

NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
October 20, 2015
District Administration Building
6:30 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at the District Administration Office was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mark Bahr, President.

ROLL CALL

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, absent; Natalie Rogers, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Steve Sorensen, absent.

PREDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

FALCON AWARD

The Falcon Award was presented to Richard Ruybal, the custodian at La Jara Elementary. Richard is a very honest and classy individual who keeps the building in a clean and orderly environment. He consistently goes the extra mile when it comes to the staff and students at LJE. Richard is a valued and respected employee who deserves the Falcon Award for this month.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA/CHANGES TO CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Robert Chavez to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Joseph Baroz. **(attachments #1 - #6)**

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Natalie Rogers, aye; Steve Sorensen, absent.

The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

A motion was made by Robert Chavez to approve the agenda with no additions, seconded by Joseph Baroz.

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Natalie Rogers, aye; Steve Sorensen, absent.

The motion passed.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Four (4) individuals signed up to address the board. Jessica Ulmala spoke to the board concerning health insurance, Michael Armenta spoke concerning a recycling program that he would like to start at North Conejos Schools, Nikol Kelley addressed the board concerning the health stipend, Brian Riccatone also spoke concerning the health stipend, and Shae Haslett addressed the board concerning health insurance.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ACTIVITIES

Achievement Reports:

Principal reports are attached; please refer to those reports. **(attachment #7)**

BOCES Report:

Mark Bahr reported that SLV Federal Bank is sponsoring the teacher of the year award. He reported four para-professional, on-line slots available and there are no applicants applying for the positions. BOCES has hired a grant writer and valley districts can use this grant writer for a nominal fee. Valley PLC's are being held Nov 13th, and there will be a board governance training on November 18th.

NCEA Report:

Bonnie Keller looks forward to a board work meeting concerning the health insurance benefits and feels very encouraged that the board will listen to staff and consider their input and ideas.

Cade Huffaker:

Cade expressed that he felt the board has been good to work with staff and listen to their ideas in the past; he feels he can express his opinions and concerns to administration. He also appreciates the pay raise the NCSd staff received in the past, expressed his love for teaching and for kids, but feels that politics sometimes gets in the way of those teacher/student relationships. We have good people in our schools and we are like family and with that note is very grateful to have the family benefit and understands that those possibly losing the health stipend would have to make a challenging lifestyle

change, but is also concerned about new staff who receive less benefits than others in the district. He presented to the board a possible solution which he felt would be more equitable to all staff (see hand out). He had not checked into the legal issues or financial issues yet, but felt he needed to consider all staff in a possible solution.

Administration Report:

Mr. Wilson told board members the CASB conference was coming up and he needed to know who was interested in attending as deadlines are approaching.

Curt brought up the hospital resolution that the board would be discussing and voting on tonight.

He mentioned a letter from valley superintendents to high school principals concerning scheduling their athletic/activity events on week days. Tuesday and Thursday has been traditionally reserved for middle school events, but high schools have begun using week nights more frequently and this leaves Friday and Saturday open in many instances. The scheduling of events on week days has created attendance concerns with students and athletes missing more school than if the events would be held on Fridays and Saturdays. Curt commended CHS with doing a good job of scheduling events on weekends where possible. The letter also asks that middle school events begin at 4:30pm to reduce the number of students leaving school early.

Mr. Wilson brought up graduation mandates from the state and that considerations on those mandates were to come from ACT scores, vocational classes, and apprenticeships. He told the board that our district needs to adapt to the needs of our kids and our community. He and Mr. Loch are working on this and will present their recommendations to the board.

Curt is working with Rodney King on up-dating the district safety plan. We take seriously the safety of all in the NCSd.

October is National Principals Month. We are putting an ad in the Valley Courier thanking and honoring all NCSd principals.

Curt received information that the Gear-Up program in the district will not be funding students who participate in the program with the promised \$10,000 scholarship offer per student. They may now be receiving up to \$3,500 per student. There may be upset students and parents coming to the board and administration. There has been great miscommunication from the original director of Gear-UP. The value of the program is positive, but the promises fell short.

Curt stated that NCSd continues to work on updating district policy and are doing our best to clean up policies that are outdated, duplicated, or lacking necessary information. This is a problem that we have inherited, but are doing our best to resolve. We are currently working on the 'G' policies.

Staff evaluations are going great. There is awesome teaching going on and Curt is very pleased with our staff and what he is seeing in his visits.

Mr. Scott McCarroll has been putting in the ramp at the alternative site at 635 Main and has put a great amount of personal time to complete the project. We greatly appreciate Mr. McCarroll and his help to

this district. Curt was informed that the state fire inspector approved plans to make necessary up-dates to the bus garage on 102 Spruce. The revised plans to update the bus garage were estimated \$25,000 compared to the original plans to update at around \$125,000.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Spring Break Scheduling

It was decided to leave Spring Break as scheduled due to many staff already making plans via the current calendar. Mr. Wilson will use our calendar committee to schedule in the future and will take into consideration when other districts in the valley and ASU schedule their Spring Breaks and will do what is best for our district.

Insurance Information Presentation

Mr. Wilson will put out any information concerning health insurance in open session. Pink notes have been sent to staff in order to be open and honest on this issue. No decision has been made yet. We are beginning this process in making sure NCSD is compliant with the ACA. Mr. Wilson expressed that only four people have approached him concerning health insurance and health stipends; anyone can come see him without ridicule. A power point presentation was shown to all in attendance as to the specifics and information that Mr. Wilson has gathered in terms of teacher shortages, finances in the district and insurance costs, as well as the legal opinion he was asked to seek by the BOE. He is happy to send information from this presentation to anyone who requests it. The presentation touched on the negative factor, federal program funding changes, mill levy in Conejos County, teacher salaries and per pupil funding, teacher recruitment in rural Colorado, places to recruit and trends, the exodus of teachers in CO and the SLV.

The next step will be to have a work session on November 12, 2015 at 6:30pm that will have time designated where staff and public comment can be heard by the board. The board then will meet in their work session to discuss district insurance options.

High School Survey Results

At present the surveys for a new high school are at 60% in favor. There were a number of responses with concerns with the La Jara Elementary and Manassa Elementary buildings which are much older buildings in the district than the high school. There were no BEST funds granted to building new schools in the last cycle and for the coming cycle there will potentially be 50 million available to all BEST projects. It is not very likely that there will be funding for building new schools with BEST. Curt asked the following: Is this something we want to pursue? We can consider grants or mill levy taxes to fund a new high school building. When putting a dollar amount to building a new school will the public be behind this project? Curt stated that we need to inform the public before anything can go forward. But building a new high school is still a possibility.

NCSD Resolution to Change Hospital Provider Fee

It was discussed that we need to support legislation to change the hospital enterprise fund to help with funding education in the state.

GoCo Grant

Jesse Shawcroft is heading up a committee to get up to \$350,000 with a 10% match (\$35,000) from GoCo to build a new high school track. The next grant cycle is in the Spring. Jesse said, "Why not us"? We may as well try to get funding for a new track. It was mentioned that we may contact the Daniels Foundation to help fund restrooms and a concessions area for the facility.

BEST Grant

CHSQA is preparing to begin work on our BEST security project. Construction will begin immediately after graduation with CHSQA taking on two buildings at a time.

NCS D Financial Audit and New Quarterly Report

Our audit will be presented next month as Cigna didn't get PERA numbers to the auditor in time for this month's board meeting. Mr. Wilson showed the board a new quarterly report format and asked the board if they would like this shorter report or would prefer the report as in the past. The board prefers the more detailed financial report as it has been given to them in the past.

ACTION ITEMS

Repeal NCS D Board Policies GBD[BHC], GCAA[GCBDA], GCAB-E, GCBC-E, GCBC-E-1, GCBC-E-3, GCBD-R, GCL-E, GCOA-E-1, GCOA-E-2, GCOC-E-1, GCOC-E-2, GCOC-E-3, GCRD[GCZAB], GDBA-E, GDCB[GDBDC] for the second reading.

A motion was made by Robert Chavez to approve the repeal of policies, GBD[BHC], GCAA[GCBDA], GCAB-E, DCBE-E, GCBD-E-1, GCBE-E-3, GCBD-R, GCL-E, GCOA-E-2, GCOC-E-1, GCOC-eE-2, GCOC-E-3, GCRD[GCZAB], GDBA-E, GDCB[GDBDC] for the second reading, seconded by Joseph Baroz.

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Natalie Rogers, aye; Steve Sorensen, absent.

The motion passed.

Present and discuss board policies IKA: Grading/Assessment Systems and IKA-R: Grading/Assessment Systems (exemption procedure and information to parents/guardians) to approve revision of policy for the third and final reading.

A motion was made by Joseph Baroz to approve revision of policy IKA and IKA-R for the third and final reading, seconded by Chuck Finnegan

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Natalie Rogers, aye; Steve Sorensen, absent.

The motion passed.

Motion to approve/disapprove the resolution of CHSAA employees (attachment #8)

A motion was made by Robert Chavez to approve the resolution of CHSAA employees, seconded by Joseph Baroz

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Natalie Rogers, aye; Steve Sorensen, absent.

The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session held.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

Next Board meeting November 17, 2015 at 6:30 pm