NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
January 13, 2026
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 Kristin McCarroll, President.

ROLL CALL
Kimberly Baroz, aye; Tyler Buhr, aye; Jake Cary, absent; Nathan Coombs, aye; Kristin McCarroll, aye; Jimmy Lopez, 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 Tyler Buhr.

Kimberly Baroz, aye; Tyler Buhr, aye; Jake Cary, absent; Nathan Coombs, aye; Kristin McCarroll, aye; Jimmy Lopez, aye.

The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA
A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the agenda with the addition of action item 10d, 2nd quarter financial report, seconded by Kim Baroz.

Kimberly Baroz, aye; Tyler Buhr, aye; Jake Cary, absent; Nathan Coombs, aye; Kristin McCarroll, aye; Jimmy Lopez, aye.

The motion passed

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD
There were no citizens to address the Board.

ACHIEVEMENT/ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS

Principals Report
Please see attached principal reports.

BOCES Report
Mr. Edgar shared with the board that he attended the SAC meeting and reported Aaron Horrocks resigned as SAC chair and Andie Davis was appointed new SAC chair. BOCES will be applying for an EARS grant which covers discipline and expulsion. NCSD will sign up to participate in this grant. Darren told board members that Conejos County Superintendents need to be involved with BOCES to make sure we get our share of their services. The school district needs to get our district calendar for next school year to George Welsh to coordinate professional development with all schools in the San Luis Valley. Darren will share Jimmy Lopez's information with BOCES so he will be aware of meetings and receive information from BOCES as Jimmy is the board's representative.

NCEA
Misty Espinoza reported that there have been a few new members to NCEA at the high school.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT
Construction at the baseball complex is nearing completion. The new dugouts and press box have been completed and we are working on a design to put on the press box and dugouts. Additional enhancements include storage space and countertops in the press box. Once electrical work is complete, fencing and infield preparation will follow this spring.

The facilities master plan has been complete and will serve as a living document to guide future planning and decision making. Darren is scheduling the meetings necessary to advance the BEST application process and address related questions. Darren met earlier in the weekly with principals, facilities director, and the innovation/technology director and he invited any board member to attend any of these meetings in the future. He also met with the architectural and engineering team to review the BEST application timeline. Draft site plans, floor plans, and square footage projections were viewed and discussed and have been provided to Board members to view. Establishing an accurate square footage is an important step at this stage. Darren has been in communication with Meg Donaldson, the CDE BEST representative, and David Kurtz, from Neenan, regarding the completion of the Facilities Master

Plan and BEST application. The BEST application is due in March and significant work remains. Securing the Davis property, obtaining additional project cost bids and proposals, completing traffic engineering services, and coordination and collaborating with town boards are items that need to be completed in the near future.

On January 16th, instructional staff will attend the San Luis Valley Educators Conference, a scheduled professional development day.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2025 CASB Conference Recap/Takeaways
Tyler Buhr expressed that there was a lot of discussion about why Board members serve on school boards.

Kim Baroz shared that building relationships within the school district (superintendent, staff, and students) was what stood out to her. She discussed the importance of reaching the family and encouraging parent engagement. Every family - every teacher - every student - every day is important. Reach out to parents individually with what their child is learning. All families have different "life situations" and we need to try to meet them where they are at.

Kristin McCarroll expressed the importance of creating trust with staff, parents, and the community. There needs to be better support and accountability.

Darren was asked what he felt could help North Conejos School District. He attended a session on cell phones and told board members we need a better policy on cell phone use for staff and students. He suggested that having phones in classrooms might help the situation. That is something we might need to look in to, possibly beginning with the high school.

2026 – 2027 School Calendar
We need to begin building the 2026-2027 calendar now and begin by putting big events on the calendar. Getting the high school and middle school on the same bell schedule would help to be able to share resources between schools. Not putting athletic events on the same day as professional development days will encourage better attendance at staff professional development. Mr. Edgar talked of making better use of professional development days for staff. Start dates, end dates, professional development dates, fall and winter break, and spring break were briefly discussed. We need to be mindful of district transportation in making or potentially changing district dates and schedules. Darren discussed looking at all school schedules and specifically the high school schedule with concurrent education and on-line classes. We need to build good schedules at the high school and middle school and set some criteria that best benefits students all around. Administration will begin collaborative work on the calendar on January 20th. Any board input is welcome. The goal is to present the finalized calendar for approval in February.

January Board of Education Work Session
The board decided on January 21, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. for a board work session to discuss district goals and board procedures.

2026-2027 District Health Insurance Renewal
The board would like to see district health insurance decisions presented to district staff earlier than the past year. Current district health insurance was discussed and board members asked Mr. Edgar to look into different options for health coverage. Kim Baroz will get information to Mr. Edgar concerning an option for health insurance that she is aware of. Darren will work at bringing ideas to the board in February concerning our district health insurance.

ACTION ITEMS

Second Reading Policies: IKF-E, IJ, KEC, IJL, GBGG, GCCAA
A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the second reading policies: IKF-E, IJ, KEC, IJL and to table policies GBGG and GCCA as presented, seconded by Kim Baroz.

Kimberly Baroz, aye; Tyler Buhr, aye; Jake Cary, absent; Nathan Coombs, aye; Kristin McCarroll, aye; Jimmy Lopez, aye.

The motion passed.

Outsourced Agreements/proposals: (1) PowerSchool Contracted Agreement (2) Steffens Quality Plumbing & Heating
A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the 3-year PowerSchool Contract Agreement of $125,830.64 as presented and to approve $18,000.00 for the heating system at La Jara Elementary specifically for controls, damper, thermostats, and zoning. Steffens Quality Plumbing & Heating gave a bid of $15,897.00 and Mr. Edgar is to seek more bids from other plumbing contractors not to exceed $18,000.00, seconded by Tyler Buhr.

Kimberly Baroz, aye; Tyler Buhr, aye; Jake Cary, absent; Nathan Coombs, aye; Kristin McCarroll, aye; Jimmy Lopez, aye.

The motion passed.

Consolidated Application ESSA Funds: Final Approval Letter
A motion was made by Kim Baroz to approve the Consolidated Application ESSA Funds: Final Approval Letter with $445,898.52 for Title I, II, IV, V and $22,114 for READ and $11,186.55 for GT. Total funds approved were $479,199.07, seconded by Nathan Coombs.

Kimberly Baroz, aye; Tyler Buhr, aye; Jake Cary, absent; Nathan Coombs, aye; Kristin McCarroll, aye; Jimmy Lopez, aye.

The motion passed

Quarter 2 Financial Report
A motion was made by Kim Baroz to approve the Quarter 2 Financial Report as presented, seconded by Nathan Coombs.

Kimberly Baroz, aye; Tyler Buhr, aye; Jake Cary, absent; Nathan Coombs, aye; Kristin McCarroll, aye; Jimmy Lopez, aye.

The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
None

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Board Work Session January 21, 2026 at 5:30pm.

Next regular board of education meeting will be February 17, 2026 at 6:30 pm.