

NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
October 18, 2016
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 6:33 pm by Mark Bahr, President.

ROLL CALL

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Steve Sorensen, aye.

PREDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA/CHANGES TO CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Garth Crowther to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Steve Sorensen. **(Attachments #1 - #5)**

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Steve Sorensen, aye.

The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

A motion was made by Steve Sorensen to approve the agenda with the addition of discussion item (h) Policy GBGG, action item (c) NCS D Food Service Director approval, and action item (d) NCS D Accreditation to be added to the agenda, seconded by Robert Chavez.

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Steve Sorensen, aye.

The motion passed

FALCON AWARD

The Falcon Award was presented to several students in the District who scored extremely well on the PARCC, CMAS and ACT tests. Denny Fringer presented the falcon awards to Lindsey Robins, Caleb Anderson and Troy Munson. Ricky Salazar presented the falcon awards to Olivia Trenholm, Damien Quintana and Parker Buhr. Tyler Huffaker presented the falcon awards to Naomi Trenholm and Malachi Anderson. Brian Loch presented the falcon awards to Madison Price, Jacy Sowards, Anita Ulmala, Melissa Wilson, Lauri Miller, Noah Sowards, McKenna Bagwell, Dylan Dunn, and Zach Jarvies. Susan Hamilton presented the falcon awards to Andrew Schwartz, Joseph Vigil and Jace Finehout. We are extremely proud of these students as we are of all students in the District, who take testing very seriously and do their best to represent themselves and their school district.

CDE REPRESENTATIVE – TINA GORA

Tina, CDE liaison, visited the District. North Conejos School District was “Accredited with Distinction” and only one of the 178 school districts in Colorado to receive this rating. Tina expressed that NCSD cares about students and is impressed with the Superintendent’s leadership and with the Administration. She stated that success takes in a lot of faces. Students need to achieve, but growth is very important, and that CMS knocked it out of the park with growth. She also stated that our graduation rate is exceptional and students are successful when they leave, and offered congratulations to North Conejos School District. She noted that leadership is in place and that the board appears to have respect in the leadership and staff of the district, and they (board) allows them to do their job. “Your focus is on the students – students are thought about first when decisions are made,” she continued. “When teachers believe that students will succeed the students believe that themselves, and your teachers should be proud for they are the bones of the skeleton. They motivate students to come to school and to succeed. “

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOE

Dustyn Sowards shared his Eagle Scout project with the board. His project involved improving the grounds at Manassa Elementary in terms of safety. The football field next to school property has a number of dogs on it and Dustyn put up a fence to separate the animals from the children. He installed a gate on the west side that was very narrow, not allowing easy evacuation, so he widened it to 10 feet. Dustyn also showed children in the school what to do if there was a fire or an emergency. He stated that just wanted to make the school a safer place for children.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ACTIVITIES

Achievement Reports: (Attachment #6)

See attached reports from building administrators.

BOCES Report:

Mark Bahr reported that BOCES is looking into individuals from Americore serving as teacher aides. They discussed the tiered graduation as well. BOCES is working on policy GBGG. Greater Education

Colorado will be doing a presentation on finances and he invited board members to attend. He reported the smaller districts in the valley are providing each student with a notepad/computer.

NCEA Report:

John Camponeschi and Bonnie Keller were in attendance representing NCEA. John apologized for NCEA absence for the past two months as they are going through a re-organization with NCEA in the District. NCEA is very happy with the NCS D accreditation and they want to recognize the kids and their accomplishment. He thanked parents for attending parent/teacher conferences. He stated that we have great kids and parents have a great part in their children's success. He also addressed the state budget shortfall in education, mentioning Colorado is at the bottom of states in per pupil funding. We make it work, but we need to send a message to the state legislature that we want to at least see funding stay steady, was his message.

Administration Report:

We are very proud of our kids! This district needs to take care of our kids and teachers. Mr. Wilson thanked the board for working with him and administration. He appreciates the principals and what they do as it is National Principal's month. On November 11th, during our staff development day, we will honor our staff with a meal at noon and Curt invited the board members to attend. Mr. Wilson will be sending a letter to our school community asking them to thank our teachers for doing a good job with our children.

Curt expressed appreciation to the Colorado State Patrol for their ongoing support. They have gone over the top to help us address safety needs. The District has given each state patrolman activity passes to all NCS D home activities.

The "North property" currently has offers made for acquisition. Curt is not sure the amount of those offers but will come up with a rational number to bid for the five acres. We have 18 days to make a decision on this property for this property is critical to our long term plan. The board will be contacted when Curt learns anything new or if our offer needs an increase.

NCS D in the middle of our annual financial audit and needs to make sure of our finances before we can make decisions on any repairs or updates in the district, as Curt outlined.

Mr. Wilson is working with the Joseph Valdez and the Conejos County Anti-drug Coalition. We don't want to throw more on the teacher's plates with some programs available, but need to educate our children when they are young so they can make informed choices and build resistance skills.

There is still more work to be done to complete the BEST security grant and that's why the grant is still open until sometime in December. We will need to use some beginning fund balance for the BEST grant, so the resolution adopted tonight will cover that amount.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Solar Garden Proposals

Two companies are interested in NCS D acceptance to their solar garden proposals. NCS D will let each continue to bid until we get the best offer possible. Offers have already gone from 5% to 10%. In consulting with the school attorney, Curt feels that the 20 year return frees money that can be used to fund other needs in the district. Mr. Wilson will give the board more information when he receives a final proposal.

Colorado School Finance

Three hand outs were given to the board to show data on the Colorado school finance. They included a 2016 state profile overview, Colorado data on teacher salaries turnover and cost of living, and nearby states spending more per pupil than Colorado. The US average per pupil spending increased \$556 per student from 2002-03 to 2012-13. Colorado spend \$703 fewer dollars per pupil in 2012-13 than in 2002-03 and Colorado currently ranks 47th in per pupil spending change. In 2013, Colorado spent \$2681 less per student than the US average. In 2003, Colorado spent \$551 less. Between 2003 and 2013, the gap between Colorado and the US average grew by \$2130.

CTE Protocols

The board was given CTE protocols by Mr. Wilson which he has been working on in the previous weeks. The packet includes a CTE work agreement (put in place to protect district and kids), student/parent waiver form, statement of acknowledgement (students sign when they complete safety training), and check lists to see that we are in compliance with all safety aspects.

Graduation Guidelines

Mr. Loch gave a brief overview of current and coming graduation guidelines. We as a district need to designate what we want for our guidelines and continue to mold what we want as an outcome. 29% of kids did not make the ACT cut according to recommended state guidelines, and these are the students we need to ensure have an opportunity to showcase their learning. Discussion ensued on what kind of diplomas we give; the same, different, with alternate graduate requirements, CTE certificates awarded? ICAP can be beneficial to help see where our kids fit or have strengths. It was felt by the board that one type of diploma be awarded to students that meets graduation requirements, and Mr. Wilson agrees that there is no compelling need for various diplomas as many ways are already designated for students to be recognized including National Honor Society, GPA recognition, and other factors.

School Performance framework/District Performance framework

Mr. Wilson handed the board a copy of the preliminary 2016 District Performance Framework. He asked the board to look at all of the “meets” in the ratings. Curt is extremely proud of our students and their accomplishments and commends the hard work and diligence of staff from making our students great and for the care they take to focus on the work.

NCS D Phone System

Curt told the board it has been 8 years since anything has been done to our current phone system. He received a quote of \$21,000 to catch the district up with our phones and asked the board for their okay to move ahead on the updating of the district phone system.

Discuss & Review Policies DAB, DAB-E, and DB for adoption or revision (Attachment #7)

These policies are “best practices” policies we need to adopt and revise.

Discuss and Review Policy GBGG

Curt told the board our auditors recommended revising this policy for audit purposes, in agreement with NCEA. Days paid out will be based on the rate of pay for a substitute. He asked policy GBGG be approved by the board on an emergency policy directive. Policy GBGG will then go through the formality of the approval process in the next 2 monthly board meetings.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution Authorizing the Use of a Portion of Beginning Fund Balance as Authorized by Colorado Statutes (Attachment #8)

A motion was made by Robert Chavez to approve the Resolution authorizing the use of a portion of beginning fund balance as authorized by Colorado Statutes, seconded by Chuck Finnegan.

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Steve Sorensen, aye.

The motion passed.

Discuss and Review Policies JLCDB & JLCDB-E for Adoption, for the second reading

A motion was made Steve Sorensen to approve policies JLCDB & JLCDB-E for adoption, for the second reading, seconded by Joseph Baroz.

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Steve Sorensen, aye.

The motion passed.

Approval of NCS Food Service Director

A motion was made by Robert Chavez to approve Amber Martinez as NCS Food Service Director, seconded by Chuck Finnegan.

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Steve Sorensen, aye.

The motion passed.

NCS Accreditation

A motion was made by Garth Crowther to approve the NCS Accreditation for Manassa Elementary, La Jara Elementary, Centauri Middle School and Centauri High School, seconded by Steve Sorensen.

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Steve Sorensen, aye.

The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Joseph Baroz to go into executive session with Mr. Wilson and others as needed, to discuss privileged information and personnel issues, seconded by Chuck Finnegan.

Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Steve Sorensen, aye.

The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Executive Session Topic 1 – 17 minutes

Executive Session Topic 2 – 3 minutes

The next regular board of Education meeting will be November 15, 2016 at 6:30pm.