NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
December 12, 2017
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 6:32 pm by Joseph Baroz, President.

ROLL CALL
Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Garth Crowther, absent; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Brandon Thomas, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

PREDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA/CHANGES TO CONSENT AGENDA
A motion was made by Robert Chavez to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Mary Jane Valdez. **(Attachments #1 - #4)**

Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Garth Crowther, absent; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Brandon Thomas, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA
A motion was made by Chuck Finnegan to approve the agenda with the deletion of discussion item 8c. and action item 11c. since the auditors needed to make some last minute changes to the financial audit, seconded by Brandon Thomas.

Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Garth Crowther, absent; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Brandon Thomas, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

The motion passed.

FALCON AWARD
None

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD
Donald Valdez congratulated the CHS football team, welcomed new board members and thanked all board members for their service, told the board he will be meeting with CDOT on the parking lot safety concerns at CMS/CHS, and thanked all staff, administrators, and students .

DISCUSSION ITEMS

CDE Presentation
Mr. Wilson introduced Danille LePlatt from CDE. She congratulated NCSD on attaining accredited with distinction and told board members that this was quite an accomplishment. NCSD is in the top 17% of schools in the entire state of Colorado. This is a big achievement. North Conejos School District will be formally recognized in March and Mr. Wilson invited all board members to attend the presentation in Denver.

CSP Presentation
Trooper Contreras from the Colorado State Patrol gave information to the board concerning youth and drugs. His power point educated all in attendance concerning the drugs used by young people, their affects, the signs of use and overdose, etc. Drug use is a real concern in the Valley and we need to educate ourselves, our parents, and our young people of the dangers and trends.

Revision of Policy DID
Auditors recommended change on policy DID, Inventories, to include an amount in the policy and recommended a threshold cost of $5000 required for items to be inventoried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ACTIVITIES

Achievement Reports: (Attachment #6)
Please see attached principal reports.

BOCES Report:
Brandon Thomas and Joseph Baroz will represent the NCSD board of education at BOCES meetings which will meet every other month on the third Wednesday of that month.

NCEA Report:
Bonnie Keller and NCEA have great concerns over PERA recommendations by our state representation. She stated that we all need to be very vocal and express our concerns to our local representatives Donald Valdez and Larry Crowder. One recommendation is a retirement age from PERA of 65 years. There is a teacher shortage and she is concerned how this and other recommendations will affect recruiting new teachers and retaining all teachers.

Administration Report:
Mr. Wilson emphasized there is a teacher shortage and with PERA recommendations school districts will struggle to recruit teachers.

Congratulations to Centauri Middle School! CMS earned the Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award, which will officially become part of their SPF during the State Board of Education meeting.

Congratulations to Manassa Elementary School! ME earned the John Irwin Award, which will be recognized along with their SPF at the State Board meeting as well.

When any individual (school or person in the district) receives an accolade, it is a victory for the team and with that we recognize that any award is a reflection of the collective. Thanks to the custodian who keeps the school clean, the support staff that does over-the-top work, the aide, the help from a teacher in another building, the bus driver who safely gets kids to school, the cook, people who donate time/effort/money/care, in addition to great teachers. Congratulations---well deserved!

There was another school shooting in Aztec, New Mexico. We are using the state patrol to help us train and prepare our students, staff, and school community. We need to remember that safety is never going to be convenient and we need to use caution and keep our guard up. Training is key to safer schools.

There is a lot of concern with drugs coming in to our school community. Some type of parent training was suggested to help families be more aware of their children and what may be going on in their homes, which will help with deterring drug use and violence in the schools.

Mr. Wilson gave board members a hand out that showed the condition and information on our buses and current district vehicles. We are in need of another bus and will see what we have left in SB267 funds before we purchase more buses. We need to update our bus fleet. Our dirt roads take a toll on our buses and shrinking bus routes come with a lot of kickbacks, but that may be something we might possibly address in the future.

Board members were given a hand out on K-12 school funding cuts 2009-2018 inclusive of budget stabilization factor, negative factor and mid-year cuts. Mr. Wilson does not believe we will get the negative factor back.

A handout on Colorado school finance myths and facts was also given to board members.

School district minimum matching calculation for BEST grants applicant's information was also given to the board. This is how we figure out what our match is, should we receive a BEST grant. In talking with

Anna Fitzer, Mr. Wilson believes we can get the match down to 20% with a waiver. He has asked Anna to come and see our buildings and see if we would qualify for a waiver.

The board members were given data on Colorado teacher salaries, turn over, and cost of living. They were also given a SLV schools teacher base salary comparison. When we include the benefit package with our teacher salaries we are on the top of the list. Mr. Wilson asked that we keep the $915 health benefit to keep and draw teachers to NCSD.

Mr. Wilson showed a power point on the Colorado teacher shortage plan. The plan itself is not bad, but the cost to implement the plan is of concern since school districts are already struggling with low funding.

There are 30 school districts that received the district accreditation rating and NCSD is one of the 30.

Donald Valdez will be flying a drone over the CHS/CMS campus on December 19th at 7:00 a.m. to get information to CDOT concerning our highway entrance and exit concerns at the middle and high school campus.

ACTION ITEMS

Repeal policies GCAA-R, GCAB-R-1, GCAB-R-3 for the first reading.
A motion was made by Chuck Finnegan to repeal policies GCAA-R, GCAB-R-1, GCAB-R-3 for the first reading, seconded by Robert Chavez.

Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Garth Crowther, absent; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Brandon Thomas, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

The motion passed.

Certification of Mill Levies for Property Tax Year 2017
A motion was made by Robert Chavez to approve the certification of mill levies for property tax year 2017, seconded by Mary Jane Valdez.

Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Garth Crowther, absent; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Brandon Thomas, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

The motion passed.

Christmas Staff Bonus
A motion was made by Chuck Finnegan to approve the Christmas staff bonus of $100, seconded by Robert Chavez.

Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Garth Crowther, absent; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Brandon Thomas, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
Go into executive session with Mr. Curt Wilson and others as needed, to discuss privileged information and personnel issues.

A motion was made by Robert Chavez to go into executive session with Mr. Wilson and others as needed, to discuss privileged information and personnel issues, seconded by Chuck Finnegan.

Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Garth Crowther, absent; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Brandon Thomas, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

The motion passed.

Next regular board of education meeting will be December 12, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Topic 1 – 5 minutes
Topic 2 – 5 minutes
Topic 3 – 5 minutes
Topic 4 – 10 minutes

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.