NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
March 23, 2021
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

ROLL CALL
Joseph Baroz, aye; Garth Crowther, absent; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Steven Johnson, 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 Mary Jane Valdez to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Chuck Finnegan.

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

The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA
A motion was made by Steven Johnson to approve the agenda by adding item 5a Falcon Time, with changing 7c NCEA to DAC, moving the administration report after item 9 Discussion items, seconded by Brandon Thomas.

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

The motion passed

FALCON TIME
Malachi Anderson scored very good on his ACT and has earned the Daniels Scholarship, which wasn't an easy feat. North Conejos School district is very proud of him and Mr. Wilson expressed what a great young man Malachi is. Congratulations to Malachi.

Mr. Wilson congratulated the CHS Wrestling team for winning the 2A State Wrestling title. He stated that they earned it and they are all good young men as well.

Coach Cahlen Keys was awarded the 2A wrestling coach of the year. Great job coach Keys!

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD
None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ACTIVITIES

Principals Reports
See attached reports.

BOCES Report
Brandon Thomas reported that BOCES is in the process of reviewing their new director hire. The review has been rough and an executive session for tomorrow night (March 24, 2021) has been cancelled and will be rescheduled. BOCES is reassessing the situation.

DAC
Lori Smith reported that the DAC met on March 22, 2021. She reported that buildings are preparing for state testing. The committee has a concern with student anxiety this year. She reported that CHS is planning a Prom and working on graduation plans. Lori reported that the majority of the DAC committee liked the white building versus the red for the new high school.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Best Update – Andy Fiamengo
The new high school building is on schedule and we are currently on budget. Soil quality has been a concern, but Andy feels like that has been addressed and we have the budget to address it as needed. The district is working on a camera system so the community can click a link and see the progress of the building. The next 30 days activities include back-fill of foundations/interior slab, continuing to set precast panels and start erecting structural steel. The asbestos RFP was published, and proposals were

received. At this time, due to timing and pricing, a new RFP will be published and DCS is going to pursue going back to the abatement market for new proposals for asbestos abatement. The work will take place in the fall of 2021 once the school has moved out of the existing facility into the new school.

Outside Color Selection for New CHS Building

Mr. Wilson reports that a good red color has been found for the red highlights inside and out. He showed the board a power point on exterior colors and recommends the white with red, gray, black highlights. Other businesses and schools have had issues with the red fading and a lot of maintenance to keep it looking good, therefore Mr. Wilson recommends the white for the outside of the new high school. His power point showed those concerns. He showed the new gym with suggestions and options. Those were discussed with the board. More details and finalization will come as the project progresses.

COVID-Update/School Impact

Conejos county is currently in the level blue on the state dial and it looks as if the county will soon be in green. Level green will help with Prom and Graduation concerns and decisions. We will keep an eye on state and county guidelines. CDPHE is saying that no cheer will be allowed at volleyball games, but they were allowed for basketball. There may be some backlash from parents and the community and we will guide them to the state for answers and concerns.

Spring Assessment Plan

The state of Colorado has approved testing with grades 3-5-7 testing in ELA, grades 4-6-8 testing in Math and 4th and 8th grades testing in Science. The Federal government must still approve this. Parents can opt out of testing and this year parents can opt in to have their child test in all areas.

Administration Report

The safety program Life Spot has been installed in our district and staff have been trained. It is currently working and up to date.

The 4-day week was approved when we approved our calendar for 2021-2022.

NCSD did receive a bus quote for $104,967.00 from Midwest Bus Sales. We need to put it out to all interested in giving a quote to NCSD for a new bus.

CHS is in the process of making plans for Prom and Graduation.

A number of false unemployment claims have come in to the District office. We are seeing a lot of this in the nation.

Mr. Wilson was informed that per state guidelines distancing in school is now 3 feet compared to the 6 feet previously required.

The board was asked how they would like to proceed with out of valley trips in the district. In the past all out of valley trips had to be board approved before the trip could be taken. After discussion the board decided that board approval was only needed if the out of valley trip included an over-night stay.

Charlotte Coombs, from Manassa Elementary, will be North Conejos School District teacher of the year. She will represent the District in the San Luis Valley teacher of the year. Mr. Wilson would like to make a banner or plaque showing all NCSD teachers of the year.

School board elections will be held this year and we need to begin thinking and planning for the election in November.

In discussing the District budget for next year, Mr. Wilson would like to remain competitive with all school districts in the Valley and the State concerning teacher salaries. He wants to draw good teachers to NCSD. He mentioned that fuel prices have increased dramatically in recent weeks and we need to take that into consideration in next years' budget.

Mr. Wilson received a letter from the state wanting to have our employees reduce vehicle emissions in the district. The state is trying to make this a statewide rule which may be a challenge to rural areas

ACTION ITEMS

Out of Valley Trip – CMS Wrestling to Walsenburg

A motion was made by Chuck Finnegan to approve the out of valley trip to Walsenburg for CMS Wrestling, seconded by Steven Johnson.

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

The motion passed

Purchase CHS Wrestling Mat $8,110.88

A motion was made by Mary Jane Valdez to approve the purchase of a CHS wrestling mat for $8,110.88, seconded by Chuck Finnegan

Joseph Baroz, aye; Garth Crowther, absent; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Steven Johnson, aye; Brandon Thomas, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye

The motion passed

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for executive session.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Next regular board of education meeting will be Tuesday April 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.