

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

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

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, absent.

The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

A motion was made by Garth Crowther to approve the agenda with the change in item 11 d. Alfred Sanchez rescinding his letter of resignation, seconded by Harman Hostetter.

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

The motion passed

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

There were no citizens signed up to address the board.

*Mary Jane Valdez in at 6:40pm

DISTRICT FINANCE

2023-24 Funding Revenue

Darren Edgar shared a handout that was used at the last District Accountability Committee meeting comparing the 2022-23 NCS D state funding and the 2023-24 NCS D projected state funding. The state funding worksheet calculations (projected before October Count) were 2023-24 state equalization of \$9,851,606, 2023-24 local property taxes of \$772,440 and 2023-24 specific ownership taxes \$159,271 for a total program funding of \$10,783,318. Mr. Edgar and the board discussed the funding and the concerns of pupil count going down in the five year average which could reduce funding for the school district in the future. There was also questions and discussion on the contracts the district has with two different solar companies that propose a reduction in electric costs for the district. The discussion led to some work to see if the contracts with the solar companies are cost effective for the District. Gale Gallegos went over the quarterly report with the Board.

Review of District Bank Accounts/Funds

Gale Gallegos gave the board a handout showing where the District has cash in investment accounts. She told the board that we moved 3 million out of general fund and put it in Colorado Trust where monies for the district can increase due to a current higher interest rate. There was discussion on beginning fund balance and Gale told the board that auditors recommend six months of operating costs be used for the beginning fund balance. We may want to consider moving more district funds into investments to increase revenue with the good interest rates right now. Darren told board members that we have to answer the question, "is the District and the Board using monies or saving monies? We are stewards to the tax payers and we need to find a good balance."

Gale went over the Appropriation Resolution for 2022-2023 and told the board this resolution needs to be adopted for the District to be in good shape with our audit.

Capital Reserve

Darren went over the NCSD capital reserve equipment and facilities projects for the 2023-24 school year and the time lines for each project. Some cost figures are based on actual proposals and others are estimated cost. Darren discussed the aging facilities in the District and the needs assessments of the District buildings. He emphasized the importance of getting repeaters at the high school and La Jara Elementary for the safety and security of all students and district staff. The District may need to apply for a BEST grant to replace the roof at the middle school in the future. He also shared capital reserve projections (needs/cost) for the 2024-2025 school year. This document is a living document that will be used in the future to prioritize the upkeep of equipment and facilities, as well as assist in establishing budgetary needs and limitations.

ACHIEVEMENT/ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS

Principals Report

Please see attached Principals reports. There was also discussion on the vape detectors installed in all District buildings and how the drug testing of students at CMS and CHS was going.

BOCES Report

Chuck Finnegan reported that the next BOCES meeting will be in November. He reported that there was not much new happening and that the new director seems to be doing a good job.

Chuck the Board that a new BOCES representative will need to be appointed for the BOCES meeting in November since he will no longer be on the school board at that time.

Mr. Edgar reported that BOCES and the school districts in the Valley are working on the MOU with BOCES. He feels we need more details with the MOU concerning the SSN classrooms. BOCES is wanting a new Day Facility and needs the Districts with students to apply for a BEST grant since they do not qualify.

NCEA

Misty Espinoza reported that she is working with Uni Serv to get things going for NCSD.

Administration Report

Darren told the Board that the administration team met and set goals for (1) better student attendance and parent engagement and (2) be more efficient in budgeting and planning.

There has been an increase in Safe-to-Tell calls and we are seeing more grievance and complaints calls. This is not the purpose of Safe-to-Tell. These type of concerns need to be addressed at the school with an administrator. Safe-to-Tell is a good program with a specific purpose and that is safety of all students. We need to better educate our parents and students on the purpose of Safe-to-Tell.

We thought we had ski days set for district students with Wolf Creek, but we received a call from the ski resort letting us know that Friday and Saturday are not available and they could do mid-week days. We are going to contact other ski resorts to see if they can accommodate district students on Friday or Saturday.

There seem to be peaks and valleys with staff leave. Darren encouraged principals to go to staff and maybe install some breaks in next years' calendar to avoid large leave of staff at certain times of the year. Maybe these days with no school would be an answer to our mid-week student ski trip situation.

There is a staff professional day scheduled for November 3rd. Darren would like to focus the professional development on student attendance. Susan Hamilton is working on some training from CDE for the development. The District Accountability Committee is also working on parent/student engagement and attendance concerns.

Darren and Katie Montague attended a "Grow Your Own Teacher" meeting at ASU. The program works on recruiting high school students to become teachers. It gives them a jump-start in the education process of becoming a teacher. Adams State will be taking off the fees for students enrolled in the program which will save them money and help them to get their certification early.

School district cameras are close to up and going in all schools. We may have to look at our band-width speed. We used ESSER funds to update cameras and security and Mr. Edgar is happy with these updates.

Darren has been working with Robins Construction to get the cement work done before the cold hits.

A new chariot machine will be ordered to take care of the district floors. The machine we currently have is very old and wearing out.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

November Board of Education Meeting

The board decided to have the November board meeting on November 8, 2023. New board members will report at 6:15 p.m. to sign their certificate of election. There will be a board reorganizational meeting at 6:30 p.m. with the regular November board meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Mr. Edgar reminded all board members that they will need to sign a confidentiality affidavit that night as well.

Student Attendance and Parent Engagement

Darren asked the Board for suggestions and ideas on how to improve student attendance and parent engagement. The Board goal is to involve parents and parents will drive attendance and student engagement.

The District wants to educate parents and students about the importance of attendance. It was suggested that rigor in the classroom is important to helping students feel the need to be in the classroom. Do consequences need to be in place that go beyond truancy? Maybe we need more student recognition to encourage student attendance. We are looking for ideas to improve attendance and learning.

CASB Board Training/Annual Convention

Darren reached out to CASB to see about some board training in November or January and he hasn't heard back from them yet. He will let the Board know when he hears back from CASB for a date.

Mary Jane Valdez, Kristin McCarroll, and Tyler Buhr plan on attending the CASB Annual Convention December 6-9 in Colorado Springs.

ACTION ITEMS

1st Reading policies KHC, KHC-R

A motion was made by Mary Jane Valdez to approve the 1st reading of policies KHC, KHC-R, 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.

2nd Reading policies JKA, JK, JKD/JKE, JKD/JKE-R, AC, GBAA, JBB, IC/ICA, GBGG, IHBIB, BC, BC-R, CBF, GBEB and Repeal BDFC

A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the 2nd reading of policies JKA, JK, JKD/JKE, JKD/JKE-R, AC, GBAA, JBB, IC/ICA, GBGG, IHBIB, BC, BC-R, CBF, GBEB and Repeal BDFC. Policies LBD and LBD-R were removed per CASB to update at a later time, 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.

2022-2023 Final Budget Appropriation Resolution

A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the 2022-2023 Final Budget Appropriation Resolution, 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 Resignations

A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the staff resignations of Greg Shawcroft and Ty Crowther, CMS Boys Basketball Coaches, with Alfred Sanchez, Manassa Elementary physical education teacher, rescinding his resignation, 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

Meeting adjourned 8:45 p.m.

The next regular board meeting will be on November 8, 2023. Board reorganizational meeting at 6:30 p.m. with the regular board meeting at 7:00 p.m.