NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
February 17, 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 AGENDA/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA
A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the agenda with no additions, 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

GUEST PRESENTATIONS
ICHRA Insurance
James Douglas shared with board members the Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangement (ICHRA) plan which gives individuals more choice options for their health insurance. Basically the Board decides what dollar amount they will contribute toward the employee health insurance and the employee chooses the type of coverage they prefer with the employee paying the remainder of the plan chosen. Mr. Edgar expressed that he would like to set up a meeting with James to discuss in more detail this health insurance option and what the implementation of this plan might look like for the district and then eventually set up meetings with staff to further explore the option of the ICHRA health insurance

Neenan Archistruciton: FMP and BEST Application Presentation
David Kurtz and his team went over two topics for their presentation which were (1) facilities master plan and (2) BEST application.

This Master Plan outlines the goals of the NCSD and identifies the steps necessary to achieve them. Following the construction of Centauri High School in 2020, the project highlights the need for continued improvements across the district's remaining facilities. While certain upgrades, such as new windows at La Jara Elementary have been completed, many buildings remain in urgent need of modernization and renewal.

The purpose of this plan is to establish a clear framework for maintaining, upgrading, and optimizing the district's facilities to support high-quality education and community engagement. It gathers and analyzes key data including enrollment trends, space and program requirements, facility conditions, and community priorities. Based on this information, the Master Plan identifies actionable steps that align with the district's long-term vision.

This document is designed as a living plan, a foundation for current decision-making and a tool for guiding future investments. It should be revisited and updated as projects are completed, needs evolve, and new information becomes available.

David went over where we are with the BEST application and how we got to where we are with the application. Mr. Edgar reported that we are close to having a final grant application finished and it has been sent to CDE grant representatives to review and provide feedback before the final application is submitted in a few weeks. The new school is coming in around $50,000,000 with a match of 33%. This brings our match to over $16,000,000 before statutory provisions come into play that take into account our assessed valuation and bond indebtedness. Mr. Edgar reported that the District will seek the waiver and he believes they will grant it whether we receive the BEST grant or not. Darren told the architects that the Board will make the final decision based upon the recommendation they receive and Mr. Edgar will be recommending $6,000,000 as a match from the fund balance.

David told the Board that 91 applicants have completed the intent to apply as of December 5th and of the 91 applicants' one-third are applicants that are re-applying for the BEST grant. He told the Board that we apply, apply, apply and re-apply and refine our application. He went over our application strengths and the project timeline if we are funded by BEST. He also told the board that the BEST program is not getting the new money we have seen in past years. Mr. Edgar is optimistic about our projections for the grant.

RECOGNITIONS - Centauri Middle School
Centauri Middle School Principal, Brian Riccatone, introduced Jason Atencio as an outstanding member of their school community. He told the Board that he sees small consistent actions in Jason every day. Jason Atencio does the right thing and goes about good things in a quiet way. He has developed respect from students and teachers alike.

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

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
Mr. Edgar reported that he went over what the board members discussed at their work session with school administrators.

Darren was brief and concentrated on updates since he sent his report to board members previously. He briefly went over updates on the Davis property purchase agreement, current capital construction initiatives, the 2026-2027 calendar committee, outsourced agreements, and upcoming board policies.

BOARD REPORTS
Nathan Coombs brought up giving attention to all school activities

Jimmy Lopez had no report on BOCES.

Kristin McCarroll reported on the CHS athletic accolades and memorabilia committee. Banners will be coming in the end of the week and they would like to hang the banners up soon. She also shared that she loved the principal reports received by the board each month. They keep them connected to each school and help board members to know what is currently happening within the district.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Future Board Work Sessions
Mr. Edgar would like to have a Board work session in the next month or two to meet with the Manassa Town Board and the La Jara Town Board and to discuss the potential land purchase for the elementary school site. The board decided to have a work session on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

The regularly scheduled board meeting in March is scheduled for Tuesday March 17th at 6:30 p.m. The board decided to re-schedule the March meeting for Tuesday March 24, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. since Spring Break will be the week of March 16th through 19th.

2026 – 2027 Funding and Budget Implications

Mr. Edgar gave board members two hand-outs on funding and budget implications. One was general fund revenues and expenses from 2021 – 2026 which showed the historical comparison of funds from year to year. The other was concerning State/Local categorical funding projections. Darren told the board that our yearly numbers are dropping with homeschooling and smaller class sizes the major contributor. Funding in general appears to be down. The total PPF has increased a little each year with small rural school funding helping to increase funding somewhat. In K – 12 the value is going up per student (average daily attendance) but the count (number of students) is going down. The table Darren showed the board showed projected funding at around $11,814,686.40 which is slightly up from the prior two years.

Policy CJI: Emergency succession of Superintendent

The board requested that Mr. Edgar look into a policy concerning the emergency succession of a superintendent. After some research Darren came up with a draft of policy CJI: Succession of Superintendent. Darren suggested that this may be a good topic of discussion for the work session scheduled on April 7th.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA/CHANGES TO CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Tyler Buhr to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Jimmy Lopez.

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

The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board president Kristin McCarroll asked that the board go into executive session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f) personnel matters concerning the evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools, and personnel matters concerning the employment of an Elementary Reading Specialist, both have been previously informed of the meeting.

A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve going into executive session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f) personnel matters concerning the evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools, and personnel matters concerning the employment of an Elementary Reading Specialist, both have been previously informed of the meeting, Kimberly Baroz seconded the motion to go into executive session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f) personnel matters concerning the evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools, and personnel matters concerning the employment of an Elementary Reading Specialist, both have been previously informed of the meeting.

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

The motion passed.

The North Conejos School District Board of Education went into executive session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f) personnel matters concerning the employment of an Elementary Reading Specialist at 8:38 p.m. and ended the executive session for the employment of an Elementary Reading Specialist at 9:22 p.m.

The North Conejos School District Board of Education went into executive session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f) personnel matters concerning the evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools at 9:23 p.m. and ended the executive session for the evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools at 10:23 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

Second Reading Policies: GBGG (Staff Sick Leave) and GCCAA (Professional Staff Leave)
A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the second reading of policies: GBGG(Staff Sick Leave) and GCCAA(Professional Staff Leave) as presented, seconded by Jimmy Lopez.

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

The motion passed.

District BEST Application Match
A motion was made by Kimberly Baroz to approve the $6,000,000 District BEST Application Match as presented by Darren Edgar, with the Superintendent getting back to the board of education with any new information concerning the application, 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.

2026 – 2027 School Calendar
A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the 2026 – 2027 school calendar as presented with the change of leaving out the additional 5 minutes per school day and moving the February 15th leave day to February 18th, seconded by Tyler Buhr.

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

The motion passed

Completion of Superintendent Evaluation
A motion was made by Kimberly Baroz to approve the 2025-2026 Superintendent evaluation, 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.

2026 – 2027 Superintendent Contracted Agreement
A motion was made by Jimmy Lopez to approve the 2026-2027 Superintendent contracted agreement and to extend the contract through the 2027-2028 school year and to negotiate matters of the agreement at a later date, 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.

Outsourced Agreements/Proposals
A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the outsourced agreements/proposals to (1) TRC Environmental Corporation $24,225.00, (2) LJA Engineering $19,100.00, (3) Beacon Athletics $12,142.39, (4) Baseball Racks.com $10,855.00, (5) Garrison Fence $7,392.23 with funding coming from Capital Reserve, seconded by Jimmy Lopez.

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

The motion passed.

CHS Out of State Trip
A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the out of state trip Centauri Highs School girls' basketball team going to a team camp in Utah, seconded by Kimberly Baroz.

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

The motion passed.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
2026-2027 Salaries and Benefits
2026-2027 North Conejos School District Staffing Plans

Next regular board of education meeting will be March 24, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

Board Work Session scheduled for April 7, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:50 p.m.