

# **CARBON COUNTY BOARD OF COOPERATIVE HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICES**

## **Board Minutes**

The Carbon County Board of Cooperative Higher Education Services (BOCHES) held its regular monthly meeting on March 18, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in Rawlins, Wyoming.

### **Roll Call**

Board members present: Cheryl Engstrom, Rick Greene, and via Zoom Matt Feldmann and Mike Mann. Members absent: Ozzie Knezovich

Others present: Jennifer Moore, Karen Webster, Janet Garcia, Cory Hudson, Shelly Collier, Allison Bailey and family, and via Zoom RYanne Mikesell and Roberta Corson.

### **Agenda**

Cheryl Engstrom made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Rick Greene and passed.

### **Executive Session**

None

### **Public Comments, Presentations & Reports**

Cory introduced Allison Bailey to the Board. Allison is one of our dual students who attends Victory High School. She is a senior and she is taking two college classes. Allison is a standout student who is early to class everyday and utilizes her class time to get her work done and her attendance this semester is very good. Allison's grades reflect her dedication, and she also demonstrates an excellent work ethic. We wish her the best as she completes the semester and gets ready to graduate.

### **Consent Agenda**

- A. Rick Greene made the motion to approve the minutes from February 28, 2025 meeting, Treasurer's Report, and Accounts Payable for March 2025. The motion was seconded by Cheryl Engstrom and passed.

### **Action Items**

- A. Cheryl Engstrom made the motion to approve the Holiday Calendar for 2025-2026. The motion was seconded by Mike Mann and passed.
- B. Rick Greene made the motion to approve the March Surplus list. The motion was seconded by Cheryl Engstrom and passed.

### **Discussion**

- A. Mill levies: Jennifer's suggestion is to increase two of our three current mill levies. We have been very frugal in our spending for many years as our budget continues to decline. Looking ahead Jennifer would like to make sure we are able to fulfill our future obligations. With the new property tax cuts, it is estimated that we will need to trim \$50,000 from our budget. We don't know how the senior property tax cuts will affect us for this upcoming budget year, we are waiting to hear on that. We are also looking at the price of steel for our welding class with the new Tariffs that have been put in place. Perkins funding (which is on the federal level) has helped us tremendously over the past several years for our trade classes. We have been able to buy much needed equipment and supplies with Perkins. We are also watching to see if this funding will still be available with the changes happening at the federal level of

the Department of Education. Jennifer went over the mill levy sheet that was shared with board members. Jennifer also mentioned that most other organizations that use Mill levies are already at their max. It is our understanding that we will need to put this in front of voters to increase our funding. There could be a risk of completely losing one of the mill levies if it goes out for a new vote, because of how it is written. Matt asked when we would need to get this on the ballot. Jennifer said that if we want to do this for 2026, we will need to get it on the ballot by July of next year. It gives plenty of time for research. The other one would be on the ballot for 2028 for its regular renewal date. Mike thinks this is a great plan to get out ahead of these issues. The mill levy would be a renewable source of revenue. Mike hopes the voters will be able to absorb it and see the benefit of it. Rick asked why there is a risk of losing it if we asked for more. Jennifer replied that is what the clerk told her based on how she read the statutes and that it doesn't allow for provisions for an increase. Jennifer is going to ask an attorney about this to make sure.

### **Directors Report**

Jennifer reported that we are almost at mid-semester point for high school classes and just past midterm for Western classes. CCHC teachers participated in conferences at RHS yesterday and will be there on Thursday as well. Spring Break is this week for Western and next week for the school district. Teachers and students are excited for the break. Most of the rest of our staff will work through Spring Break.

We have two Leadership Carbon County Days coming up. March 20th is Health and Human Services Day and then on April 1st, we have Government Day.

Upcoming, Cory, Shelly, Ryanne and Jennifer are going to attend the ACES Spring meeting in April in Rock Springs. This is a yearly meeting for all BOCES.

Many of our welding students have been busy making more fencing panels for BLM. They have completed 40 so far this semester. The installation day for those will be sometime in the Fall, but in May, some of our welders will go out to the field for a day with BLM. Their goal is to spend the day teaching the students about wildlife, history, working as a team, as well as the BLM agency and careers with BLM. Students will help pull the posts around an enclosure that the BLM removed fence from last year; mark 4-miles (or what they can do based on time) of the new wildlife friendly fence that BLM had a contractor build last year with reflectors for Greater Sage-Grouse; and if there is time, they will show the students the historic JO Ranch that the BLM acquired near the project.

We are going to start advertising for a woods/construction instructor for next year. If you know anyone who would be great in this role, please send them my way.

### **Staff Reports**

Shelly reported that we have received 67% of our estimated tax income from Carbon County and 79% of our estimated tax income from Sweetwater County. We expect to receive close to 100% of the expected tax income this fiscal year.

Regarding SF 69 we are fortunate to be in a diverse county where we have more than just residential property taxes to support our mill levies. Shelly informed the board the Lindsey West, CC Treasurer, has been very helpful with providing estimates and information while we work through the changes from SF69 and other legislation. Shelly has been against raising the mill levies in the past, mostly because of fear of losing levies if they didn't pass during the election. Now because of the changes we are facing at the state level, we must be proactive in finding ways to secure our future funding.

Janet updated board members on upcoming classes. March 20<sup>th</sup> will be the open house for the Women's History Exhibit. April 8<sup>th</sup> Emergency Care for Dogs, April 9<sup>th</sup> Easter Cookie Decorating, April 14<sup>th</sup>-May 12<sup>th</sup> Childbirth and Postpartum Education class, April 16<sup>th</sup> Antibiotic Resistance in Agriculture, April 17<sup>th</sup> Crochet class, May 3<sup>rd</sup> Hand Knit Chunky Blanket, April 24<sup>th</sup> Yardzee, May 6<sup>th</sup> Water Wise Planting, May 17<sup>th</sup> Conceal Carry, May 31<sup>st</sup> Advanced Conceal Carry.

Cory reported that dual students are doing well. Adult CNA started March 10<sup>th</sup> and has 6 students. Registration for summer classes is now open and registration for Fall semester will open April 9<sup>th</sup>. Cory will be meeting soon with the RHS counselor to assist students with registration.

Cory currently has 3 students attending in person tutoring for HiSET and 7 students using online study programs or studying on their own. This month 10 students tested, 8 students passed subtests, 1 student earned their HSEC this month.

We will be hosting CNA testing on March 26<sup>th</sup> and NCCCO testing on March 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

Ryanne reported that they had 88 students in their tumbling program. Ryanne coordinated a talk between some nurses and a couple of CNA students who wanted more information about the nursing field. Some upcoming classes are swimming lessons and a Jelly Roll class, a DNR class for seniors, a gardening class and Camp Peak.

### **Board Comments**

Rick didn't have any comments at this time.

Cheryl thanked everyone for their thorough reports.

Mike thanked Jennifer for her forward thinking about funding and hopes everyone who is traveling for spring break to be safe.

Matt thanked everyone for all that they do.

### **Next Board Meeting Date**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in Baggs.

### **Adjournment**

Cheryl Engstrom made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Rick Greene and passed.

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Matt Feldmann, Chairperson

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Rick Greene, Clerk

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Karen Webster, Executive Assistant