



CEC Governing Board Meeting December 10, 2021 @ 3:30 p.m. Microsoft Teams

Call to Order – Laura called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. with the reading of our 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, Jessie Mathis (absent), Papa Dia, Larry Mohr, and Sandra Lee
- Chief Executive Administrator: Sandi Brown
- Attorney: Dustin Sparks
- Other staff: Cameron M., Stephanie L., Kelly S., Jennifer D., Collin T., Jay E., Hannah R., Tom S., Corey H., Delight H., Karisa H., Tannis D.,
- Guests: Tara C., Kimberly C., Susan S., Molly B., Eilee V., Elizabeth P., Sarah N, Nicole K., Annie K, and Sarah N., J.C., Silen W., and Alex B.

Approval of Agenda

- Terry put forth a motion to approve the agenda. Larry 2nd the motion. All in favor.

Correspondence/Board Comments

- Laura commented that the tour she attended with Representative Colin Larson at CEC Inverness was a great tour and Q&A. She shared how she met with students while on campus and enjoyed the feedback she received from the visit.

Public Comment

The Board welcomed Public Comment with reminder to please keep comments to 3 minutes or less per person, and to submit questions prior to the Board meeting to laura.calhoun@coloradoearlycolleges.org.

- The first guest to speak (in order of virtually raised hands) was Kimberly C., introduced to the Board as the Director of SPLASH Youth of NOCO. She introduced SPLASH and how SPLASH has assisted Fort



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Collins students. She also spoke to her observations based on some students' relayed experiences and spoke to the benefits of a school GSA club.

- Silen W. was the next guest to speak – introduced as the Alliance for Suicide Prevention LGBTQ+ Youth Outreach Coordinator. Silen advocated on behalf of LGBTQ+ youth and he emphasized the importance of having inclusive environments through supporting a GSA at Fort Collins High School.
- J.C. C., a CECFCHS Senior, was the next guest to speak. J.C. presented a PowerPoint presentation titled, "Why Students of CEC need a GSA". J.C. used the full 3 minutes during this presentation to speak on why students at Fort Collins needs a GSA and the benefits of a GSA.
- Alex B., a former CECFCHS student from 2017 - 2019, was the next guest to speak and shared a personal account of their CECFCHS student experience as a self-described, queer, gender non-conforming student, and various frustrations they had as a student, including the use of gender-neutral bathrooms while in attendance at CECFCHS. Alex used their full 3 minutes of speaking time.

Administration Report

- Sandi gave an update on the CEC Castle Rock CCSP Grant Award
 - Potential \$900,000 over 2 years
- Sandi also gave an update on recent Legislative Visits:
 - CEC Fort Collins Zoom meeting with Rep. Cathy Kipp, Education Committee, on December 3, 2021
 - CEC Inverness Tour with Rep. Colin Larson, Education Committee and School Finance on December 7, 2021
 - Sandi thanked both Jay and Corey for the great tours, relaying that the representatives were, "Wowed!" She said the representatives loved the flexibility our schools are bringing to students.

Administration Report (continued)

- Sandi explained our recent Aurora Safety and Security Plan Addendum. Ricky K., Hannah and Sandi are working to hire a new security person for CEC Aurora Campus, and to conduct training on gang violence. She made mention that there is a current police staffing crisis among both police officers and SROs, but despite this, has high hopes to get a new security staff member hired soon.
- Sandi also gave an update on the current teacher staffing crisis -- mentioning how difficult it is to get substitute teachers, and the overall exhaustion of current staff from filling in for each other. One idea she shared to mitigate this would be to consider a 4+1 work week, to allow a workday for staff, and to help have time to meet with students one day per week. She added that if too many teachers at any given time are out on quarantine – schools would have to be prepared to go to remote learning. She said CEC offers free counseling and mentoring services to teachers – and that's she's doing a "Listening Tour" with at least two teachers from each school, starting next week.

Finance – Cameron Mascoll



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- Cameron gave an update on the Bond Refinance project. He relayed a prediction among experts that interest rates will rise by June, 2022, and shared the pros and cons of having long-term stability vs. growth. (Rated vs. non-rated.) He said our next step is to get free rating through Moody's, and that that would affect fees. He again presented the pros and cons of Stability vs. Flexibility and how we can talk more about getting the lowest interest rate possible based on our audit and financials.

Board Action

- Papa put forth a motion to approve November 19, 2021 CEC Governing Board Meeting Minutes. Art 2nd the motion. All in Favor.

Executive Session

- Terry put forth a motion at 4:40 p.m. to go into Executive Session in accordance with §24-6-402(4)(f), C.R.S.), for personnel matters. Larry 2nd the motion. All in Favor.
- At 4:58 p.m. Larry put forth a motion to come out of E.S. Terry 2nd. All in favor.
- Art put forth a motion to approve the personnel matter discussed in E.S. Papa 2nd. The Board voted by roll call vote; All in Favor.

Other Business – none.

Future Meetings of the Governing Board

- January 21, 2022 – CEC Colorado Springs @ 3:30 p.m.
- February 19, 2022 – CEC Governing Board Retreat and Meeting – CEC Inverness
- March 11, 2022 – CEC Colorado Springs @ 3:30 p.m.

Call to End – Laura adjourned the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

Signed,

Robin Phillips

Robin Phillips, Board Secretary

12/17/2021