

NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

December 8, 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 6:43 pm by Mark Bahr, President.

ROLL CALL

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Garth Crowther, absent; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Steve Sorensen, absent (in 7:46).

PREDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

FCCLA STUDENT REPORT

FCCLA took 25 students to Dallas Texas for FCCLA clusters. It was a good experience and for many students a first time flying in an airplane. Students toured the Dallas Cowboy stadium and attended a number of workshops which included teen driving and empowering yourself and helping others. Marjorie Reed and Emily Coombs thanked the board and district for their support in this trip.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA/CHANGES TO CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

A motion was made by Joseph Baroz to amend the agenda by adding item 12e., staff Christmas bonus, to the agenda, seconded by Joseph Robert Chavez.

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

The motion passed

NCS D AUDIT REPORT

Lisa A Sandoval, CPA, presented the NCS D audit report to the board.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Donald Valdez with the Conejos Rotary Club thanked the district for their support in giving 3rd graders in the district new dictionaries. 75 books were handed out to NCS D students. He, on behalf of the La Jara Rotary, asked the school for donations to help pay for the dictionaries. The NCS D BOE inquired about students being supplied with tablets instead of dictionaries in the future as HP has a grant program that may help fund the cost of the tablets. Donald stated the rotary may look at those ideas as a future option. Donald also inquired about the attachments listed on the board agenda, if they could make copies for the public, and was given the response that if any attachments give personal information out then the public would not be given a copy to protect individuals, but that attachments are indeed public information and can be seen, copies made at an individual's expense.

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 presented a program on state finance. BOCES will try to bring more training into their meetings in the future. SLV BOCES is working with ASU to bring

opportunities to SLV school districts that will help draw students into the education field, specifically the profession of teaching. BOCES reports that schools in the Valley are seeing many varied issues with high need students now coming into the area, stemming from current laws passed with marijuana and sales; schools do not have the funds to supply the growing number of students with varied and increasing needs. The Valley wide PLC will be held on January 28th in Del Norte. SLV Federal will be sponsoring the end of year banquet for San Luis Valley teachers of the year on April 27, 2016.

NCEA Report:

Brian Riccatone expressed that it was good to hear the finance audit report for NCS D. He also expressed a need for the district to look for those opportunities for other funding and seek grants. All people in the district need to seek those grants and other funding to help build the district and offset costs. Josh Cantu and Brian noted the need to look to third parties to fund solar to help our district save on electric expenses. Brian thanked the administration for getting us in the black, but again shared the need to look at other opportunities the bring funds to the school district.

Administration Report:

Mr. Wilson expressed gratitude to the board members who attended the CASB sessions this past week.

Curt told board members that a student in the district has a possible MRSA case, and he made a **schoolreach message** to inform parents and to let them know that the school district is taking every measure to clean buildings, buses, locker rooms, etc. to protect all students and staff within the district

He will be sending a **schoolreach message** this spring to inform parents/guardians of his concern concerning media trends with students and to help parents become educated on what is a threat and what to look for. If something is found on a student's phone that is inappropriate, law enforcement will be called.

PARCC scores will be released in January. We are waiting on the state to determine whether the ACT or PSAT will be required for all high school juniors. This has high impact on data trends, affects students' ability to prepare to compete for scholarship money and has left many students with unwarranted stress about the assessment. Curt also referenced the new standard in terms of scoring, noting the difficulty of the test has risen extensively and that will be reflected in all CO schools, and noted the need for people to ready themselves for what may be perceived as a drop in student achievement.

Curt has been going with principals to make home visits with students and families in our district as he feels that being on the "turf" of families means more to them and has a greater impact for good on families and students. Curt wants to develop a great community rapport, especially visiting and communicating where a child did well and noting achievement. This combats that fact that much of school-to-home contact is only referencing something gone wrong or speaking to student conduct.

Curt will be meeting with the student council at the high school to ask them the question posed at CASB, "What makes a good teacher?" Curt will also be meeting with parents and the community to ask that same question in future meetings to continue to communicate with parents in a positive manner.

Mr. Wilson asked building principals to update building safety plans. As a district we are going to be giving staff and students more training as to specific actions to take in a **lockdown** situation; merely locking doors is now not enough. A power point was shown to the board from Lawrence Martin from the Colorado State Patrol regarding school safety.

The BEST grant is moving forward. CSHQA met with principals to receive final input and go over changes made to individual building plans. Floor plans for CHS and LJE were shown to the board and how the system will work was discussed in detail. Curt referenced the timeline of the project available on the school website.

The GOCO committee (CHS TRACK) met last week to work on the grant application process. Assignments were given to committee members and they will meet again in January.

Student attendance has always been a big concern. Curt met with Judge Patti Swift and received documents from her referencing the need to have forms, and specific interventions completed before sending students and parents to Judge Swift. The valley districts are working together and all need to get on board to make this work; a meeting set for January 20th with all stakeholders will commence to address the issue and formulate a plan.

Curt would like to bring in a third party to get a cost analysis on electric and water use in the school district to see if we can save monies in these areas as costs are rising consistently. Curt will bring the third party to the BOE meeting in January for a presentation on the analysis performed.

Mr. Wilson gave concealed carry information to the board and asked the board members if they would like him to proceed with getting more information for the next board meeting. He has been talking to Dove Creek and Sanford superintendents, who have implemented training for selected staff to carry concealed in their respective districts. They would be willing to come to our board and present; Curt will schedule a phone conference with Bruce Hankins, Dove Creek Superintendent for our January board meeting..

Joseph Baroz would like to see NCS D take some of our students to CASB next year as this would be a great experience for them and would promote education among our young people.

Curt has been in contact with a superintendent from Wyoming who is conducting the first complete K-12 study on the 4 day week. Curt has been in correlation with this project data, lending statistics from our district to this superintendent, and is anxious to receive the completed study once it is released.

A power point titled 'Did You Know?' was shown to the board describing Colorado school finances and where the future of CO school finance is pointing (video distributed via Tracey Rainey). This power point can be found on YouTube.

Mr. Wilson told the board we have some serious decisions to make on finances this coming spring as a result of continued capital shortages. Curt will bring an amended budget to the board in January as well. He went over finances, upcoming expenses, and lack of funding for this year and the coming year, noting specific examples the board needs to consider. NCS D needs to seek other funding and grants to help cover expenses and needs of the district.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion items PARCC/CMAS, defense personnel, GOCO, and BEST grant were previously discussed during Mr. Wilson's administration report

ACTION ITEMS

NCSF Financial Audit Approval

A motion was made by Chuck Finnegan to approve the NCSF Financial Audit by Lisa A Sandoval, CPA, seconded by Robert Chavez.

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

The motion passed.

15-16 Food Service Budget

A motion was made by Robert Chavez to approve the 15-16 food service budget, seconded by Joseph Baroz.

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

The motion passed.

15-16 Federal Program Budget

A motion was made by Robert Chavez to approve the 15-16 federal program budget, seconded by Chuck Finnegan.

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

The motion passed.

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

A motion was made by Robert Chavez to approve the policy DIA: Online Schools and Online Programs (Permissible Documentation) for the third and final reading, seconded by Steve Sorensen.

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

Christmas Bonus

A motion was made by Steve Sorensen to approve giving staff a \$75 Christmas bonus, seconded by Robert Chavez.

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

Executive Session

A motion was made by Joseph Baroz 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, absent; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Steve Sorensen, aye.
The Motion passed.
The board met for 28 minutes on topic one.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Next regular board meeting is January 19 at 6:30 p.m.