

MONTEZUMA-CORTEZ SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1
Tuesday, December 14, 2021
400 N. Elm Street, Cortez, CO 81321

MINUTES

Board Meeting 7:00 PM

Board Attendance:

Sheri Noyes, President, District F
Sherri 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.

Absent:

Amita Crowley, M-CMS Student Rep.

Administration Attendance:

Risha VanderWey, Superintendent
Kyle Archibeque, Exe. Director of Finance
Cynthia Eldredge, Exe. Director of HR
Debra Ramsey, Exe. Assistant

Katie Nelson, Principal
Whitney Rapp, Principal
Angela Sauk, Principal
Robert Laymon, Principal

Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order by President Sheri Noyes at 7:08 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. Set the Agenda

Sherri Wright moved to set the agenda. The motion was seconded by Cody Wells. Ramsey pointed out that documents supporting 12.d. were placed in the board report for Mr. Archibeque in their board packets, instead under action items.

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

4. Student Presentation: Pleasant View Elementary ~ Falcon Singers!

Principal Sauk informed the board that some families had been dealing with illness, so the school had decided to send a video of their live performance instead of attend in person. The video displayed the students' talents at singing and the skills they had acquired on different instruments with the help of SRO Jared Kaime. The performance was greeted with applause by the entire room. Mrs. Sauk invited the board to join both Lewis-Arriola and Pleasant View schools as they celebrate "Christmas from around the World" from 8AM-11AM Thursday. Dr. VanderWey suggested the district post an agenda should a quorum of members choose to attend. President Noyes thanked the Pleasant View students.

5. Approval of Minutes for November 16th Executive Session and Regular Session, November 30th Special Board Meeting

Stacey Hall moved to accept the meeting minutes from November 16th Executive Session and Regular Session and November 30th Special Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Sherri Wright.

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

6. Celebration Reports

Director Hall has been named CHSAA Regional Representative. President Noyes will take over on the San Juan BOCES Board as President. M-CHS was playing their legacy games verses Durango tonight. M-CMS Choir was holding their winter concert tonight. LOR Foundation with assistance from Cindy Haupt have given blankets to staff with a lot of thoughtfulness. Directors that attended felt that staff were very appreciative. Avery Wright played in the All-State Volleyball Game.

7. Superintendent's Report

Dr. VanderWey presented her report to the board. She reported that about half of the students and staff have been affected by COVID-19 recently. Manaugh has had ongoing workforce issues. Dr. VanderWey and Mrs. Eldredge went and reviewed the classrooms at Manaugh and found most had around 10 students present with just one class having 18 students in attendance. They reported that today there were 120 students out at Manaugh.

Mr. Rice asked about the section of the report pertaining to OCR compliance. Dr. VanderWey explained that the district was in talks with the lawyer to work out a mediation plan for an Office of Civil Rights complaint that had been lodged at the district based on an individual student's learning plan needs that were not meant during the prior year. Bullet points had been provided to get this situation back in compliance. Dr. VanderWey said that the OCR generally is willing to work with any district that quickly responds and follows through with suggested steps.

8. Staff Reports

Mrs. Richard's report was submitted to the board. Director Wright asked Dr. VanderWey for more information about offenders on the discipline report.

Mr. Archibeque's report was submitted to the board. He reported that the quit claim deed he was working on for Lakeview needed more time. Dr. VanderWey explained that the attorney had asked for a vested deed which she tried to get but it could not be provided by the county clerk and recorder, so we had to ask the attorney to prep it. The district has cleared out the building.

Director Wright asked about the Mill Levy issue. Mr. Archibeque said his report had incorrect numbers but that the corrected document was coming up later in the meeting. A discussion to clarify the mill numbers took place.

Mr. Parr's report was submitted to the board.

Mrs. Eldredge's report was submitted to the board. She highlighted that the insurance usage data had been provided so the board can see where we are at on benefits. She offered to meet with any board members that had questions. Mr. Archibeque added that we had a saving goal for the school year that we had already meant by December. Mrs. Eldredge explained that additional savings could be available just by better educating the staff on their insurance options.

Mrs. Eldredge reported HR is still recruiting but also still receiving resignations. The new partnership with the workforce Center has resulted in 6 new support employees that are fully funded by the workforce center (1 at Admin, 2 at Manaugh, 1 at Kemper, 1 custodial, and 1 at Transportation). They are assisting with COVID protocols but when they are done with those daily tasks they can be used as paras or in areas they can support the staff. They are being paid at a higher rate than the district can pay.

a. SWOS Charter Presentation of Progress - Casey Simpson

Mr. Simpson provided the board with SWOS Charter Renewal report and presented a PowerPoint highlighting the last 10 years since the last renewal. Director Wright was thankful for the thoughtful presentation, and she said that Southwest Open School was cultivating a new environment of success.

9. Board Requests/Reports

President Noyes thanked the principal's for allowing the board to come into their schools. Principal Laymon said it was nice to have the board visit the school.

Director Wright briefly highlighted the different break out session that board members were able to attend at the CASB Convention. Rice and Hart had attended some on school finance and policy they found helpful. It was interesting to talk to the other directors around the state and see that other districts are dealing with the same exact issues that Montezuma-Cortez School District is facing.

Director Wright inquired about the lack of a secretary at Pleasant View Elementary. Dr. VanderWey explained that it was due to the student numbers. Mrs. Wright expressed that she felt there needed to be a secretary for safety and to help with interruptions.

10. Citizens Address the Board * 1 Hour limit (3 minutes each / Must turn in a filled-out ticket) (8:13PM)

Madeline Rooney – Community member. Critical Race Theory is being promoted here Montezuma-Cortez School District through social emotional learning, Wit and Wisdom curriculum, and the Healthy Kids Survey. SEL has come to our students through an organization named Consel. SEL has been hijacked by progressives. SEL is operating as a cover for CRT and liberal sexual ethics. She read data about Consel funding sources and agendas. CRT accuses good American values (merit and hardwork) as racist.

Tammy Coulon – RE-1 Parent. She gave the board a handout with 500 signatures to dissolve the Wit and Wisdom curriculum due to CRT. DAC (District Accountability Committee) was not used to review curriculum and now a new DAC is being formed. In the Superintendent's SEL toolkit it says to redirect Stakeholders that are clashing with decisions. This is a tool kit to indoctrinate Children with radical left-wing ideology. She mentioned different companies that fund this toolkit. NGO's are stacking the deck against our kids. The process to review the curriculum was not good.

Lynnette Ward – All local school districts are required to adopt a local standard that meet or exceed the Colorado State standards. Wit and Wisdom fails again. She was unhappy about what she heard in previous meetings. Students are excited about the curriculum this year no matter how misguided it is because there is something to teach. SEL's agenda is to push its way into every corner of our school. It was brought in under false pretense of giving our students life skills. We have a resolution. We need to stop teaching CRT. Only 4 states are required to teach SEL and Colorado is not one of them. This is brainwashing. It is to have non-believers accept command or doctrine.

Susan Kemnetz – Community Member. The Healthy Kids Survey is extremely intrusive questionnaire that is promoted as necessary to get grant money but shows that the district is not watching out for the children. The school district has no business asking what level of education the parent completed or what sex a child identifies with. Please put education first.

Eron Anderson – Primary Care Physician. Covid is not done with us. The hospital is over run and it's hard to transfer to other hospitals out of state. In most people's minds health care is an unlimited resource, but in the current environment it isn't. The schools are a hotspot for COVID transmission and masking could help. She gave an example of a home test to show how masks work. Masks significantly cut down on transmission. We have a more contagious virus now and no one has ever died of masking. She would love to see our community come together more on this issue. We need to work together to take care of each other. She requested the district mask the students and said her 5-year-old can do it.

Paul DeWitt – Community member. He provided a handout. He quoted Ms. Noyes from previous meetings and quoted Colorado State Statutes. He said COVID-19 is a communicable disease and the RE-1 staff are mandated reporters. The board has failed to take professional opinions to make decisions citing personal reasons instead. The school board has blatantly ignored the health and safety of the students, staff, and community which goes against your own code of ethics policy. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holidays.

Asha Atwel – Emergency room Physician previously in Shiprock – She had concerns about how COVID was being thought of and handled by the school board. She talked about the history of the Spanish Flu pandemic. What they used in those days was masking, social distancing, and school closures. In Philadelphia they failed to use these precautions and it caused 748 deaths. St. Louis closed down as soon as first case was reported and only lost 300. She talked about the study Duke University did with 60,000 students using universal masking.

A brief break was taken at 8:34 PM and the meeting came back into session at 8:45PM.

11. Discussion Items: N/A

12. Action Item:

a. To approve the Consent Calendar (see list)

Sherry Wright moved to accept the consent calendar as presented. The motion was seconded by Cody Wells. Mrs. Ramsey told the board the reason the list has items that say HR review was due to an overlap in vacations with Eldredge and Ramsey and the information not being available yet. She will resubmit it in January with corrections. Director Wells asked for a spelling correction on Indigenous Club Jr. as well.

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

b. To approve 2021 Audit

Stacey Hall made a motion to approve the 2021 Audit and it was seconded by Cody Wells.

A note was made that the board should discuss the self-insurance at the retreat.

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

a. To approve Kiva Montessori Charter School's use of Northwest Evaluation Association

Sherri Wright made a motion to approve Kiva Montessori Charter School's use of Northwest Evaluation Association. The motion was seconded by Jeannette Hart.

Director Wright talked about her positive experiences with the NEA program. Director Frazier pointed out that this program will replace STAR as their assessment tool.

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

b. To approve the Annual Statutory Mill Levy Certification Resolution C.R.S. 22-10-102; 39-5-128

Resolution was read by Secretary Hall. Director Wright made a motion to approve the annual Statutory Mill Levy Certification Resolution C.R.S. 22-10-102; 39-5-128 and it was seconded by Director Wells.

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

c. Policy Revisions – First Reading

i. GBGM-E Staff Discretionary Leave

Vice-President Wright moved to approve the first reading of GBGM-E and it was seconded by Secretary Hall.

This form will be used to by staff to apply for Discretionary / Sick leave days per policy GBGM.

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

d. Policy Revisions – Second Reading

i. JIBB Student Member of School Board, IMB Teaching about Controversial / Sensitive Issues and Use of Controversial Materials, and IMB-R Teaching about Controversial / Sensitive Issues and Use of Controversial Materials

Vice President Wright made a motion to accept all three policies: JIBB, IMB, and IMB-R. The motion was seconded by Director Frazier. Director Hart expressed multiple concerns with policy IMB due to the board having not seen the mentioned videos, her preference for literature to be used to teach the content, and wording about the teacher being able to express their personal viewpoints. Student Rep. Wright said that after reading the assigned literature on Shakespeare it helped her to better understand when they watched the video in class. Director Rice quoted pending state standards to make other aware of upcoming changes. Vice president Wright amended her motion to approve JIBB as presented and separate out IMB and IMB-R to come back later. Director Frazier seconded the amended motion. Ramsey will bring back for first reading in January after board amends wording.

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

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 PM.

Items for next agenda:

Student Discipline

2022-2023 School Calendar

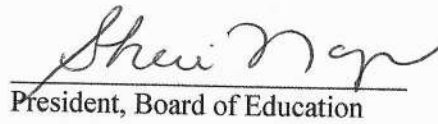
Executive Session for Superintendent's Evaluation

Next Work Session Tuesday, January 4th at 7:00 PM

Board Retreat January 14th 1PM-5PM and Jan. 15th 8AM-5PM

Next Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, January 18th, 7:00 PM


Secretary, Board of Education


President, Board of Education