NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
November 19, 2024
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 Mary Jane Valdez, President.

ROLL CALL
Kimberly Baroz, aye; Tyler Buhr, aye; Jacob Cary, absent; Nathan Coombs, absent; Kristin McCarroll, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA/CHANGES TO CONSENT AGENDA
A motion was made by Kristin McCarroll to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Kimberly Baroz.

Kimberly Baroz, aye; Tyler Buhr, aye; Jacob Cary, absent; Nathan Coombs, absent; Kristin McCarroll, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA
A motion was made by Tyler Buhr to approve the agenda with the addition of adding a name to the hiring of personnel on action item 11b, seconded by Kristin McCarroll.

Kimberly Baroz, aye; Tyler Buhr, aye; Jacob Cary, absent; Nathan Coombs, absent; Kristin McCarroll, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

The motion passed

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD
There were none.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Jesse Shawcroft: Extracurricular Programs
Mr. Shawcroft gave the board an overview on sports at Centauri High School. He reported that good things are happening. We have great kids, great coaches, great parents and supporters. We currently have boys & girls cross country, football, volleyball, cheer, dance, boys & girls basketball, wrestling, boys & girls track, and baseball available to students. We also have students that participate in swimming, girls softball, and soccer with other schools in the Valley. It looks like we may add girls wrestling in the near future.

We frequently hear questions on how we are placed in classifications. Classifications are based on school enrollment and we are classed every two years by CHSAA. We are currently beginning the 2024-26 cycle, meaning that we will be in our current classes for this year and next. We will be reclassified in 2026-28 cycle. That means we may, or may not move classes depending on our enrollment and the number of schools in each class. CHSAA seeks to have similar numbers of schools in each classification. Each CHSAA sanctioned sport has its own set of classification numbers to ty and equalize the number of school in each class. Centauri is classified in 1A football and 3A for all other sports in the 2024-26 cycle. Our enrollment number that was used for classification purposes is 328. After this year CHSAA will use a three year average to determine our enrollment number. We are at the top end of enrollment for football. We are in the middle of 3A basketball. That has to do with the number of classifications each of those sports require. There are seven football classes and six classifications in basketball. All other sports have 5 classes, with the exception of wrestling which has four. It is also apparent that we are near the bottom end of enrollment of all our other sports. Despite this, our student athletes and coaches work hard and compete very well. We are proud of their accomplishments and wish them the best.

Mr. Shawcroft also shared the CHS athletic needs in the future with board members.

ACHIEVEMENT/ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS

Principal's Report
Please see attached principal reports.

BOCES Report
Mr. Edgar told the board he attended the Superintendent Advisory Council meeting last week. Superintendents discussed working on the referral process with BOCES. There is still some concern with communication between BOCES and the valley schools. However, Darren feels that things are looking up. Kim Baroz will attend the BOCES meeting on November 20th.

NCEA
Misty Espinoza reported that she is reaching out to new staff members concerning NCEA.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT
Mr. Edgar reported that approximately $177,000 from the high school BEST grant are trapped in the BEST reserve. This is common among all schools that have had a BEST grant. Darren will be composing a letter to the Attorney General asking that these monies be given back to our district since these are funds that came from our tax payers for the new high school.

Mr. Edgar has started editing a letter to the La Jara Town Board that addresses the drug activity occurring at a residence near our schools. He wants to make sure that we show that we are addressing the problem based on the knowledge we have of the illegal activity taking place near our schools.

Food service continues to work on getting meal participation up which will help with funding for the district.

Mr. Edgar commended the custodial staff for their hard work in handling the recent snow storm. Cancelling school was the right call considering the conditions and severity of the storm.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Economic Forecast: 2025-2026 School Funding
On November 1st, Governor Polis presented his budget for FY 2025-2026. Some of the proposals regarding K-12 education are: (1) Remove the enrollment averaging of 5 years. This would hurt small school funding. (2) Extend the implementation of HB24-1448 to 7 years. The Governor will eventually have the student risk calculations come off which would hurt small schools as well. (3) Increase per pupil funding by $229. This is a good move for schools.

The Colorado Rural School Alliance will go to battle for small rural schools. There is a concern with the State taking away the small rural school funding.

After receiving the Governor's proposed budget the Colorado School Finance Project completed a study of the fiscal impact it would have on school districts in the state. This study does not include the possibility of declining enrollments and HB24-1448 or at-risk funds (formula) to the total program funding.

See Mr. Edgar's handout on the North Conejos School District 2025-2026 budget implications. There are indicators that projections in agriculture, population growth, etc. will make for a tough economy and that most likely will affect school funding.

Facilities: District Needs Assessment
Mr. Edgar asked the board to table this discussion item until next month.

ACTION ITEMS

Letter of Resignation
A motion was made by Kristin McCarroll to approve Eric Mascarenaz letter of resignation, seconded by Tyler Buhr.

Kimberly Baroz, aye; Tyler Buhr, aye; Jacob Cary, absent; Nathan Coombs, absent; Kristin McCarroll, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

The motion passed.

Hiring of Personnel
A motion was made by Kim Baroz to approve the hiring of Rena Rilling as NCAP teacher and Josh Polkowske as $1 CHS wrestling coach, seconded by Kristin McCarroll.

Kimberly Baroz, aye; Tyler Buhr, aye; Jacob Cary, absent; Nathan Coombs, absent; Kristin McCarroll, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

The motion passed.

La Jara Elementary Heating Equipment
A motion was made by Tyler Buhr to approve the La Jara Elementary heating equipment as presented, seconded by Kim Baroz.

Kimberly Baroz, aye; Tyler Buhr, aye; Jacob Cary, absent; Nathan Coombs, absent; Kristin McCarroll, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

The motion passed.

La Jara Elementary School Closure on October 30th
A motion was made by Kristin McCarroll to approve the La Jara Elementary School closure on October 30th, seconded by Tyler Buhr.

Kimberly Baroz, aye; Tyler Buhr, aye; Jacob Cary, absent; Nathan Coombs, absent; Kristin McCarroll, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

The motion passed.

President Valdez asked for a motion to make an addition to the agenda concerning hiring of personnel
A motion was made by Kim Baroz to approve the addition to the agenda concerning hiring of personnel, seconded by Kristin McCarroll.

Kimberly Baroz, aye; Tyler Buhr, aye; Jacob Cary, absent; Nathan Coombs, absent; Kristin McCarroll, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

The motion passed.

Hiring of Personnel
A motion was made by Kristin McCarroll to approve the hiring of Brooke Quintana as CMS Cook, seconded by Tyler Buhr.

Kimberly Baroz, aye; Tyler Buhr, aye; Jacob Cary, absent; Nathan Coombs, absent; Kristin McCarroll, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
None

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

The next regular board meeting will be on December 10, 2024 at 6:30pm.