

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

May 9, 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 6:36 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 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, 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 the additions of item 11d, Colorado school self-insurance program, 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

## **OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

None

## **STUDENT/STAFF PRESENTATIONS**

### **IML Art Show Winners**

Kirsten Riccatone introduced art show winners and explained how the IML Art Show works. The board was invited to view the displayed art work and visit with attending students.

### **Centauri High School Outstanding Junior Boy and Girl**

Katie Montague introduced Riley Valdez, outstanding Junior boy and Tayden Montoya, outstanding Junior girl. All applicants had to have a 4.0 to apply and had to complete the application and a resume. CHS staff went over the applications and voted for their choice for Junior Boy/Girl. Seventeen students applied for the honor. Riley and Tayden were chosen for being outstanding in many ways; grades were not the sole deciding factor. Congratulations go to Tayden and Riley for being the outstanding individuals they are.

### **State Science Fair Instructor of the Year**

CMS Science teacher, Andrew Shelton was awarded the Colorado Science Fair Instructor of the year. With that award comes \$3,000 for Mr. Shelton and NCSD Science projects. Mr. Shelton said his success is because of great students. Mr. Shelton introduced Rhett Taylor who was a special award placer in the Junior High division and Hannah Shelton who placed third in the Senior High division.

## **ACHIEVEMENT/ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS**

### **Principals Report**

Please see attached principal reports in the board packet.

### **BOCES Report**

Mr. Chuck Finnegan reported that BOCES had challenges with closing their books that may roll over into next year. Interviews for a new BOCES director will be this Friday, May 12, 2023

## **NCEA**

No Report.

### **Administration Report**

Mr. Edgar reported that the High School construction is 98% complete. Mr. Edgar asked the board to review and lend their thoughts and direction on the plan for addressing current and future facilities and equipment needs. Construction bids on the advertised projects have been given to the board for their review. Mr. Edgar is surprised at the high price of some of the proposals offered by contractors and it might mean that we may need to go back to the drawing board on the specific project or find someone who is a little hungrier than the companies who have submitted bids. We may need to give contractors more information for clarity. We plan on completing the CTE updates first before considering other capital construction projects. Darren will be working on the needs assessment and he will have recommendations for the board to approve at the June board meeting.

We have been working on the transportation/pupil audit. Mr. Edgar has reached out to the Colorado Department of Education with concerns and questions in the audit. Dorrie and Gale have been working with the auditors. We may appeal some of the findings if need be.

NCSD did not receive the School Health Professional Grant. We plan on trying again next year. Mr. Edgar has been and will continue working with Kim Mortensen on writing and applying for more grants.

Mr. Edgar attended a Superintendents Advisory Council on May 9<sup>th</sup>. BOCES Executive Director interviews will be held in Monte Vista on Friday May 12<sup>th</sup>. BOCES has had some challenges in closing their books and those issues may leak over into next year.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Student Health and Safety: Anti-Substance Abuse Programs**

NCSD Administration has met a couple of times. Mr. Jesse Shawcroft has done some work on anti-substance abuse programs. He has created a draft of guidelines on extra-curricular drug testing. Please see the attached draft in the board packet. Mr. Edgar has talked with the school attorney on this subject and she will send more information on this program. Colorado laws are a little more lenient than Federal laws. Mary Jane Valdez asked if all students could be tested or get students in courses that offer education and counseling on drugs and drug abuse. She has some curriculum that she would like administrators to look at and she will get that curriculum to Katie Montague. Mr. Edgar told the board that NCSD does have policies in place, but we need to do a better job at following those policies we already have. Years ago the DARE program was taught in our elementary schools. The need for drug education beginning in the elementary schools and moving through the middle and high school was

discussed. We need to begin that education younger and continue to educate all students on the dangers of drug use and the results of their use.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Special Policy Updates**

A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the second and final reading of special policy updates 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.

### **2023-2024 District Health Insurance Plan Benefits**

A motion was made by Harman Hostetter to approve CIGNA as the district health insurance provider without the gap insurance (MERP) coverage and approving Mr. Edgar to investigate the additional prescription coverage with CIGNA, 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.

### **Libraries Universal Service Program Services Resolution**

A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the Libraries Universal Service Program Services Resolution, 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.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

Meeting adjourned 8:35 p.m.

There will be a special board of education meeting on May 27, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. with the only action items (1) approving the 2023-24 Adopted Budget (2) final approval of the district health insurance plan benefits at the district administration building.

There will be a board work session on June 7, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss Concurrent Education/CTE at the district administration building.

The next regular board meeting will be on June 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the district administration building.