

NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2014
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 p.m. by Mark Bahr, President.

ROLL CALL

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

PREDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

A motion was made by Steve Sorensen to approve the agenda, with the addition to the discussion items 12 e sound system for the district gym, seconded by Joseph Baroz

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

The motion passed.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No one signed up to address the board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Chuck Finnegan to approve the minutes for the regular board meeting on November 18, 2014 changing the next board meeting date to December 9, 2014, seconded by Robert Chavez. (attachment #1)

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

The motion passed.

FALCON AWARD

This month's falcon award was presented to Marjorie Reed, CHS teacher and FCCLA sponsor. Mrs. Reed gives many of our students the opportunity to see what life is like outside of the San Luis Valley through FCCLA. Students learn many life skills and learn to appreciate what we have here in the Valley by experiencing what there is out in the world. Her FCCLA students have gained experience in public speaking and learned many skills that will serve them well in life. Thank you to Marjorie for her many years of service to the school district and to our students.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ACTIVITIES

Achievement Reports: **(attachment #2)**

See attached Principal reports. Principals answered questions specific to their reports and added minor additional information not included in their reports submitted to the Board of Education.

BOCES Report:

Mark Bahr reported that BOCES is in the process of re-working policies to fit CASB. The BOCES group approved using a *consent* agenda and President Mark Bahr asked our board if this is something NCSD would like to implement; the response was affirmative to proceed with a *consent* agenda in subsequent board meetings. BOCES discussed sending staff to training instead of using SRO personnel for security within schools. There was discussion concerning school districts in the valley ordering commodities together for their food service programs to save costs for each district.

NCEA Report:

Bonnie Keller reporting for NCEA informed the board that quarter 2/semester 1 will be ending before Christmas break. NCEA asked the board for follow-up information on the grant writing for the football lights.

ACTION ITEMS:

Audit-Martinez & Associates **(attachment #3)** Complete Audit Reporting

A motion was made by Natalie Rogers to approve the annual financial audit for the 2013-2014 school year by Martinez & Associates as presented, seconded by Steve Sorensen.

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

The motion passed.

Mill Levies Approval –Assessed Valuation **(attachment #4)** Conejos and Alamosa Counties

A motion was made by Steve Sorensen to approve the proposed Mill Levies as presented, seconded by Chuck Finnegan.

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

The motion passed.

Coaching Approval (**attachment #4**)

A motion was made by Joseph Baroz to approve the coaches as presented, seconded by Mark Bahr. Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, abstain; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Natalie Rogers, aye; Steve Sorensen, aye.
The motion passed.

Maternity Leave Approval (**attachment #5**)

A motion was made by Robert Chavez to approve the requested maternity leave as presented, seconded by Joseph Baroz.
Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Natalie Rogers, aye; Steve Sorensen, aye.
The motion passed.

Substitute Approvals (**attachment #6**)

A motion was made by Natalie Rogers to approve the substitutes as presented, seconded by Joseph Baroz.
Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Natalie Rogers, aye; Steve Sorensen, aye.
The motion passed.

Administration Report:

Curt Wilson distributed copies of the fall 2014 **Minority Outreach Certificate of Merit** presented to the North Conejos School District and Curt Wilson. The certificate states that, "It is Mr. Wilson and the organization's committed action that keeps America the land of diversity, freedom and opportunity for all." **See attachment #7.**

A copy of the 2014-2015 school year state testing windows (TCAP, PARCC, ACT) was issued to the board for their viewing. Mr. Wilson discussed the tremendous pushback statewide and nationwide, with respect to concerned parents and students surrounding the excessive testing in the school systems and their overall effect on students and time otherwise utilized for direct instruction. Mr. Wilson also feels a concern with the amount of excessive assessment in our district, but we cannot afford to be non-compliant and for the time being will comply with CDE/State mandates. **See attachment #8**

Informational handouts were issued and discussed regarding TCAP, CMAS, and PARCC assessments in relation to where North Conejos School District stands in terms of state accreditation and will be this school year, affecting a two year status. Finalized district accreditation ratings were presented for the district (ACCREDITED) and for each individual school in North Conejos. **See attachment #9**

Actual documents giving explanation of the definition and exemplars of student engagement were shared which will be utilized in subsequent staff trainings. **See attachment #10**

The importance of guided practice (a focus in the district) in the classroom, given the latest research, was shared and discussed. This will also be used in subsequent staff trainings. **See attachment #11**

Clarification of late start times for high school in relation to NCSD school starting time was presented. Research indicates that our current starting times are absolutely in-sink with research and no discussion needs to ensue in terms of making changes. Mr. Wilson also presented the factors surrounding a change of school start times in the district as the egregious distance and lack of proximity, being a consolidated school district and the myriad of problems created by any changes. **See attachment #12**

School accreditation will be available online on December 10th via **SCHOOLVIEW** which can be found on the **CDE** website. CMS is now on **improvement** status rather than **priority improvement** status. **North Conejos Alternative Schools** was changed to an **IMPROVEMENT** status based on an appeal to CDE by Mr. Wilson and Mrs. Hamilton; the appeal consisted of a letter of explanation of circumstances. To recapitulate, the variances in local, change in curriculum and student make-up, and qualification of current administration and instructors. **See attachment #13**

North Conejos School District is now officially rated with **ACCREDITED** status. The goal is to be accredited with distinction. **See attachment #14**

A **consent agenda** was presented and discussed. The agenda format saves times in utilizing one vote instead of voting individually on agenda items. The consent agenda is successful when information is sent before board meetings and is viewed by board members prior to the meeting. **See attachment #15**

Graduation guidelines were discussed and in the fall of 2017 our current 9th grade students will have to meet certain criteria to graduate. They will need to score an **18** in English, a **19** in math, and Science is still TBD. The board is responsible for setting a plan as to what we are going to ask our students to do to meet the required guidelines. Higher education wants a validated diploma.

Mr. Wilson gave a power point presentation on our current calendar and our use of time with respect to interruptions. In good schools you have very little waste time. We want to go from good to great! Does our calendar reflect good use of our time with students? The only measurable difference in student achievement is time with a quality teacher. We do not have days built in our current calendar; we are doing minimum. We need to build a calendar to more effectively help our students to achieve great things. In building next year's calendar we need to consider what is best for kids, not what is best for vacation time.

Mr. Wilson met with Judge Amanda Pearson concerning student absences and truancy. Our district will implement a systematic approach into place and have an adopted process prior to sending students to truancy court. Monte Vista has the same process that is working for them and has shown dramatic improvements in attendance emphasizing the need to start earlier in a child's life with school attendance issues.

A Best Grant for a district security system was discussed, and a meeting with a 'ghost rider' was introduced. Mr. Wilson will be bringing a representative here onsite (Jan 20) to see what NCSD needs concerning a good system, and get the representatives' recommendations on how to utilize the Best Grant. If we are going to put in security systems in all buildings, we need to do it right by securing a system that works for the long term. Curt will be attending a meeting in May at CDE and also give a

short presentation concerning the Best Grant/needs of the district. He will bring information to the board for approval.

There is some litigation concerning schools in the valley that are not on the BEST health insurance plan. Mr. Wilson asked the board for direction in this matter. The question: Do we become a part in the litigation in hopes of obtaining a larger portion at a significant risk, or take the approximate \$22,000 offered and conclude this drawn out process. The board agreed to avoid useless litigation and proceed with the offered monies.

The district has contracted with a K-9 unit (InterQuest K-9) to make several unannounced and sporadic visits to all schools in an effort to eliminate any type of contraband on the premises. The K-9 dog/group has already made one visit and will be visiting the NCS D periodically during the remainder of the school year.

The Colorado State Patrol has made their presence known in our schools and Mr. Wilson thanks them for their efforts (a subsequent letter will be sent to Major Lawrence Martin). However, in an emergency situation it would take at least five minutes for law enforcement to arrive to one of our schools with the probability of a longer response time. Mr. Wilson asked the board to consider certain staff being lawfully trained to carry a firearm while on school premises. Curt will get information on this law/policy and its parameters, and make the recommendations for which personnel would be selected to be trained.

There will be a Christmas dinner on December 19th beginning at 4:30pm, and Mr. Wilson invited the board to attend.

Curt told the board that the district to suspend past financial maneuvers in the past and to look forward to current practices and open, transparent actions by current administration. NCS D will work towards the goal to solidify financial practices to work within a sound budget.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Staff Double Dip Policy Information:

In the December 11, 2012 board minutes Steve Sorensen moved to allow double dipping for one year at full rate, and then allowing the retiree to return for one year as a new employee at step six. The change will take affect beginning 2013-2014 school year, seconded by Joseph Baroz. The motion carried. NCS D will follow this process until the board makes other changes if necessary. All staff needs to be considered and a detailed look into the future concerning PERA 140/110. Curt will be talking with PERA on December 10, 2014 and he will bring answers to the board. Mr. Wilson will also articulate the approved policy and clean up the language of that given policy to meet satisfactory clarity.

10 Year Financial Plan:

NCS D needs to plan so the district can fiscally support district updates and physical/personnel needs and not just pays as we encounter district emergencies. Principals were asked to give Mr. Wilson staffing patterns in their respective buildings. District facilities need to be evaluated and we need to come up with a plan to keep the district in good shape. A sound look at the buildings in the district will ensue and a focus on making sure staff and students are safe will be a particular focus.

CASB Topics:

This was briefly discussed in Mr. Wilson's superintendent's report. Joseph Baroz reported that he has a better understanding of SB191 and what the teacher evaluation process involves.

Consent Agenda (See attachment #15):

This was previously discussed in the meeting.

Sound System:

Joseph Baroz presented the board with information for a new sound system in the district gym at CMS. Monte Vista used this company for their new sound system that Joseph got quotes from and they have been pleased with their system. It would cost the district \$23,769 for the new system and Joseph brought out that we could get donations for the new system to cut the district's costs of the new system.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion passed.

The board met for 40 minutes in executive session. Twenty-two minutes on the first topic and eighteen on the second subject ensued.

NEXT REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 20, 2015 AT 6:30 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT