

**NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J**  
**REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
September 20, 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 6:30 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, absent.

Harman Hostetter came in at 6:34pm

**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, absent.

The motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

A motion was made by Steven Johnson to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Harman Hostetter.

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

The motion passed

## **OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

There were no citizens to address the board

### **BEST Update**

Andy Fiamengo reported that the project is in good shape financially at this time. The Project Budget Update is as follows: a. i. GMP (early work package – site) \$550,324.00, ii. GMP (Building) \$22,940,308.00, iii. Owner Change Order #01 \$530,692.37, iv. Owner Change Order #02 \$89,050.15, v. Owner Change Order #03 \$82,110.31, vi. Owner Change Order #04 \$828,103.33, vii. Owner Change Order #05 \$236,669.06, viii. Owner Change Order #6 \$101,621.31, ix. Owner Change Order #07 \$108,190.61, x. Owner Change Order #08 \$543,387.00, xi. Owner Change Order #09 \$401,885.20. The adjusted GMP is \$26,412,341.34

Construction Progress last 30 days Activities: Punch list ongoing, Site concrete, Landscape & Irrigation, Parking lot earthwork, Site concrete flatwork and curb & gutter ongoing, Site lighting around North parking lot installed, Conduit for parking lot cameras, Mitigation of soil at West parking lot.

Construction Progress next 30 days: Interior building punch list will be completed, Site concrete and concrete corrections, Landscape & irrigation should complete, Site lighting should complete, Asphalt paving (base course and asphalt), Site punch list started at building perimeter, Parking lot markings.

Current Project Schedule: The balance of the project (site work) is scheduled for substantial completion November 27, 2022. This is a result of 14 calendar days of added time due to soil mitigation work falling on the critical path.

A rough order of magnitude (cost projections/quotes) on areas of the project that need corrected or additions considered was received from Bradbury Stamm. It should be noted that the work is not eligible for BEST funds, but could be paid for by bond or general funds. (1) dirt work (excluding geo-grid work and ground thaw machines) \$15,000, (2) concrete work \$37,000, (3) landscaping \$9,800, (4) asphalt paving (excluding geo-grid work) \$40,000 to \$45,000

Since we have geo-grid work everywhere else, and assuming there are some items unaccounted for without an official design, then the following needs to be added: (a) geo-grid work \$25,000 to \$30,000, (b) demolition/removal/haul-off of existing work \$5,000 to \$10,000, (c) unaccounted for items \$5,000 to \$10,000.

This tallies to a range of \$137,000 to \$157,000 without Bradbury Stamm markup.

There had to be some changes in the design of the parking lot due to electric lines. After changing the design, it was found that there should be 2 more spaces and 7,000 less square feet of asphalt will be needed. Mr. Edgar asked if there will be a credit for the asphalt not needed.

The flooding of the gym floors at the high school was discussed. The school insurance carrier, SIDSIP, was contacted and they believe the floors in the gyms could be used safely during this school year until a decision is made on the floors. Bradbury Stamm's insurance carrier was called in to assess the damage and determine cause and repair. It was determined that the floors need to go through one heating season to determine damage. Andy reported that Bradbury Stamm is committed to making it right.

The board discussed and said the floors need to be 100% when all is said and done. Mr. Edgar told board members that before we sign off we may need additional investigation to determine the floor is at 100%. Getting an extended warranty was discussed for the floors. Andy said the district deserves further investigation with the floor situation. John with DCS is preparing a letter on the events with the floors. He will become more engaged in the last few months of the high school project.

Fire & security alert notifications continue to be a problem at the high school. Brandon Gylling with Rocky Mountain Security is tracking those alerts. Mr. Edgar believes there may be a problem with the wiring causing the faulty alarms. Mr. Edgar also reported to the board that the security system in place at the high school is lacking and he is looking at ideas to address this. He is working with Brandon of Rocky Mountain Security. Mr. Edgar has notified the CMGC that no retention funds will be paid out to the subcontractor and general contractor until the issues are resolved.

There is a disconnect in the landscaping, sidewalks, driveway, parking etc. between the high school and the administration office. Mr. Edgar has also checked into a solution and told the board he estimates it may cost around \$150,000 to make the campus look complete. This may be something we have to consider later.

Mr. Edgar told board members that we may need to look at another solution for the broken plates and the cracking in the sidewalks. We may need to put up signage for students, staff, and visitors.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ACTIVITIES**

### **Principals Report**

**Mrs. Katie Montague** presented the CHS achievement report. The SAT total score was 955 and the state was 985. We are 30 points below the state. English – 483 and the state was 503. We are 20 points below the state. Math – 472 and the state was 483. We are 11 points below the state.

PSAT 10 – Total score was 949 and the state was 936. We are above the state by 13 points. English score - 482 and the state is 480. We are above the state by 2 points. Math score – 467 and the state is 455. We are above the state by 12 points.

PSAT 9 – Total score was 859 and the state was 885. We are below the state by 26 points. English – 439 and the state was 451. We are below the state by 12 points. Math – 419 and the state was 434. We are below the state by 15 points.

Science Scores – We scored 54.55% in Science, the date for the state ins not out yet. Our lowest subject in science is life science.

SPF Date: Celebrations – we are a performance school. On the school performance frame work we did not have one mark that we did not meet. We are meeting the benchmark in post-secondary and workforce readiness. We exceed the benchmark in drop-out rates and graduation rates. Our juniors this year have exceeded the benchmark in all areas.

Areas of improvement – We are approaching academic growth and academic achievement. Our sophomores this year have some ground to make up, especially in math.

Plan for improvement – We give practice SAT test twice a year to grades 9-11. This is done online on a program called Khan academy. The great thing about Khan academy is that the program creates individualized instruction that targets each student’s needs. Classroom teachers are using Khan academy to supplement their instruction.

Mrs. Montague will work with Science teachers to improve life science scores.

**Mr. Brian Riccatone** reported that CMS has instituted a life 101 class during 7<sup>th</sup> period. Students are learning life skills that they normally would not have learned otherwise two days out of the week. The other two days, we have the students working with each other as peer tutors and also plan to have high school students working with them as mentors for their work/expectations/etc. The other benefit is that for two days out of the week, teachers are able to utilize the time as a plan period geared towards vertical planning and instruction.

We conducted a full school talk with students on 9/14 separating girls and boys and speaking about the problems associated with cell phone use sexting issues. Overall it was a good discussion with students engaged and asking many questions.

State Assessment Results: 2019 – Academic Achievement 71.1 and 2022 Academic Achievement 59.1  
2019 – Academic Growth 62.5 and 2022 Academic Growth 62.5

State % of students who meet or exceed in 6-8 Language Arts 42.9 and CMS 45.7

State % of students who meet or exceed in 6-8 Math 27.9 and CMS 20.9

Mr. Riccatone reported that they plan on re-evaluating their schedule and using data to see how we can help students grow by better scheduling. Mr. Riccatone looks at this as a baseline data year.

Mr. Edgar feels that all scores were commendable. NCSd is above the state in most areas and we will work on weaknesses. He will present a contract to accreditate schools in the November board meeting.

**Mrs. Susan Hamilton’s** report that the AEC SPF 2022 preliminary transitional performance framework shows that we have a rating of “Meets” for postsecondary and workforce readiness. North Conejos Alternative Programs are meeting students’ academic needs by offering an on-site program, as well as an on-line program. The alternative program participated in the districts registration days. We are continuing to register new students. There are 34 students now enrolled. NCAP has reached its maximum capacity for on-site. NCAP continues to work with Family Foundations in order to provide services to our most at-risk students. Both prevention and intervention are used to assist students and their families. Family Foundations is designed to improve attendance, reduce behavior problems in school and improve grades. All students have been assessed in the areas of Language Arts and Math in order to determine the appropriate courses. A wide variety of courses and electives are available to students using our online program Edgenuity. Staff is currently evaluating student data (both student achievement and growth) in order to create appropriate programming.

Mr. Fringer and Mr. Salazar were excused from the board meeting to attend their parent/teacher conferences.

### **BOCES Report**

Mr. Chuck Finnegan told the board that BOCES reports things are great. Schools have some difference of opinion. Valley Superintendents plan to have someone attend each BOCES meeting. Mr. Edgar reported that there is a large IEP caseload. Methods will be changing in staffings (IEP's) with more on the school SPED teachers. Consistency is a concern.

### **NCEA**

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

### **Administration Report**

Mr. Edgar asked board members if anyone wanted to attend the CASB Delegate Assembly on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Edgar asked the board for feedback on the CHS video/messaging board. The messaging board will cost approximately \$74,000. If the board wishes to proceed, do we have general fund pay for the board, solicit donations, have CHS activity account pay for 25% of the board, or a combination of all of the mentioned. Do we pay for the board now or wait for the funds to come in? A decision needs to be made soon.

Mr. Edgar is holding administration and department meetings to discuss goals, needs, and priorities for the first semester. The ultimate goal is to build a strategic plan for the district. He is looking forward to meeting with building leaders as there is quite a bit of information to discuss as we start a new year. Topics will include School/District Emergency Response Plans, communication, school and district needs, observations/evaluations, grants, schedules, student achievement, parent engagement, innovation/technology, hiring of personnel, job descriptions and anticipated changes. A review of cameras and security in each school in the district has begun in earnest. An administrative team met with Mr. Brandon Gylling from Rocky Mountain Fire and Security to discuss the current state of cameras and security in the school district and to blaze a path forward in developing a needs-based plan to resolve present issues. Noted as priorities are the fire and alarm notifications from the new school, security panels retrofitting in each school, security system in new school (not currently in place and was not part of the scope of the project), and new cameras and servers to address the old cameras in place, and areas that have not had cameras in the past. The goal is to build a five-year plan and to improve the safety and security of our students, staff, and facilities. The estimate is approximately \$75,000. We may be able to use ESSER money for this project.

Mr. Edgar asked the board to consider hiring an additional IT person to man all social media, the website, staff needs, and to learn from Brad Huffaker as he will possibly retire in a few years. This position will need to be very job specific and may be paid through ESSER funds for 2 years at around \$50,000 per year. Mr. Edgar sees the need to plan for the future.

We have looked into fencing around the CMS/CHS campus. This is estimated to cost around \$55,000, but we need to get some more estimates.

Student enrollment as of September 15<sup>th</sup> is around 1010 students in the district.

Mr. Edgar asked board members to let him know before board meetings if there is a need for executive session. We need to use the proper wording in going in to and out of executive session. We don't want a law suit if it is not done properly.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **CASB Special Policy Update Policies**

Special policy updates are in the board packet. Board members were encouraged to look the policies over. Mr. Edgar will have the changes made on each policy for the first reading next month and hopes to get them in the hands of board members to look over before next board meeting.

### **Extracurricular Accolades/Memorabilia in High School**

The discussion of displaying extracurricular accolades/memorabilia in the high school gymnasiums was discussed. Mr. Edgar would like to discuss with administration a plan moving forward to decide which memorabilia will be moved to the new school and what will be recognized. Mr. Edgar's idea is to establish a committee to organize this and bring recommendations back to the full administration and board of education.

### **Policy BID/BIE**

Mr. Edgar recommended that policy BID/BIE concerning compensation of board members be updated. He believes it is the best interest of the board to consider the adoption of the changes to the policy as it will greatly assist us in ensuring that our practices are kosher with state law.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **2021-2022 Amended Budget Resolution**

A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the 2021-2022 amended budget resolution, seconded by Steven Johnson.

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

The motion passed.

### **Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program Opt Out Resolution**

A motion was made by Steven Johnson to approve the family and medical leave insurance program opt out resolution, seconded by Nathan Coombs.

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

The motion passed.

### **Student Transportation Resolution**

A motion was made by Garth Crowther to table the student transportation resolution until next month, seconded by Harman Hostetter.

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

The motion passed.

### **BOCES/Little Treasures MOU**

A motion was made by Harman Hostetter to ratify the BOCES/Little Treasures MOU, seconded by Nathan Coombs.

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

The motion passed.

**BOCES/NCSD MOU**

A motion was made by Garth Crowther to approve the BOCES/NCSD MOU, seconded by Nathan Coombs.

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

The motion passed.

**VIDEO/Messaging Board in High School Gym**

A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to purchase the video/messaging board and authorized the Superintendent to seek additional sponsors to help pay for the board in the high school gym, seconded by Steven Johnson.

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

The motion passed.

**Staff Resignations**

A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the staff resignations of Tiffany Atencio, CMS cook and Dustin Creery, CHS assistant football coach, seconded by Harman Hostetter.

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

The motion passed.

**New NCSD Staff Hires**

A motion was made by Harman Hostetter to approve new NCSD staff hires Billy Parrish, CHS part-time custodian and Rocky Villagomez, CHS substitute custodian, seconded by Garth Crowther.

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

The motion passed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

The next regular board of education meeting will be Tuesday October 18, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.