



## CEC Governing Board Meeting

**November 19, 2021 @ 1:30 p.m.**

CEC Aurora, 1400 S. Abilene Street, Aurora

CEC Fort Collins, 4424 Innovation Drive., Fort Collins

Microsoft Teams [Click here to join the meeting](#)

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**Call to Order** - Laura called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. with the reading of CEC's 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, Robin Phillips (absent), Jessie Mathis, Papa Dia (absent), Larry Mohr, and Sandra Lee
- Chief Executive Administrator: Sandi Brown (absent)
- Attorneys: Dustin Sparks (absent) and Amber DeCarli
- Other staff as required: Hannah Reese, Brenda Rhodes, Dan Hoffman, Cameron Mascoll, Collin Turbert, Cory Harbor, Jen McGlue, Jennifer Daugherty, Kelly Smith, Lacey Scadden, Delight Hockman, Stephanie Livingston, and Tom Smith.
- Guests: Luther and Melani Torrez

**Approval of Agenda** – Terry put forth a motion to approve the agenda. Art 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

**Correspondence/Board Comments** – Laura asked the Board to let Stephanie Livingston know if they know of anyone that can help in our schools.

### **Public Comment**

The Board welcomes Public Comment. Please keep comments to 3 minutes or less per person. Should you have questions, please submit prior to the Board meeting to [laura.calhoun@coloradoearlycolleges.org](mailto:laura.calhoun@coloradoearlycolleges.org). The Board will respond to your questions via email.

Luther and Melani Torrez, CEC Aurora parents, came as representatives for other CEC Aurora parents, to voice their concern for student safety in light of the recent Aurora high school shootings. They expressed their desire for



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the safety and security of all CEC Aurora students and wondered if the school had considered having a School Resource Officer, as well as to learn the direction the school will take regarding student safety.

Laura thanked Luther and Melani for coming to the Board meeting and reiterated that the Board wants all CEC schools and students to be safe and secure. Laura noted that Sandi Brown would reach out to them.

### Administration Report – Brenda Rhodes on Behalf of Sandi Brown

- CDE Blended Learning and Supplemental Online Course Formal Variance Waiver Request
  - This past summer, CDE Audit office came out with new guidance for online and blended learning courses.
  - New guidance impacts CEC ability to serve students at our brick-and-mortar campuses who need to take an online class for various reasons, and impacts part-time students in My Tech High and online enrichment classes.
    - Impacts 1,650 students – mostly My Tech High (MTH) students.
  - CEC received an “Initial Variance Request” for the next 2 years to serve our online/MTH/Enrichment students.
  - CEC is writing and will submit for a “Formal Variance Waiver Request” to CDE and explains how their new guidance is impacting students. Request is due December 17 to CDE.
  - Part of the formal request is that CEC must submit a “Blended Learning Online Learning Approach” policy to CDE.
    - That is the policy the board is discussing and voting on today.
  - Sandi is also part of CDE’s Blended Learning Initiative that will discuss new guidance that is negatively affecting mostly our part-time students.
    - School leaders to study and discuss “what works” in terms of instruction, seat time/funding requirements, and achieving strong student outcomes.
    - First meeting is Tuesday, November 30.
- MDOL Update
  - Currently CEC serves almost 200 students online through six CDE-approved SDOLs and is hoping to serve more students across state in 6<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grade for fall 2022, which required a MDOL.
  - CEC is still waiting for 2022 CDE MDOL application to be released.
  - CSI has streamlined the application process.
    - Submitting MDOL as an Expansion of CEC’s existing program.
    - CEC will only need to complete the CDE application.
      - CSI will review and will collaborate on the application with us.



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- CEC and CSI are working towards a March 2022 submission to CDE.
- Summary of CSI Performance Management Committee Meeting Regarding Charter Renewals for CCE Aurora, CEC Colorado Springs, and CEC Fort Collins
  - CSI staff presented their preliminary Charter Renewal Reports for CEC Aurora, CEC Colorado Springs, and CEC Fort Collins to the CSI Performance Management Committee.
    - All went well – no questions from CSI board members for CEC schools.
    - CEC is hoping for 5 year renewals for each school, which is maximum.
  - The CSI Performance Management Committee will make their formal charter renewal recommendations at their December 7 meeting.
  - CSI Board will vote on the charter renewals recommendations at their December 14 meeting.
    - Board members are welcome to attend both CSI Board meetings.
    - Please let Brenda know if you want to attend and she will forward the Zoom meeting link.
- Tours of CEC Aurora by Wyoming Legislators and CEC Castle Rock by Rep. Baisley
  - Rep. Mark Baisley toured CEC Castle Rock on Monday. Rep. Baisley had never heard of CEC.
  - He was very impressed with the school, staff, and students.
  - His educational philosophy is that high schools should focus on individualized education that opens doors to careers and not necessarily on high education.
- Wyoming Legislators toured CEC Aurora
  - The Wyoming legislators were invited to tour CEC Aurora by the Daniels Fund.
  - The legislators were very impressed that CEC can educate our students on around \$8,000 per student. In Wyoming, they receive \$35,000 per student, but have only 90,000 students across the state.
  - Wyoming recently formed a state authorizer, similar to CSI, however they have a very active teachers union, and can authorize only 6 new charter schools.
  - They expressed that they feel their state places more emphasis on beautiful buildings than on student outcomes.
  - They were very impressed with CEC's business model and how we renovate buildings and were grateful for the time and tour of CEC Aurora.
  - It was also an opportunity to share with Daniels Fund representatives the Medical Pathways classrooms they financially supported with \$50,000.
- CEC continues to experience staffing shortages in most schools except in our online program.



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### Finance – Cameron Mascoll

- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financials – Cameron shared 1<sup>st</sup> quarter financials with the Board and indicated that there are no “red flags” and all financials continue to be tied out to budgets. The financials were shared with CSI. The Finance department is starting the amended budget process now that CEC schools have their official October Count enrollment. Amended budgets will be provided to the Board for review and approval at the January 21, 2022 Board meeting.
- Cameron also noted that 2017 and 2018 W2s and 1099s are now clean and that the IRS has forgiven all associated fees. The department is now working to cleanup the 941s and tax return.

### Board Action

- Approve October 15, 2021 CEC Governing Board Meeting Minutes
  - Art put forth a motion to approve the October 15, 2021 Board meeting minutes, Larry 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.
- Approve Policies
  - Blended Learning and Supplemental Online Learning
    - Terry put forth a motion to approve the Blended Learning and Supplemental Online Learning policy, Art 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.
  - Assessment Administration
    - Terry put forth a motion to approve the Assessment Administration policy, Art 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.
  - Administration of Medical Marijuana
    - Jessie put forth a motion to approve the Administration of Medical Marijuana policy, Terry 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.
- Approve of 2020 Final Audits
  - CEC Aurora
  - CEC Colorado Springs
  - CEC Douglas County
  - CEC Fort Collins
  - CEC Fort Collins West Middle School
  - CEC Windsor
    - All Audits approved by the following roll call vote.



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### Approval of 2020-21 Audits Roll Call Vote

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Calhoun	X			
McDonald	X			
Cyphers	X			
Phillips				X
Dia				X
Mathis	X			
Mohr	X			
Lee	X			

**Executive Session - none**

**Other Business - none**

### Future Meetings of the Governing Board

- December 10, 2021 – Virtual Via Teams @ 3:30 p.m.
- January 21, 2022 – CEC Colorado Springs @ 3:30 p.m.
- February 19, 2022 – CEC Governing Board Retreat and Meeting – CEC Inverness

Board meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

*Brenda Rhodes*

Respectfully submitted by Brenda Rhodes on behalf of Robin Phillips, CEC Governing Board Secretary