



CEC Governing Board Meeting November 17, 2023 @ 3:30 p.m.

Via Microsoft Teams

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Or call in (audio only)

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NOTE: The General Board meeting recording was inadvertently not started until 4:29 p.m.

Call to Order – Terry called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. with the reading of the Mission Statement

Mission Statement

Colorado Early Colleges' mission is to prepare a diverse population of students for life by developing their mind, body and character through rigorous academic studies, and character development activities in cooperation with the community we serve.

All students, regardless of background or skill level, will have the opportunity to pursue a growth mindset that will allow them to achieve mastery and will demonstrate that they can succeed in school, in college, and in their chosen career.

No exceptions. No excuses.

Attendees:

- Board of Governors: Laura Calhoun, Terry McDonald, Arthur Cyphers, Jessie Mathis, Larry Mohr, Fish Abrahaley, and Roger LaMarca
- Chief Executive Administrator: Sandi Brown
- Attorney: Amber DeCarli
- Other staff as required: Cameron M., Alli S., Maren B., Brenda R., Sarah B., Kitty M., Dee Dee V., Keshia M., Kelly S., Tom S., George S., Mark M., Hannah R., and Jennifer D.
- Guests: Tom M. and Kirsten L.

Approval of Agenda – Laura made a motion to approve the agenda. Roger 2nd. Approved.

Correspondence/Board Comments

- Jessie Mathis – Free Meals for Students
 - Jessie asked how CEC students were taking advantage of free meals this school year. Sandi shared the number of students accessing free meals at all campuses. CEC has seen a drop in families submitting Free and Reduced Lunch applications as a result of students receiving free meals this school year.

Administration Report – Sandi Brown

- Academics
 - Summary CEC Parker/CEC Inverness Parent Town Halls
 - Sandi recapped the feedback received from families regarding the CEC Parker/CEC Inverness merger. Vast majority of feedback is positive with only 3 negative emails received. Both School Accountability Committees are excited about the merger. Students/families are looking forward to spring advising and seeing the expanded course offerings. Questions center around 4 main topics: transportation, staffing, course offerings, and the Freshman Academy. Sandi thanked Terry M. for attending a CEC Inverness Information Meeting and tour for CEC Parker families.
 - Director of Exceptional Student Services
 - CEC will hire a Director of Exceptional Student Services at the Network to oversee and assist all schools.
 - 1215 Taskforce Update
 - Sandi recapped the recommendations coming out of the 1215 Taskforce. She noted that no Early Colleges and no CSI schools were on the taskforce. The proposed recommended changes could affect 10% of CEC students. Sandi let the Board know that CSI Board members, attorneys, and charter school groups are rallying to help oppose the recommendations that dramatically affect the Early College model.
 - My Tech High Update
 - Uncertainty remains on if the state will fund the My Tech Program for 2023-24 school year. Sandi has asked for an early audit to make sure that CEC and My Tech High are in compliance with the new CDE audit guidance.
 - Access to Medically Necessary Treatment Policy
 - This is a new policy as a result of legislation. CEC worked with legal on the policy and all Heads of School and School Nurses have been trained.
- Marketing and Enrollment
 - Enrollment for 2024-25 School Year Opened November 1
 - Enrollment opened November 1, 2023 and CEC has enrolled more new students than this time last year.
 - CEC Impact Report
 - This will be CEC's 2nd "annual report" and will be distributed before the end of the semester.
- Operations/Safety
 - SSO Update
 - Operations staff visited a local school that employs armed security. Sandi noted she has met with the security company and that the security company will present to Board members and school leadership in Executive Session at the December Board meeting.
- Quarterly Facilities Update
 - Sandi highlighted several facilities projects currently underway including the development of an Innovation CTE Center (Daniels Fund) and courtyard improvement (Anschutz) at Colorado Springs, CEC is in line to receive the 2023 CDE BEST grant to replace the CEC Fort Collins High School roof in summer 2024, and both the Parker building and Wheaton building will be listed on the public market soon.
 - A new Facility management team member has been hired to support the CEC Colorado Springs campus.
 - The Facilities team is developing a master maintenance plan for all buildings.

Finance – Cameron Mascoll

- First Quarter Financials
 - Cameron told the Board there are no red flags regarding 1st quarter budgets. Work has started on budget reforecasting, and he reminded the Board that they will review and approve amended budgets at their January meeting.

Additional Board Action

- Laura made a motion to amend the agenda to add an additional Executive Session for C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b), to discuss legal liability and information regarding an ongoing investigation. Art 2nd. All voted in favor.

Public Comment - None

The Board welcomes Public Comment. Please keep comments to 3 minutes or less per person. Should you have a question for the Board that requires a response, please submit your question via email to the CEC Governing Board President, Laura Calhoun, at laura.calhoun@coloradoearlycolleges.org who will then respond to your question via email.

Board Action

- Approve 10.3.2023 Special CEC Governing Board Meeting Minutes
 - Art made a motion to approve the 10.3.2023 Special CEC Governing Board Meeting Minutes. Jessie 2nd. Approved.
- Approve 10.13.2023 CEC Governing Board Meeting Minutes
 - Jessie made a motion to approve the 10.13.2023 CEC Governing Board Meeting Minutes. Art 2nd. Approved.
- Approve Access to Medically Necessary Treatment Policy
 - Laura made a motion to approve the Access to Medically Necessary Treatment Policy. Roger 2nd. Approved.

Executive Session

- C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(f), personnel matters, specifically to discuss individual CEC personnel
 - At 4:35 p.m., Jessie made a motion to enter Executive Session in accordance with C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(f), personnel matters, specifically to discuss individual CEC personnel. Invited into Executive Session were Laura Calhoun, Terry McDonald, Art Cyphers, Jessie Mathis, Fish Abrhaley, Roger LaMarca, Amber DeCarli, and Brenda Rhodes. Art 2nd. Brenda left Executive Session once the meeting recording was started. Brenda was invited back into Executive Session at 5:01 p.m.
- C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b), to discuss legal liability and information regarding an ongoing investigation.
 - At 5:02 p.m., the Board went into Executive Session in accordance with C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b), to discuss legal liability and information regarding an ongoing investigation. Invited into Executive Session were Laura Calhoun, Terry McDonald, Art Cyphers, Jessie Mathis, Fish Abrhaley, Roger LaMarca, Amber DeCarli, and Brenda Rhodes. Art 2nd. Brenda left Executive Session once the meeting recording was started and stopped.
 - At 6:11 p.m. Brenda was invited back into Executive Session to start the meeting recording.
 - At 6:13 p.m. Larry made a motion to exit Executive Session. Art 2nd. Approved.

Additional Board Action

- Laura made a motion to amend the agenda to add an additional Board Action item to approve merit pay for the CEA. Art 2nd. All voted in favor.
- Laura made a motion to approve merit pay for the CEA. Larry 2nd. All voted in favor.

Other Business - None

Future Meetings of the Governing Board

- December 15, 2023 @ 3:30 p.m.
- January 18, 2024 @ 3:30 p.m.
- February 24, 2024 @ 3:30 p.m. (In-Person Board Retreat and Board Meeting)

Adjourn – Terry adjourned the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Brenda Rhodes, CEC Executive Office Administrator

Signed

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fish Abrhaley".

Fish Abrhaley, CEC Governing Board Secretary