

**MONTEZUMA-CORTEZ SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1
Tuesday, August 17th
Administration Building – 400 North Elm Street**

MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting 6:30 PM

Attendance:

Sherri Wright, President, District C
Sheri Noyes, Vice President, District F
Tammy Hooten, Treasurer, Director, District E
Jack Schuenemeyer, Secretary, District B
Chris Flaherty, Director, District G
Stacey Hall, Director, District D
Cody Wells, Director, District A

Absent:

1. Call to Order

a. The meeting was called to order by President Sherri Wright at 6:30 PM.

2. Pledge to Flag

a. The pledge to the American Flag was led by President Sherri Wright.

3. Executive Session

Executive Session

Executive session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(h) to discuss an administrative complaint involving individual students.

a. A motion was made by Tammy Hooten to adjourn into executive session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(h) to discuss an administrative complaint involving individual students. The motion was seconded by Chris Flaherty.
Aye: Flaherty, Hall, Hooten, Noyes, Schuenemeyer, Wells, and Wright Nay: None. Motion carried

Hooten invited the Board of Education and Dr. VanderWey into the closed session.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

4. Set the Agenda

a. Mrs. Hall moved to set the agenda. The motion was seconded by Tammy Hooten.
Aye: Flaherty, Hall, Hooten, Noyes, Schuenemeyer, Wells, and Wright Nay: None. Motion carried.

5. Student Presentation:

- a. President Wright asked the Board to consider attending the ribbon cutting for the updates to Englehart Field done by the Softball Team.

6. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Mrs. Hooten moved to accept the meeting minutes from July 17th, 2021, Executive Session and Regular Session and August 3rd, 2021 Work Session as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Schuenemeyer.
Aye: Flaherty, Hall, Hooten, Noyes, Schuenemeyer, Wells, and Wright
Nay: None. Motion carried

7. Celebration Reports

- a. A discussion about school getting started and fall sports being under way were identified as celebrations. The date of August 27th was given as the day the Lewis-Arriola School playground equipment will be dismantled.

8. Superintendent's Report

- a. Dr. VanderWey referred the Board to her submitted report but highlighted that the schools had a great first day of school and that she appreciated the warm welcome she has received to Cortez. She reminded the Board we are still using our Citizen's Guide to Re-Entry document as our guideline for Corona Virus 19 protocols.

9. Staff Reports

- a. Mrs. Richard referred the Board to her submitted report. She explained that a mandate had come from the Federal government through the Dept. of Transportation requiring bus riders and drivers to wear masks. She has adjusted the Citizen's Guide to Re-Entry to include the change. Also, the team to oversee yearly emergency operations planning has set its first meeting dates for August.
- b. Mr. Archibeque referred the Board to his submitted report. He highlighted that a bus is going to Oklahoma to be repainted. It was the cheapest option even with driver and travel considered. Recent HVAC leaks and falling ceiling tiles have already been repaired by the contractor over the weekend at no additional charge. Condensation issues at Lewis-Arriola will be looked and reported on at the next meeting.
- c. Mrs. Eldredge referred the Board to her submitted report. Her highlights included that the new Vector Support System for training modules had been launched. This was through a third party through our insurance group. The district will receive all completion certifications and be able to house them in the staff's files. We can also plug supplemental trainings in to the system. Our group health plan report is coming with usage reports to include forecasting. We will use this in when we do the plan review in March and April.

1. **Survey Exit Reports** were included in Mrs. Eldredge's report to the board. These voluntary responses were generated from May to date. She read some of the questions for the Board and explained that the district can revise the questions to meet their needs. The Board would like to see this report monthly.
 2. **Consent Calendar** changes made this month to add a section that highlights internal promotions and the letters of resignation and retirement.
- d. Mr. Parr referred the Board to his submitted report. The district has started up professional development to get teachers ready. He has met with the Curriculum Review Committee. Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Hooten asked similar questions about what we were teaching while the curriculum is being reviewed for CRT. Mr. Parr explained the goal is transparency and that some of the district's curriculum guides have been moved back because there is some social emotional learning to start with, but to a certain degree the curriculum is moving forward. Mrs. Noyes asked if there could be 6 parents on the committee. Mr. Parr confirmed that was doable. Mrs. Richards offered to work with Mr. Parr to make up some outlines that they could work with the principals to get it in place. Mrs. Wright asked that we go back to the practice of having new curriculum on display for two weeks at the district office for public viewing, in the future.
 - e. Principal Pearson reported having large numbers of children returning to school and all seem very happy to be there. M-CMS is still making a few staffing adjustments.
 - f. Principal Layman said the first two days were very positive.
 - g. Principal Neilson said Kemper had approximately 370 students and they are also still addressing staffing issues, but they have a great staff to work with.
 - h. Mrs. Richards told the Board that less than 5 families had taken the online option.
 - i. Dr. VanderWey said the district will be connecting our children with our community by utilizing eSchool online learning (through SJBOCES) this year instead of CDLS.
 - j. Transportation Director Galloway said day one vs. day two was much different and smoother. The routes extend much further, and parents seem excited about it. Bus riders wearing masks has not been an issue.

10. Board Requests/Reports

- a. Director Hooten inquired if the Board was now able to visit the schools? Dr. VanderWey said she would reach out to the Board with that information. CASB Regional Meeting is being held in Cortez this year at M-CHS on Oct. 5th. This will be the same night as our Board Meeting. This is an opportunity to showcase our schools. Mrs. Wright asked Mrs. Hooten to present the rural schools representation resolution the Board has put together at the conference. Mrs. Wright asked Dr. VanderWey to seek out any organizations that may want to present or perform.

- i. Rural School Representation Resolution was put together by four board members and will be presented at the Fall Legislative Conference by Hooten. There were a few changes made but the Board accepted the changes.
 - ii. Resolution to Condemn Racism, Critical Race Theory and Discrimination authored by Tammy Hooten. Mrs. Hooten presented this resolution to the board to align with the district's stance to not teach or allow racism in RE-1 schools. She provided current district policies supporting the wording. Mrs. Richard provided handouts from District 49's similar resolution. President Wright asked the Board to be prepared to discuss this at the upcoming work session.
 - iii. STEM meeting has been set up for next Thursday with the Canyon City staff to review the steps to implement these types of programs. These STEM programs would increase the Graduation rate and align with our new Homegrown Talent Initiative.
- b. Director Noyes asked if the Graduation requirements changed. Her second question referred to getting the criteria for entering your student in an out of area school. She received a report that some had been allowed to do this while another was denied. Dr. VanderWey said the administration team would look into it.
 - c. President Wright reminded the Board and the crowd that the monthly work session was not for taking action but instead for conversation and discussion. She asked that when people reference those conversations, they do not use terms like "the Board decided" and instead say "the Board discussed".

11. Citizens Address the Board (comments beyond the allotted 3 minutes will not be recorded in the minutes)

- a. Community Member said there was CRT in the RE-1 Curriculum. She asked if the Board had seen or looked at the curriculum. She cited that the curriculum had not been made available to the public. She said parents had not been allowed in the schools to observe the Rainbow Club. She said there were no current COVID restrictions in our community. She asked the Board to learn more about the Bill Gates Foundation.
- b. Community Member cited a lack of positivity in the current curriculum. She said the dark images being put in front of the children were not even age appropriate. She said no parent should have to opt their student out of a required class because of the dark content.
- c. An M-CHS Parent answered Mrs. Noyes earlier question about the High School Graduation requirements citing the change came when the school transitioned from a trimester to semester meaning the requirements had to adjust to fit the new schedule. She had served on the Accountability Committee when it had been reported to the parents.

- d. Community Member cited a newspaper article that claimed these issues were solved, but they were not. She said she would get as many parents as she could to remove their children from the schools if the current curriculum was taught and then the school would not get funding.
- e. Community Member quoted the Board's Mission Statement and read a short article by Dennis Prager.
- f. Community Member asked for the room to join her in a prayer. After, she asked the Board to throw out the entire curriculum instead of picking it apart, mostly based on timing of school starting. She wanted to go on public record to say that the community wanted to have a conversation with the Board about mask mandates. She was aware that RE-1 had put out a statement saying there wasn't a requirement at this time, but she felt like that could quickly change. She asked the Board to put this conversation on their agenda before this happens. She said the Rainbow Club had been sweep under the rug and more conversation was needed. She praised another community member for the effort she had put forth towards reviewing the curriculum. She appreciated the Board, but sited they had a lot of work to do.
- g. Community Member said the State of Colorado does not require Health or Sexual Education. She said that the Rainbow Club should have strong supervision with signed parental consent and a parent allowed to attend. She felt that the Rainbow Club should not be in the Middle School due to age. She said it should be afterschool with no free pizza to bait the children into the meeting. She asked to keep the politics and sexual education out of the classroom. She said teachers should not be able to teach their political opinions.
- h. Community Member said the students are already struggling with word problems in math due to low reading skills and the Great Minds curriculum has a lot of videos which will lower scores more. She said the curriculum needed to be killed. She said the city lost \$300,000 on the land use code. She pointed out that anything with Bill Gates name on it should be trashed.
- i. Community Member said she read the second-grade curriculum and it scared her due to the hate. She asked for hope and unity not to take it away.
- j. Former RE-1 Parent said she was proud of students and parents in our area. She was concerned for students that needed internet service. She has asked local providers to support the Honors students so they do not have to struggle to get their lessons. She said we need to have resources in this area to provide this for students.
- k. Community Member said she wanted to remember growing up saying the Pledge of Allegiance and learning how to fold a flag. She expressed appreciation for everyone that had showed up tonight for sharing their passion and she asked them to go home and be thankful and grateful for their rights. She said we have a responsibility to our history to remember it and teach it correctly.
- l.

- m. A former RE-1 Parent said she had learned recently what was going on in the world through YouTube and she had no idea how bad things were. She said children do not need to be taught the things we are teaching them like shame, uncertainty, and division. She said everyone was created by God and all had infinite worth. She asked for successful pathways for our children.
- n. Community Member asked why we have curriculum in our schools pushed by political groups. She said this was from a Marxist group wanting to put it in front of children from kindergarten through twelfth grade so they would be Socialist later. She was very supportive of teachers. She asked the Board to reconsider this curriculum and explained that a parent group is being formed and they are going to take some action.
- o. Community Member and neighbor to Lakeview School pointed out it doesn't get mowed, it has a bad roof, broken windows, and the school is only used as a storage unit. He said he can handle the asbestos problem in the building. He said there was an unsightly Conex parked at the school and drug dealers have been seen at night. He mentioned safety concerns like the cistern lid. He offered to have a conversation with the Board about it.
- p. Community Member and neighbor to Lakeview School said the 1905 deed states the school is to be returned to the heirs or the assigned landowners. It was his opinion that the assigned landowners were himself and the previous speaker.

A brief break was taken at 8:49PM.

Meeting called back to order at 9:00PM.

10. Discussion Items:

a. Corona Virus 19 Update:

Mrs. Richard reported that 13 students were on quarantine due to exposures outside the school settings. The Charters have 2. In addition, RE-1 has 5 students that have tested positive and are out on quarantine isolation and the charters have 4 on quarantine. One staff member has tested positive, which required the quarantine and testing of seven staff members at the Middle School – all were either negative or fully vaccinated and able to return to work. Re-1 has applied for the governor's state school project for free test and masks. Several masks were supplied to the Transportation Department. The Board members each gave input about concerns they had and data they had heard. Updates will be ongoing at each meeting.

b. Critical Race Theory:

President Wright suggested tabling the issue until the resolution was discussed at the work session. Multiple Board members talked about their lack of familiarity with the curriculum and their willingness to trust the information that was provided from the district. Mr. Parr said the Board and staff had heard the concerns, RE-1 will expand the review committee to allow more voices, and that he appreciated the passion and frustration expressed. The Board had recently received electronically, each grade level module from the Curriculum Office. President Wright said at the time of adoption the Board was told there was no CRT issues in the curriculum. Mrs. Richard asked if the Board would like to take an action at this meeting to have Administration and Principals to come up with a guide for instruction considering that legislation will take time.

President Wright cited the rule that adding an action item to the already set agenda required a unanimous vote from the Board. Director Flaherty suggested Dr. VanderWey handle this issue in house for the next 3 weeks until the work session. Dr. VanderWey felt that the district could manage the issue and that she wanted to express to the building administrators the direction the community given. Mrs. Wright asked Dr. VanderWey to also share with the principals that teachers should be reminded that they should not be sharing their personal opinions on politics, religion, or sexual orientation.

A motion was made by Tammy Hooten to move the CRT Discussion Item to an Action Item on this meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by seconded by Sherri Noyes. A brief discussion followed about student journals and one of the reasons this curriculum was selected was because it came with easy-to-follow professional guides and the district had a lot of new and unexperienced teachers. It was also discussed by Dr. Schuenemeyer that more specific examples should be given. Mrs. Richard highlighted that the district currently has a few staff with expertise in curriculum. She felt that a panel of experts could properly vet the curriculum the way the Board was wanting. Dr. VanderWey added that the district needed to come up with the arguments of for or against and why.

President Wright request the call for the question:

Aye: Flaherty, Hall, Hooten, Noyes, Wells, and Wright Nay: Schuenemeyer Motion fails. President Wright directed Dr. VanderWey to start the process of talking to her staff.

c. STEM

Director Hooten has set up a meeting next week with the Canyon City district staff involved in their STEM programs. Dr. VanderWey spoke about the history of the district moving off the critical improvement plan and applauded both the staff, previous administration, and the School Board for their tireless efforts. She said we cannot lose sight of our efforts on school improvement while we are still creating the base. Dr. VanderWey felt that there were opportunities in our community and time to build focus groups to look at STEM/STEAM. She warned about doing things quickly and referred to the previous discussion on CRT and how the rush had caused those issues. Dr. VanderWey would like to take the time to hear everyone and uncover our local opportunities. Dr. Schuenemeyer shared about a program called "R" that was free and had a lot of good content.

11. Action Items:

a. Consent Calendar (see list)

A change was requested by Dr. VanderWey that a typo of one position listed as a step 10 be changed to a step 4. The Board noted the change.

A motion was made by Chris Flaherty to approve the Consent Calendar as presented was seconded by Tammy Hooten. Director Hall asked why a staff member with experience was only considered at a step 0. Mrs. Eldredge explained that the recommendation came from the department requesting the hire.

Aye: Flaherty, Hall, Hooten, Noyes, Schuenemeyer, Wells, and Wright Nay: None. Motion carried.

b. 2021/Montezuma School to Farm Project Memorandum of Understanding

Director Hooten made a motion to approve the 2021 Montezuma School to Farm Project Memorandum of Understanding as presented and the motion was seconded by Director Flaherty. Dr. VanderWey meet with this group last week and noted there is a financial

commitment of \$26,000. MSTFP wants to grow the program. Dr. VanderWey pointed out this is a local form of STEM. President Wright asked if it had to be through Americore. Dr. VanderWey wanted to foster a conversation about the program's expertise in farming and gardening. President Wright said she received comments that volunteers were teaching personal agendas. There was discussion by the Board about the rotation of volunteers and CBI requirements.

Aye: Flaherty, Hall, Hooten, Noyes, Schuenemeyer, Wells, and Wright Nay: None.
Motion carried.

c. Bank Authorizations

Read by Jack Schuenemeyer

Director Hooten made a motion to approve both bank authorizations to allow the RE-1 Finance Office to access the accounts. The motion was seconded by Director Noyes.

Aye: Flaherty, Hall, Hooten, Noyes, Schuenemeyer, Wells, and Wright Nay: None.
Motion carried.

d. Lakeview School Property

Director Flaherty made a motion to return the Lakeview School Property based on the 1905 Quit Claim Deed, back to the original owners. The motion was seconded by Director Hall. Dr. VanderWey said she asked Mr. Lopez to get it cleaned out. She cited a need to talk to the lawyers to define who the original owners were at this time. We owe that to the deed of 1905. President Wright explained other the past 6 years we had improved our storage capacity at our warehouse, so this storage was no longer needed. The Board also discussed the emotional ties to the property.

Aye: Flaherty, Hall, Hooten, Noyes, Schuenemeyer, Wells, and Wright Nay: None.
Motion carried.

e. Capital Reserve Request: Replacement Busses \$218,765.00

Read by Jack Schuenemeyer

A motion was made by Stacey Hall to approve the Capital Reserve Resolution for the replacement Busses \$218,765. The motion was seconded by Chris Flaherty.

Discussion followed about the fleet of busses and the goal being to replace the stick shift busses. Lena Galloway explained that one of these busses will be a special needs bus. This would give the district 16 busses on the road and several spares. Director Wells asked if this could be ESSER III funds. Mr. Archibeque said that would require us to prove the educational purpose and this particular purchase was on our schedule and the importance of committing to our plans. Galloway thanked the Board for being proactive in replacing 20 year old busses and busses over 400,000 miles. She reports that the "best practice" is to replace around 300,000. All the used busses the district put up for auction were sold.

Aye: Flaherty, Hall, Hooten, Noyes, Schuenemeyer, Wells, and Wright Nay: None.
Motion carried.

f. Capital Reserve Request: Englehart Field Upgrades \$9,653.39

Read by Jack Schuenemeyer

A motion was made by Sheri Noyes to approve the Capital Reserve Request for the final budget to finish upgrades to Englehart Field for the Softball team. The motion was seconded by Tammy Hooten.

Director Hall suggested asking the team if they want the bleachers or if they prefer room to set up lawn chairs.

Aye: Flaherty, Hall, Hooten, Noyes, Schuenemeyer, Wells, and Wright Nay: None.

Motion carried.

g. Capital Reserve Request: BOE Venue \$5,000.00

Read by Jack Schuenemeyer

A motion was made by Stacey Hall to approve the Capital Reserve Request to set a budget of \$5,000 for the Board of Education Room upgrades. The motion was seconded by Cody Wells. A discussion about the technology needs, aesthetics, and furniture took place.

Aye: Flaherty, Hall, Hooten, Noyes, Schuenemeyer, Wells, and Wright Nay: None.

Motion carried.

h. Capital Reserve Request: M-CMS Cafeteria Freezer Door \$3,100.00

Read by Jack Schuenemeyer

A motion was made by Sheri Noyes to approve the Capital Reserve Request for the replacement of the M-CMS Cafeteria Freezer Door at a cost of \$3,100.00 the motion was seconded by Tammy Hooten.

Mr. Archibeque reported that this was for the original walk in freezer. The current door is wrapped and causes condensation to build up and puddle. He said it would be upwards of \$20,000 if we needed a whole new one.

Aye: Flaherty, Hall, Hooten, Noyes, Schuenemeyer, Wells, and Wright Nay: None.

Motion carried.

i. Capital Reserve Request: Engineer Design M-CMS/Beech Street HVAC \$5,000.00

Read by Jack Schuenemeyer

A motion was made by Stacey Hall to approve the Capital Reserve Resolution for a budget to seek out design engineering services per policy at M-CMS/Beech Street in regards to the HVAC systems. The motion was seconded by Cody Wells.

Mr. Archibeque clarified that this budget was only for the design and not the repair. He had reviewed the prior engineer's report said the current system was the cheapest of 3 options. It seems to only cover 12 areas. He also confirmed that the goal was to seek a design that works with what we already have, what the district want, and what options can the engineer gives us. He said ESSER funds may be available. The cost will include the engineer looking at Beech Street's boiler to see if we need a bigger fan because our intention is to install cooling units and it need to be big enough to handle the load.

Aye: Flaherty, Hall, Hooten, Noyes, Schuenemeyer, Wells, and Wright Nay: None.

Motion carried.

j. Capital Needs Proposal: Addresses Roofing, Flooring, and HVAC needs across the District and the Manaugh Playground

Read by Jack Schuenemeyer

A motion was made by Chris Flaherty to approve the Capital Needs Proposal as presented in reference to roofing, HVAC, and the Manaugh Playground. The motion was seconded by Tammy Hooten.

Mr. Archibeque provided pictures, reviewed the Facilities Master Plan, the 5 year plan and went on tours with Mr. Lopez to come up with an immediate needs schedule. The handout was provided to the board. He broke the items down to show items that the district would need to allow more capital to fix, some items that could be covered by ESSER III, and items that we should have assessed by our insurance carrier so we can decide what is in our best interest. He said that since we do not have a plan for Manaugh yet we owe it to those children to have a safe environment. His proposal is to fix the identified immediate needs and then work on a new capital reserve plan at the work sessions. The anticipated cost was broke down: RE-1 \$1.2 million, \$780,000 ESSER III, and 1 million in Insurance claims. Other suggestions are welcomed. Director Flaherty reminded that with known issues our liability goes up. Director Hooten said we need to do our due diligence to care for this facility.

The Manaugh Playground was discussed next by the Board. The main need was identified to be the removal of a large asphalt blacktop that would be better served to be a grass area. Both Hooten and Archibeque sited the end to have a conversation with the city to allow a walk-out plan for the park area of the school should Manaugh be closed at some point. Concern was expressed about this grant only being for \$100,000 when recent projects at other schools were \$700,000. The PTO at Manaugh raised \$10,000 for this playground grant.

It was decided that Mr. Archibeque would move forward with this proposal but with these exceptions: He will go back to Principal Rapp and GOCO to discuss options on the Playground Grant to see if it can be restructured to hit the \$110,000 based on what we have. For the roof at Manaugh instead of replacing the full thing he will find out what we need to do to make it last 3-5 years. He will still bring it before the Board every time there is money involved, right now the Board is only approving the plan/proposal.

Aye: Flaherty, Hall, Hooten, Noyes, Schuenemeyer, Wells, and Wright Nay: None.
Motion carried.

k. Policy Revisions – First Reading

A motion was made Tammy Hooten to approve the first reading of the policies as listed on the agenda and with corrections. The motion was seconded by Chris Flaherty.

Aye: Flaherty, Hall, Hooten, Noyes, Schuenemeyer, Wells, and Wright Nay: None.
Motion carried.

- a. AC Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity
- b. AC-R-1 Option 1- Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity Regulation
- c. AC-R-2 Sexual Harassment Investigation Procedure Title IX
- d. ACE Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability
- e. ACE-E-1 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability Exhibit

- f. ACE-E-2 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability Complaint Form
 - g. ACE-R Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability Complaint Process
- Aye: Flaherty, Hall, Hooten, Noyes, Schuenemeyer, Wells, and Wright
Nay: None.
Motion carried.

Items to add to the next Agenda (work session / regular meeting):

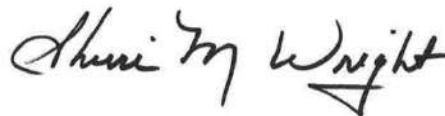
- a. Corona Virus 19 Update
- b. CASB Regional Meeting / Board Meeting Night
- c. CRT/Racism/Discrimination Resolution
- d. STEM
- e. Norm Ridder –Finalize the Superintendent’s Search Process
- f. Policies for Discussion
 - a. AC Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity
 - b. AC-R-1 Option 1- Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity Regulation
 - c. AC-R-2 Sexual Harassment Investigation Procedure Title IX
 - d. ACE Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability
 - e. ACE-E-1 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability Exhibit
 - f. ACE-E-2 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability Complaint Form
 - g. ACE-R Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability Complaint Process

The next Board of Education meeting is a regular session at 7:00 PM, on September 21st, in the Administration Building Board Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 PM.



Secretary, Board of Education



President, Board of Education