

CES Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes
March 17, 2026

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:

Michelle Gonzales – Penasco	Region II
Johnna Bruhn – Mosquero	Region III
Dr. Cindy Sims – Estancia	Region IV
Keith Durham – Grady	Region V
Erik Bose – ABQ Charter Academy	NMCCS
Stan Rounds	NMCEL
Deputy Secretary Yvonne Garcia	NMPED
Dr. Sandra Rodriquez	NM Higher Ed

Members Absent:

Elisa Begueria – Lake Arthur	President
Lauren Laws – Aztec	Region I
Brian Snider Jal	Past President
Dr. Gerry Washburn – Carlsbad	Region VI
Cody Patterson – Carrizozo	Region VII
William Hawkins – Silver City	Region VIII
Joe Guillen	NMSBA
Dr. Charley Carroll	Higher Ed 2 Year

Non-Members Present:

David Chavez	CES Executive Director
Teresa Salazar	CES Chief Operating Officer
Robin Strauser	CED Chief Financial Officer
Norma Henderson	CES Finance Manager
Lianne Pierce	CES Director of Ancillary Services
Gustavo Rossell	CES Director of Procurement
Paul Benoit	CES Northern Services Manager
Doug Marshall	CES IT Director
Jim Barrentine	CES Southern Services Manager
Yvonne Tabet	CES Director of Human Resources
Dr. Kimberly Mizell	CES Site Director
Loretta Garcia	CES Tap Director
Alexis Esslinger	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 Agenda:

A motion was made by Stan Rounds seconded by Keith Durham to approve the agenda for the March 17, 2026, Executive Committee Meeting. Motion passes unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Erik Bose seconded by Keith Durham to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2026, Executive Committee Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Agency Communications:

The following reports were presented

NMCCS – Erik Bose

NMCCS is currently advertising to fill the position of Executive Director.

Tuesday March 17th - 2026 Legislative Recap at CNM Workforce Training Center.

NMCEL – Stan Rounds

In the process of planning the upcoming Summer Conference, which will take place July 15–16, 2026, at the Marriott Albuquerque Pyramid North.

This year's conference will feature two learning tracks:

- **Professional Development**
- **Leadership Skills**

Registration will be opening soon. For more information and updates, please visit:

<https://www.nmcel.org/>

Survived the session two key items of note:

- 80% of health insurance costs for public school employees will be covered through the State Equalization Guarantee.
- A 1% salary increase for all public school employees. It is not clear how this will be distributed, but it is thought to be allocated through the State Equalization Guarantee.

NMPED – DS Yvonne Garcia

Excited that we were able to pass the Office of Special Education, and that both literacy and bills were approved. This will help strengthen student achievement and support improvements in teaching strategies.

We are still in the process of analyzing where vetoes occurred so we can develop our own appropriation lists.

We are working to have Program Mangers begin drafting and amending contracts and RFPs to ensure everything is in place for a July 1st rollout.

NMSBA – Joe Guillen

Not present. No report given.

Higher Education (4yr) – Dr. Sandra Rodriguez

Kristopher M. Goodrich, PhD from University of New Mexico and Jesse Chenven from Central New Mexico College have been elected as co-chairs to the NMACTE board for a two-year term.

Early Childhood Program Update and Concerns:

There has been significant movement within the Early Childhood Program. Staff working in early childhood settings have been requested to return to school to obtain either a 12-credit certification or a 31-credit professional certificate.

There is growing concern about this mandate. Many individuals who traditionally work in these settings are deeply rooted in their communities—often from Native communities or Spanish-speaking backgrounds. Some may not have high school transcripts or may not have had the opportunity to attend college. Requiring them to return to school for certification presents a substantial barrier.

Additionally, concerns have been raised about the impact on children during their most critical developmental years. These are the years when children are learning their first language, yet there is a perception that this is being disrupted by a shift toward English-only instruction and prescribed teaching models.

There is also a broader, historical concern. Communities are still dealing with the lasting effects of forced education systems, and this mandate is being viewed by some as a continuation of those practices. The potential loss of jobs due to requirements individuals cannot easily meet raises serious equity concerns about the impact on already marginalized populations.

These individuals provide essential, culturally grounded support in early childhood settings. Their lived experience, language, and community connection are critical assets that should be recognized and preserved.

Higher Education (2yr) – Dr. Charley Carroll

Not present. No report given

Finance – Elisa Begueria

Mr. Chavez provided an update on Ms. Bageria's behalf. A full report has been included in the agenda packet. At this point in the year, we are tracking behind where we were at the same time last year. This may be due to several factors, including uncertainty among school districts regarding potential reduction of the unit value, as well as reductions in federal funding. Historically, the fourth quarter is CES's strongest period, and we anticipate an increase in purchase orders and overall spending in the coming months.

Scholarship – Johnna Bruhn

The scholarship will be awarded to a recipient from Lake Arthur.

Policy – Elisa Begueria

The policy review committee has been identified. CES staff members, along with assigned Executive Committee Members, will meet in April to review policies and make any recommended revisions.

Program Overview/Reports

CTE Update

The Executive Committee approved \$150,000 to support school districts in the area of Career and Technical Education (CTE). Mr. Chavez reported that the Eunice and Jal school districts have combined their efforts to develop a joint CTE initiative. They have partnered to offer coordinated programming, including a shared director who will oversee implementation across both districts by utilizing shared staff and resources.

New Mexico Junior College will collaborate with the districts to provide dual credit opportunities within selected programs of study. Additionally, discussions have taken place with several RECs to explore further collaboration in expanding CTE offerings. Regional higher education institutions are also being considered as partners.

While this effort is still in the planning stages, it is anticipated that over the next several months it will develop into a model that can be used by other districts across the state.

Strategic Plan

CES is currently in the third year of a six-year study involving 13 school districts. Participating districts are implementing strategic planning, utilizing data-driven instruction, and collaborating with a national consulting firm to strengthen mathematics instruction.

On average, these districts scored two percentile points higher in math compared to other schools across New Mexico during the 2024–2025 school year.

Reports from Professional Development Provider

An overview of key accomplishments and advanced planning was presented by the Business Office, Procurement, SITE, Northern Services, LEDR, Technology, Human Resources, LEAP, Ancillary Services, Southern Services, and TAP. A copy of the presentation is available upon request.

Administrative Reports

Finance

A full report was included in the packet.

Ancillary

A full report was included in the packet.

Procurement

A full report was included in the packet.

Northern Services/REAP

A full report was included in the packet.

Technology

A full report was included in the packet.

Southern Services

A full report was included in the packet.

Human Resources

A full report was included in the packet.

Executive Director Report

Item (a) The CES Executive Director is requesting a 3% compensation increase for CES Core Staff. In researching National compensation surveys employers are planning ~ 3.5% base pay increases for 2026. These surveys are widely used by mid-sized and large Albuquerque employers (including healthcare, labs, professional services, and construction firms. Albuquerque wages historically track slightly below national averages, but salary increase percentages generally align with national trends.

A motion was made by Stan Rounds, seconded by Dr. Sims to approve the 3% compensation increase for CES Core Staff. Motion passes unanimously.

Item (b) The CES Executive Director recommends that the Executive Committee approve a 1% salary increase for Ancillary Staff for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. This will allow us to remain competitive with the increases projected for school district personnel.

A motion was made was made by Stan Rounds, seconded by Keith Durham to approve a 1% percent salary increase for Ancillary Staff. Motion passes unanimously.

Item (c) The CES Executive Director recommends that the Executive Committee approve a 2% incentive pay for CES Core Staff to be based on CES profit for the 2026 fiscal year.

A motion was made by Stan Rounds, seconded by Erik Bose, to approve a 2% incentive pay for CES Core Staff. Motion passes unanimously.

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

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Stan Rounds, seconded by Michelle Gonzales to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion passes unanimously.

Setting Next Meeting Dates

- a. Thursday June 4, 2026, 2-4:00PM in conjunction with NMSBA School Law Conference location TBD.
- b. Tuesday July 14, 2026, 3-5:00PM Marriott ABQ Pyramid North in conjunction with NMCEL.

A motion was made by Keith Durham to adjourn, seconded by Michelle Gonzales. Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.