

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

February 15, 2022

District Administration Building

5:30 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting scheduled for 6:30 pm at the District Administration Office was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chuck Finnegan, President.

ROLL CALL

Nathan Coombs, aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Harman Hostetter, aye; Steven Johnson, 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 Nathan Coombs to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Garth Crowther.

Nathan Coombs, aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Harman Hostetter, aye; Steven Johnson, 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 as presented, seconded by Mary Jane Valdez.

Nathan Coombs, aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Harman Hostetter, aye; Steven Johnson, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

The motion passed

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Brandon Tibbitts addressed the board expressing gratitude to the board, administration, and teachers for all they have done in the past couple of years given circumstances with COVID. He expressed the need for students to remain in the classroom over remote learning. He asked that caution be used with quarantine of students and asked that health decisions be left to parents.

Micah Jackson thanked the NCSD teachers and administration for the great job they were doing under stressful circumstances. She supported a letter sent concerning COVID protocol. She asked that caution be used with quarantine of students and asked that health decisions be returned to parents and that we begin to move forward.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ACTIVITIES

Principals Report

Please see attached reports.

BOCES Report

Chuck Finnegan reported that a 15 minute internet meeting was held approving the budget. There will be a BOCES meeting February 16th that he will attend. Mr. Wilson will be meeting with Chuck Finnegan to go over the evaluation of the BOCES executive director.

NCEA

No Report

Administration Report

Mr. Wilson told board members that Centauri High School has 3 Boettcher Scholarship finalists. This speaks well for CHS.

The ESSER III grant has been turned in.

There was an expulsion hearing and an expulsion of a student. Mr. Wilson is required by law/policy to report this to the board of education. If the board would like more details they need to contact Mr. Wilson. NCSD has provided alternative education for the student.

Mr. Wilson told board members they may have to consider charging a fee in the future for individuals broadcasting sporting events. Attendance at events brings in revenue that allows the district to pay for officials, lighting, etc. and allows clubs to fundraise.

We will announce and make sure all is fair when we give away supplies or put things out for bid from the current high school once the new high school is completed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

COVID Policies/Conejos County Public Health

In person learning is most important and needed in the district. School exposure to COVID is pretty much non-existent. Data is showing exposure for students is happening outside of school time and at outside big events. Conejos County is currently at a very low case rate right now. Mr. Wilson has great confidence in our school nurse and recommends we let our school nurse make decisions on exposure. Strategies not continued in routine disease control include individual case investigation and contact tracing, quarantine of students and staff with school-associated exposures (given the much greater risk of household exposures compared to non-household exposures). Schools should continue to follow quarantine guidance for students and staff who report household exposures. It was recommended that there be no more mass or group quarantines in schools.

New Superintendent Search

Information has been put on our website, in newspapers, with CASB, CASE, etc. for a new NCSd superintendent. The current deadline for applications is March 2, 2022. Mr. Chuck Finnegan told board members that we need to form a committee within the next 10 days to begin the process. Anyone interested in serving on the superintendent hiring committee needs to contact Curt Wilson.

CHS BEST Update

Mr. Wilson reported that we will be planning an open house/ribbon cutting for the new high school on March 28, 2022.

DCS last 30 day activities: electrical overhead rough-in, lights installation in progress, electrical trim out in progress, overhead rough-in in the gyms, installation of lights in the gyms, fire alarm rough-in and pulling wire in progress, site concrete and ground thaw are underway, mechanical room piping and equipment is finished, equipment start-up was initiated, flooring on the second floor was started and library and classrooms are completed, casework 1st floor in progress, plumbing fixtures and trim-out started and in progress, priming texturing and painting in progress, storefronts in progress and nearing completion, elevator installation by Otis is complete and other trades are working on MEPs in the elevator shaft, gym flooring prep in progress, ceiling grid in progress, HVAC trim-out in progress, interior doors and hardware in progress. **DCS next 30 days:** electrical overhead rough-in should be completed, lights should be complete with exception of possible missing lights from vendors, mechanical/electrical/plumbing trim-out should be completed, fire alarm and sprinkler testing and inspections are anticipated, elevator should be fully operational, ceiling tiles should be completed, storefronts and curtain walls and glazing should be completed, kitchen should be completed, punch list

will be ongoing and close to completed, stucco should be completed, all mechanical insulation should be completed, gym flooring and bleachers will continue to be in progress.

The modified classroom date of March 14, 2022, and a gymnasiums date April 21, 2022 is currently tracing for the revised schedule. The building move from the old high school to the new high school will take place over Spring break.

There have been some anomalies with the finish on the precast concrete panels. BSC has forwarded the rejection on to Stresscon (precast panel manufacturer/installer). This was discussed with BSC on January 4, 2022. The proposed solution is to stain the exterior walls using a 20-year warranty product as provided and applied by Stresscon. The anticipated start for this work is (weather/school events pending) on 5/22/22 and should complete on 6/22/22. This item will drop off next month's report as a solution is agreed to and underway.

Mr. Wilson brought attention to DCS that there are some interior walls that appear to have some form of "waving" in them. This will be reviewed and the contract administrator (DPS) will weigh-in and provide guidance for direction on corrections if necessary.

Policy GCBA

Mr. Wilson explained to the board that to be competitive and attract teachers we need to revise policy GCBA to give years when hiring staff. He recommends adding up to 20 years when hiring new teachers. This will be under the discretion of the superintendent.

Social Studies Standards

Social studies standards are a hot topic nationwide. Mr. Wilson told board members that we need to teach kids how to think and not what to think. All students are important at NCSD. We need to be very careful in implementing what individuals, groups, media, etc. recommend we teach our students. Local school boards need to decide what is age appropriate and match local standards.

ACTION ITEMS

Manassa Elementary Roof Repair – ZTEC Construction

A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the Manassa Elementary roof repair with ZTEC Construction for \$21,750.00, seconded by Steven Johnson.

Nathan Coombs, aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Harman Hostetter, aye; Steven Johnson, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

The motion passed.

Superintendent Position

Mr. Wilson told board members he would help with the superintendent hiring as little or as much as they wanted. He asked for their input. They decided to make a decision before next board meeting when they knew a little more.

This action item was tabled.

2022-23 Calendar

A motion was made by Garth Crowther to approve the 2022-23 district calendar as presented, seconded by Harman Hostetter.

Nathan Coombs, aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Harman Hostetter, aye; Steven Johnson, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

The next regular board of education meeting will be Tuesday March 15, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.