

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

March 28, 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, aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Harman Hostetter, absent; 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 Steven Johnson.

Nathan Coombs, aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Harman Hostetter, absent; 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 additions of items 11d field trip approval, 11e substitute approval, 11f coach approval, seconded by Steven Johnson.

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

The motion passed

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Rodney King addressed the board concerning updating the emergency plan.

Presentation – La Jara Elementary

Mr. Darren Edgar told board members that La Jara Elementary received state recognition on March 8th from the Governor's Office when they were selected as a Math Bright Award Winner. The award comes with \$50,000 the school can spend. In addition La Jara Elementary also received the John Irwin Award and the Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award for growth over time in the area of mathematics. The board commended Mr. Ricky Salazar, the staff, and students for their hard work and outstanding achievements.

ACHIEVEMENT/ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS

Principals Report

Please see attached principal reports in the board packet.

*Harman Hostetter in at 7:05 p.m.

BOCES Report

Mr. Chuck Finnegan reported that the BOCES Director has resigned and all of her duties have been suspended. BOCES is currently advertising for a new director.

NCEA

No Report.

Administration Report

Mr. Edgar has had good meetings with administrators and staff that help to plan for next year.

District health insurance renewal is just around the corner and we are currently awaiting information from Assured Partners concerning available carriers/plans, benefits, exposure, and premiums. We have already been notified to expect a larger increase in plan coverage due to this year's total claims. Renewal information should be received by the first week in April.

Mr. Edgar told the board that we will be moving forward with the electronic transfers on the Health HSA's.

North Conejos School District currently has two Elementary teaching positions and one middle school Science teaching position open.

A board of education work session was brought up at the last meeting and Mr. Edgar asked the board to look at dates and solidify the topics they would like to discuss. The board discussed a possible June work session with Mr. Edgar and administrators attending to discuss possible topics of CTE, current trends in education, and concurrent enrollment. They also discussed possible topics of current district goals, constructing a strategic 3-5 year plan, increasing enrollment, and parent and student engagement. Mr. Edgar encouraged limiting topics to be discussed at each work session to better develop plans on each area discussed. Work sessions are great opportunities for boards to focus on engaging deeper in building initiatives and working on large ideas.

Mr. Edgar gave the board a 2023 legislative update handout and shared his support and concerns on many of the bills. HB23-1002 – Epinephrine /Auto-injectors, HB23-1101 – Expanding Assistance for Educator Programs, HB23-1003 – School Mental Health Assessment, HB23-1007 – Higher Education Crisis and Suicide Prevention, HB23-1065 – Local Government Independent Ethics Commission (feels that this bill may be a breach of local control), HB 23-1009 – Secondary School Student Substance Use, HB23-1057 – Amenities For All Genders in Public Buildings (believes most districts will oppose this), HB23-1079 – Income Tax Credits for Nonpublic Education, HB23-1058 – Child-occupies Facility Lead-based Paint (our district maintenance supervisor is working on this right now), HB23-1027 – Parent and Child Family Time (bill very deceiving/issue for our foster care system), HB23-1064 – Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact (very good/feels this is needed), HB23-1089 – Special Education Services for Students in Foster Care, HB23-1109 – School Policies and Student Conduct (not headed in a good direction), HB23-1188 – Individualized Learning School and Programs, HB23-1198 – Teacher Externship Program for Science, HB23-1142 – Information of Person Reporting Child Abuse, HB23-1168 – Legal Representation and Students with Disabilities, HB23-1207 – Stipends for National Board-certified Educators, HB23-1191 – Prohibit Corporal Punishment of Children, HB23-1208 – Income Tax Credit for Eligible Teachers, HB23-1231 – Math in Pre-kindergarten Through Twelfth Grade, HB23-1213 – Stop the Bleed School Training and Kits, HB23-1239 – Local Innovation for Education Assessments (good legislation), HB23-1241, SB23-003 – Colorado Adult High School Program (Good bill/creates a pathway), SB23-023 – CPT Training in High Schools (may have to implement training in our high school), SB23-004 – Employment of School Mental Health Professionals (good legislation), SB23-056 – Compensatory Direct Distribution to PERA, SB23-065 – Career Development Success Program, SB23-029 – Disproportionate Discipline in Public Schools (rural alliance says bill will pass in some form/will make administrators stop & think about gender, race, etc.-may not be a good thing), SB23-070 – Mandatory School Resource Officer Training, SB23-115 – Department of Education Supplemental, SB23-087 – Teacher Degree Apprenticeship Program (good/this creates another pathway to get more teachers), SB23-136 – Adjustments to School Funding Fiscal Year 2022-23, SB23-094 – School Transportation Task Force, SB23-205 – Universal High School Scholarship Program, SB23-099 – Special Education Funding, SB23-170 – Extreme Risk Protection Order Petitions.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Capital Construction and Facilities

On March 20th Mr. Edgar met with the general contractor, architects, plumbers, owner representatives, and the floor installer to review the gym floors. Weighing all opinions (especially the floor installer) and professional advice it makes sense to leave the floors alone and not pursue a partial or full replacement, however, Mr. Edgar is pursuing extending the warranty by at least a year. The installer has offered to come back in and screen the floors and apply new varnish and the general contractor has agreed to pay for this.

After months of fighting the sewer odor in the high school, we know that we solved eliminating one source of the smell. Plumbers took down the drywall in the utility closet off of the cafeteria and exposed a pipe that was missing a plug/cap. This created an odor in the wall that vented into the cafeteria through the blower system that turns on when the door is opened, sucking the odor into the kitchen. Hopefully this is the cure to a small mistake that has been wreaking havoc in the school environment since we entered the school this fall.

Mr. Edgar gave information to the board concerning capital construction initiatives pertaining to improvements on the CTE facility. The board viewed a document that was given to interested contractors that describes the areas and scope/phase associated with the project. NCSD is soliciting quotes on some items that the district may choose not to do at this time, but we are aware that ADA requirements in CTE restrooms has to be taken care of immediately. There are a few contractors that are interested in submitting proposal/quotes for parts of the scope and phase of the project.

There is a warranty issue with the school floors and the furniture. The quality of the flooring and the furniture on the floors are the issue.

Mr. Edgar is recommending replacement of the concrete in front of the high school. Robins Construction is looking into this.

2023-2024 Salaries & Benefits

Mr. Edgar gave board members a SLV School District Salaries and Benefits Comparison handout. Darren is still working on the comparison and will come back to the board in the coming months when he gets more information. He will bring the board a recommendation on the 2023-024 salaries and benefits in the near future.

CASB Special Policy Updates

The board members were given the CASB recommendations for policy changes. Mr. Edgar will have his recommendations for the CASB policies updated and ready for a first reading at the April board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

High School Fencing/Barrier Project

A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the high school fencing/barrier project with Garrison Fence, Inc. doing the fencing for the high school for \$55,280 and for the NCAP building for \$4890, 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.

Staff Resignation

A motion was made by Mary Jane Valdez to approve the resignation of LJE teacher, Nikki Pepper, 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.

Life Spot Agreement Renewal

A motion was made by Steven Johnson to approve the Life Spot Agreement Renewal 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.

CMS 6th Grade Field Trip

A motion was made by Garth Crowther to approve the CMS 6th grade field trip to the Pueblo Zoo on May 10, 2023, 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.

Substitute Teacher Approval

A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve Grace Nielsen as a substitute teacher, 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.

Coach Approval

A motion was made by Mary Jane Valdez to approve Paul Gilleland as a \$1 CHS Baseball Coach, 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

Meeting adjourned 9:00 p.m.

The next regular board of education meeting will be Tuesday April 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.