annual event started on Monday with the Defining 2020 Awards premiering every night. A shortened version of these special awards will be included during the Award Night show. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission presented awards as well as a few other members. Both students and families had the opportunity to comment during their acceptance speech.

SECC staff is currently working on live content to include during the red carpet.

B. Programming Update:

No update was given due to a shortage of time.

C. SEVA: SEVACON/SEVA Home Labs

Rhodes gave a quick update saying that most of the money has been spent and sites will be keeping the equipment they were given.

D. Year End/Graduations

SECC is working with a few districts already. Staff is happy to do openings and capture speeches but will not be able to capture live events due to the connections and staff needed. The team will do as much pre-produced work as possible. Elk Grove and San Juan have already requested services. Natomas has also reached out, but SECC has not heard from Folsom Cordova or Center.

Committees:

A. DMCC – Next meeting: May, 26th

B. Capital Region Technology Cohorts – Next Meeting: May 14th

C. PIO – Next Meeting: September 16th

D. SEVA Teachers – Next Meeting: June 14th

E. Family Engagement – Next Meeting: May 13th

F. Nominating Committee (Nominations for 2021-22)

Steve Mate as the chair of the committee passed the update to Rhodes. Rhodes stated that what is listed in the attachment is the nominations that were received. Tara Gallegos and Ruben Reyes had not accepted their nominations as of the meeting.

Eugene Graham moved to approve the slate for the Nominations for the 2021-2022 Year. Barbara Schiffner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Round Table Sharing:

Steve Mate (Elk Grove) - Mate shared his thanks again with Jerry and Dustin for their help. Elk Grove is now in working on how to bypass the content filter.

Barbara Schiffner (Natomas) – On Monday all students who are coming back in person will be back five days a week. At this time 48% are coming back. Natomas began in the beginning of March with a K-6 hybrid. In mid-March began a 7-12 hybrid. When the county moved to the red tier the district notified families that students will be coming back five days a week after spring break.

David Stone (Folsom Cordova) – Stone has a concern about ENS as the district just awarded them their firewall. Jones did not have a problem with the work done, SCOE has not used them for that before, the challenge was for the order. Jones believes this was due to the size and funds that had to be provided up front.

Peter Skibitzki (San Juan) – San Juan's BESTNet cut over is scheduled for tonight. The district is just starting to receive touch-screen Chromebooks. The district also re-opened the retirement window so there is the expectation that even more people will be exiting from district. A major part of the IT staff has participated. The district SIS coordinator has also taken another job. IT will be going through major re-organization to be prepared for next year. The Superintendent is committed to not collecting hotspots or Chromebooks at the end of the year. Skibitzki is nervous to see what the beginning of next year will look like. Ordered 10,000 additional devices but had to use good chunk when entered into hybrid as the district did not want students to transport devices back and forth.

Jerry Jones (SCOE) – SCOE is looking at how to utilize funds. This includes the update of network infrastructure as much as possible and anything that supports the network and BESTNet. CARES funds have been spent already, while the ESSER funds have not been received yet. Will not spend those funds until they are received.

Opportunity for Public to Address the Board:

None

Future Agenda Items:

Update on the backend for the network.

Meeting adjourned at 3:14pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Peter Skibitzki, Secretary, on

Approved: Peter W. Skibitzki 09/21/2021
Secretary of the Board Date