

MINUTES
Sacramento Educational Cable Consortium
Board Meeting
Thursday, February 10, 2022

Present:

*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
*Gabe Ross	Los Rios Community College District
*Eugene Graham	Center Unified School District
*Barbara Schiffner	Natomas Unified School District
Marci Bernard	Twin Rivers Unified School District
Elliot Lopez	Robla School District

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

Not Present:

*Ruben Reyes	Robla School District
Michael Borggaard	Elverta Joint Unified School District
Lois Yount	Galt Joint Union Elementary School District

(* Indicates SECC Executive Board Member)

Call to Order & Order Agenda:

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

Reports:

A. December Minutes

There were no changes or additions to the minutes.

B. December Financial Report

Liz Rhodes stated a couple items on the financial report needed to be adjusted according to category, but overall, the financial report looked good. Peter Skibitzki concurred that the budget currently was in a great position for the year. Jones inquired if there were any questions before the financial report was accepted. No inquiries were made from the Board.

Jones motioned to accept the December Financial Report and approve the December Minutes. Marci Bernard moved to accept, Eugene Graham seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

BESTNet/Cable Commission Update:

A. BESTNet MOU Renewal – Finalized/Next Steps

Rhodes exclaimed that the MOU has been completed and can be removed from the agenda for future meetings. Rhodes stated that SECC, Steve Bradley, and Jerry Jones will work together to ensure the timeline is met for the renewal. A list of schools has been provided to each district, the Board is encouraged to make sure every school on those lists are correct moving forward as everything is being put in order and will be signed by Jerry Jones so that the backbone is complete and will be taken care of until 2033. Rhodes expressed that she would like an updated school list around June to allow for districts to have time to decide how they will proceed. She reminded the Board that if sites decide not to continue with the Comcast agreement, that fiber will be discontinued after December 23, 2023, and the same rates may not be available at the discounted rates that are currently provided. Rhodes also shared that she and Jones would be working together with the districts before the E-rate deadline to help give guidance where needed. Jones added the importance of all representatives being on the same page when applying for E-rate so that there are no surprises, this also allows Comcast plenty of time to bid. Jones also added that it is in the districts best interest to keep connections, even if they are secondary connections, to have as a backup.

B. Consolidated Update

Jones shared that the renewal agreement with Consolidated is in process. This will allow for the use of Consolidated links on the backbone. Consolidated is open to creating an agreement similar to the one in place with Comcast. Jones stated that Consolidated will allow for equipment to continue to be stored at the main data center at McClellan for no additional cost. However, those who need to access equipment will need prior permission and an escort, which has been and will continue to be the procedure. Jones added that he is waiting on pricing for the use of dark fiber and plans on prepaying for the next ten years. He reiterated that things are very positive, but a bit slow moving. More information will be provided soon.

Executive Director's Report:

A. 2022 Graduations: Interest in live streaming/SECC assistance?

Rhodes shared the success SECC has had over the past two years assisting schools with virtual graduations and streaming over SECC's Comcast channels. As schools' graduation needs have been ever changing, SECC would like input and guidance from the Board for this year's graduations as well as how the team can provide resources to assist in continued growth for future events. While SECC does not have the capability to do graduations on a large scale, there is still the hope to provide support so districts are able to meet their goals. Doug Niva has put an initial package together that would allow districts to do their own streaming with limited assistance and training from SECC.

Rhodes shared SECC recently went out to Folsom Cordova Unified School District to record the Academic Decathlon. It was wonderful to be back in person and to have students hands on to help with the production. This event put a focus on how SEVA Labs can be utilized to produce and share not only graduations, but also school events through the year with provided training and resources. Niva shared package ideas using the basic equipment that has been used for SEVA labs. The cost for this package is estimated to be around \$5,000-\$6,000 and could be deployed by the district allowing students to be involved in the production process.

Marci Bernard suggested that a form be created to allow school districts to provide their feedback, required needs, as well as look at the different services and options provided. This form can be the start of a cohesive conversation and be used to help provide the resources each district requires. Rhodes agreed that each district has specific needs based on their equipment and resources and a form is a great idea. SECC will put together a form and get it out to district to better understand their production needs and capabilities for upcoming graduations and future events.

B. Programming Update: Jessica Rhodes

Jessica Rhodes shared that a monthly e-mail update is sent to each school district to inform them of what programs will be highlighted each month. Rhodes stated that one of the biggest contributors to new content has been SECC's SEVA Studios and she encouraged the Board to look at the content the students in their districts are producing. SEVA Studio content plays every morning and evening on both Comcast Channels 15 and 16. As the SEVA Awards approach SECC will be highlighting past Honorable Mentions and SEVA Award winners from 2019-2021 on Channel 16 at 12pm and 5pm starting February 28th.

C. SEVA Updates: Doug Niva

Niva shared that to date there have been 423 entries, which is a great turnout for this point of the contest. Niva stated that parents have been a lot more involved in the process this year through asking questions and wanting to know more about the entry process. There have also been new teachers signing-up for judging sessions this year. Liz Rhodes encouraged the Board to participate in judging if possible. She expressed judging sessions are a wonderful way to really see what students are creating as well as provide students constructive feedback for future videos.

a. SEVACON

During the last SEVACON SECC was able to provide students with guidance and support with their entries before the SEVA deadline. Niva gave thanks to Joe Parente for being a part of this event and providing his judging insight and expertise.

b. SEVA Grant Program

Niva stated that SECC has funded about 14 studios from the newest applications and that the next available funding will come at the end of February/early March. Once these funds become available it will allow for 6 or 7 studios to be funded going into the Spring.

c. SEVA Fest

Niva shared that SECC has had two very successful SEVAFests so far with the Sacramento Capitol Airshow and Sac Republic. For future events SECC has been discussing Sac Anime as teachers responded very positively to the idea. SEVA Fest is focused on creating stories in the community, but also having hands on assistance and guidance from SECC staff and teachers. Rhodes also highlighted the importance of family involvement this year. The theme of family is not only important through SEVAFest, SECC has also encouraged families to come together for SEVACON and the SEVA Awards.

d. Award Night

Rhodes shared that the plan for this year's SEVA Awards is to go back to an in-person event. Rhodes stated that this year the award ceremony will be held at the Scottish Rite Center instead of its previous location at Sacramento State. All SECC staff had the chance to view the facility and feel it is a great fit. Rhodes explained that SECC does have a plan B if any changes are made and is always ready to be flexible and adapt to the situation at hand. Award Night will be held Sunday, May 1st, with Red Carpet at 5pm and the Award Show will begin at 6pm. SECC will be sending out invites shortly.

Committees:

A. DMCC – January 26, 2022 (Jessica Rhodes/Update)

Jessica Rhodes expressed that the last DMCC meeting had a great turn out of twelve attendees and almost all districts represented. She shared that everyone had their cameras on and were eager to participate. The meeting focused on systems for webpage approvals and how to track various information. The group found that many districts are having similar challenges and brainstormed on how to bring what worked at other districts to their own. Rhodes reiterated how great it was to have everyone back on board and collaborating.

B. Capitol Region Tech Cohorts – Next Meeting: March 11, 2022 (Elk Grove Unified School)

C. PIO – Next Meeting: February 17, 2022

D. Family Engagement – Next Meeting: March 3, 2022

E. SEVA Teachers – Next Meeting: March 14, 2022

Round Table Sharing:

Peter Skibitzki (San Juan) – Skibitzki asked about SIA and requirements around continued insurance. After discussion around the topic the Board decided to schedule an additional Tech Cohorts meeting to discuss. Rhodes will send out a note to gauge interest in a zoom event to discuss the topic further.

Steve Mate (Elk Grove) – Elk Grove Unified is launching a new website and will be switching over to Catapult. Mate gave the group a sneak peek at the new design.

Gabe Ross (Los Rios) – The pandemic has presented many challenges and Los Rios has found that more students are opting for online courses instead of in-person. Pre-pandemic most students opted for in-person, but with the increased fill rate for online courses Los Rios is working on how to adapt to these changes.

Joe Parente (Process Theater) – With restrictions starting to loosen, Process Theater is working on getting back to live performances. Very Special Arts Program at Sac City has been working with hip hop dancers and there will also be a performance for International Piano Day, March 29th.

Opportunity for Public to Address the Board:

None

Future Agenda Items:

At the next meeting the Board will have a discussion about returning to in-person meetings as well as refocusing on the mission statement.

Steve Mate moved to adjourn the meeting and Peter Skibitzki seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:39pm.

Respectfully Submitted by David Stone, Secretary, on

Approved: David Stone 6/7/22
Secretary of the Board Date