

NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
December 13, 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, 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 Steven Johnson.

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 Nathan Coombs to approve the agenda with the addition of discussion item 9c, health saving account.

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

There were no citizens to address the board.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ACTIVITIES

Principals Report

Please see attached principals reports in the board packet.

BOCES Report

Chuck Finnegan reported that BOCES held a special meeting where the board voted to opt out of the Colorado FAMI health insurance. There was discussion on where the BOCES Director is going with BOCES. Communication with Superintendents needs to be better; they know the needs of the schools better than the BOCES board. Mr. Edgar reported that there was big discussion at SAC today on the RTI process which gets kids to an IEP and/or 504 plan. The Superintendents discussed a need for better communication with the BOCES Director and the schools. SPED teachers are being asked to do more. Teachers are now teachers and case managers. Everyone needs to positively get on the same page to better serve students. The BOCES Director wants to change the evaluation process and was told that couldn't take place this year since her evaluation takes place in January. There was discussion on hiring an outside entity for fairness.

NCEA

No Report.

Administration Report

Mr. Edgar told board members that numerous staff have emailed him thanking him and the board for the bonus that was approved at last board meeting.

The NCSD audit is in process and Amanda Hensley visited with Mr. Edgar this week and let Mr. Edgar know that there will be a couple of small findings. The audit will be presented at the January board meeting.

There is a safety disbursement grant that NCSD will be applying for. It will need to be completed by the second week in January. It will pay for training, equipment, and supplies. We do have a need for some DTR radios, door sleeves, and there will be funding to bring CSP and the Conejos County Sherriff Office in to train staff.

Adams State University will have a program to help Elementary and Secondary teachers complete certification much like they did for SPED teachers.

The SAT is used as a measure for learning in the state of Colorado. There is much discussion at the state level as to whether the SAT will continue to be used. If so, the SAT will be electronic in the future.

Mr. Edgar would like to revive the District Accountability Committee at NCSD.

Besides the larger related warranty issues such as the sidewalks, floors, and possible floor drains everything else has been running fairly smooth the last couple of weeks with the CHS BEST project. Mr. Edgar has asked Bradbury Stamm to run a camera down the drain pipes and grease trap to make sure all is okay. The alarms have not been going off the past few weeks since they have been recently worked on. The thermostat on the concrete heat is being checked on. The final payout date is upcoming and Darren will visit with Andy Fiamengo at DCS. CDE is working on their process and our attorneys will need to be consulted concerning any excess funding being returned and the legality of it.

Caplan & Earnest sent a resolution to use concerning policy BCB. Mr. Edgar asked the board to look the resolution over. This resolution will be on a case-by-case basis. We will bring the resolution to the January board meeting for approval of Harman Hostetter, CHS cross-country coach.

Mr. Edgar has asked that Gale Gallegos to come to board meetings each month to present the financials. Gale will be attending the January board meeting when the audit is presented.

A contracted professional staff work day is scheduled for Friday, December 16th. Administration and instructional staff will be working in their own buildings and there is no professional development in the school district scheduled on this day.

Winter vacation begins on December 23rd and will conclude January 8th.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Universal Preschool

NCSD is the LEA (acting agent) for Little Treasures Preschool. In April 2022, Governor Jared Polis signed HB22-1295 which established the Department of Early Childhood and the Universal Preschool Program. Starting in the 2023-2024 school year, the program is set to fund at least 10 hours of quality preschool. 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.

Universal Preschool Program definitions are part time /10 hours, half day/15 hours, full day/30 hours. The provider rate formula for setting per-child rates: $((PKC*PS*PA) + (PKC*(1-PS))*CL)*LIC*GF*QE*CPI$. For hours in between specified hours it will be funded the lower rate.

PKC – Preschool Services
PS – Personal Costs
PA – Region
CL – Local Costs of Living
LIC – Community's Poverty Level
GF – Geographical Factors
QE – Increased Quality of Services
CPE – Annual Adjustment for Inflation

Universal Preschool Program Eligibility:

- Three-year-olds with one qualifying factor=part-time (1)
- Children under three with one qualifying factor in waiver districts (Denver & Canon City) =part-time (10)
- Children in the year school before they are eligible for kindergarten-half-day (15)
- Children in the year school before they are eligible for kindergarten with one qualifying factor= full-day (30)

Qualifying factor = ELL, poverty

CASB Winter Conference Recap

Mary Jane Valdez reported the speakers were excellent. They talked about inclusion, trust in leadership, safety in schools, risk factors in students, bullying. Chuck Finnegan reported that students wanted access to the board when they can't get through to administrators and teachers making connections with kids is important. Darren Edgar reported that the networking at CASB is very good and is a big plus. He suggested that NCSD may consider taking CHS students to the student leadership strand at CASB next year.

Health Saving Account

There are some staff concerns with getting their HSA funds in a timely manner. Mr. Edgar told the board he will look into this by checking with American Fidelity and Gale Gallegos. They discussed the possibility of an electronic funds transfer each month for the HSA funds. The board discussed being consistent in the message to staff with the HSA being deposited at the same time each month.

ACTION ITEMS

2022 Mil Levy Certification Resolution 2022-4

A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the 2022 Mil Levy Certification Resolution 2022-4 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.

NCS D New Staff Hires

A motion was made by Steven Johnson to approve Katie Brady, CMS Technology teacher; Brock Miller, IT Service Tech; Kathleen Lopez, part-time custodian, 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.

Manassa Elementary Gymnasium HVAC

A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the Manassa Elementary gymnasium HVAC system replacement to Huffaker Heating and Cooling for \$9131.90, 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.

Letter of Resignation

A motion was made by Harman Hostetter to approve the resignation of Krista Middlemist as La Jara Elementary SPED teacher who is currently not retired through PERA. She will have a transition contract for the 2023-2024 school year, 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

The next regular board of education meeting will be Tuesday January 17, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.