

Ute Pass B.O.C.E.S. Board Minutes
October 17, 2017

**Ute Pass B.O.C.E.S.
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Regular Board Meeting – October 17, 2017

BOARD MEETING CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was held as a conference call this month. The meeting was called to order at 5:31p.m. by Gwynne Dawdy. The following members were present on the conference call: Gwynne Dawdy, Corbin Graber and Sonya Teigen. Tana Rice joined the call during the meeting but did not vote.

Also in attendance: Brian Gustafson, Tim Miller, Kendal Kelly, and Marcy Palmer

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Dawdy to approve the meeting agenda for October 17, 2017

Second: Teigen

Discussion: None

MOTION CARRIED; Voting Aye Dawdy, Graber, Teigen

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

MOTION: Dawdy to approve Consent Items including meeting minutes from June 15, 2017

Second: Graber

Discussion: None

MOTION CARRIED; Voting Aye Dawdy, Graber, Teigen

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

None

INFORMATION ITEMS/DISCUSSION

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

STAFFING UPDATE

We only had two position changes in the BOCES staff this year! Lynn Ostrowski, our previously retired OT, returned to take our .4 OT position as Robin Nuss moved to the BCBA role. (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) Katie Ueberroth continues to serve as one of our IEP Reviewers/Coaches, but has also joined us full-time as our Transition Coordinator!

Manitou had no new staff in special education this year!

Woodland Park has 7 new staff out of 20 total special education certified staff. (Gateway - 1 mild/moderate teacher; Summit - 1 mild/moderate teacher; 1 new social worker; MS - 1 SSN and 1 mild/moderate teacher; HS – 1 SSN and 1 autism teacher.)

Their special ed mentors and IEP coaches have been doing a great job with them as we have “flooded” them with support this first quarter. They are tired, but I am confident our students are receiving quality services!

Cripple Creek has 2 new full-time teachers, with additional part-time support as they try to “grow from within.”

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TRAININGS

Non-Violent Crisis Intervention - we have offered 4 Initial trainings in the new “enhanced content” since last June. We trained 50 staff at our last training on October 6th!

Annual SPED Process Training - We held trainings in Woodland Park and Manitou for all the special education staff in August. We covered required IEP/Process content as well as best practices in special education.

New Teacher Training - This year, we decided to “flood” our new staff with training and support during the first quarter. They attended weekly meetings with their mentors, covering topics such as Evaluations, Goal Writing, Para Supervision and New Teacher Supports. We will continue to offer monthly trainings, covering Behavior Plans/Interventions, Assessments, Inclusion/Co-Teaching, Specially Designed Instruction and IEP facilitation.

Monthly Special Ed/Special Forces Meetings - We meet monthly with the special education staff in each district to address any burning issues, IEP process updates, and other timely training topics to improve student learning. In Manitou, our gifted teachers join us as our “Special Forces Team!” I also meet with principals in each building monthly, either individually or as part of their building-level team meetings.

Paraprofessional Training - We trained over 60 paraprofessionals in August! Topics included para responsibilities in Instruction, Assistive Technology, Behavioral Strategies, Data Collection, and Medicaid.

IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Because our Determination dropped to “Needs Assistance” last year, we are working on two primary goals:

- Transition Planning (Indicator 13)
 - We have already remedied the IEP review issue by submitting additional IEP’s with corrections. CDE will do a “side-by-side review” in December with us on the 6 IEP’s that were randomly chosen.
- Specially Designed Instruction
 - Eleven staff members have been trained so far in Hill Methods (HillRAP, HillWrite, and HillMath) in an attempt to offer more specific and higher quality instruction for students needing tier 3 interventions and for our students with disabilities. This group continually performs lower than state averages, so we are targeting instruction more aggressively, as well as providing more access to general education curriculum.

GIFTED EDUCATION

Our 4-year Comprehensive Plan was revised and submitted in June. This plan describes how our districts will comply with state rules governing gifted education and provide quality programming to our gifted students. It describes our identification process, programming options, communication, budgeting, dispute resolution, and evaluation of our program. Our teachers continue to improve the identification and ALP (Advanced Learning Plan) development process to ensure our gifted students are accessing the quality programming our districts offer. Our teachers also completed the identification process by October 1st, shifting students’ past identification categories to the new ones. In the past, students were identified as gifted in Language Arts, Math, both or Other. There are now 12 categories

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including General Intellectual Ability, Specific Academic Aptitudes (Reading, Writing, Math, World Languages, Science, Social Studies), Leadership, Creativity, and Talent Aptitudes (Psychomotor, Visual and Performing Arts).

GRANTS

HB 1345 Funding Assistance for BOCES (\$92,750.36):

Superintendents agreed to utilize these funds for the state priorities of Standards/Assessments, Teacher Recruitment/Retention, and Educator Effectiveness. The most significant portion of the funds will be used to train/coach staff in effective interventions (Hill Methods, Visualizing/Verbalizing, Math U See) and on the Naviance Program for ICAP development at the MS and HS level across all three districts. The remainder of the funds will then be flowed through to the three districts proportionately, to be used on district assessments and/or teacher retention/recruitment. We have currently spent \$32,627 on Naviance and Hill Methods training, leaving a little over \$60,000 for the remainder of the year. I estimate approximately \$7,000 more to be spent on Hill Methods' second round of training and coaching. Depending on the number of additional staff attending the training in January and our Ex Modula support cost, we plan to flow through approximately \$50,000.

Educator Effectiveness Liaison:

After providing Cognitive Coaching Training, approximately \$4,000 remains. With Superintendents' permission, I would like to expend this final amount on this year's Ex Modula costs for our Educator Effectiveness System.

Universal Screening for Gifted (\$3,377):

We receive this funding to assess all 2nd and 6th graders using the CogAT 7, and for updated scoring/reporting. We will continue to apply for this funding each year. We use this information to screen for possible Gifted Learners (above 95th percentile). This year, Woodland Park is implementing the on-line screening tool for the 2nd graders, rather than the full assessment. Students scoring above the 90th percentile will be assessed with the full battery.

School Counselor Corps for Grant Writing:

Each BOCES receives a portion of this state funding for secondary services/grant writing/management for those BOCES who coordinate services beyond special education. We became eligible for this funding when our districts began coordinating on the above grants 4 years ago. We use these funds for our IEP Reviewers to oversee IEP compliance.

Medicaid Coordinator Grant (\$14,350):

We received this grant in 2015-16 to hire a .75 Medicaid Coordinator. Traci Woofter was hired to handle the duties Kendal and 2 other administrative assistants managed for each of the three districts. Traci has expanded the duties, resulting in increased reimbursements to each district.

This grant gradually decreases each year over the 3-year period. (35% this year) This is the final year for the grant. The intent is that the increased Medicaid reimbursements will fund this salary fully at the end of the 3-year period. We are currently invoicing each district proportionately from their Medicaid funds for the balance of Traci's salary.

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OTHER

Next board meeting: **Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 5:30pm – Conference Call**
Agenda items will include Audit, Revised Budget and Director's Report

ADJOURN

MOTION: Dawdy to adjourn meeting at 5:45p.m.

Second: Corbin

Discussion: None

MOTION CARRIED; Voting Aye Dawdy, Graber, Teigen

Attest:

Secretary, Ute Pass B.O.C.E.S. Board of Education

President, Ute Pass B.O.C.E.S. Board of Education