

**NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J**  
**REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
NOVEMBER 18, 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; Natalie Rogers, absent; Steve Sorensen, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye.

**PREDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

A motion was made by Robert Chavez to approve the agenda, with the tabling of item 12 c, superintendent evaluation, until the January board meeting, 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.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

No one signed up to address the board.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Joseph Baroz to approve the minutes for the regular board meeting on October 21, 2014 changing the BOCES report to read Mark Bahr reported that the next meeting will be November 19, 2014, seconded by Steve Sorensen (attachment #1) Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz, aye; Robert Chavez, aye; Natalie Rogers, absent; Steve Sorensen, aye, Chuck Finnegan, aye.  
The motion passed.

#### APPROVAL OF BILLS

A motion was made by Steve Sorensen to approve the bills for the month of October 2014 totaling \$121,716.19, seconded by Joseph Baroz. (attachment #2)

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

The motion passed.

#### FALCON AWARD

This month's falcon award was presented to Wendy Helms, director of Little Treasures. Wendy takes great care of kids and runs a quality program. She secured 10 E slots, which made it possible for NCS D to hire 2 kindergarten teacher aids. Larry, Wendy's husband, has been great support to his wife and to the District for many years. He also received the falcon award.

#### DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ACTIVITIES

Achievement Reports: (attachment #3)

See attached Principal reports.

District principals reported on last year's CMAS results at their respective buildings. Please see Ricky Salazar's hand out on LJE results. He noted that there is new terminology on this report that has changed from past results. Denny Fringer reports that ME scores are very comparable with the state averages. He emphasized that ME does not teach to the test; they just teach all around and score well. Please see ME hand out with ME results. Tyler reported via power point showing where strengths and weaknesses were on standards taught at CMS. He wants to look for growth with each student. Having access to these reports helps teachers to know where they need to work and what they need to cover better. Mr. Huffaker appreciates the vertical planning going on in the District this year. Brian Loch at CHS just completed CMAS testing his Seniors and ASVAB testing his Juniors this week and will get data to the board next month.

Joseph Baroz, in reading the principal reports, is amazed at how much is going on within the buildings in the District. An asset to this school year has been the inclusion of Boettcher students in all of the schools in the District. JoAnn Ruybal's participation in the Veteran's Day Parade and the band concert that evening for our Veteran's was outstanding. Mrs. Ruybal does an excellent job with our students.

BOCES Report:

Mark Bahr reported that the next meeting will be November 19, 2014. He will share information at the December board meeting.

NCEA Report:

Bonnie Keller reporting for NCEA voiced concerns with student absences. NCEA met with Mr. Wilson to discuss attendance concerns and Mr. Wilson gave a number of suggestions which the group approved of. The retirement (double dipping) policy was discussed and NCEA would like to have the number of years that they can double dip extended.

Administration Report:

Mr. Wilson reported that concrete is currently being poured at the NCAP building (635 Main).

Curt gave thanks to all district employees for working together. The administrative team works together for the good of the district; they are not merely working with their respective buildings. He gave thanks to all district employees for their efforts in making NCSD a positive and great place to be.

Attachment #4 is a statement of school funding from Superintendents throughout the state. The schools in the state of Colorado are banding together to communicate the need for adequate funding to carry out the important work of educating students. All valley schools are in the same predicament. Enrollment is shrinking in rural communities and this has greatly affected school funding.

Attachment #5 is a letter to state legislators communicating the need to advocate for public education. Significant progress can be made in the coming legislative session to address the issue of school funding in Colorado.

Attachment #6 is to inform the board of educational trends. Testing seems to be an issue on many parents, teachers, administrator, and student minds. Mr. Wilson emphasized the importance of keeping teachers in the classrooms to teach and not have them doing other things that pull them away from what is important...learning.

Attachment #7 alluded to several articles state wide regarding the fact that many districts have protests daily from parent groups and from high school seniors who have declined to participate in the states 12<sup>th</sup> grade assessment. Express gratitude to CHS seniors who chose to participate and do what was asked rather than create a difficult situation.

Attachment #8 is a new reference to an article in the Denver Post that declared a new law suit against the state of Colorado. This law suit unlike some that have been dismissed prevailed and will go to the next level in state courts. The law suit is another attempt to force the legislature to abide amendment 23 and adequately fund education in Colorado by being obedient to the law that was passed.

NCSD has contracted with Interquest K-9 to come into the schools. NCSD and two other districts are banding together to bring the K-9 dog here which will save money for each of the districts. Drugs are in our schools and this seems to be a problem everywhere. Prescription drugs and heroin seem to be a big concern at the moment. The K-9's come randomly with no prior knowledge of their coming. A mailing was sent to all homes in the district informing parents/guardians of the K-9 visits.

There will be a UIP (unified improvement plan) workshop this Friday, November 21. At the present time no schools in the district are on a UIP, but we will still attend the workshop. Our North Conejos Alternative Program is working with the state to get a designation. Mrs. Hamilton is using district data that will be fair to students. Thanks to Susan Hamilton for her hard work in this area.

Our district calendar shows a five day Thanksgiving break. In past years we have only had a three day break. It seems that people/families want a jump start on their Thanksgiving vacation and even with the five day break, word is that people will be leaving on the Thursday/ Friday before break. We need to consider this when the calendar is set up for next year. No matter the number of days given, more will be taken and we need to evaluate classroom time. Students need to be engaged to the very last day before breaks.

Curt brought up that our sliding enrollment size is affected by the economy in our area. More families are moving to find work; thus we are losing enrollment.

Mr. Wilson would like to discuss a 5 year plan for the district once the audit is complete. He asks input from administration as to the needs in the buildings and in the district.

The CASB convention is December 4 – 7 and reservations and registrations are ready to go.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### Best Grant:

The individual over the Best Grant will be coming to NCSD after Thanksgiving break. His visit will give us the best opportunity to receive the grant and he will give suggestions as to what our needs are concerning a good security system and how to go about receiving funds for this.

### Double Dipping:

In all conversations with PERA they ask that we not use the term double dipping and use the term “from regular to retiring status”. Present understanding is that staff is allowed to “double dip” for one year in the NCSD. It was brought out that we need to do something to take care of people that take care of our kids; however, we need a limit to be fair to everyone employed in the district. We need to take care of those that have been here, but also want those just starting out to have something down the road. CASB should address this topic in their conference in December. Mr. Wilson would like to chart where our staff is right now and has been asked to get more information from PERA. Once we get the report from the auditor, we need to make a good sound decision as to what is best for our district. Lots of information will help us make a good decision for the long range; not just for today.

### Student Absent Policy:

Curt asked for and received many policies from other districts. All policies were pretty much as NCSD policy which follows Colorado policy JH or JHK. It states that students are truant at 10 absences. If we do something more than State policy, Colorado state law will not hold up in court. It was suggested that we involve the Twelfth Judicial District much sooner with students not attending school. For example: at XX days this is what is going to happen. Curt would like to see more and quicker intervention. Mr. Wilson asked the board if he could write this policy change and bring it to the board for approval.

### Building Use Policy (attachment #9):

There is no designation of use (open-semi-full) in policy at this time. We need to declare this so that use of NCSD buildings will have no improper use that is in conflict with school ideals. Mr. Wilson would like to change the language of the policy to keep things on the up and up. There is nothing in past minutes that states there has been a building agreement policy change. There was discussion, but no decision or vote of any changes being made. The buildings are for public use. Mr. Wilson asked for clarification from the board as to our building use policy. We need to be consistent with each group that asks to use district buildings. We cannot give one group privileges that another must abide by or a huge mess will be created down the road. There was discussion concerning custodians covering events and how and who was to pay for their time. Custodians and cooks should be contacted by the entity signing the contract to arrange for coverage. It was decided to table any changes on the building use policy until next month. We will follow the current building use policy as it is written until any policy changes have been made by the board.

#### Audit:

The audit should be ready and will be reported at the next board meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup>. The auditor will give details at that time. Mr. Wilson informed the board that general fund will have to incur the following expenditures: \$124,00 – food service, \$68,00 – federal programs, \$45,000 – activities. Mr. Wilson would like to wipe the slate clean and quit getting written up. He would like to start fresh next year. The board will have to come up with an appropriate resolution after the audit is complete.

#### 104 Spruce:

The bus garage will have to have an air filtration system installed to be compliant. The estimated cost to make things compliant at the bus garage is \$19,000. We will complete the North Conejos Alternative Building before beginning work at the bus garage.

#### Evaluation/RANDA:

There is no cost or up-keep for the RANDA program. The program focuses on elements that still count. It should be used as an opportunity to get better and to improve. Tina Gore will be taking the data we have and will apply it correctly to teacher evaluations

#### CASE Policy Review:

CASB will be contacting NCSD to review our district policy per our request. We are on a short list and should be contacted sometime in December.

#### Future SLVRTTT:

Some of those attending SLVRTTT feel that it is getting redundant and that there has not been real effective discussion. We have held staff development within our district so far this year and have sent some representatives to the SLVRTTT. What is presented there isn't always what we do or what is best for the kids in our district.

#### SRO/MOU Sites:

These are designated sites for parent/student re-unification. The Manassa Elementary's site is the Denny Fringer residence and the LDS church in Manassa. The LaJara Elementary site is the Curt Wilson home and the park in LaJara. The CMS/CHS sites are the Davies property North of CMS and the County property South of the CHS football field.

#### Government Budget/State Financing:

This was covered in the administration report by Mr. Wilson

#### CHSAA By-Law Proposals (attachment #10):

See Attachment. Currently there is no contact between coaches and players on Sunday. Curt asked the board for feedback on this issue. How do we keep coaches from coaching on Sunday? The board expressed that kids need a break and we need to leave Sunday alone. Families need more family time. No coach contact was recommended.

## ACTION ITEMS:

### Coaches (attachment #11)

A motion was made by Steve Sorensen to approve the coaches as presented, 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.

### Substitute Approvals (attachment #12):

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

### Out of Valley Trip Request Approval (attachment #13)

A motion was made by Steve Sorensen to approve the out of valley trip request for Luis Romero and 6 CHS students to attend a UTI competition on December 5,6, & 7 in Arizona, 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.

### Maternity Leave Request(attachment #14)

A motion was made by Joseph Baroz to approve the maternity leave request for Dayna Sowards, seconded by Steve Sorensen. Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz,aye; Robert Chavez,aye; Natalie Rogers, absent; Steve Sorensen, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye.  
The motion passed

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Joseph Baroz 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 Steve Sorensen. Mark Bahr, aye; Joseph Baroz,aye; Robert Chavez,aye; Natalie Rogers, absent; Steve Sorensen, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye.  
The motion passed.

NEXT REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 9, 2014 AT 6:30 P.M.

## ADJOURNMENT