

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

October 18, 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, aye; Steven Johnson, absent; 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 Harman Hostetter.

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

The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

A motion was made by Garth Crowther to approve the agenda with the addition of action item 10e, new NCSD hire, seconded by Nathan Coombs.

Nathan Coombs, aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Harman Hostetter, aye; Steven Johnson, absent; 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

Please see attached principals reports in the board packet.

BOCES Report

Mr. Chuck Finnegan reported that the valley schools are getting little support from BOCES and he feels BOCES needs to give the district support to help the district meet the BOCES compliance requests. This is a concern among all the school districts in the valley that BOCES services. It is tough right now as much is being thrown on the SPED teachers to get the process going for students when BOCES has handled the process in past years. The BOCES board meeting is November 16th and Mr. Edgar will be attending along with Mr. Chuck Finnegan. Mr. Edgar shared with board members that BOCES will not be opting out of the state FAMI insurance program and would use this as a recruiting/retaining benefit for employees. This a large concern that the board should be aware of and Chuck Finnegan will probably need to follow up on this at the next BOCES Board Meeting. Based on the reaction of other superintendents, Mr. Edgar is sure their board representatives will probably like to discuss this further.

NCEA

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

Administration Report

Title IX training will be held in Colorado Springs on November 3-4 and Mr. Edgar will be attending to ensure the district meets state law/policy requirements.

CASB Winter Conference is December 1-3. Mr. Finnegan, Mrs. Valdez and Mr. Edgar are currently registered to attend. If anyone else's calendar is freed-up and you would like to attend we can still register you to go.

Administration and Department Meetings continue and Mr. Edgar has had a chance to meet individually with all principals and department heads for two months now. These meeting have helped to identify their needs, efficiencies, and how we can best support their school or area of supervision. Through the meetings we have been able to discuss and list by priority some of the greatest needs for the 2022-2023 school year.

Revisions with ESSER III continue with a focus on health and safety. The bus-stop at Manassa Elementary, vaping/THC detectors in the middle and high school, district-wide camera upgrade/replacement, and an IT service tech (2 years) will be paid for by grant dollars. Through persuasion, CDE (BEST grant) has agreed to pay their share of a security system in the new high school and the additional cameras in the parking lot.

The Athletic Accolades and Memorabilia Committee has been formed and guidelines have been submitted to the chair and members of the committee. This committee will make decisions of what honors are displayed in the high school and how we will disperse old memorabilia.

Mr. Edgar has been working on hiring a district I-T Service Tech. He plans to have the advertisement and job description out by next Monday.

Mr. Edgar plans to get a good letter out to parents/community and to CDOT requesting further consideration of the south exit at the high school being used as an entrance. He is going to see if he can get an engineer to be onsite the first day we begin using the drive and new parking lot.

Superintendent Steve Wilson of the Big Sandy School District sent a letter to school district superintendents a couple of weeks ago concerning the influence of special interest on the Colorado Association of School Boards. Apparently the individual or special interest group in question in the letter has been presenting a short presentation at CASB regional meetings. Special interest groups of any kind have not been given the opportunity to use CASB as a lobbying platform. Mr. Edgar told board members that they could google the name of the acting board member from DPS to get more information and he attached a letter in the board packet.

Mr. Edgar reported that NCSD enrollment is down by 18 students this year.

There has been some improper social media use by CHS students and Mr. Edgar feels we need to provide some preventative information to all students.

Policy BID/BIE was discussed last month. Mr. Edgar told board members that he needs to go over the policy in more detail and consult attorneys before we make any changes to policy BID/BIE.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Capital Construction/BEST Update

Andy Fiamengo went over the activity summary report. The current adjusted DMP is \$26,412,341.34.

The construction progress in the last 30 days includes: punch list continues, site concrete installation, landscape & irrigation, drive lane earthwork, asphalt paving West parking lot.

The next 30 days construction progress includes: interior building punch list will be completed, site concrete completion and ongoing corrections, landscape & irrigation final installations, asphalt paving (base course and asphalt at drive lane), site punch scheduled for 10/24/22, parking lot markings, site signage.

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.

Fire and water tank alarms seem to be subsiding, and we were pretty sure Great Western had resolved the issue after replacing some bad wiring within the panel, however, the break in alarm notifications was brief as we received another alarm call on Tuesday afternoon. We continue to work on this and will hold the CMGC and subcontractors responsible to provide a remedy that is going to work consistently.

The asphalt in the parking lot and drive is close to completion, but it has not been easy to navigate our way through this with an abundance of communication coming from the subcontractor ACI. The subcontractor had asserted that they were not aware of the changes in slope/elevation until after they received the bid and are questioning whether they can warranty their work. After researching through requested contractual contracts and bidding documents it looks as though this was not the case. The slope has not changed since the first engineering documents were released. Mr. Edgar requested these documents from the CMGC as they have worn out their trust with the school district and subcontractors. ACI did not follow the engineering documents in laying down a tack/sealant between the cement curbs and asphalt and has been informed they need to go back and complete this. There are still a lot of questions concerning the functionality of the parking lots and signage that Mr. Edgar feels cannot be answered until we begin to use them. The laying of asphalt will be completed by the end of this week with signage and final landscaping completed next week. Mr. Edgar will make sure to get information out to students, parents, and staff before we open the parking lot.

Lighting in the parking lots and marquee still need final adjustments to timers as we are still witnessing our lights coming on and going off at different times during the evening and early morning hours. Mr. Edgar has placed Bradbury Stamm on notice that the district will hold the CMGC responsible should we have any theft or defacing of the facility when lights are off that should be on.

Upkeep and care of the High School is a big concern and Mr. Edgar has directed Mr. Ruybal to proceed with buying outdoor mats leading into entrances as well as rubber guards on some of our furniture that seems to be damaging the floor in the certain areas. Mrs. Montague and Mr. Edgar have brought the furniture issue to the owner representative who is working with Meteor on a solution for retrofitting the chairs with a rubber guard on the chairs in question.

Cement cracks in the plaza area in front of the high school continues to be a conversation in our OAC meetings and the CMGC is looking for a solution to alleviate removing the cement pads where heating coils exist. Mr. Edgar believes that this is going to probably lead the subcontractor into a contractual dispute with the CMGC as soon as the punch-walk is complete. Mr. Edgar has informed the CMGC this is not our battle and our only concern is that we get what we paid for and that it serves the purpose for years to come. The CMGC and engineers are testing the saw cracks that were placed in the cement when it was green as they do not believe it meets the specifications noted and could have contributed to the cracks we are now seeing.

The board discussed the difference between the punch list and warranty. They discussed having more district administration there when the CMGC is going through the remaining punch list items. The board wants to send a letter to the parking lot engineers stating concern on the flat asphalt parking lot design.

2022-2023 School District Needs Assessment

Mr. Edgar told the Board that he will get something in writing on the district needs assessment to them next month. The roof at CMS needs replaced soon and this is a priority. Darren mentioned that we may need to get another BEST grant to replace the CMS roof as the BEST grants currently tend to move in the direction of repairs on existing structures. The bus barn is in poor condition and the LJE upstairs bathrooms need an update. The ESSER III grant will help take care of some of our assessment needs.

Building Use-Outside Entities

Mr. Edgar told the board that a number of entities have asked to use the district buildings in the last couple of months. Darren feels that the current building use agreement is a good agreement, but feels we need to adjust a few things. The question was asked how do these extra activities affect our kids, academics, and school activities? Mr. Edgar asked the board for guidance on outside entities using school facilities. The pros and cons were discussed and the board told Darren to use his discretion in scheduling the facilities in the district with the best interest of our students in mind.

ACTION ITEMS

Student Transportation Resolution

A motion was made by Harman Hostetter to table the student transportation resolution, seconded by Nathan Coombs.

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

The motion passed.

CASB Resolution: Remote Learning During 2022-2023

A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the CASB Resolution: Remote Learning During 2022-2023, seconded by Mary Jane Valdez.

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

The motion passed.

2022 North Conejos School District RE-1J Accreditation

A motion was made by Garth Crowther to table the 2022 North Conejos School District RE-1J accreditation until more information is received from the State, seconded by Harman Hostetter.

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

The motion passed.

1st Reading District Policies BEC, GBAB, GBAE, GBJ, IC/ICA, IHCD, JFAB, JFABA, JFABE-R, JFBA, JFBB, LBD-R

A motion was made by Mary Jane Valdez to approve the 1st reading of district policies BEC, GBAB, GBAE, GBJ, IC/ICA, IHCD, JFAB, JFABA, JFABE-R, JFBA, JFBB, LBD-R, seconded by Nathan Coombs.

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

The motion passed.

NCS D New Hire

A motion was made Mary Jane Valdez to approve NCS D new hire Natalie Gurule, CMS cook, seconded by Harman Hostetter.

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

The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.