

CES Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes
October 14, 2025

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:00 p.m. by Johnna Bruhn, The meeting notice, agenda, and accompanying documents were disseminated to attendees 10 days prior to the meeting via email and posted on the CES' website.

Roll Call:

Members Present:

Lauren Laws – Aztec
Michelle Gonzales – Penasco
Johnna Bruhn – Mosquero
Dr. Cindy Sims – Estancia
Keith Durham – Grady
Cody Patterson – Carrizozo
Erik Bose – ABQ Charter Academy
Dr. Charley Carroll
Stan Rounds

Region I
Region II
Region III
Region IV
Region V
Region VII
NMCCS
Higher Ed 2 Year
NMCEL

Members Absent:

Brian Snider Jal
Elisa Begueria – Lake Arthur
Dr. Gerry Washburn – Carlsbad
William Hawkins – Silver City
Joe Guillen
Dr. Sandra Rodriquez

President
President Elect
Region VI
Region VIII
NMSBA
NM Higher Ed

Non-Members Present:

David Chavez
Teresa Salazar
Robin Strauser
Norma Henderson
Lianne Pierce
Gustavo Rossell
Paul Benoit
Doug Marshall
Jim Barrentine
Yvonne Tabet
Dr. Kimberly Mizell
LeAnne Gandy
Loretta Garcia
Alexis Esslinger

CES Executive Director
CES Chief Operating Officer
CED Chief Financial Officer
CES Finance Manager
CES Director of Ancillary Services
CES Director of Procurement
CES Northern Services Manager
CES IT Director
CES Southern Services Manager
CES Director of Human Resources
CES Site Director
CES Director of Leadership Development
CES Tap Director
CES LEAP Director

Quorum:

CES Board Policy states that attendance by one third of the Executive Committee constitutes a quorum. This was, therefore, a duly convened meeting of the CES Executive Committee.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Stan Rounds seconded by Cody Patterson to approve the minutes from June 5, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Dr. Cindy Sims seconded by Dr. Charlie Carroll to approve the agenda for the October 15, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Audit:

Scott Eliason, CPA with Jaramillo Accounting Group LLC, presented the results of CES' audit. The independent auditors report stated that, in their opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material aspects, the respective financial position of the business-type activities of CES as of June 30, 2025 and 2024, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the years then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America.

A motion to accept the audit as presented was made by Dr. Charley Carroll and seconded by Cody Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Agency Communications:

The following reports were presented

NMCCS – Erik Bose

Charter Schools will hold an annual conference mid – December at Tamaya Resort.

NMCEL – Stan Rounds

Stan discussed concern over the amount of superintendents' resignations. There is a need to determine the root cause for these resignations. The average tenure is two years.

NMCEL is set to meet with a liaison from the state's Finance Committee to discuss priorities for the 2026 legislative session. A central topic of concern is the potential decline in oil and gas revenues, which have historically provided a significant portion of the state's funding for public education.

NMPED – TBD

Not present. No report given

NMSBA – Joe Guillen

Not present. No report given.

Higher Education (4yr) – Dr. Sandra Rodriguez

Not present. No report given.

Higher Education (2yr) – Dr. Charley Carroll

Dr. Carroll participated in multiple meetings to review construction cost trends and rising expenses in New Mexico. The discussions focused on concerns and strategies to mitigate cost increases.

Finance – Elisa Begueria

Not present. No report given

Scholarship – Johnna Bruhn

The scholarship will be awarded October 15th, to Brian Snider, Jal Public Schools. during the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors.

Policy – Elisa Begueria

David provided an update on behalf of Elisa. The CES Board Policy was disseminated via email to the 89 Superintendents in New Mexico July 10, 2025, with a request for comments. To date, no comments, questions, or concerns have been received. The policy will be presented for approval and adoption at the Board of Directors meeting on October 15, 2025.

Program Overview/Reports

Six Year Study/Update

The six-year study continues to provide in-depth data analysis for the 13 participating districts. Teachers can now drill down into the data by cluster, standard, class, teacher, and student. Evan provides targeted training for district administrators to help them better support their teachers, while Kim focuses specifically on training teachers in effective data use and instructional strategies.

We have observed an increase in math outcomes across the 13 districts—an early positive indicator since the training began in June 2024.

In addition, CES will continue supporting the 13 districts through the Martinez/Yazzi Action Plan, ensuring that each district's Strategic Plan is either aligned with or adjusted to align with the plan's objectives.

LEAP Accreditation visit

LEAP recently completed its first accreditation visit since its inception. During the three-day review, the program was recognized for its strengths in retention and recruitment, curriculum relevance, collaboration and service orientation, the expertise of its coaching staff, access and affordability, and its commitment to continuous improvement.

Dr. Cindy Simms, a member of the review board, noted that the two representatives from higher education Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) and New Mexico State University were highly complementary of the program.

We are now in a 45-day waiting period for the official report and are anticipating positive results.

CTE update

The Executive Committee has approved \$150,000 to support school districts in the area of Career and Technical Education (CTE). Currently, nine of our thirteen school districts have identified CTE as a goal or included it in their action plans.

We are pleased to welcome Sharon West to CES as a member of the professional services staff. She will work with interested regions to provide support in developing career cluster pathways, establishing workplace learning experiences and mentorships, and building partnerships with higher education institutions to expand dual credit opportunities for the school districts.

Mr. Chavez has already met with representatives from four of the six regions and plans to meet with the remaining two. The overarching goal is to form a CTE consortium—an alliance that will serve as a unified body for advocacy and policy development. If issues need to be elevated to the legislative level, representatives from each of the six regions will collaborate to develop and present a formal proposal.

Million Dollar Club Dinner

Mr. Chavez encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming dinner where CES will recognize our partners who have made 1 million or more this year. These key partners are instrumental in funding our organization.

During the event Sharon West will deliver a presentation on CTE.

Expansion update

Mason Goold and Peggy Green have been actively promoting the word about our contracts in Utah. We have hired a representative for Idaho and plan to re-advertise to seek a second employee to serve Idaho

Workforce Solutions and wage decisions

Historically, CES has handled the acquisition of wage decisions for construction projects on behalf of school districts. To streamline the process and reduce confusion, this responsibility will now transition to the school districts. CES is able to obtain wage decisions on behalf of members but is not able to continue to obtain the other required construction documents for members.

Going forward, each district will be responsible for obtaining its own wage decisions. Thad Phipps and John King will be available to offer guidance and support as needed during this change.

To assist with the change, Workforce Solutions provided virtual training at the beginning of October to explain the new process and the reasons behind the decision.

Administrative Reports

Finance

Norma highlighted a few items on Robin's behalf, a full report was included in the packet.

Ancillary

Lianne highlighted a few items, a full report was included in the packet.

Procurement

Gustavo highlighted a few items, a full report was included in the packet.

Northern Services/REAP

Paul was not available to present, a full report was included in the packet.

Technology

Doug highlighted a few items, a full report was included in the packet.

Southern Services

Jim highlighted a few items, a full report was included in the packet.

Human Resources

Yvonne highlighted a few items, a full report was included in the packet.

LEAP

Alexis highlighted a few items, a full report was included in the packet.

SITE

Kim highlighted a few items, a full report was included in the packet.

TAP

Loretta highlighted a few items, a full report was included in the packet.

Executive Director Report

Item A: A motion was made to convene into Executive session by Dr. Charley Carroll seconded by Keith Durham. Motion passed unanimously.

The CES Executive Committee convened an executive session to review the ERB's determination regarding staff status. ERB declined to classify 21 employees as independent contractors, a decision that may result in potential litigation. Upon reconvening at 3:30PM, the Executive Committee reported that no action was taken.

Item B: The Executive Director requested permission to apply for grants to support six-year study and CTE initiative. If we're successful request permission to accept grant awards on behalf of CES.

A motion to grant permission to apply for grants was made by Dr. Carroll and seconded by Stan Rounds Motion passed unanimously.

Item C: The Executive Director requested a budget increase to support the addition of two staff members for our LEAP program.

A motion was made to approve the request to hire two additional coaches for LEAP with the amendment to add hiring a third coach as needed motion was made by Stan Rounds. Seconded by Dr. Cindy Simms. Motion passed unanimously.

Personnel Report – Mr. Chavez stood for questions. No questions were asked.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Stan Rounds, seconded by Dr. Charley Carroll to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Setting Next Meeting Dates

- a. Wednesday February 4, 2026, in conjunction with the NMSBA Conference.

A motion was made by Cody Patterson to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Charley Carroll. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.