

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

November 15, 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 Nathan Coombs.

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 Nathan Coombs to approve the agenda with the addition of action item 10g, 21-22 budget resolution, seconded by Garth Crowther.

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.

Steven Johnson in at 6:42 p.m.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ACTIVITIES

Principals Report

Please see attached principals reports in the board packet.

Susan Hamilton, Denny Fringer, and Ricky Salazar reported on the Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) for the 2022-23 year. They looked at three years of data and broke down the data to assess areas where NCSD can improve. Assessments were used to identify areas of concern and they worked to determine resolutions to improve learning and growth. The group saw four areas of priority improvement for the district: (1) gifted and talented students need to work on growth (2) IEP students are not showing achievement or growth (3) NCSD reading is good but writing needs improvement (4) minority students are approaching in academic growth in Math. Resolutions discussed are aligning curriculum, more professional development, better scheduling, focus on attendance, and focusing on core learning.

BOCES Report

Chuck Finnegan reported that there has been no BOCES meetings since September, but they will meet tomorrow night, November 16, 2022. He expressed concern that BOCES is forcing compliance rather than supporting teachers and districts. All SLV school districts have the same concern. BOCES will be discussing the FAMLI medical insurance at their meeting. Mr. Edgar and Mr. Finnegan are concerned that if BOCES does implement FAMLI that it will raise the school districts assessments. BOCES has a difficult time finding specialists to serve the school districts and should that employee leave for the 12 weeks there would not be a replacement to service the school districts and that will in turn hurt kids that will not be served.

NCEA

No Report.

Administration Report

October count is complete and our total student count for the 2022-23 school year is 988 students, which is a decline in our enrollment number of 18 students from the 202122 school year. The October count is tied to a funding piece to determine state funding for each student enrolled at NCSD. The per pupil funding is determined in part by a five-year average in the student count. Currently the state has a projected amount for per pupil funding and Mr. Edgar will have a more accurate amount on per pupil funding in December/January.

ESSER has protected our general fund for the last 2 years and has been a big help with our budget. Mr. Edgar should be able to give the board a better idea of funding at the next board meeting in December. He will have information on a cost of living increase for staff for the board to look at and decide on once we have more detailed information on where we are at in this year's budget.

A letter of resignation for the middle school technology teaching position was submitted by Mrs. Billy Jo Cooper effective December 22nd. We are currently advertising for the position. We are still taking applications for the district IT position and for a full-time custodial position.

Mr. Edgar reported that there is not much from the election for schools. Governor Polis is saying there will be an increase in pupil funding, proposition FF deals with school lunch funding, and proposition EE would invest funding for universal pre-K, counseling, etc.

District staff in-service/professional development was held on Friday, November 4th.

CASB Winter Conference is December 1-3. Mr. Edgar, Mr. Chuck Finnegan, and Mrs. Mary Jane Valdes 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.

The student transportation resolution has been removed from the agenda after further clarification from our attorney who has counseled Mr. Edgar to not have the board pass a resolution due to the fact that the student is on an IEP and a resolution is not needed in such cases. He will reach out to Diana Jones, Alamosa Superintendent and establish a reimbursement contract with them to reimburse NCSD for the transportation cost of the student.

Mr. Edgar consulted our attorney on policy BID/BIE concerning compensation of board members. The board would need to create a resolution on a person-by person basis to resolve the board member that may be performing a service for the district.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Capital Construction/BEST Update

Andy Fiamengo went over the activity summary report. The current adjusted GMP is \$26,459,519.34.

The construction progress in the last 30 days includes: punch list continues, site concrete corrections (from punch walk 10/24/22), landscape & irrigation corrections (from punch walk 10/24/22), drive lane earthwork, asphalt paving west parking lot.

The next 30 days construction progress includes: site concrete corrections (from punch walk 10/24/22), landscape & irrigation corrections (from punch walk 10/24/22). The balance of the project (site work) is likely to achieve substantial completion October 24, 2022, based on the punch walk of the same date.

Items for Board consideration related to additional scope: (1) additional conduit/cameras in West parking lot as requested by NCSD - \$21,966.22 (2) address the drive aisle access at the southeast corner of the Admin Building – funding coming from construction contingency and design allowance (3) revise the work to adjust the West parking lot configuration due to existing underground utilities interfering with proper subgrade preparation of the parking lot system - (882.41) (4) furnish and install components to provide visual and audio notification within and around the shop building classrooms - \$26,044.40 (5) additional site signage/stripping as requested by NCSD - +/- \$16,000

Andy Fiamengo told the board that the pending completion date for the project is November 27, 2022.

Mr. Edgar reports that fire and water tank alarms continue, but they are decreasing. Last night the Sheriff's Department were notified and called out on a fire alarm at 2:10 a.m. Darren continues to press the CMGC concerning a resolution to the false alarms and notifications, but as to date the subcontractors have not remedied the issue. Because of this unresolved issue and others, Darren, will begin the process of educating our attorney on the current situation and seek legal counsel concerning the agreement we have with the general contractor. He has informed the CMGC that until there is a solution for reoccurring issues in the area of electrical and plumbing that no further expenditure of retention funds will be approved for such areas of the project.

The school entrance, parking lot and drive have pleasantly surprised the administration team as the use of each seem to be working better than had been anticipated. We have requested additional signage in some of the landscape and parking areas as well as a dividing line through our drive that separates passing traffic. After walking the parking lot with ACI it was determined that there are several low spots that will retain runoff water, however, cutting out these spots and redoing the asphalt is not advised as it is their belief we will only be moving the water that will still probably not make it to the West end of the parking lot. Other than small issues the loading of students and dropping off of students seems to be working well.

The lighting issues in various areas of the new school and parking lots seem to be fixed and we have had no problems the last seven days. We will continue to monitor this, but this does look like an area for which the CMGC is providing solutions and consistency.

The flooring in the new high school is being put under a microscope due to the wear and tear our furniture is placing on it. Two weeks ago, Meteor who contracted services for the design and sale of furniture items for the high school came down, reviewed the damage, and placed felt gliders on the bottom of all classroom chairs. They are scheduled to replace the bottoms of the desk as well, but they are waiting on the bottoms from the manufacturer. As I explained to them, this was truly missed by the furniture and flooring contractors who should have discussed this before furniture or flooring was purchased. They are aware that this may result in a warranty issue whereby they will be held responsible for replacing the flooring. I am also taking a deeper look at the grade of the flooring as I have had several of the professional consultants question why the floor is scratching as easy as it is.

Cement cracks in the sidewalks and plaza area of the high school were discussed by the CMGC, subcontractors, construction manager, owner representative and myself a couple of weeks ago and such

areas including the ballards and inserts did not meet the expectations of the team reviewing it. With this being said, we are waiting for a proposed solution from the CMGC to initiate a plan moving forward to replace/remedy the areas of the project.

2022-2023 School District Needs Assessment

Mr. Edgar provided the board with a very rough draft of identified needs for the district. The areas include (1) facilities (2) staffing (3) technology (4) curriculum (5) student programs (6) transportation (7) professional development. Each of these areas go over the expenditure area, life expectancy, priority, estimated cost, detail, and funding area. The draft is included in the board packet.

Universal Preschool

Universal Preschool was signed into law by Governor Polis last year and is intended to qualify/offer preschool children in Colorado 10 hours of free preschool services weekly. Universal Preschool Funding will replace CPP funding for which most preschools in the state are heavily reliant on. Universal Preschool is full of detailed problems/tasks that early childhood providers and school districts are struggling with and must navigate. The biggest hurdle besides an increase in using blended funding is the enrollment date for preschoolers which has been set statutorily for October 1st. This date conflicts with current enrollment dates for kindergarten and first grade and could be a real problem for some of our students and parents. Because of the established rules, if this date holds firm we will have students that will lose a year of preschool and create a domino effect that would lead to a huge class one year and a small class the next year moving into kindergarten. Mr. Edgar is currently seated on the Local Control Organization established in each region by the Office of Early Childhood and they are requesting that local control be able to establish enrollment dates based upon the issues we see coming down the pike, however, it is unclear whether those appointed to direct Universal Preschool will listen and grant the request. Mr. Edgar met with Wendy Helms, Little Treasures Preschool director she is also concerned about the situation. They are still working on regulations at the state level.

ACTION ITEMS

2nd Reading District Policies BEC, GBAB, GBAE, GBJ, IC/ICA, IHCD, JFAB, JFABA, JFABE-R, JFBA, JFBB, LBD-R

A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the 2nd reading of district policies BEC, GBAB, GBAE, GBJ, IC/ICA, IHCD, JFAB, JFABA, JFABE-R, JFBA, JFBB, LBD-R, 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.

NCS D Staff Resignation

A motion was made by Mary Jane Valdez to approve the resignation of CMS Technology teacher, Billy Jo Cooper, 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.

Staff/Student Travel Meal Price Increase

A motion was made by Garth Crowther to approve the staff/student travel meal price increase of \$10 breakfast, \$15 lunch, and \$20 dinner for staff and \$7 breakfast, \$10 lunch, and \$15 dinner for students, seconded by Nathan Coombs.

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

The motion passed.

2022-23 School Calendar Change

A motion was made Steven Johnson to ratify the decision to cancel school on Thursday November 10th to support CHS Volleyball and CHS Football in the state tournament/playoffs, seconded by Nathan Coombs.

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

The motion passed.

December Board Meeting Date

A motion was made by Harman Hostetter to approve the December board meeting date change from December 20, 2022 to December 13, 2022, seconded by Nathan Coombs.

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

The motion passed

NCS D Staff Bonus

A motion was made by Garth Crowther to approve the NCS D staff bonus of \$1,000 per employee, seconded by Nathan Coombs.

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

The motion passed

2021-22 Amended Budget Resolution

A motion was made by Mary Jane Valdez to approve the 2021-22 amended budget resolution as presented, seconded by Nathan Coombs.

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 December 13, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.