



**Broadcast Educational Media Commission Meeting Minutes  
2470 North Star Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43221  
May 8, 2014**

**I. Opening**

10:52 a.m.; Commission Chair Mark Filippell opened the Broadcast Educational Media Commission (BEMC) meeting.

**II. Roll Call**

10:52 a.m.; Coordinator Sue Price conducted roll call.

Members Present: Chairman Mark Filippell; Commissioner Stephen Black; Commissioner Stephen Freeze; Commissioner Bruce Hawkins; Commissioner John McClelland; and Commissioner Curt Steiner.

Members Absent: Commissioner John Carey; Commissioner Cliff Hite; Commissioner Jan Osborn; ~~Commissioner John McClelland~~; Commissioner Jan Osborn; Commissioner Richard Ross; Commissioner George Sarantou; and Commissioner Michael Skindell.

*MJ  
7/10/14*

Also present: Executive Director Richard E. May; Chief Engineer Craig Stephenson, Broadcast Manager Dave Johnson; Chief Information Officer Laura J. Bryson; Coordinator Sue Price; and interested citizens.

Mrs. Price declared a quorum present.

**III. Resolution 14-26: Acceptance of May 6, 2014 Minutes**

10:47 a.m.; Mr. Freeze moved and Mr. McClelland seconded to accept the minutes of the March 7, 2014 Commission Meeting.

AYES: Mr. Filippell, Mr. Black, Mr. Freeze, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. McClelland and Mr. Steiner.

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

**IV. Distance Learning Introduction & Classroom Video Conference**

10:57 a.m.; East Central Ohio Educational Service Center's Director of Distance Learning Michele Carlisle, presented a pre-recorded session, introducing two forthcoming interactive/live-in-the-classroom video conference sessions: 1) Jian Zhao connected live with her Mandarin Chinese distance learning classroom via a Polycom video conference connection from OSU's studio; and 2) Natalie Brooks connected live

with her American Sign Language distance classroom via a laptop connection from her home. Commissioners were able to observe both the students in their high school classrooms, interact with the teachers to ask questions and evaluate the quality of connectivity.

*(Commissioner George Sarantou arrived at 11:14 a.m.)*

**V. Video Conference Presentation with WVIZ on Distance Learning**

11:25 a.m.; WVIZ (in Cleveland) Co-Presenters Linda Williams and John Ramicone, both former Ohio School District Superintendents and now full-time WVIZ staff members, work in collaboration with BOR and ODE in developing and hosting professional development distance learning material and programming. An informational packet was provided in advance and included with handouts, Commissioners were able to observe the presentation via video conferencing, interact/ask questions and evaluate the quality of connectivity.

*(Commissioner Carey's Designee John Conley arrived at 11:37 a.m.)*

**VI. Video Conference Presentation with Elaine Shuck, Incoming President of the U. S. Distance Learning Association**

11:59 a.m.; Elaine Shuck, currently Polycom's Educational Market Coordinator and Incoming President of the U. S. Distance Learning Association, discussed the future of distance learning via video conference from her home office in Sturgis, SD. Commissioners were able to interact/ask questions, as well as evaluate the quality of connectivity.

**VII. Video Conference Presentation with Peggy Whyte, South Central Ohio Computer Association**

12:25 p.m.; Peggy White, SCOCA's Curriculum Integration Coordinator, East Central Ohio Educational Service Center's Director of Distance Learning discussed SCOCA's provision of services to rural schools in rural/isolated school buildings and specifically about their recent award of the USDA Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant. Commissioners were able to interact/ask questions, as well as evaluate the quality of SCOCA's video conference.

**VIII. Executive Director's Report**

12:37 p.m.; BEMC's Executive Director Richard May's opening remarks to the Commission were to thank the Commission, convey his hope that the four presentations gave a good feel for video conferencing; and acknowledge there are bandwidth and equipment issues that BEMC needs to address in order to move forward and maximize capabilities on behalf of Ohio school districts.

1. **Update on Capital Appropriations Legislation:** In an effort to improve Ohio legislators' understanding of affiliate stations' various non-approved capital funds requests, BEMC's recently drafted a letter for Bill Blair's presentation to legislators. The Governor's office has advised the letter not be sent. Mr. May is trying to schedule a meeting with the Governor's office to discuss the matter.
2. **Update on Expiring Lease with OSU:** BEMC/DAS Real Estate is still working with OSU on renegotiation of our lease. The goal is to; hopefully, reduce our lease expense in order to use those funds for building improvements (e.g., air conditioning, roof and electrical issues, including an approximated \$200,000.00 for electrical improvements. The current lease expires on June 30, 2014; however, because both OSU staff members working on the lease renewal have recently changed, it may become necessary to extend the current lease for an additional year.
3. **Recent Expenditures and Budget Update:** Mr. May explained that, because the agency was reformulated and staff are new to budgeting and fiscal processes in general, BEMC has carefully watched our expenses to keep costs down throughout fiscal year 2014. As BEMC approaches the end of the fiscal year, we have approximately one million dollars remaining in the budget that can be spent in the next six weeks. There are three options: 1) Return all funds to the GRF; 2) Spend it all; or 3) Not spend it all. Commission Chair Mr. Filippell explained that, legally, BEMC is unable to push the funds out to the stations. Mr. May presented a list of possible procurement projects with estimated cost of \$511,875.20, explaining that many things have been put off for years and requesting Commission approval to proceed while we have the available funds. Commissioners reviewed the list and asked various questions, including BEMC's video conferencing capabilities. BEMC's CIO Laura Bryson responded to bandwidth, high definition, current number of sessions going through BEMC's bridges and maximum capacity. In response to Commission questions about upgrading not just one bridge, but two, Ms. Bryson consulted with Polycom's Regional Sales Manager, Wes Gierhart, present at the meeting, and responded the additional update should cost an approximate \$150,000.00 to double BEMC's video conferencing capabilities. Commission Chair Mark Filippell added that video conferencing upgrades are core to BEMC's mission.

*(Commissioner Stephen Black departed at 12:20 p.m.)*

*(Commissioner Curt Steiner departed at 12:25 p.m.)*

4. **Resolution FY14-27: Increase Video Conference Upgrades and Approval of Estimated \$663,125.00 FY14 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr. Procurement Projects**  
12:46 p.m.; Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Sarantou seconded to increase the estimated \$151,250.00 video conference equipment upgrades included in BEMC's procurement projects list to \$302,500.00 and authorize a total of \$663,125.00 for proceeding with all items incorporated in the "Possible Procurement Projects – FY14 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr. List" presented to the Commission (a copy of the list is attached.)

AYES: Mr. Filippell, Mr. Conley, Mr. Freeze, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. McClelland and Mr. Sarantou.

NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: None

5. **Discussion of July Commission Meeting and One Year Anniversary of BEMC:**  
The next Commission Meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2014 at BEMC. Mr. May invited the Commission invited the Commission to join BEMC staff after the meeting for an informal luncheon celebration of BEMC's first anniversary.

**IX. Progress Report on NS Modernization Project**

12:49 p.m.; Even though the video conference session was active, it appeared Mr. Luff had stepped away. In the interest of time, Mr. May presented Mr. Luff's May 8, 2014 memorandum handout, expressed his opinion that Mr. Luff is doing a good job, briefly referred to project timelines incorporated in the handout, and asked that any questions be directed to Mr. Luff via email.

**X. Update on BEMC's Strategic Planning Process**

12:50 p.m.; Mr. May reported BEMC is making progress with development of the Strategic Planning Progress, and hopes to have something to the Commission at the July meeting.

**XI. Executive Session**

No Executive Session.

**XII. New Business**

No New Business.

**XIII. Resolution FY14-25: Adjournment**

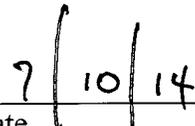
12:52 p.m.; Mr. Filippell moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to close the meeting.

AYES: Mr. Filippell, Mr. Conley, Mr. Freeze, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. McClelland, and Mr. Sarantou.

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

  
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Mark Filippell, Chair  
Broadcast Educational Media Commission

  
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Date