

NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

June 23, 2020

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 6:32 pm by Joseph Baroz, President

ROLL CALL

Joseph Baroz, aye; Tanner Bagwell, absent; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Brandon Thomas, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

PREDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA/CHANGES TO CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mary Jane Valdez to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Brandon Thomas.

Joseph Baroz, aye; Tanner Bagwell, absent; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Brandon Thomas, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

A motion was made by Brandon Thomas to approve the agenda with the addition of action item 11e, maximum price early site amendment by Bradbury Stamm, seconded by Chuck Finnegan.

Joseph Baroz, aye; Tanner Bagwell, absent; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Brandon Thomas, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

The motion passed.

FALCON AWARD

None

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ACTIVITIES**Principals Reports**

Katie Montague reported the CHS registration will be on-line this year. Brad Huffaker reported that he is working with Viaero in getting a special promotion for internet hot spots for NCS D students. Susan Hamilton reported that Federal Programs and Title programs application will be completed this week with a possible revenue of 400 plus thousand dollars. Ricky Salazar reported that the ELAC grant was approved and this would get us enough for dibbles licensing for all elementary students this coming year.

BOCES Report

Brandon Thomas reported that he missed the meeting, but COVID and budget cuts were discussed. The new SPED director was introduced at the meeting and Tina Gore will be the new BOCES director for the coming year.

NCEA Report

None

Administration Report

Mr. Wilson reported that our workman's comp costs will be down this year from 40K to 26K.

He gave board members information on 271, Gallagher, and the nicotine tax. He asked board members to see him if they want more information on these.

The board will need to have a special meeting in June to approve the 20-21 budget.

(Tanner Bagwell in at 6:46 p.m.)

Mr. Wilson is meeting weekly with the BEST people. We will need to set a date and time for a ground breaking ceremony for the new high school.

We may need to revise our attendance policy if we have a hybrid plan for school next year.

It is a good thing we got the BEST grant when we did as funds are not now available from the State.

Both irrigation and drinking water pumps are out and we are just now getting parts in and people to program the sprinklers and pumps.

Mr. Wilson opened up any questions concerning our health insurance to board members. Gale Gallegos is in attendance to answer any questions the board may have concerning our health insurance.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

20-21 Budget Presentation

Mr. Wilson told board members that it has been very frustrating trying to set a budget for the 20-21 school year with all the COVID stuff going on. We set a balanced budget the best could with what we know at this time. We support everyone in our district; we're all in.

Mr. Wilson presented a power point on our 20-21 budget. NCS D was cut 15% mostly due to COVID. We have been able to keep all our personnel and given staff a step as well. There will be a multi-year cut due to the BS factor. ESSER (COVID) funding is approximately \$240,00 and we will know more about the funding details at a later date. It seems to be more flexible in how we use it. CARES funding is around \$640,000 with a thirty-six page list of what we can do and how we can spend it. It is more stringent. We should be getting Small Rural Schools funding and that is tied to the nicotine tax. We did get \$164,000 in SRS funds. We went with a conservative roll over in making the 20-21 budget.

BEST Update

Work on the BEST high school project is progressing.

School Re-Open Plan

Colorado Governor Polis is saying that school should open in the Fall with some guidelines. Mr. Wilson was asked by the Valley Superintendents to draft a letter to be submitted to the State. Mr. Wilson asked for board input and all board members felt we needed to go ahead with the letter and the plan to bring students back full-time. The plan involves a return to in person, on site instruction while instituting all possible safety precautions feasible to combat any spread of the COVID-19 virus that has negatively impacted student instruction and activities to a measurable extent. With appropriate and proactive protocols, and by strict adherence to measures outlined, a return to in person instruction can be done in consideration with the health, safety and welfare of our entire school community.

Tax Initiative #271

Mr. Wilson asked for board input concerning tax initiative 271. This initiative would have those making over \$250,000/year pay more taxes and it would give breaks for the middle to lower tax payers. The initiative does have language in it that leans towards education. Most board members were against the initiative.

Nicotine Tax

The language says that funding will go towards rural schools. Most board members support the nicotine tax.

Gallagher Amendment

After discussing the Gallagher amendment most board members were against it.

CHSAA Directives

Mr. Wilson gave board members CHSAA commissioner's update by Rhonda Blanford-Green. CHSAA submitted a proposal to the Governor's team to separate education-based athletics/activities from youth, recreational and club sports in future state guidelines and recommendations. Education-based/Interscholastic program operational standards and administrative oversight are much different than the aforementioned groups. CHSAA is requesting more autonomy to work directly with the state to adopt guidelines that would protect the Association's interests for resuming all 29 CHSAA sanctioned programs as well as additional co-curricular local offerings (marching band, drama productions, robotics, knowledge bowl, etc.). CHSAA is proceeding with guidelines and standards for resuming fall sports on their designated start dates. They gave an important disclaimer; state decisions can disrupt the best intended plans, so although we are moving forward, we will adhere to the Governor's and CDHE safety guidelines.

ACTION ITEMS

2nd Reading for Emergency Policies BEAA & BEDA-E

A motion was made by Garth Crowther to approve the 2nd reading for emergency policies BEAA & BEDA-E, seconded by Chuck Finnegan.

Joseph Baroz, aye; Tanner Bagwell aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Brandon Thomas, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

The motion passed.

Staff Resignations

A motion was made by Brandon Thomas to approve the resignations of Margaret Muniz, CHS Math teacher, and Jeff Brown, CHS Boys basketball coach, seconded by Mary Jane Valdez.

Joseph Baroz, aye; Tanner Bagwell aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Brandon Thomas, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

The motion passed.

New Staff Approval for 20-21 School Year

A motion was made by Garth Crowther to approve new 20-21 staff Rebecca Lopez, Manassa Elementary teacher, and Thomas Roberts, CHS Wood Shop teacher, seconded by Tanner Bagwell.

Joseph Baroz, aye; Tanner Bagwell aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Brandon Thomas, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

The motion passed.

Adopt 20-21 Proposed Budget

A motion was made by Chuck Finnegan to approve the adoption of the 20-21 proposed budget as presented, seconded by Brandon Thomas.

Joseph Baroz, aye; Tanner Bagwell aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Brandon Thomas, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

The motion passed.

Maximum Price Early Site Amendment by Bradbury Stamm

A motion was made by Brandon Thomas to approve the maximum price early site amendment by Bradbury Stamm, seconded by Tanner Bagwell.

Joseph Baroz, aye; Tanner Bagwell aye; Garth Crowther, aye; Chuck Finnegan, aye; Brandon Thomas, aye; Mary Jane Valdez, aye.

The motion passed.

No executive session needed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next special board of education meeting to adopt the 2020-2021 budget will be held virtually on June 29, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Next regular board of education meeting will be Tuesday August 18, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.