

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

August 16, 2022

District Administration Building

6:30 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting scheduled for 6:30 pm at the District Administration Office was called to order at 6:35 pm by Chuck Finnegan, President.

ROLL CALL

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

Nathan Coombs, aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Harman Hostetter, absent; 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 with the addition of item 9e, staff re-alignment, seconded by Nathan Coombs.

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

The motion passed

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

There were no citizens to address the board

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ACTIVITIES

Principals Report

Mr. Darren Edgar reported that achievement data was not in yet and principals will report next month when data is in. Mr. Denny Fringer reported that there was a lot of staff shifting this year. He had to be creative to fill Manassa Elementary staff positions. Mrs. Katie Montague reported that she had the same issues and concerns as Mr. Fringer. She had to seek out teachers/people to fill CHS positions. However, they are ready to go for the year. Mrs. Montague had to close open enrollment for freshman and sophomore students as those classes were already high in student numbers. Mr. Riccatone reported that CMS had 6 new hires as well. This includes a new principal and counselor. BOCES SSR is now located in the CMS building. The 7th and 8th grade Science teachers are picking up for the lack of a 6th grade Science teacher, but we will hire a 6th grade Science teacher next year and will work on the room situation. Mr. Ricky Salazar and Mrs. Susan Hamilton were not in attendance this evening.

BOCES Report

Mr. Edgar reported that the SSN room has been set up at CMS. NCSd is still working on the MOU with BOCES. Mr. Chuck Finnegan will attend the BOCES meeting tomorrow night and report next month.

NCEA

No Report. Bonnie Keller retired at the end of the school year and there is no replacement yet.

Administration Report

Mr. Edgar reported that there have been 20 new hires this school year. We will work to inspire teachers to remember why we are here. He welcomed new middle school principal Brian Riccatone to the administration staff. As of tonight we are fully staffed.

Parking at CMS\CHS will be challenging, but we will work with it. Hopefully parking will be complete in 30 days.

CASB will be sending out the special policy updates on August 30th. We will be going over these policies in the coming months.

Mr. Edgar told board members that NCSd and 10 other valley schools share the same attorneys Caplan & Earnest. There is a conflict of interest because BOCES uses the same attorneys. The executive director of BOCES said that they will not change attorneys. This may become a stronger topic and something we need to look at. Caplan and Earnest will be invited to the next SAC meeting to discuss and see if there is a way around this conflict.

Mr. Edgar shared information with district staff at their first meeting of the school year on FAMLI. He told staff that the board has discussed FAMLI and leans toward opting out. He told all district staff that they have 30 days to address their concerns with board members. The board will discuss FAMLI and make a decision on how to move forward at the September board meeting.

Mr. Edgar updated the board members on the CHS BEST project. He requested that smaller crews be in the building during school hours with most work being done in the evenings or on Fridays. Landscaping should be completed this week. Mr. Edgar reported that the general contractor and a subcontractor have had some issues, but work is now progressing on the parking lot. Bradbury Stamm has agreed to replace the falcon logos. There have been some issues with the fire & security systems. STM put in the security system and they have agreed to set up a meeting with our IT director Brad Huffaker. Mr. Huffaker reports that he has not heard from them yet. Mr. Edgar attended an OAC meeting and confirmed that NCS D will pay for the spot light on the wrestling mat at the new high school. There are some concerns and issues with the sidewalks. Mr. Edgar is getting a quote on the cost to provide asphalt between the district office and the parking lot. He will let the board know when he gets the quote. Mr. Edgar feels that the general contractor needs better management with their sub-contractors. Mr. Edgar was asked by the board what our owners rep is doing to take care of these issues. The board directed Mr. Edgar to not pay contractors until work has been completed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

CDOT Access Permit

The access permit from CDOT has been approved. The second entrance/exit can be used for emergencies and large event. Mr. Edgar will look at the application to see exact details concerning the use of this entrance.

BEST Update and Status

Much of this was covered in the administration report. The activity summary report shows construction progress for the last 30 days as follows: punch list ongoing, old school demolition completed, landscape & irrigation, parking lot earthwork, site concrete flatwork and curb & gutter ongoing, site lighting around North parking lot installed. Next 30 days as follows: punch list should be completed, site concrete, landscape & irrigation should complete, site lighting should complete, asphalt paving should start, site punch list should start. The balance of the project (site work) is scheduled for substantial completion November 13, 2022. This is a result of 40 calendar days of added time due to unforeseen abatement items consistent with work on the critical path.

2-year Detail Activity on Outsourced Auto/Diesel

The board discussed the work out-sourced by the district transportation department for the last 2 years and did not find it totally unreasonable. Some of the repairs can be done in our own shop, but the big things may still need to be taken outside for repairs. The adding of a fulltime transportation director/mechanic will help the district. Mr. Edgar will keep an eye on what is being out-sourced and will update the board. We need to consider the cost of out-sourced repairs and the cost of new buses. Mr. Edgar shared that our full-time and part-time transportation staff will be needed to help us fill routes.

District Accountability Updated Timeline 2022-2023

The time line of assessment data will be out soon. Mr. Edgar told board members that there is not enough state assessment data that can be used to be able to substantiate those ratings and plans right now. Because of insufficient data it puts it back on us. SB191 says that a certain % of teacher evaluations must come from measures of student learning and a certain % from professional standards. This year Mr. Edgar and principals plan to evaluate staff with 30% coming from measures of student learning and 70% from professional standards. When we get last year's results we may have a better idea where to proceed.

Staff Re-alignments

Mr. Ricky Salazar reported that Michelle Woodward has been hired as a 4th grade teacher at LJE. Mrs. Mindy Russell has been hired as LJE Librarian and Erica Martinez has moved from the regular classroom to Title I teacher.

Mr. Edgar told the board that NCAP has added Brenda Martini as a teacher. She was originally hired as the CMS technology teacher.

Mr. Brian Riccatone reported that Tashiana Gurule was hired as a CMS paraprofessional and Jessica Shawcroft will be the new CMS counselor.

The board discussed how to recruit and retain teachers. They felt letting applicants come to NCSD with their combined years at another district was a good thing. The 4-day week and a good health insurance benefits package would also help to attract and retain staff. Mr. Edgar told the board that he may have to look at salary schedules this year as well.

ACTION ITEMS

CDOT Access Permit

A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the CDOT access permit as presented, seconded by Garth Crowther.

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

The motion passed.

Consolidated Federal Application Final Approval

A motion was made by Mary Jane Valdez to approve the consolidated federal application as presented, seconded by Steven Johnson.

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

The motion passed.

OCR Determination Letter of Closure

A motion was made by Garth Crowther to approve the OCR determination letter of closure as presented, seconded by Nathan Coombs.

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

The motion passed.

2022-2023 New Staff Hires

A motion was made by Steven Johnson to approve the 2022-2023 new staff hires of Brian Riccatone, CMS Principal; Alex Mondragon, Transportation Director/Mechanic; David Ruybal, CHS Math teacher; Nikolai Pawloski, CHS English teacher; Amy Larson, CHS English teacher; Kim Mortensen, CHS AP English teacher; Jan DeSautell, ME teacher; Mike Creel, P/T Activity Transportation Director; Michelle Woodward, LJE teacher; Nancy West, CMS SPED teacher; Harman Hostetter, CHS Head Cross Country coach; Eddie Chacon, CHS Volleyball Assistant coach, seconded by Mary Jane Valdez.

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

The motion passed.

Staff Resignations

A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the staff resignations of Christine Smith, CMS Counselor; James Hughes, CHS Head Cross Country Coach; Kailey Lopez, CHS Volleyball Assistant Coach; Monica DeLaTorre, CHS English teacher, seconded by Steven Johnson.

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

The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

The next regular board of education meeting will be Tuesday September 20, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.