

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

May 19, 2020

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 Joseph Baroz, President. This meeting was conducted entirely via teleconferencing or videoconferencing.

ROLL CALL

Joseph Baroz(in work office), aye; Tanner Bagwel(in home office), aye; Garth Crowther(in home office), aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Brandon Thomas, absent; Mary Jane Valdez(home alone in room), aye.

PREDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA/CHANGES TO CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mary Jane Valdez to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Tanner Bagwell.

Joseph Baroz, aye; Tanner Bagwell, aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Brandon Thomas, absent; 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 no additions, seconded by Garth Crowther.

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

The motion passed.

FALCON AWARD

A Falcon award was presented to CHS Math teacher Margaret Salazar Muniz. Mrs. Muniz was awarded the 2019-2020 North Conejos School District teacher of the year award. Mr. Wilson told the board the Mrs. Muniz loves Math, but she loves students more. She is an excellent teacher that represents the District well. We will appropriately recognize Mrs. Muniz at a later date when things open up again. Congratulations Mrs. Muniz.

A Falcon award was also presented to Mr. Jesse Shawcroft. Jesse was also recognized at the 3A athletic director of the year by CHSAA. This award was voted on by his peers. Thank you Mr. Shawcroft for serving the district and students.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ACTIVITIES

Principals Reports

Mr. Denny Fringer reported that Manassa Elementary had an average number of suspensions. Many behaviors were targeted with our counseling services. The Manassa Elementary staff has made a commitment to be proactive in their supervision of the school by monthly staff meetings to address issues that are occurring with students. Mr. Fringer feels the communication and collaboration between Manassa and La Jara Elementary is as strong as it has ever been. The more willing each program is to share resources the stronger our schools will be. Mr. Fringer wants his kids to be whole learners and good citizens.

Mr. Ricky Salazar also told board members that he values the good relationship with Manassa Elementary. He reported that suspensions were less this year than last year. A theme that he is seeing related to suspensions is with defiance. Most of the defiance issues that LJE has had are related to students not wanting to fulfill what a teacher has asked of them. Another theme that he has observed the last two years is related to the amount of effort some students are lacking when it comes to academics. LJE had many RTI (Response to Intervention) meetings this year related to student effort. He feels we are more successful when we can get parents to help us with this issue. Mr. Salazar feels his staff did a great job ensuring students followed school rules and focused on academics.

Mrs. Susan Hamilton reported that 4 students received out of school suspensions this year. The behavior reasons reported were drug related and teacher defiance. Mrs. Hamilton's goal this year was to increase attendance of students. NCAP's overall attendance rate has shown a significant improvement. There has been a steady improvement over a two-year period. This year the end of year report shows a 93.68% attendance rate. The increase is attributed to weekly contact with students and their parents by both teachers and administration. Mrs. Hamilton has also collaborated with Andrew Jarvies from Family Foundations. She also used Andrew and the Prime for Live Program in order to reduce substance abuse.

Mr. Tyler Huffaker reported that he is proud of his Centauri Middle School staff for delivering end of year instruction. He felt that the K9 visits helped, as well as his staff being more visible in the halls. Mr. Huffaker reported that cell phone violations decreased this year. Most issues with students came down to issues in the students' personal lives. CMS did have one major issue where 2 students were expelled this year.

Mrs. Katie Montague told the Board that the Centauri High School staff took the challenge of online education and did a fantastic job navigating and learning a new system. CHS was recognized as one of the top schools in the nation according to news week. CHS was ranked #20 in the state for Math achievement. She feels the success of CHS is possible because of the amazing staff. CHS excelled in all sports this year and Jesse Shawcroft was named 3A athletic director of the year. Students at CHS are excelling academically as well, there are 10 seniors that have obtained a 4.0 cumulative GPA. All CTE programs are very successful and many students placed at state in CTE competition and many students qualified for nationals. CHS put together a discipline matrix this year that will show equity for all students. Mrs. Montagues biggest worry is recovering academic knowledge from being away from school the last quarter of the year. She is also concerned about the mental health of her students with the current national situation. Her other concerns are how CHS is going to afford concurrent enrollment classes next year. She will implement the new concurrent guidelines and hopes that makes enough of a difference for budget purposes. She is concerned about students taking the SAT test and hopes we are back in school in the fall and able to give the test so that we can fully implement the new graduation policy. Another concern is that vaping is occurring at school. She hopes to get vape detectors to help this issue. Mrs. Montagues main goal is to continue with what we started this year. Implementing research based teaching strategies and continuing to teach rigorous content bell to bell and she plans to observe classroom teachers monthly to make sure the goals are being met. She observed each teachers 6 times this year. She would like to get the new graduation standards implemented. CHS has already created a capstone Math and English class for next year to help students who do not get the score they need on the SAT.

BOCES Report

None

NCEA Report

None

Administration Report

Mr. Wilson reported that NCSD received \$13, 336.90 in Kindergarten funds from the State this year.

Mr. Wilson told the board he and other Administrators sent a letter to the State voicing their concerns over CMAS testing next year. We lost 10 weeks of person to person instruction this year and next year is still questionable because of many unknowns from the State. He doesn't feel CMAS testing would

produce the true results that indicates growth and knowledge of students. The letter asks to forgo testing next year as well. He would like to see testing time used for instructional teaching and learning instead.

Mr. Wilson also signed another letter to members of the Colorado General Assembly. The COVID-19 crisis and accompanying school closures have laid bare the profound inequities in the lives of children that impede their school success. The pandemic has also stimulated bold, innovative thinking and forced a new look at existing structures and fault lines. The Colorado General Assembly has the opportunity to interrupt harmful practices that exist in our current system of resourcing schools and students and prioritize the success of young people that are currently furthest from opportunity. They were asked that they use an equity lens to target resources where they will make the biggest difference for kids by incorporating the following principles into this year's school finance act: (1) Account for voter-approved mill levy override funding as a factor in how funding cuts are applied (2) Adjust school finance formula factors as a targeted solution instead of resorting to across-the-board cuts through the budget stabilization factor (3) Continue the state's investment in preschool and full-day kindergarten.

NCS D will be receiving CARES Act monies from the federal government. He will spend funds appropriately on what we normally pay for from the general fund so we are able to purchase other necessary things from our general fund budget.

Mr. Wilson reported that NCS D did not coast in completing our UIP, in our evaluations from the RANDA system, etc. We will not need any waivers as things were done and turned in on time.

Title 9 has generally been about women's equity, but now it includes much more. Mr. Wilson plans to thoroughly train NCS D staff the beginning of next year and make sure all necessary forms and sign offs are completed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

BEST Update

Mr. Wilson reported that the kitchen design and re-design has just been completed. There were 5 entities here for the BEST parking lot demo informational meeting. Four of the five were local subcontractors. Parking is going to be very messy next year. Mr. Wilson will send the latest site plan to the board today and he asked board members to please look at it and contact him with any questions.

School Schedule

Mr. Wilson is currently working on three different return to school scenarios': (1) full return to school (some staff have true health concerns in returning) (2) staggered or hybrid schedules (this would be tough for our consolidated district and very costly for transportation) (3) on-line/virtual learning (40% of families have no internet or have a number of children in the home with only one device). NCS D may be asking for local flexibility with the begin school year schedule. Student count and funding are a real concern with some students possibly going on-line and then wanting to come back when COVID-19

ends, thus NCSD not getting the state funding for those students. We will do the best we can and make the best of whatever we are asked or decide to do. There are too many unknowns at this time.

CHS/NCAP Graduation

We are putting forth our best efforts to make graduation memorable for our graduating Seniors. Mrs. Montague reported we are doing what we have been permitted to do by the County and State officials. There will be a power point for graduates and their family at the drive in theatre in Monte Vista on May 22nd and an outdoor graduation will be May 23rd at 10:00 a.m. in front of CHS with a parade for graduates to follow. We have gone the extra mile to make great memories for our graduates.

NCAP graduation will be May 22nd in the evening. There will be 8 graduates as 2 have opted out because they don't want to wear masks. We have made posters, goodie bags and gone the extra mile to make this years' graduation memorable.

Tax Initiative 271/Emergency Tax

Mr. Wilson asked the board to consider a resolution to support tax initiative 271. This initiative would have those making over \$250,000/year pay more taxes and it would give breaks for the middle to lower tax payers. Would the board like to support this or let it die?

Emergency Tax (article 10 section 20 of tabor) is another tax to support lower/moderate incomes. This will have to be approved by a 2/3 vote and the state must deplete their budget to pass this. The board can discuss this more at the June board meeting.

Budget/State Budget Update

NCSD did very well on our budget this year. Mr. Wilson would like to look at the remainder of this years' budget and apply the balance to next years' budget. We will have to tighten our belts and use other funding that comes in and be very creative so we may not have to dip into the reserves too much. Our goal is to keep all of the staff that we currently have. If we take good care of our staff, then they will take good care of our kids. The Joint Budget Committee meets on May 26th and Mr. Wilson would like to meet with the board for a work session on next years' budget. He will get numbers to the board in the near future.

Preliminary Ideas for Budget Reduction

1. date for budget work meeting

We will need to get creative with the budget. We may need to do some things or not do some things and tighten our belts. Mr. Wilson is open to board suggestions. He asked the board to let him know what date and time would work for the work session and suggested possibly May 28th or 29th. Joseph asked Curt to set a date and time and let the board know.

Next Year Return Plan/Re-Opening

There are too many unknowns at this time. CDE will be issuing re-opening guidance in the near future, but nothing is up on their website yet. We will keep watching and make decisions as more information becomes available.

Summer/Sports/Activities

CHSAA has stated that coaches are allowed to have virtual contact with athletes. They can post workouts, but cannot have personal contact at this time. After June 1st it will be a local decision. NCSD school nurse Melissa Caldon will be meeting with county health officials tomorrow May 20th. Camps have been cancelled for the summer with some pushed back to the end of August. There are no definite answers for fall sports at this time. There will be a CHSAA task force meeting in June with more information to come. We need to remember that if school does not open fully, sports and extra-curricular activities cannot run. There will be equity statewide for all schools with decisions that come.

Internet Options

Mr. Brad Huffaker has reached out to all internet providers asking if they can help NCSD with any offers or special rates or waivers to help district families that can't get internet. There is also concern for families that have a number of children at home and only have one device for virtual/online learning should that be the case this next school year.

ACTION ITEMS

1st Reading for Emergency Policies BEAA & BEDA-E

A motion was made by Mary Jane Valdez to approve the 1st reading for emergency policies BEAA & BEDA-E, seconded by Garth Crowther.

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

The motion passed.

E-Rate Resolution

A motion was made by Mary Jane Valdez to approve the E-Rate resolution as presented, seconded by Tanner Bagwell.

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

The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session needed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Next regular board of education meeting will be Tuesday June 16, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.