NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
March 24, 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 6:35 pm by Kristin McCarroll, President.

ROLL CALL
Kimberly Baroz, aye; Tyler Buhr, aye; Jake Cary, aye; 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 Jake Cary.

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

The motion passed

RECOGNITIONS
Manassa Elementary School
Manassa Elementary Principal, Regina Denton, expressed her appreciation to all of the great teachers at Manassa Elementary. Tonight she recognized Brandi Rogers who goes above and beyond. Brandi inspires, uplifts, and changes lives of students. Brandi is not just a good teacher, but a good mentor. She continually asks questions to improve herself as a teacher. Mrs. Rogers loves each student as if they were her own children.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD
There was no citizens to address the board of education this evening.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
Mr. Edgar had nothing to report as he will discuss more later on in the meeting under discussion and action items.

BOARD REPORTS
Nathan Coombs shared with board members that the ASU band concert was excellent and our students performed very well. Mr. Brian Garrison is doing a great job preparing students and numbers appear to be up in the Band.

Darren Edgar shared with the board that the Superintendent Advisory Council is preparing for the evaluation of BOCES director George Welsch. Darren will go over any information that he has been given with Mr. Jimmy Vigil, our district representative. Mrs. McCarroll will contact BOCES and make sure they have Jimmy Vigil's information so he will know when the meetings are and will be able to attend and represent North Conejos School District.

Kristin McCarroll expressed interest and appreciation that Centauri High School will be having a Course Fair, which is something new this year, to help students know what courses are offered, what they involve, and to help them have more interest in courses offered at the high school. Mrs. Montague and the counselors are trying to get interest and numbers up in courses at CHS. She will be sending a course catalogue to parents of CHS students.

Mr. Edgar will be setting up meetings with La Jara and Manassa Town Boards.

The Board will have a board work session on April 7, 2026 at 6:00pm. Strategic focus areas and policies will be discussed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2026-2027 Staffing Plan and Schedules
Darren went over the 2026-2027 staffing plan attached in the board packet. He plans to look at each employee and make sure they are licensed where needed. He briefly discussed potential open positions for next year and expressed the desire to fill the positions with highly qualified people. He discussed the

need to look at what is best for students in our employees. As Superintendent, Mr. Edgar wants to know what the administration needs are and then discuss realistically what can we do? Darren discussed absorbing a service tech and a possible classified position at the high school. We need to ask what support staff do we absolutely have to have? The district may reduce some classified staff and use attrition with professional staff as well. We need to make sure we have funding for staff and raises next year. Mr. Edgar will bring final recommendations to the Board in April for approval.

2026-2027 District Health Insurance Plan

Mrs. Gale Gallegos has been contacting health insurance brokers. We currently use CEC for our health insurance. Mr. Edgar and Gale will be meeting with Arnie soon to get a quote from CEC. SLV BOCES uses BTC for health insurance and Gale is getting more information from BOCES. ICHRA presented at the board meeting in February. Gale reached out to them to get more detailed information. Mr. Edgar has some concern with the district managing this plan and would like to hear an alternative. The ICHRA plan is mainly a single plan and employees will potentially add family members on their own. He is also somewhat concerned about this. As we get more information Darren will compare plans and get more information out. Darren suggested a possible survey of staff on the health insurance, but he needs more information before we send out a survey. Staff needs to be able to make a good decision on good information concerning health insurance. Darren expressed he has a lot to do before a recommendation can be brought to the board next month.

2026-2027 Salaries and Benefits

Mr. Edgar ran some rough estimates after looking at funding and budgets for next year and told the board that it didn't look great. He would like to give staff a cost of living increase, but asked for board input. He told board members that a 1% and step increase for certified staff would be around $160,000, a 2% and step will be around $210,000, a 3% and step will be around $260,000. We would need to add between $50,000 - $60,000 for administration and classified staff in addition to these numbers. Mr. Edgar will bring his recommendation to the board meeting in April.

Land Purchase

Mr. Edgar shared information with the board on the 35 acres behind the CHS/CMS site that Leroy Martinez is interested in selling. Board members wanted to know exactly what 35 acres of Mr. Martinez' land the school district is looking at. If the District purchased the land there was discussion on the road that would need to be built and maintained. Darren will check with the Martinez family and Conejos County on information, details, and potential cost of the road access. Darren will also work on getting photos of the Martinez property and county property next to the Martinez property. The board made no decisions, but will discuss the land purchase and road access at a work session on April 7th. Purchasing the 5 acres from Tom Davis was also discussed and the board felt that there was no real benefit to the district to purchase the 5 acres, but will discuss this as well at the work session.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA/CHANGES TO CONSENT AGENDA
A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the consent agenda, contingent on successful background checks on the coaches & substitutes, seconded by Tyler Buhr.

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

The motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS

Instructional Staff Assignments and Transfers
A motion was made by Jake Cary to approve the instructional assignments and transfers as presented with Kelly Wubben transferring from La Jara Elementary Physical Education to Centauri Middle School physical education teacher for the 2026-2027 school year, seconded by Kimberly Baroz.

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

The motion passed.

Outsourced Agreements/Proposals – (1) Steffens Quality Plumbing & Heating (2) Power School (3) Claro Vista Contracting (4) Town & Country
A motion was made by Nathan Coombs to approve the Steffens Quality Plumbing & Heating agreement for $17,000, Claro Vista Contracting for Centauri Middle School windows for $100,549, Town and Country for a Ford Expedition for $68,989 and tabling the agreement with Power School until we have more information, seconded by Jake Cary.

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

The motion passed.

Ratify Approval of School Closure on March 12, 2026
A motion was made by Tyler Buhr to ratify approval of school closure on March 12, 2026, seconded by Nathan Coombs.

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

The motion passed

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
Quarterly Report (full financial report)
La Jara Elementary Building
Work Session April 7, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Next regular board of education meeting will be April 21, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.