

MINUTES
Sacramento Educational Cable Consortium
Board Meeting
Thursday, August 12, 2021

Present:

*Jerry Jones	SCOE
*David Stone	Folsom Cordova Unified School District
Joe Parente	Process Theater Inc
*Peter Skibitzki	San Juan Unified School District
Joni Jones	Twin Rivers Unified School District
Marci Bernard	Twin Rivers Unified School District
*Eugene Graham	Center Unified School District

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

Not Present:

Bob Lyons	Sacramento City Unified School District
*Gabe Ross	Los Rios Community College District
*Barbara Schiffner	Natomas Unified School District
*Steve Mate	Elk Grove Unified School District
*Ruben Reyes	Robla School 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 1:59pm.

Jones asked Liz Rhodes to explain any Board changes. Rhodes explained there were no major changes but introduced the Board Member Biography project. SECC has been putting together shortened biographies of each member to highlight their work and experience. Rhodes encouraged all members to review the updated biographies on the website.

Reports:

A. June Financial Report

Peter Skibitzki did a quick review of the financial report and there was nothing that stood out. Rhodes spoke about the financial review that has taken place over the last two days, there have been no major issues. The finalized review will be given to the Board in October. The June financial report shows the end of the fiscal year, there were a few accounts that were over but it was expected.

Jones asked about the incoming cash balance. Rhodes explained that this number was estimated, the actual number will be provided after the review is complete.

Skibitzki reminded the Board that SECC will be performing a review, not an audit, which is more cost effective and there is no legal requirement to do a full audit.

B. June Minutes

There were no changes or additions to the minutes.

David Stone moved to accept the June Financial Report and approve the minutes. Marci Bernard seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

BESTNet/Cable Commission Update:

MOU Renewal – Rhodes updated the Board on the status of the MOU. Comcast has reviewed everything and Rhodes expects to complete the document in the next month. The Commission does not have any concerns. There was discussion around bringing all of the network representatives together after the MOU is signed to brainstorm about procedures.

Jones added that even though there are two years left on the contract with Comcast, E-Rate can be unpredictable so Jones recommends that members file for E-Rate this year for anything that may be needed in two years. Comcast would bid on the E-Rate to ensure everything is in place prior to the end of the MOU. This would provide a buffer year in case there are any challenges allowing districts to apply for E-Rate again if needed.

The cost to continue service with Comcast will be far less than dark fiber service with other company, as districts are still just paying for maintenance. The contract is for five years, due to E-Rate restrictions. Jones did point out that if the connection is purely redundant the district will not be able to E-Rate, but if using Zayo and Comcast at the same time E-Rate is a possibility. Jones explained that with the cost it is worth it to keep the redundant connection. It was also noted that if a district does not sign up for the maintenance agreement the opportunity for this price will be gone. Rhodes plans on setting up a meeting for the end of September to discuss all of these items in more detail with the whole group.

Backbone Upgrade - Jones stated that the upgrade went well. All of the new equipment is currently at the sites and all Comcast connections were upgraded as planned. There were challenges with three Consolidated links. Dustin Koelzer worked with Arista to find a solution, the only caveat is the fiber has to be pristine which is very difficult in Sacramento. The links have too many reflections on them this solution will not work and Koelzer is working with Arista to get the money back for that equipment. Koelzer will work with Steve Bradley on a Plan B. Jones is hoping to get 80G of connection over the remaining links by using experienced equipment that has very little to no risk. The links are currently still at 10G but are still not overloaded. San Juan has a second link in place that is 100G, Twin Rivers has another link as well that can be 100G so the 80G will be a backup. The funds that are being returned from the equipment that was not usable will be utilized to purchase the new equipment. No additional funds will be needed.

Jones also added that there is a current project working on redundant connection for CSUS that will be able to take over should the connection at SCOE go out. This will be E-Rated outside of the organization so there will be no cost to BESTNet or SECC. As

the team works with Consolidated to discuss the backbone challenges, they are also looking to upgrade from the one strand at the same time. Rhodes added that the check for the returned equipment will come back and sit the BESTNet account until the new equipment is purchased.

Executive Director's Report:

A. 2020-2021 Audit:

As stated previously, the financial review is going well and final results are expected prior to the October Board Meeting.

B. Programming – Update:

Fall Schedule – Jessica Rhodes updated the Board on the new fall schedule that begin in September. The programming blocks have been updated once more to reflect the new school year and changes in distance learning. The block also allows for programs that may be out-of-date to be retired and new programs to be brought in. The schedule is still flexible so should any district want additional time it can easily be added in.

PORTS Project – After a SEVACON event SECC has created a very strong partnership with the PORTS Project. This partnership includes additional video programs that will have a permanent spot in the new fall schedule. SECC has also added in programs from the Square Root Academy after a suggestion from SCOE. These new programs will allow students and families to experience new places and new ways of learning all from their own homes.

C. Membership Dues:

Rhodes explained that membership invoices would go out next week and be due by September 30th. There were no concerns by the Board.

D. SEVA Updates

- a. SEVACON – Doug Niva announced that the program will continue but will be adapted to one event every three weeks. The first event will be with an actress who will share her perspective as a full-time student and Hollywood actor simultaneously. She will also speak to the perseverance that is required. Other presenters include a special effects supervisor, and other industry professionals. SECC will continue to utilize Zoom to bring professionals and students together that may not be able to do so otherwise. Rhodes add that it will continue to be a family-oriented program and students will be encouraged to bring guests with them to the events.
- b. SEVA Grant Program – Rhodes informed the Board that the Cable Commission gave funding for traditional labs, at home labs, and upgrades for existing labs. SECC has not rolled out the grant process yet but will as soon as teachers have a chance to add input. The Commission gave SECC permission to combine the three pots of money and distribute the funds as needed.

- c. SEVA Fest – Niva shared the new program that will provide opportunities for students to visit and learn at new schools through in-person training events at various school sites. While SECC waits for updates on in-person meetings there is an opportunity for students to attend the Capital Air Show to capture content and learn more about in the field production. The Air Show has given a limited number of tickets for adults and will provide access to pilots and restricted areas for production teams. Students will have the opportunity to experience the event as if they were credentialed media.

E. Production

SCOE, San Juan, Natomas and Robla currently have productions in process with SECC. The team is ready to assist with other productions as needed, please just connect with Doug Niva. SEVA TV is currently in post-production with college students on hand assisting with the editing.

Committees:

- A. DMCC – Next meeting: September 22, 2021
- B. Capital Region Technology Cohorts – Next Meeting: September 10, 2021
- C. PIO – Next Meeting: September 16, 2021
- D. Family Engagement – Next Meeting: September 2, 2021
- E. SEVA Teachers – Next Meeting: September 13, 2021

Round Table Sharing:

Peter Skibitzki (San Juan)– The San Juan technology department has two positions open: Network position and Help Desk Coordinator. The positions will be posted very shortly.

Eguene Graham (Center) – SECC recently assisted in re-setting up the studio at Center High School. Alumni Dyson Schmidt was brought on by SECC to assist in the project as he was an integral part of the Center program. Center will also have a position opened shortly.

Opportunity for Public to Address the Board:

None

Future Agenda Items:

Meeting adjourned at 3:06pm.

Respectfully Submitted by David Stone, Secretary, on

Approved: David Stone 10/29/21
Secretary of the Board Date