

MINUTES
Sacramento Educational Cable Consortium
Board Meeting
Thursday, October 14, 2021

Present:

Dan Ross	Hullen & Ross CPA
Dillon Miles	Hullen & Ross CPA
*Peter Skibitzki	San Juan Unified School District
*Jerry Jones	SCOE
Scott Jonard	Galt Joint Union High School District
*David Stone	Folsom Cordova Unified School District
*Steve Mate	Elk Grove Unified School District
Joe Parente	Process Theater Inc
Bob Lyons	Sacramento City Unified School District

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

Not Present:

*Gabe Ross	Los Rios Community College District
*Eugene Graham	Center Unified School District
*Barbara Schiffner	Natomas Unified School District
*Ruben Reyes	Robla School District
Michael Borggaard	Elverta Joint Unified School District
Lois Yount	Galt Joint Union Elementary School District
Marci Bernard	Twin Rivers Unified School District

(* Indicates SECC Executive Board Member)

Call to Order & Order Agenda:

Jerry Jones called the meeting to order at 2:01pm.

Reports:

A. 2020-2021 Financial Review – Dan Ross

Dan Ross and Dillon Miles of Hullen & Ross completed the financial review for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Ross noted that there was a gap of a year as no review was completed by Hullen and Ross last year. Ross had a personal situation this year so turned the presentation of the review over to Miles.

Miles informed the Board that a review was done this year instead of a complete audit. He explained the difference between a review and an audit, which is outlined in the attached review. Miles walked the Board through the review that was sent out with the Board Packet including the equipment that is over \$5,000 that has to be expensed and depreciated.

Dan Ross explained the loss in CD's. The interest rates have dropped which caused a minimal gain that is used for fees for Hullen & Ross as well as account fees. Ross suggested possibly exploring other options for the funds and accounts given this information. The Board had originally decided to keep the funds in one account to ensure they were insured, but since the rates have decreased it might be in SECC's best interest to look at alternatives. Peter Skibitzki supported the idea of looking for other options with better gains, acknowledging the possible increase in risk.

Rhodes added that there is drastic difference in where SECC was at during the end of the fiscal year versus where the organization is today is. This difference is in available funds due to the completion of the backbone upgrade and savings that was used due to the Commission pushing back it's date of funding. Rhodes asked Ross to work with Skibitzki, herself and Jessica Rhodes to come up with a recommendation to present to the Board at the next meeting taking all of these items into consideration.

Skibitzki asked about equipment depreciation and when it would reach its full depreciation date. Miles explained that the PEG equipment is fully depreciated. There is \$1,800 that is not depreciated but will likely be fully depreciated by next year.

Jones asked about previous years funds. Rhodes explained that in previous years the accounts had been doing very well. Ross confirmed that it was in 2020-2021 that the accounts drastically changed after the accounts had fully matured.

B. August Minutes

Jessica Rhodes will remove the note about roundtable sharing.

C. August Financial Report & October 21st Budget Revise

Rhodes added that the Commission did approve a COLA which is the revision that was made. There were a few small additions and changes to insurance and other items that will reflect actual funds coming in from the Commission in contrast to what was projected.

Steve Mate moved to accept the 2020-2021 Financial Review; David Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

David Stone moved to accept the August Financial Report. Bob Lyons seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Peter Skibitzki moved to approve the August minutes; David Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Peter Skibitzki moved to accept the budget revision. Steve Mate seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

BESTNet/Cable Commission Update:

A. BESTNet MOU Renewal/Cable Commission Update

Rhodes announced that the MOU and all attachments were received from Comcast today. There will be one final review by the SECC team. Jones

added that the MOU is in a good place; the wait has been for the dark fiber agreement. Hopefully this will be the last version and SECC will be able to move forward. Jones suggested having a second meeting to go over all of the specifics and the best approach for moving forward. Rhodes congratulated the team and thanked them for keeping the agreement where it needed to be. Once the MOU is signed by SECC and the Commission the process should be close to an end. Everyone agreed that having the backbone prepaid and taken care of is worth the stress and challenges from over the last few years.

B. Backbone Upgrade – Jerry Jones

Jones informed the Board that the team at SCOE has completed the upgrade on all of the links that have 100g. There were issues with three of the links (between San Juan, CSUS, Twin Rivers and Consolidated). The team had worked with Arista to find a solution, but the idea will not work for this situation. There is a new solution that will get 80g and is less expensive than previous option. It also provides the ability to upgrade beyond 80g in the future if needed. The solution is 8 10g connections that are aggregated. There will be no adjustments needed to the current equipment at districts. Jones added that is neat to see all the additional links that are now a part of the backbone, which builds more resiliency. Jones' plan is to work with Consolidated to get a second connection for all of these sites.

Skibitzki asked about the redundant link through CSUS. Jones announced that CSUS has approved the connection and the project is moving forward. The only stipulation is that the connection is separate. Plan is to move forward in April or June when E-Rate is approved. There is also the possibility of having a redundant connection at SCOE for CSUS.

Bob Lyons asked about the bandwidth for the whole county in terms of use. Jones will need to ask his team and come back to the Board. Lyons also asked about secondary link at Folsom Cordova. David Stone discussed challenges that have been faced and the fact that the connection will be secondary and weighted as such. The connection may be faster, but the district will stick with the connection directly to SCOE.

Peter Skibitzki moved to approve the use of BESTNet funds for additional backbone purchase. Steve Mate seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report:

A. Programming Update:

Jessica Rhodes updated the Board on the recent programming activity including the release of the SECC Vault programs. These are historical videos that SECC has created over the years that still have relevant content that the team thought would be valuable to share. SECC will continue its tradition of a SEVA TV marathon on Thanksgiving Day. Rhodes will continue to send out monthly emails to Board members to keep them up to date on partnerships, productions and upcoming events.

B. SEVA Labs – Update:

Doug Niva reminded the Board of the SEVACON events that are being held once a month. The first event was hosted with Samara Jackson who is a Hollywood actress on Netflix. The SECC team as a whole enjoyed seeing the student's excitement. The next event will be at the end of November and will be an event on Sports Broadcasting with Scott Moak and Michele Dapper.

The first round of the SEVA Grant Program has come to a close. Niva informed the Board that this was the largest number of applications ever received. Niva and Nick Conklin have done about 44 site visits over the last month to help support teachers in getting their studios back up and running. Rhodes added how exciting it was to hear the teacher's excitement to be back in the classroom. Their enthusiasm was hart warming and motivational for the SECC team.

New to this year is SEVAFest which focuses on creating opportunities for students to get out into the community and capture stories. There were about 30 students at the first event which was held at the Capital Airshow. Niva shared a clip that Katherine Albiani students captured at the event. Niva also had a Zoom call with Natomas students today to do a review of the video they captured at the event. The next event will be on Sunday, October 17th, at a Sac Republic Game. 88 students and parents are participating and will receive media credentials and participate in a press conference. The best student video from the event will be played back at the game on the 30th. The student producers will be invited to attend the game as well.

- C. Production Update:
No production update was given.

Committees:

- A. Appoint Personnel Committee
Jerry Jones is chair of the committee as Chair of the Board. Joe Parente also volunteered, and several members recommended Marci Bernard.
- B. Appoint Nominating Committee
Steve Mate is chair of the committee as past chair of the Board. Scott Jonard and Peter Skibitzki volunteered to join as well.
- C. DMCC – Next meeting: November 17, 2021
- D. Capital Region Technology Cohorts – Next Meeting: January 21, 2021
The meeting was moved to January 14th per Jerry Jones' request.
- E. SEVA Teachers – Next Meeting: November 8, 2021
- F. Family Engagement – Next Meeting: November 4, 2021
- G. PIO – Next Meeting: December 16, 2021

Round Table Sharing:

