



EORC Meeting Minutes

March 31, 2020

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Campbell called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Present: Chris Campbell, Chairman; Destry Jones, Scott Woolstenhulme, Dale Layne, Andy Mehl, Seth Deniston, Jim Doramus and Stephanie Bailey-White.

Others Present: Jo Ann Bujarski, State Department of Education (SDE); Todd Lawrence, SDE; Dylan Baker, Idaho Commission for Libraries, Daniel Vogt, SDE.

Chairman Campbell said there has been another 1% holdback for the rest of the fiscal year, which means the \$3.5 million broadband reimbursement budget has been decreased by another \$35,000, which brings the total annual budget to \$3,434,000.

Chairman Campbell asked the other EORC members what difficulties they are seeing in their districts related to internet access.

Mr. Doramus said his district has a small population but covers a large geographic area. Some of the students live in the mountains where there is no ability to purchase internet. The schools have opened internet access for students in their parking lots, but some of the students live 17 miles away from the schools, which makes it a hardship for them to drive in everyday for study. A majority of the students in the Salmon River district do not have cell service.

Mr. Layne said they also have staff with no internet access at home, in addition to students. They have some Verizon hotspots available. There was a discussion if these are on a month-month basis through Verizon or need a six-month commitment. T-Mobile has a 12-month commitment necessary for internet. The Jerome School District has handed out 600 Chromebooks to students for use at home.

Mr. Jones said the Firth School District is sending paper packets home for the students without internet access. They have opened hot spots in their parking lots.

Mr. Woolstehulme said the Bonneville school district was distributing 2,000 Chromebooks to students who needed them. They have 80 hotspots open and if teachers do not have internet access at home, they can come in to the school building to work.

Mr. Deniston said the Coeur d'Alene school district is distributing 2,000 Chromebooks as well as opening hotspots through the end of the school year. Some rural areas do not have cell signal and 8% of the students do not have internet. The district has started remote learning.

Mr. Baker said the public libraries are closed, but many have opened hotspots to their parking lots.

Mr. Campbell said Idaho Business for Education is working with HP to collect unused equipment and restore it for students' use. The pilot programs are in Kuna and Payette.

Mr. Lawrence said that any federal options for additional funding are still unclear.

Rural districts would like monetary help with adding access points.

Mr. Deniston made a motion that EORC authorizes a grant process to allow LEAs and libraries in ID to provide emergency broadband and related services to students in need. Grants should be prioritized based on E-Rate discount percentage, availability of options in the area, and rural districts where broadband options are limited, with grant opportunities not to exceed 10K per LEA or 2k per site. Mr. Layne seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Layne made a motion that any money left after the above motion has been put in place and exhausted, should be distributed on a per pupil basis. Mr. Mehl seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Woolstenhulme made a motion that Project Impact STEM by reimbursed for 500 Megs bandwidth. Mr. Jones seconded, motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Mehl. Motion carried, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

For Questions Contact

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