

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

January 17, 2023

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, absent; Garth Crowther, absent; 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 Mary Jane Valdez to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Harman Hostetter.

Nathan Coombs, absent; Garth Crowther, absent; 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 Steven Johnson to approve the agenda with no additions, seconded by Harman Hostetter.

Nathan Coombs, absent; Garth Crowther, absent; 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.

*Nathan Coombs in at 6:36 p.m.

AUDIT PRESENTATION – WALL SMITH BATEMAN

Amanda Hensley with Wall, Smith, Bateman LLC presented the 2021-2022 audit report to the North Conejos School District Board of Education. WSB is required to be independent of the District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions. The management's discussion and analysis tells the board how the numbers are derived.

ACHIEVEMENT/ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS

Principals Report

Please see attached principals reports in the board packet.

BOCES Report

The next BOCES board meeting will be January 25, 2023. By policy the board must take action to approve or non-renew the executive director no later than the meeting in March. Due to time, the same evaluation template used in the past will be used for this evaluation with a possible third party facilitator running the evaluation process. This may have to be approved by the BOCES board at the January meeting. There are concerns with the program. More is being required of district teachers and schools are frustrated. The students need services and we need to make sure the services are meeting the needs of students and are not just check marks on paper.

NCEA

No Report.

Administration Report

The District emergency response team met on Tuesday and it was a very fruitful meeting. Old business included a review of communication protocols and already identified needs. New business in the meeting included a short training on the use of the DTR radios, a review of the Safety Disbursement Grant, school facilities entrances and exits, current status of behavioral health of students and behavioral health needs, and upcoming emergency response trainings. The committee is really starting to do some great work and Mr. Edgar is grateful for the efforts of everyone participating in the process. The committee has already tackled updating the district security codes and camera systems, ordered vape detectors for the middle and high school, and is working on shoring-up the communication protocols in our district. We are also working on bringing in more student assemblies this spring to educate students on the dangers of vaping and drugs, education opportunities on anti-bullying, and use of social media and the dangers surrounding it. Please see the attached handout from the January 10th emergency response team meeting.

The CASE Winter Conference is February 22nd – 23rd and will provide professional development opportunities for district administrators. Most of the administration will attend the conference, and it has not yet been determined who for sure will be staying home and managing the administration needs of the district these two days.

The transportation study completed by transportation director, Alex Mondragon, is very informational concerning our fleet. It gives the current condition of the fleet and how to plan for the future.

Mr. Edgar has been working with Kim Mortensen on the safety disbursement grant application. The specifics of the grant, equipment requested, purchased services, professional development, and the district match was discussed. Although the grant has already been submitted the board must approve the district's participation, acquired training, and most importantly the district match which is 10% of the requested \$260,000. We may use Kim to help us in writing more grants.

There will be a 2023-2024 calendar committee meeting with school input in the near future and Mr. Edgar will bring the recommendations from the committee to the February board meeting.

The Superintendent evaluation is slated for the board to review in the February board meeting. Mr. Edgar will get information to the board in advance of the February meeting.

We are working toward setting up the HSA electronic transfer for payment in February.

Mr. Edgar is getting the District Accountability Committee set up and going soon for the 2022-2023 school year.

Leftover bond dollars are one of the initiatives Mr. Edgar is currently working on. Estimates note that there will be around \$140,000 left in local tax revenue from the bond, and there is a great possibility the district will be able to spend these dollars on capital construction projects associated with the new high school. Mr. Edgar will be discussing this with a bond attorney and will share additional information as he gets it. If we can capture the funds, they would go a long way in bringing our CTE facility up to code.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

BEST Update and Facilities Construction

Mr. Edgar has drafted a letter concerning the smell at the new high school and sent it to Dekker/Perich/Sabatini (please see attached letter in the packet). As the primary architectural/engineering firm, DPS has participated in numerous conversations concerning the existing odor and has issued no explanation for the odor and a possible relationship to the design of the system. A meeting has been set for January 23, 2023 to work with the CMCG, architects, and others to provide a true diagnosis of why there is a reoccurring odor and provide an immediate solution for bringing a remedy to the issue. The district had an independent contractor come to evaluate the grease trap and we received written notification that the grease trap is not the problem.

Facilities Construction: Mr. Denny Fringer continues to work on the traffic roundabout for Manassa Elementary and the town of Manassa. We will need to replace the kitchen cooler at Manassa Elementary in the near future. La Jara Elementary has received a new oven for the kitchen that still needs to be installed. LJE is need of repairs in the upstairs bathroom. There are ADA compliance issues with the CTE building that need addressed soon. The roof at Centauri Middle School needs replaced and we may need to work on a grant to replace the roof. The lockers are in for the new high school, but we are waiting on someone to install them. There are warranty issues on the flooring in classrooms, halls and the lobby area. After researching and visiting with flooring contractors, Mr. Edgar believes the floors installed are not hard enough. We will wait until March to determine if repair/replacement needs to happen with the main gym and auxiliary gym floors.

District Bus Drivers: Route Pay

District bus driver route pay has been a topic that has been brought up to Mr. Edgar on numerous occasions this fall. He is presently reviewing current agreements and has found the average salary experience of our route drivers is 12 ½ years. Mr. Edgar has put together a couple of salary schedule examples for the board to review. These are simple schedules that are in draft form, but they should give us an idea on what the cost would be to improve these salaries. The transportation department has been informed that Mr. Edgar is in need of a review of the routes and stops to determine their efficiency, and a raise may mean the doubling up of two routes to meet the funded needs of salaries. Alex Mondragon is working on this and should have some recommendations in the near future.

ACTION ITEMS

Safety Disbursement Grant Application

A motion was made by Mary Jane Valdez to approve the safety disbursement grant application as presented, seconded by Steven Johnson.

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

The motion passed.

2021-2022 Audit Findings

A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the 2021-2022 audit findings by Wall Smith Bateman as presented, seconded by Harman Hostetter.

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

The motion passed.

Staff Resignation

A motion was made by Mary Jane Valdez to approve the staff resignation of Mark Parris, CHS head track coach, seconded by Steven Johnson

Nathan Coombs, aye; Garth Crowther, absent; 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 February 21, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.