

**MONTEZUMA-CORTEZ SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1**  
**Tuesday, April 19, 2022**  
**400 N. Elm Street, Cortez, CO 81321**

**MINUTES**  
**Board Meeting 6:00 PM**

**Board Attendance:**

Sheri Noyes, President, District F  
Sherrri Wright, Vice-President, District C  
Jeanette Hart, Treasurer, Director District B  
Stacey Hall, Secretary, Director, District D  
Ed Rice, Director, District E  
Cody Wells, Director, District A  
Layne Frazier, Director District G  
Avery Wright, M-CHS Student Rep.  
Amita Crowley, M-CMS Student Rep.

**Absent:****Administration Attendance:**

Tom Burris, Interim Superintendent  
Jim Parr, Exe. Director of Academics  
Kyle Archibeque, Exe. Director of Finance  
Cynthia Eldredge, Exe. Director of Human Resources  
Debra Ramsey, Exe. Assistant  
Katie Nelson, Principal  
Robbin Lewis, Interim Principal  
Robert Laymon, Principal  
Angela Sauk, Principal  
Drew Pearson, Principal  
Eric Chandler, Principal

**1. Call to order**

- a. The meeting was called to order by President Sheri Noyes at 6:00 PM.

**2. Pledge to Flag**

- a. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America was led by President Sheri Noyes.

**3. Executive Session: Pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(c) the board will consider application materials and letters of reference pertaining to the candidates for Superintendent.**

Director Hall made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(c); the board will consider application materials and letters of reference pertaining to the candidates for Superintendent. Hall invited the board and Mrs. Eldredge. The motion was seconded by Vice President Wright.

Aye: Frazier, Hall, Hart, Noyes, Rice, Wells, and Wright Nay: None. Motion carried.

They adjourned to this executive session at 6:04 PM.

The executive session ended at 6:35 PM and the board meeting restarted at 6:37 PM. President Noyes announced that no decisions had been made in the Executive Session.

**4. Set the Agenda**

Vice President Wright moved to set the agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Hart. Mrs. Ramsey clarified for the board that the agenda item listed as item 13 (i) (g) should read GBE instead of BGE.

Aye: Frazier, Hall, Hart, Noyes, Rice, Wells and Wright Nay: None. Motion carried.

**5. Student Presentation: M-CHS Student Government**

Avery Wright, Student Government President introduced Emma Olson and the other juniors that worked to build the presentation since the seniors were working on Honors Presentations. The juniors explained to the board their group would be showing a slideshow of all the clubs and activities at M-CHS. They had added two fake clubs to see if the board could figure out which ones were which. They highlighted all the events happening at M-CHS. Director Frazier guessed both incorrect clubs. The board thanked the student for the nice presentation.

**6. Approval of Minutes for March 15<sup>th</sup> Executive Session, March 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, April 5<sup>th</sup> Executive Session, April 5<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting, and April 15<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting.**

Director Rice made a motion to approve the minutes from March 15<sup>th</sup> Executive Session, March 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, April 5<sup>th</sup> Executive Session, April 5<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting, and April 15<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice President Wright.

Wright asked for 2 small typos to be fixed in the 3/15/22 meeting notes on item 8 and item 9.

Aye: Frazier, Hall, Hart, Noyes, Rice, Wells and Wright Nay: None. Motion carried.

**7. Celebration Reports**

Vice President Wright said the Honor's Diploma Presentations were great.

Director Hall said Girls Golf was doing well and Girls Soccer was undefeated!

Director Rice gave a shout out to Nicolaus Sandner for his work on Mary Poppins. Mr. Rice had been on a nice tour of Pleasant View School and was grateful.

President Noyes said Prom was a huge hit and Avery Wright thanked Ms. Murphy for her hard work on the Prom and said the students had a great time.

**8. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Burris submitted his report to the board. A handout of the staff responses to the 5 card meetings was given to the board. He introduced Robbin Lewis to the Board as the new Interim Principal at Manaugh. He highlighted from his report that he had met with all the school's staff twice, except Beech was Thursday. The newly formed Superintendent's Advisory Committee has met, and the notes go out tomorrow to the staff on that. They will meet 2 more times this year. Burris attended the Rural Alliance Zoom, Professional Practices Committee, and Superintendent's meeting with PCC. He thanked the Executive Team for all their hard work. Burris highlighted reaching out on a new "grow your own" program to build teachers out of the current support staff. Mr. Burris mentioned he was working on these items: graduation prep, SCA meetings, send out covenants, finish up 5 card meetings, and visit with Councilmen Whiteskunk and Wall about connectivity in Towaoc.

**Staff Reports – Eldredge:**

Mrs. Eldredge submitted her report to the board. She reports being busy with the Superintendent's Search. Human Resources has seen a positive outlook towards salary schedule changes. Use of the Tell-a-health option was up 28%. USI has been prepping the benefits guide for open enrollment then will put together offers for the district to consider.

Mrs. Eldredge highlighted School Nurse Karen Maxwell and read a comment from Health Services Director Jaclyn Hall with praise for Maxwell's level of care and kindness to students and was grateful for her being added to the staff. A COVID update was given with the last reported case being a month ago. The County was no longer providing an out for reporting, but Health Services is tracking necessary information. Parents must now notify the school of a positive case.

Human resources have been focusing on staff openings, recruitment with Talent Ed, and the new Grow Your Own" opportunities. Eldredge reported Katie Schritche would be our Summer School Administrator this year. In support of the work Mrs. Schritche has done with internships at the high school, Mrs. Eldredge attended an interview skills workshop with other community members. Eldredge said contracts will be out in May once approved by the board.



She invited Ray Lopez to give an update on the projects. Lopez reported a 60ft section of track will be replaced under the warranty. There is no “wear” layer, which improves the warranty – It should be considered. Lopez met with Drew Pearson to find a spot to store supplies for the roof project. Those items will go on the tennis courts at M-CMS. Lopez had a HVAC walk through with the engineers at M-CMS, both companies are working together well. Mesa Flooring starts on May 6<sup>th</sup> and roof as soon as school gets out. The new furniture is coming and will be put together by the vendor. Lewis-Arriola roof claim may start too if materials are available.

**Archibeque:**

Mr. Archibeque submitted his report to the board. He highlighted that budget scenarios will be given at the work session in May, but it looks like we can expect \$780 extra this year per pupil from the state. The state projects we will be down by 30 students next year. The district’s current budget is 75% spent, and the district is keeping the self-insurance on its radar.

Pleasant View and Manaugh Building Assessments were compiled from 2 different companies. The team looking at this needs to meet, then Mr. Archibeque will report the findings to the Board.

Finance is still finalizing the proposed salary schedule for next year mostly focusing on secretarial, counselor, and technology. Archibeque has requested more time to prep this from Mr. Burris. He feels much better about the district taking this on now that he sees the final numbers coming in. He feels good that the district can sustain these salary schedules.

Capital projects: Archibeque reported that the M-CHS practice field has been deemed unsafe. A back up plan has been put into place until August. There are 2 options to fix the problems: new sod (approx. \$300,000 + future water bills) or artificial turf approx. \$600,000 no watering. There could be grant opportunities and one suggestion was to work with the city on water costs by sharing space with Youth Football. Other upcoming requests will be highlighted under the action items.

**Parr:**

Mr. Parr submitted his report to the board. He said the school principals would be presenting their UIP’s (Unified Improvement Plans). The deadline for UIP’s has been moved up by the state so next year we will do this in October. He highlighted that the new K-5 ELA curriculum materials would be here before the end of the year. Work is being done and staff meetings to set up a K-12 assessment platform tool. This will assist the district in looking at students across the district. Also, Parr reviewing our current elementary report cards to see if they are effective. Parr reported testing was underway, with Thursday being the last day. He noted that the principals were doing a great job and some schools were already done, and that the PSAT/SAT were finished. He highlighted that principal mentoring was continuing.

CMAS data from 2020-2021 will be different since not all areas were tested due to the pandemic. The data will not represent the district as a whole, or our online students at the time. We will have a new baseline this year which will help us restart.

**9. School UIP Presentations:**

Mr. Parr provided the School Board Directors with a 2019 Performance Framework for the district from School view on the state’s website followed by an executive summary of the district’s Unified Improvement Plan for 2021-2022 and one for each school. Each principal spoke on their school’s goals, how they were working to meet these goals, and reported on different programs they are using in their buildings. Mesa Elementary additionally, showed a power point on their SIPPS (Systematic Instruction in Phonological Awareness, Phonics, & Sight words) program and M-CMS gave a data handout to the board. Parr presented on behalf of Manaugh, then thanked the principals for their presentations. The board applauded the presentations.

**10. Board Requests/Reports**

Director Hall reported her trip to Denver for CHSAA Legislative Counsel was tomorrow. She highlighted pending issues with Co-Op Schools sharing enrollment and dwelling enrollment in sports programs.

Rice and Wright had both attended the Rural Roundtable this week (virtually). And there was discussion about upcoming issues and legislation.

Burris reported that he and Mr. Archibeque had met with the City of Cortez to finalize the Memorandum of Understanding contract and that wellness programs had been discussed including possible rec center reduce rates for staff.

11. **Citizens Address the Board** \* 1 Hour limit (3 minutes each / Must turn in a filled-out ticket)

**MB McAfee, community member:** She said the district had lots to celebrate. She was glad to see the new salaries for staff and hoped that continued down the road. Pending policy GBE about staff participation in political activities concerned her. She said it stifles teachers. She found a better version she will share with Mr. Burris.

**Katherine Foster:** Mary Poppins presentation at the high school was spectacular. She was thankful for the district’s ongoing support for the Southwest Colorado Concert Series. She had questions about the proposed new policy. She said it may be too broad to interrupt. How did it apply to bumper stickers, social media, etc. This may stifle teachers and cause unnecessary interruptions.

**Mike Lavey, Mayor:** He wished to express his sincere appreciation for the teacher’s hard work this year and praise for their resilience. Thank you all.

**Adrianna Thomas, parent:** She was concerned about the Manaugh principal being let go. She had been warned about the challenges at Manaugh but that seemed to have changed. She observed that test scores there had improved. She said the principal had been great to work with. It looks poorly on the district when we part with good people when retention is a big problem. She said her son saved a birthday party invite for the principal.

**Sarah Collins, parent:** She was concerned about the accountability of the Interim people being hired by the district. Who will be held accountable when they are gone? She talked about an instance with her student. She said the district was not following the settlement agreement. She had liked the working relationship that was in place with the Principal and Teacher prior to the changes. She said the district needs permanent people in place and communication needs fixed.

**Janet Hough, Parent:** Hough questioned what happened to cause the district to be considering pending policy GBE. Hough was disappointed in the Board; this was a punishment. She felt that this policy makes teachers into robots and did not including the board in its wording. Hough said board members that signed recall petition was unethical. Hough discussed issues from a CORA request.

**Lynette Ward, parent:** Ward had been researching Dolores Schools and 70 of our upper grade students had moved there. This is happening with both teachers and students. The powerful partnerships the district has are hurting us. She visited Dolores and children there were happy, and visitors are welcomed. The students were decorating the walls with their artwork. Loosing students is costing the district a million a year. Ward wants her daughter to succeed. Politics and sexuality have no place in a school at all.

President Noyes called for a brief break at 8:51 PM.

The meeting was restarted at 9:03 AM.

12. **Discussion Items: N/A**

**13. Action Item:****a. CASB Policy Review (tabled)**

Mr. Burris suggested we leave this tabled. He was still working with CASB on it. President Noyes said this will remain tabled.

**b. Consent Calendar (see list)**

Mr. Burris recommended the board accept the current consent calendar. Director Wells made a motion to approve the consent calendar and Vice President Wright seconded the motion.

Aye: Frazier, Hall, Hart, Noyes, Rice, Wells, and Wright Nay: None. Motion carried.

**c. Resolution for Appointment of Superintendent for 2022-2023**

Mr. Burris recommended that the Board consider the resolution for Appointment for Superintendent for 2022-2023. Director Wells moved to have the Superintendent's position stay open. Vice President Wright seconded the motion. Mrs. Wright said that Mr. Prop was personable but had only been in small districts. Director Rice felt the same way, and said Props was not the right person for the district. Director Hart agreed. President Noyes reported that the community committee's pros and cons aligned with the board. Noyes also wanted to leave the position open. Director Wells said we would be better served to continue the process. Wells said Mr. Prop was a good guy, but not a good fit.

Aye: Frazier, Hall, Hart, Noyes, Rice, Wells, and Wright Nay: None.

Motion carried; no resolution was filled out.

**d. Board & Superintendent Covenants**

Mr. Burris presented the Board & Superintendent Covenants in their packets. HE pointed out that if approved he wished to share the information with the staff. Vice President Wright made a motion to approve the Board and Superintendent Covenants, and Director Wells seconded the motion. Noyes reported that she sees all the changes that were discussed. Director Wells pointed to a few typos that still need corrected.

Aye: Frazier, Hall, Hart, Noyes, Rice, Wells, and Wright Nay: None. Motion carried.

**e. Move May 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting to May 16<sup>th</sup>**

President Noyes said that it was suggested the Board move their May meeting from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> because of the M-CHS Awards Night and other events going on throughout the district. Vice President Wright made a motion to move the meeting date from May 17<sup>th</sup> to be May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Director Hart seconded the motion. President Noyes said it was going to be a very busy week.

Aye: Frazier, Hall, Hart, Noyes, Rice, Wells, and Wright Nay: None. Motion carried.

**f. School Board Meeting Calendar 2022/2023**

Mr. Burris recommended for the Board to approve the proposed School Board Calendar for the 2022/2023 school year. Director Wells made a motion to approve the calendar as presented. Director Rice seconded the motion. Mrs. Ramsey explained that the calendar was built with meetings to land on the third Tuesday on the month with the acceptance of March which had to be moved to the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday because of spring break. A conversation about graduation week activities was had and once it was decided there were no overlaps the President Noyes called for the question.

Aye: Frazier, Hall, Hart, Noyes, Rice, Wells, and Wright Nay: None. Motion carried.

**g. Capital Reserve Requests****a. M-CMS Concession Wall \$13,000**

Read by Kyle Archibeque and recommended by Mr. Burris for a wall to be built in the concession area at M-CMS. Director Wells made a motion to approve the Capital Reserve request of \$13,000 to build a wall in the concession area of M-CMS. Vice President Wright seconded the motion. Archibeque reported having issues at M-CMS in the area called concession area that leaving no area for away teams and refs. The districts crew will build it but there is some cost involved because a current sprinkler must be moved and some electrically upgrades for crockpots, etc. Mr. Pearson reported that this is due to the Middle School adding a position of trainer this year that is using the area where refs used to come in. This will make the space function much better and will provide storage and security.

Aye: Frazier, Hall, Hart, Noyes, Rice, Wells, and Wright Nay: None. Motion carried.

**b. Panther Stadium Track Completion \$130,235**

Read by Kyle Archibeque and Mr. Burris recommended the Board approve the track completion at Panther Stadium. Director Wells moved to approve the Capitol Reserve request for \$130,235 for the completion of the Track at Panther Stadium. Vice President Wright seconded the motion. Mr. Archibeque reported that the vendor is waiting to add us to the books and that he can call them tomorrow with hopes of the work getting booked this summer. Mr. Lopez said the work could be done along with the warranty work. This purchase will extend the warranty 5 more years for 8 total years.

Aye: Frazier, Hall, Hart, Noyes, Rice, Wells, and Wright Nay: None. Motion carried.

**h. Donations****a. M-CHS 35 mm Cameras \$150.00**

Mr. Archibeque reported that 2 - 35 mm cameras were donated to the M-CHS. Burris recommended the Board accept the donation of cameras. Director Rice made a motion that the Board approve the donation of 2 – 35 mm cameras to M-CHS, and Director Hart seconded the motion.

Aye: Frazier, Hall, Hart, Noyes, Rice, Wells, and Wright Nay: None. Motion carried.

**b. Manaugh: LOR Foundation donation for playground \$25,000**

Kyle Archibeque reported that the GOCO grant had been extended to May 31st, but to get started we need a project manager. He said the LOR Foundation was donating money to help get the project moving. Archibeque said if the district starts project and cannot complete it the district may need to return the funds. Nikki Crowley from LOR Foundation said their expectation of this project was that it was 3 phases, with the first phase being identifying the needs. She said they would not expect their donation back if phase 1 was completed. Mr. Parr offered to contact the Colorado Health Foundation that helped at Lewis- Arriola & M-CMS. Crowley offered to attend the work session if more discussion was necessary. Vice President Wright moved to table this issue until May 16<sup>th</sup>. Director Hart seconded the motion.

Aye: Frazier, Hall, Hart, Noyes, Rice, Wells, and Wright Nay: None. Motion carried.

**c. Kemper: LOR Foundation donation for water fountains \$1,800**

Kyle Archibeque reported that LOR Foundation had donated \$1,800 to Kemper to install 2 (already purchased) water bottle refill/drinking stations. This money is intended to pay for a plumber to do the install since pipes must be reworked since these machines mount lower for ADA access. Burris recommends the Board accept this donation. Director Wells made a motion to accept the donation from the LOR Foundation of \$1,800 for water foundation install at Kemper. Director Hall seconded the motion.

Aye: Frazier, Hall, Hart, Noyes, Rice, Wells, and Wright Nay: None. Motion carried.

**i. Supplemental Budget****a. ESSER III (Multiple technology/supply items - see list) \$1,285,000**

Read by Kyle Archibeque. List of items to be purchased was submitted to the board in their packet. The plan was to have the items here before the end of the year. He thanked Dean Palmquist for his work prepping the large list of items. Mr. Burris recommended that the Board approve the purchase. Director Wells made a motion to approve the supplemental budget expense of \$1,285,000 of ESSER III funds for technology and supply purchases as listed. Vice President Wright seconded the motion. A discussion about different tech items followed.

Aye: Frazier, Hall, Hart, Noyes, Rice, Wells, and Wright Nay: None. Motion carried.

**b. SWOS: CO Health Foundation Mini Grant \$9,937.00**

Read by Kyle Archibeque. This money goes straight through to SWOS. Mr. Burris recommends the Board approves of this grant. Director Hall made a motion that the Board approve the supplemental budget item for \$9,937.00 from the CO Health Foundation Mini Grant for SWOS. Vice President Wright seconded the motion.

Aye: Frazier, Hall, Hart, Noyes, Rice, Wells, and Wright Nay: None. Motion carried.



**c. Colorado School of Public Health \$700**

Read by Kyle Archibeque. He added that M-CHS would receive \$300 and SWOS \$400. There was no stipulation as to how it had to be spent. MR. Burris recommended that the Board approve these funds. Director Wells made a motion to approve the supplemental budget of \$700.00 from the Colorado School of Public Health, with Director Hall seconding his motion.

Aye: Frazier, Hall, Hart, Noyes, Rice, Wells, and Wright Nay: None. Motion carried.

**j. Policy Revisions – First Reading**

- a. CBA/CBC Qualifications/Powers and responsibilities of Superintendent**
- b. CBB Recruitment of Superintendent**
- c. KHC Distribution/Posting of Promotional Literature**
- d. KHC-R Distribution/Posting of Promotional Literature**
- e. JICEA School-Related Student Publication**
- f. JICEC Student Distribution of noncurricular Materials**
- g. GBE Staff Participation in Political Activities**
- h. IIB-R Class Size**

Director Wells made a motion to approve first readings of policies from items A-G. Burris said no motion was needed for the first reading. A brief discussion about class sizes took place. No vote was taken.

**14. Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 PM.

  
Secretary, Board of Education

  
President, Board of Education