



**Mt. Evans BOCES**

Clear Creek RE1 Gilpin RE1 Platte Canyon #1

*Strong Partnerships Ensuring Success for Exceptional Students*

## Mt. Evans BOCES Board Meeting Minutes, Sept 21, 2015

8:00 a.m.

### HEARTHFIRE BOOKS

**Bergen Village Center, Evergreen, CO**

Roll call: Board Members present: Kathleen O'Leary, Clear Creek, Kevin Kuharic, Clear Creek; Katie Spodyak, Platte Canyon, Phil Eisele, Platte Canyon

List of guests: Rebecca Odegard-Siegele

Also in attendance: Dr. Terri Jones Executive Director, Mt. Evans BOCES; Michelle Haich, Assistant Director of Gifted Education, Dr. Brenda Krage, Platte Canyon Superintendent, Dr. David MacKenzie, Gilpin Superintendent, Terry Weltzer, Mt. Evans BOCES Administrative Assistant

- I. Approval of March Minutes** - Copies were sent to all members, there were no comments or corrections. All members present approved.

(yes) Kathleen O'Leary, Clear Creek; (yes) Kevin Kuharic, Clear Creek; ( ) Steve Boulter, Gilpin;

(yes) Katie Spodyak, Platte Canyon; (yes) Phil Eisele, Platte Canyon

- II. Student Spotlight** -

E is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Fitzsimmons Middle School. She has Significant Emotional Disability since elementary school. She has significant anxiety that escalates to panic, in addition to oppositionality. Her anxiety lead to aggression towards Mom and towards staff. After an extended placement in a facility school, she has successfully returned to her home district and is adjusting well to being at Fitzsimmons full time.

FMS staff have reported that E now appears just like any other student. The FMS staff have been very supportive of E, and she is learning to develop peer relationships. The staff has recognized her academic potential and have been "teaching up," helping to instill greater confidence in her academic abilities. E is a success story thanks to the

collective hard work of the student, parents, and FMS staff. E is also an example of why we never give up on our students!

### **III. SAC Meeting and Quarterly Update -**

Terri reviewed the SAC meeting minutes and the Quarterly Updates. There was another resignation at Platte from a special education teacher at the elementary school - that position has been posted. Terri highlighted the Orton Gillingham (OG) training and the successful implementation among teachers with special education students. She will have a video of OG classes to show the board in Dec.

One teacher from each district is becoming certified as an OG trainer so that they can train/coach other teachers in their districts.

Michelle Murphy is the new Executive Director of the Colorado Rural Education Alliance. She is going to arrange "tours" for our Legislators to come into our districts to learn about what we do and what we need. Sometimes our legislators do not thoroughly understand the complexities or implications of the educational legislation that they vote on, especially as it applies to rural education.

At the December meeting, CBA Executive Director Dale McCall will present an overview of BOCES and clarify which issues should be presented to district boards for a vote vs. BOCES board.

CDE will conduct the Colorado Gifted Educational Review (CGER) on Sept. 21,22, 23. The CGER is typically conducted on a four year cycle. Our last CGER was in Sept. 2010. This evening, the district gifted coordinators and a parent focus group are meeting with the review team. There are four members of the review team. Tomorrow they will be visiting in each of the districts at an elementary, middle and high school to talk to teachers, students and administrators. Michelle and Terri will be giving a presentation on what is going on with Gifted Education across the BOCES. On Wednesday the review team will briefly go over their findings with Michelle and Terri, and will give their priority recommendations for improvement. In four to six weeks CDE will send their official report on their findings.

Re ALP's, we are in the process of transitioning to standard based ALP's. Michelle believes that we are well on our way with them, but will need to improve on the progress reporting to parents. Overall, we are in a good place compared to other districts around the state. We have had some professional development with training in depth and complexity. All the gifted coordinators and Michelle attended a regional

identification training required by CDE. It was good to have all of our coordinators there.

We are excited about a staff professional development presentation from Bertie Kingore on Oct. 16 in Platte Canyon. Flyers promoting that training have been distributed. There are also flyers about the Mt. Evans Gifted Association (MEGA). The first event is a Colorado Punkin Chunkin, in Aurora. MEGA brochures will be distributed to parents at ALP meetings. Bertie Kilgore is also doing a parent seminar on Oct. 15 in Clear Creek. With parent permission, we are collecting e-mails from gifted parents so they can have an open e-mail group of parents of gifted students. Michelle also made a parent brochure overviewing the gifted identification process and ALPs.

#### **VII. Presentation of CDE Special Education Data for Mt. Evans BOCES**

Terri reviewed data from CDE on the progress of students with disabilities (SWD) across the BOCES. In Reading, 33% of Mt. Evans BOCES SWD were proficient/advanced, compared with the state average of 21%.

In Math, 24% of Mt. Evans BOCES SWD were proficient or advanced in Math, compared with the state average of 17%. In Writing, 15% were proficient or advanced versus the state average of 11.5%.

The good news is that our SWD are performing above the state average. The bad news is that our SWD are still below their non-disabled peers in terms of progress, but this is an issue across the state and across the nation. This "gap" is what Terri wants to focus on. Other CDE data was presented that was specific to each district in terms of SWD.

Terri noted that the other data specified a median growth percentile and an adequate growth percentile and that there is a significant difference between those numbers. This indicates that SWD are not catching up to where they need to be in 3 years. Each district evidenced a highly similar pattern among SWD. Terri cited research indicating that the instructional variables that can be adjusted in order to help students "catch up" are the frequency, duration and intensity of instruction. This requires master schedules that will allow for that when needed.

#### **IV. Vote on contract for Assistant Director of Special Education**

Terri talked about Rebecca's extensive qualifications and what she can bring to the BOCES. Rebecca talked about the positive things she is seeing within the BOCES and that is part of what drew her to the position.

Rebecca's schedule will be 3 days per week, one day in each district. This position had been posted since Feb 2015 and there have been many applications, although only one other candidate warranted an interview other than Rebecca.

The vote was taken and all members approved.

(yes) Kathleen O'Leary, Clear Creek; (yes) Kevin Kuharic, Clear Creek; ( ) Steve Boulier, Gilpin;  
(yes) Katie Spodyak, Platte Canyon; (yes) Phil Eisele, Platte Canyon

\*This will be Phil and Kathleen's last meeting as they are stepping down and new board members will need to be chosen. Terri Thanked them for their services.