**NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J**
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
January 21, 2025
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, aye; 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 Nathan Coombs to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Kristin McCarroll.

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

The motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**
A motion was made by Kristin McCarroll to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Kim Baroz.

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

The motion passed

**OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**
There were none.

**GUEST PRESENTATIONS**

**Vocational/CTE Programs Presentation**
Vocational/CTE program director Brad Huffaker addressed the board of education telling them of the great programs our CTE has to offer our students. We currently have seven programs available to high school students. He thanked the board and community for their support of these programs and told them that North Conejos School District has the best program in the San Luis Valley and is in the top 10 percent in the State of Colorado. He introduced Triton Price, Dakota Smith, Caden Casias, and Spencer Smith who are current CTE students. The vocational students in our programs have been busy around our District painting the gates in front of the NCSD entrance, moving the falcon entrance from the old high school to the entrance of the CHS football field and covering the entrance with reflective tape, adjusting and straightening the goal posts on the football field, and Titan Price, a welding student, is currently working on a large metal falcon that will be placed in front of Centauri High School. He showed the board the CTE website and told board members he felt it was important to showcase what the NCSD CTE program is offering students. Mr. Huffaker placed a post on facebook to get community response and to get information about the CTE program out there. The CTE programs are doing really good things for kids to give them life experience. He reported that the funding for CTE programs is healthy and looks good for the future.

**ACHIEVEMENT/ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS**

**Principal's Report**
Please see attached principal reports.

**BOCES Report**
Kim Baroz will attend the BOCES meeting tomorrow night January 22, 2025. Mr. Edgar met online with George Welsh, the Executive Director of BOCES, to discuss some of our current complaints as a school district. The complaints center on BOCES directors not following protocol/procedures as directed through policy. Darren addressed three areas which included placing students in programs and other school districts, directing Child Find and following policies, and in communicating effectively as a team of professionals. They came to the conclusion that the appropriate step to take is to work to make it better and restore BOCES trust in these areas. Mr. Edgar also completed a survey that Mr. Welsh is having all superintendents complete.

**NCEA**
Misty Espinoza told the board that there was nothing new to report.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORT**
Mr. Edgar reported that he has had some good meetings with department heads and with his administration team. Mid-year administration evaluations are coming up soon. Darren gave board members a hard copy of the superintendent evaluation and asked the board to go through it and possibly fill it out so they would come prepared for the superintendent evaluation next month at the February board meeting.

Mr. Edgar shared information concerning the economic forecast for the school district next year and in coming years. Funding methods have changed in the State of Colorado that may be slightly different than in the past. Governor Polis has educational funding as one of his main points in which he is recommending basing state funding on a yearly student count rather than a three to five year average as has been done in the past. The governor is indicating that the State can save money by using the yearly average. This method may help with State budgeting but would be challenging for public schools in the State of Colorado. Rural funding will not be taken away but we do not know what the other factors will be. The legislature is just beginning to meet and it is still too early to know exactly what our funding methods will be for next year. It may be an interesting year.

Jerry Lujan has been added as an additional School Resource Officer with the Conejos County Sheriff Office for North Conejos, South Conejos, and Sanford school districts.

Health insurance renewal time for the school district is approaching and we would like to get a jump start on our insurance options for next year to get the best plan possible for our employees.

Mr. Edgar is in the middle of a letter addressed to Trinidad State College concerning the changes in our concurrent agreement for the 2024-2025 year. The letter Darren is composing will be from the Superintendent Advisory Council and all SLV Schools have agreed to participate in stating our position. The heart of the issue is that TSC informed school districts that we will now bear the burden of collecting fees from students participating in concurrent enrollment. This request is contrary to all school district policies concerning concurrent enrollment which offer tuition, but not fees. It appears that TSC is trying to place the responsibility on collecting the student fees to school districts, or just paying for them. Mrs. Montague stated her frustration with the changes in the agreement mid-year by TSC and has not signed the changed agreement with TSC. She also expressed that we do not have the means to collect the fees and material charges like a State College has should students not pay their fees. Our policy IHCDA and IHCDA-R states that we will pay only the tuition for the students taking concurrent classes. If we are unable to get them to agree to our position, then we will have to revise our policies and implement procedures for collecting fees. Mr. Edgar will draft the letter and send the board of education a copy of the letter that will be sent to Trinidad State College.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Facilities: Capital Construction Initiatives**

La Jara Elementary has many systems that have outlived their expected lifespan, are inefficient, and demand a lot of upkeep. The district is resolving issues as they come up. There will be a facility assessment completed in February and the results of the assessment should be submitted to the school district by May. This assessment will give us a greater insight to the conditions of the school and what direction we need to go with La Jara Elementary concerning repair or replacement. The board discussed the challenge of getting the community to go for another grant at this time and felt replacement may be the better option. It was discussed that we should go ahead with the replacement of the windows at LJE since they are inadequate for the safety of students and staff and before contractors are booked up for the summer. Other items discussed with the capital construction initiatives were the CHS parking lot and curbing, CMS & ME windows, locking mechanisms on doors at LJE, ME and CMS, lights in the wrestling room, and CHS shot clocks in the gyms.

**2025-2026 Preliminary School Calendars**

Mr. Edgar sent a calendar template to all principals and asked them to meet with their committees and assist in binging feedback that will assist in a final calendar. He asked for board input on the calendar for principals to take back to their buildings. Darren sees next year's calendar looking very similar to our current school calendar. He will bring back a final calendar recommendation to the board at the February board meeting.

**Policies & Procedures for Hiring Retired Employees**

Mr. Edgar has worked to provide enough information to give the board a background on the district's current policy and procedure for hiring retired employees. The board discussed the retiree needing to reapply once they have opted to take a transitional contract and asked what step the returning employee would start at. They also felt that the evaluation piece needed to be a part of the guidelines. The board discussed that the retiree returning be on a year to year basis and would need to reapply. Board members would like to have the discretion to make decisions concerning future applicants and retirees applying for the district position. Mr. Edgar was directed by the board to work on criteria and guidelines for the policies and procedures for hiring retired employees and bring back a recommendation to the board members at the February board meeting.

**Board Policies: GBK, GBGJ, IMDA, IMBB, IK GBGAB, IHCDA, IHCDA-R**

Darren went over each policy with board members and told them they would be updated and ready to approve for a first reading at the February board meeting. Policy GBK needs to be updated to the CASB policy. GBGJ is a CASB policy concerning staff bereavement with the current NCSD policy being GCCAD. He would like to rescind our current policy and approve GBGJ as NCSD bereavement policy. Darren would like to add IMDA, IK, and GBGAB to NCSD policies that we do not currently have. IMBB needs to be updated. Policies IHCDA and IHCDA-R were part of the concurrent discussion that Mr. Edgar wanted the board to be aware of, but we will not be doing any changes to these two policies at this time

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Capital Construction Bids/Estimates**
A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the capital construction bids (1) Canty Electric to replace/renovate lights in the wrestling facility $8000.00 (2) Claro Vista Contracting for replacement of all windows at La Jara Elementary for $226,882.00, and (3) DPLEMCO for the purchase and installation of shot clocks at both gyms at CHS and for moving the video board $24,390.00, seconded by Tyler Buhr.

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

The motion passed.

**Bid Offer on NCSD School Bus**
Jace Booth made a bid offer on school bus #6 for $800.00

Board President Mary Jane Valdez called for a motion on the bid offer on NCSD school bus. There was no motion so the action item bid offer on NCSD school bus died for lack of a motion.

**Hiring of Personnel**
A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the hiring of Kodie Martinez as a La Jara Elementary/ Manassa Elementary special education paraprofessional, seconded by Kristin McCarroll

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

The motion passed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**
None
Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

The next regular board meeting will be on February 18, 2025 at 6:30pm.