NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
April 15, 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 Tyler Buhr to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Nathan Coombs.

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

Shae Haslett addressed the board concerning petitioning CHSAA for Centauri High School to move from 3A to 2A in baseball, track, and cross-country since we are low in numbers and are unable to be competitive in these sports. Andrew Shelton addressed the board concerning the same topic but also asked the board and superintendent to consider having an additional baseball field because we cannot be competitive and practice effectively when we have to share facilities with the middle school. Clare Sowards told board members CHS cross-country had previously been 2A and we were moved up to 3A. We are struggling to have enough students to make a complete competitive team for both boys and girls cross-country. She questioned how CHSAA got their numbers to make the 2A to 3A move and would like to have the school district reach out to CHSAA for consideration on our classification. Mr. Edgar suggested we schedule an informal meeting to come up with a plan to talk with CHSAA and see if anything can be done.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of Senior Athletes and Coaches

Mr. Edgar recognized all the senior athletes and commended them for their effort and work to excel in their sport(s). He spoke on athletics being a great learning tool to succeed in life and handle challenges that may come their way. The lessons learned in the athletic field, gym, court, etc. are truly life lessons. Mr. Edgar also encouraged the seniors to be good examples and individuals that underclassmen can look up to.

DISTRICT FINANCE

2024-2025 Quarter 3 Report

Gale Gallegos went over the third quarter financials that the board received in their board packet. She reminded the board that there will be a board work session on May 6th at 7:00pm to work on the 2025-2026 budget. Mr. Edgar discussed factors on building a good budget and discussed the district fund balance. He will bring the final 2024-2025 budget to the board in May for final approval. Gale would like to finalize the food service budget in May and told board members that we may need to transfer from the general fund to balance the food service budget. We might consider moving food service salaries to the general fund to get a truer picture of how food service is really doing. Mr. Edgar discussed our capital reserve with the board.

ACHIEVEMENT/ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS

Principal's Report

Please see attached principal reports.

BOCES Report
Kim Baroz attended the last BOCES meeting and reported that the main topic of discussion was the BOCES director evaluation. Darren reported that at the SAC meeting George Welch reported that they are beginning the process of the new BOCES building in Monte Vista, however, there has been some issues with abatement. There are currently nine students in the BOCES program in Alamosa from SLV schools and none of them are NCSD students. It has been determined that the cost to a school district in placing a student in the classroom is $35,000 a year plus transportation cost. It has been agreed upon by superintendents that all school districts will pay an annual assessment of $2000 regardless of whether we have a student in the program or not. Mr. Edgar has made it clear to principals that we will hire a full-time paraprofessional to assist a student if possible before we place a student in one of the EDB classrooms. Mr. Edgar will work on any issues that may affect NCSD concerning BOCES, our students, and the assessments.

NCEA
Misty Espinoza reported that there was nothing new to report concerning NCEA.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT
Mr. Edgar introduces Mrs. Regina Denton as the new Manassa Elementary Principal for the 2025-2026 school year. Interviews are currently being held for the Manassa Elementary SPED teacher and classroom teachers at Manassa Elementary.

A few years back CDE required all teachers to have hours in ELPB (English Language Learners) in order to renew their teaching license. The state has revised their requirements and because NCSD is under 2% of ELL students we are now able to waive this requirement.

The BEST Grant RFQP was released yesterday and NCSD already has 8 architects that have reached out to Mr. Edgar. There will be site visits on April 24th with a May 1st start date for them to reach out to Darren for more information. This deadline will end on May 8th and we can begin to set up interviews with architects with May 20th set for those interviews. Darren will get proposals out to the board by May 12th to narrow down the selection of candidates. Our goal is to have a master plan completed by October or early November. Mr. Edgar gave board members a handout on architects that have reached out to him so far.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

District Health Insurance
Mr. Edgar and Gale Gallegos will possibly meet with our insurance brokers tomorrow. At the current time we are waiting to see how much our current plan will increase and what other plans and options are available.

Student Attendance Policies and Guidelines
Ideas were discussed on how to hold students and parents more accountable with student attendance. Mr. Edgar has been talking with our attorneys and we cannot do certain things in our attendance policy where poor attendance affects grades because of a drop out change policy that may affect grades. Truancy court has not been successful so we need to find another way to encourage good student attendance. Legal advice is (1) if students miss a day they have one day to make it up, (2) if students miss a day they can't participate in extra-curricular activities, (3) an incentive driven policy where if students have good attendance and grades they can get out of school early at the end of the year or be given a day or two at the end of each quarter/semester. Mr. Edgar will continue to talk with our attorneys for ideas on how to improve our student attendance.

Teacher Pay for Concurrent Enrollment Instruction
Mr. Edgar referred board members to the concurrent enrollment instruction suggestions. He asked board members for input on paying concurrent teachers. Darren explained that there are certified instructors of record teaching the class and sometimes teachers instructing the class under a certified instructor of record. When a teacher is teaching the concurrent class and is teaching under a certified teachers license how do we split the pay between the two (ex.80%/20% or 50%/50%)? Do we use a flat class fee or pay according to a step schedule? Where does the board want to begin with pay (ex. $500, $700, $1000)? Darren told the board that it is cheaper to pay our own concurrent teachers than send students to ASU, WSU or TSC. After some discussion the board did agree that we should compensate teachers that teach concurrent classes. It was suggested that we start with $500 per class because it is easier to increase pay than take it away. They also recommended this begin with the 2025-2026 school year. Darren will work on teacher concurrent pay and bring back a document to the board next month for approval.

ACTION ITEMS

Second Reading of Policies GCQEB
A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the second reading of policy GCQEB 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.

First Reading of Policies: AC, AC-R-3, AC-E-1, AC-E-2, GBAA, JBB, GCE/GCF, GDE/GDF, JB, JF, GBA, JICDD, JICDE, JFBA, JFBB, JICA, JII

A motion was made by Kristin McCarroll to approve the first reading of policies AC, AC-R-3, AC-E-1, AC-E-2, GBAA, JBB, GCE/GCF, GDE/GDF, JB, JF, GBA, JICDD, JICDE, JFBA, JFBB, JICA, JII as presented, 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.

School Vehicle Purchase

A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to ratify the purchase of a 2025 GMC Terrain for $34,950.00, 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.

Bid to Purchase School District Buses

A motion was made by Kristin McCarroll to approve the bid from Earnest Quintana of $3,500 for the purchase of school district buses, seconded by Nathan Coombs.

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

Letters of Resignation

A motion was made by Tyler Buhr to approve the letters of resignation for Jennifer Romero-Capra, ME teacher; Lorrie Crowther, ME Librarian; and Larry Mortensen, CHS Boys Head Basketball Coach, 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.

Hiring of Personnel
A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the hiring of Candace Johnson, ME teacher; Regina Denton, ME Principal; Trisha Reed, CHS Head Cheer Coach; DonnaMae Keys, CHS Girls Wrestling Coach, 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.

2025-2026 Certified and Classified Staffing Plan
A motion was made by Kristin McCarroll to approve the 2025-2026 certified and classified staffing plan as presented, seconded by Nathan Coombs.

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

The motion passed.

2025-2026 Employee Step Increases
A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the 2025-2026 employee step increases as presented, 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.
EXECUTIVE SESSION
None

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

The next regular board meeting will be on May 20, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. with a board work session scheduled for May 6, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.