

NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
November 17, 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 (in 7:07 p.m.); Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Steve Sorensen, aye.

PREDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

FALCON AWARD

Mrs. Joanne Ruybal will be presented the Falcon award for the month of November. Mr. Wilson will present the award to her in class with all her students present. Joanne just completed a Veteran's Day tribute that took a great deal of time in preparation and a full day and evening of presentation to honor our nation's veterans as well as those in our community. Joanne always goes the extra mile and then some as she is a very selfless teacher and is a prime example of a dedicated individual. This district cannot adequately express our thanks to Mrs. Ruybal for all that she does for our students, staff, and community.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA/CHANGES TO CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Steve Sorensen to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Joseph Baroz. **(attachments #1 - #4)**

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, absent; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Steve Sorensen, aye.
The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

A motion was made by Joseph Baroz to change the agenda removing action items 11a., 11c., 11d. as the financial audit will need to be moved to next month due to problems with the Data Exchange and adding item 11g., board organization, to the agenda, seconded by Joseph Chuck Finnegan.

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, absent; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Steve Sorensen, aye.

The motion passed.

A motion was made by Chuck Finnegan to approve the amended agenda as presented, seconded by Steve Sorensen.

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, absent; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Steve Sorensen, aye.

The motion passed

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

There were no citizens signed up to address the board of education.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ACTIVITIES

Achievement Reports:

Principal reports are attached; please refer to those reports. **(attachment #5)**

BOCES Report:

Mark Bahr reported that the BOCES meeting will be held November 18 at 5:30p.m. Nita visited with Mr. Wilson concerning the meeting to be held tomorrow night, which Mr. Wilson will attend.

NCEA Report:

Brian Riccatone and Josh Cantu were introduced as the new co-presidents of NCEA. They reported that Celeste Salazar will be the NCEA secretary and Janine Christensen, treasurer. Brian thanked the board for the work session and for listening to staff concerns and ideas. Josh looks forward to working with the board and desires a positive outlook for the district and wants to connect all areas to make things work. Brian asked that NCEA time at board meetings be used as a dialog time to address any issues

NCEA may have. He would like better communication so there are fewer issues in the district. Board members expressed that they are open to discussion and ideas, but staff needs to go through Mr. Wilson first as he is the board's employee, and follow the chain of command; regular board meetings, as discussed by the board, are not the place for this type of open dialog as those should work through the superintendent. They each expressed that they are open to listen to concerns and ideas individually, but they cannot speak for the board as individuals, they must make decisions only as a board. NCEA would like to build membership as its current membership is fewer than 50% of district employees.

Administration Report:

Mr. Wilson asked that the December board meeting be moved to December 8th so there would be no conflict with the elementary Christmas programs.

Curt would like to educate the public as to what the CMAS and PARCC scores mean and how to interpret the data so parents may understand how best to help their children and support the efforts of the school. There will be a great reduction in scores statewide because of the higher difficulty of the tests administered. The tests given were more in depth and of a stronger level of expectations for student knowledge, and the assessment data demonstrates this. Our district tested fairly well compared to the state results and he wants everyone to understand how to read the results; Mr. Wilson described the efforts underway to educate the public at large. The parent opt-out for state testing is more prevalent as student's progress grade wise and Mr. Wilson gave examples of those statistics. The parent opt-out is still a matter of concern in terms of test validity and meaning with respect to teacher evaluations. The question asked is how valid is data when there is only 50% participation? Half of a teachers' evaluation is based on student scores and we are mandated to use this data via SB191. The individual schools are trying to prepare students with computer skills to test well, but it may take a while to get all of the bugs out of the computer issues in the administration of the mandated assessments. Mr. Wilson expressed gratitude to our students who always give a full effort simply because they were asked, and noted that only two students in our district opted out of the state testing.

Professional Development Day Report from Mr. Wilson: Mary Pitman from CDE presented to Math staff during our professional development day and she was an excellent resource. Moker Quinlan with PEBC presented to the remainder of the staff and her presentation was also a benefit to district teachers. Our principals are getting feed-back from staff for future professional development days.

Curt asked the board members to fill out expense reimbursement forms for the CASB conference before they leave.

Mr. Wilson shared with the board that children with more challenges are moving into our district, and the challenges they come with require more money and services to take care of their needs. The superintendents in the San Luis Valley are asking the state to address these issues in various ways as there is no funding increase to assist with the nature of the student needs the district is now seeing. He asked the board to approve the hospital provider fee resolution to help bring more monies into our district.

Curt has been visiting with Joseph Valdez on drug education for our students and staff. Heroin is a real problem in Conejos and Costilla counties where we are among the top in the state with this drug problem. This is a large concern for us and we have increased the number of unannounced K-9 visits.

There will be an assembly this Friday at 2:30 p.m. in the CMS gym with presenters helping students understand the problems and consequences of using drugs. We need to be proactive and educate our kids and parents as this will be a continual struggle on into the future.

NCSD wants to improve bus safety and the *drop off* and *pick up* patterns at each school. Mr. Fringer is trying to address this particular issue at Manassa Elementary. He would like to change the drop off and pick up zone by the elementary and is talking to an engineering company to see what will work. He wants to keep kids safe and will be working with the town of Manassa and will also need funds from the district to address this safety concern.

There is an opportunity to replace the CMS gym lights to more efficient LED lamps that will give the gym 30% more light and will be more energy efficient, essentially paying off the initial installation cost in the span of a decade. Valley Electric gave the district a quote to replace those lamps that includes a great rebate and discounts. The rebate will expire November 30th and Curt asked the board for input concerning replacing those gym lights. The board gave Curt their support to replace the lighting in the gym.

Mr. Kurt Cary presented to superintendents in the valley concerning the efforts to recruit and retain teachers. ASU is working on recruiting students right out of high school to become teachers, working on loan forgiveness for students becoming teachers, growing the pool of local teachers and asked for ideas regarding how to make education an attractive field of employment.

The board was given detail by Mr. Wilson on how school closures and delay decisions are made. He contacts state patrol, administrators split up to check road conditions early in the AM, and he has contact with people who live throughout the county to see what conditions are in different areas within the school district. He does not make the closure or delay of schools lightly and gathers as much information as he can in the short amount of time given to adequately inform the public.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

PARCC/CMAS Assessment Schedule & Scores

This was discussed in Mr. Wilson's admin report. We are still waiting on the state to determine if high school students will be required to take the PSAT or the ACT.

Safety/Emergency Plans

Last year the district went with the 'I Love You Guys' Foundation response protocol, and will continue that this year. The schools within the district will have a number of lockouts, and will practice lock downs to help prepare kids and keep them safe. With lockouts, it is *business as usual* and it is not recommended parents be called; administration will not release students to go home if it is not safe, however, or if there is a viable threat to student safety in any way. Rodney King is helping Mr. Wilson update our district safety plans. Mr. Wilson is scheduling more safety training for the spring, and asked principals to update their own safety plans. As a district we cannot afford an SRO and Curt is asking the board to consider having a select few staff be trained in legal concealed carry. Many schools districts,

including districts within the valley, are training staff to carry as part of their safety plan. Our high school and middle school are right on a main highway that concerns administration and law enforcement as well. Mr. Wilson will get more information to bring to the board for their consideration in December.

Social Media

There are always new developments with social media. Curt would like to put something together to inform parents of the newest and latest trends with social media and their children, especially as statewide incidents have sparked more educational needs on behalf of students and parents.

BEST Grant

The updated BEST grant schedule for our security upgrade is on the website. Revisions have been made and CHSQA is ready to move forward. They will not interfere with student instruction in any way.

ACTION ITEMS

NCSB Resolution of Support to Change Hospital Provider Fee to an Enterprise Fund (Attachment #6)

A motion was made by Robert Chavez to approve the resolution of support to change the hospital provider fee to an enterprise fund, seconded by Joseph Baroz.

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Steve Sorensen, aye.

The motion passed.

Repeal NCSB 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 third and final 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 Chuck Finnegan.

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Steve Sorensen, aye.

The motion passed.

Present and Discuss board policy DIA: Online Schools and Online Programs (Permissible Documentation) for the second reading.

A motion was made by Steve Sorensen to approve the policy DIA: Online Schools and Online Programs (Permissible Documentation) for the second reading, seconded by Joseph Baroz.

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Steve Sorensen, aye.

The motion passed.

NCSB Board Organization

Steve Sorensen nominated Mark Bahr as NCSB Board President, seconded by Chuck Finnegan. There were no other nominations.

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Steve Sorensen, aye.

Mark Bahr was elected as NCSB Board President by unanimous vote.

Steve Sorensen nominated Joseph Baroz as NCSB Board Vice- President, seconded by Chuck Finnegan. There were no other nominations.

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Steve Sorensen, aye.

Joseph Baroz was elected as NCSB Board Vice-President by unanimous vote.

Robert Chavez was appointed to NCSB Board Treasurer.

Steve Sorensen was appointed to NCSB Board Secretary.

Chuck Finnegan was appointed as DAC Representative from the Board of Education.

Mark Bahr was appointed BOCES Representative from the NCSB Board of Education.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Steve Sorensen to go into executive session (CRS section 24-6-402 4 Sub 4R) with Mr. Wilson and principals as needed, to discuss privileged information and personnel issues, seconded Chuck Finnegan.

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Steve Sorensen, aye.

The Motion passed.

The board met for one minute on topic 1, one minute on topic 2, one minute on topic 3, one minute on topic 4, and 26 minutes on topic 5.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Next regular board meeting is December 8, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.