

NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
February 17, 2015
District Administration Building
6:30 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at the District Administration Office was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mark Bahr, President.

ROLL CALL

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, absent ; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Natalie Rogers, aye; Steve Sorensen, absent.

PREDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA/CHANGES TO CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mark Bahr to amend the consent agenda by moving item e, negative factor resolution, to item c in action items and moving item f, financial resolution, to item d in action items, seconded by Chuck Finnegan.

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, absent; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Natalie Rogers, aye; Steve Sorensen, absent.

The motion passed.

A motion was made by Joseph Baroz to approve the consent agenda items as presented, seconded by Mark Bahr. **(attachments #1 - #4)**

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, absent; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Natalie Rogers, aye; Steve Sorensen, absent.

The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

A motion was made by Joseph Baroz to approve the agenda with no additions, seconded by Chuck Finnegan.

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, absent; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Natalie Rogers, aye; Steve Sorensen, absent.

The motion passed.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No one signed up to address the board of education.

FALCON AWARD

The recipient of the Falcon Award this month is Randy Perea. Mr. Perea was not in attendance at tonight's board meeting, but he will be presented the award in front of students and staff at Manassa Elementary at a later date. Randy supports all kids and is very visible in school and at all Manassa Elementary school functions. He is a great contributor to the well-being of students and truly an asset to Manassa Elementary and the North Conejos School District.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ACTIVITIES

Achievement Reports: (attachment #7)

See attached Principal reports.

BOCES Report:

Mark Bahr reported that there was not a lot to bring back to the board. There was some discussion concerning the Race-To-The Top (RTTT) at the BOCES meeting.

NCEA Report:

John Camponeschi thanked the board and administration for a good first semester. He brought up the abundant amount of testing students have been required to participate in and says that the students and staff are working with it. He mentioned that all staff contributed to building a school calendar for next year and would like to get input from parents, DAC, and the community. NCEA would like to adopt a 2015-2016 calendar by the March board meeting. Mr. Camponeschi told the board that there was 50% participation in the Tel Survey that was distributed.

Insurance Presentation:

Mr. Vince Rogers and Mr. Mick Billstien gave the board a mid-term report on the district health insurance. Our district is 27% above expected projection at this point in the year. They are pleased with the way the plan is working thus far and told the board that we will have better information next year when we have more data to compare to. Mr. Wilson asked our insurance representatives for more information on preventative services and on the mail order prescription services to give to staff. He asked that they get that information to Gale Swafford.

Administration Report:

Curt Wilson told the board that CDE will be meeting February 18th and 19th to discuss student assessment in Colorado. They will be discussing the possible opt out of CMAS and other required testing of students. There is question to the legality of the 'opt out'. The testing situation in the state is pretty messy right now. There is entirely too much testing of students which takes away from student – teacher contact time. As a district we have decided to stay the course and follow the law concerning testing our students. Administration will try to educate parents on how the parent opt out will hurt the district.

There is still uncertainty on graduation guidelines with more to be announced by CDE.

Curt discussed the negative factor and is asking the board, parents, and community members to become informed and get involved. Information has been put on our web-site and a mailing will go out to all NCSd households this week. The superintendents in the valley have sent a letter to the state and are hoping this has some impact in reducing the negative factor.

Mr. Wilson discussed student attendance and found that the Monte Vista schools used a grant to finance their truancy policy and attendance issues. He has had discussion with Mr. Edgar of Sanford Schools and would like to pull Conejos County resources together to get things to happen with our truancy issues. There will be an IOG meeting on March 2nd with County resources to discuss this issue. Curt attended a court hearing to see how Judge Amanda Pearson handled truancy issues with the Monte Vista School District. He related that Judge Pearson held true to her word of supporting schools after they did their part to address the truancy issues.

The district did receive a CASB review of our district policy. It is very extensive and we will have to spend a good portion of our summer to update NCSd policy. There are 5 policies that are mandated by law that are missing from our policy and Curt will get those to the board before next month's meeting to preview and get them into our district policy. Our district policy has been neglected and requires much work to get it updated correctly.

Mr. Wilson appreciated the efforts NCEA has done on the 2015-2016 district calendar. He would like input from everyone working in the district, community, parents, etc. He stressed we need quality instructional days and doesn't want the calendar to distract from teaching. We do not want to do the minimum, but put a calendar together that will benefit the quality education of our students. He asked the board to e-mail him with any input they may have for the 2015-2016 calendar.

DISCUSSION ITEMS**CASB Winter Convention:**

Curt asked the board members to let him know if they are interested in attending the winter conference. Legislative day is March 18, 2015 if any board member is interested in attending.

Retirement Clarification: (attachment #8)

Please see attachment #8. Mr. Wilson told members the information is already contained in policy, but he just put that information on a one page document for staff information and clarification.

BEST Grant Presentation/Facility Assessment Overview:

Curt handed board members a BEST Grant handout to get them up to date on the grant thus far. The completed grant must be delivered to CDE by 4:00pm on February 27, 2015. We have a 99.99% chance of receiving the grant and he asked the board to give their approval in funding our portion of the grant should we be awarded the security grant. We need the updated security system to protect our greatest asset, our students and staff.

SRS Funds:

The SRS funds we receive each year from the forest service will not be issued in full to our district this year. There is a very small chance that the SRS funds will be attached to some bill, but this very unlikely. We need to build our budget in the future and not include these funds in our projected budget.

State Assessment/Graduation Guidelines:

This was previously mentioned in Mr. Wilson's administrative report. We may need to get creative with our guidelines. The current graduation guidelines will affect this year's sophomore class. We will need to develop our own plan with graduation guidelines in our district. As it currently stands, graduating seniors will need to score an 18 in reading and a 19 in math to receive their diploma. There is still much that is to be determined by the state.

North Property Purchase:

Curt has been told that NCSD will be given first opportunity to purchase the land north of CMS. He will receive a call or e-mail this week letting him know the terms of the property purchase.

Sound System:

Joseph Baroz has been distributing letters throughout the community to get donations for the new sound system in the CMS/District gym. Robert Chavez voiced his concern through Mark Bahr on the cost of the system. Joseph Baroz reminded the board that you get what you pay for and we want a system that will last for the long term. He suggested we wait and see how much support we can get in donations from the community and supporters of NCSD.

ACTION ITEMS**BEST Grant Approval:**

A motion was made by Joseph Baroz to approve funding for the BEST Grant as presented, seconded by Chuck Finnegan.

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, absent; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Natalie Rogers, aye; Steve Sorensen, absent.

The motion passed.

Day off Proposal: (attachment #9)

A motion was made by Joseph Baroz to approve the dismissal of school for all NCSD students/staff on February 20, 2015 to attend the state wrestling tournament, seconded by Chuck Finnegan.

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, absent; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Natalie Rogers, aye; Steve Sorensen, absent.

The motion passed.

Negative Factor Resolution: (attachment #5)

A motion was made by Chuck Finnegan to approve the resolution of the board of education of the North Conejos School District to restore the negative factor before providing TABOR refunds as a statewide priority, seconded by Joseph Baroz.

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, absent; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Natalie Rogers, aye; Steve Sorensen, absent.

The motion passed.

Financial Resolution: (attachment #6)

A motion was made by Mark Bahr to approve the resolution to authorize the use of a portion of the FY2014-15 beginning fund balance for the following funds: general fund, in the amount of \$361,000 for the purpose of covering the SRS revenue not received and monies owed to CDE for audit, seconded by Joseph Baroz.

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, absent; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Natalie Rogers, aye; Steve Sorensen, absent.

The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Joseph Baroz to go into executive session per CRS section 24-6-402 Sub 4R, to discuss privileged information and personnel issues, Curt Wilson was asked to attend, seconded by Mark Bahr.

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, absent; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Natalie Rogers, aye; Steve Sorensen, absent.

The motion passed.

The board met for 30 minutes in executive session; 10 minutes on topic one, 10 minutes on topic two, and 20 minutes on topic three.

Next Board meeting March 17, 2015 at 6:30pm.