

MONTE VISTA CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8

Monte Vista, Colorado

May 11, 2017

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Monte Vista Consolidated School District No. 8 was held in the High School Band Room.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:11 p.m. by President Matt Nehring.

ROLL CALL:

The roll was called. Board members present were Elizabeth Conner, Beverly Martinez, Matt Nehring, David Reschke and Gary Wilkinson. Superintendent Robert Webb was also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

President Matt Nehring led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A motion was made by David Reschke and seconded Beverly Martinez to approve the agenda as presented. The vote was Elizabeth Conner, aye; Beverly Martinez, aye; Matt Nehring, aye; David Reschke, aye; and Gary Wilkinson, aye. Motion passed 5 to 0.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A motion was made by Gary Wilkinson and seconded by Elizabeth Conner to approve the following consent agenda:

- A. Minutes. Approve minutes of the April 13, 2017 meeting.
- B. Financial Reports. Approve March 2017 Financial Reports.
- C. Resignations/Transfer/Employment.

The Board accepted the resignations from Brooke Claunch as 4th Grade Teacher, Brittany Kwiatkowski as 6th Grade Teacher, Raul Montoya from food service and Adriana Mora as High School Assistant Girls basketball Coach all effective at the end of the 2016/2017 school year. They also accepted the resignation of Ralph Sandoval as Grounds Maintenance effective May 18, 2017.

The Board employed John Camponeschi as 8th Grade Social Studies Teacher, Samuel Mathis as 7th Grade Social Studies Teacher, Autumn Wright as 6th Grade Language Arts Teacher, Dirk Oden as Part Time Curriculum Coordinator, Kevin Wright as the DELTA/OLA Director, Jennifer Ruiz as Custodian, Kelly Avila as Preschool Paraprofessional, Damian White as Marsh Special Education Paraprofessional and Kim Rosenbach as High School Head Volleyball Coach. Al Ford, Manny Wasinger and Peggy Haslar's one year contracts (rehire after retire) were approved. The Board also approved Cynthia Baird and Dan Garcia's one-year contract in accordance with the district's transitional retirement policy. Becky McGee was approved as a guest classified paraprofessional.

The vote was Elizabeth Conner, aye; Beverly Martinez, aye; Matt Nehring, aye; David Reschke, aye; and Gary Wilkinson, aye. Motion passed 5 to 0.

ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

- A. Mrs. Rachael Torres' 4th grade class presented their research project on the negative impact of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol and the importance of saying no. Nancy Molina from Rio Grande Prevention Program asked Mrs. Torres to do this research project with her class. The children did the research and have learned a lot.
- B. Blair and Colleen Vanderpool along with Rebekah Sparks presented on their trip to Washington DC for the Presidential Inauguration.
- C. Parents, grandparents and players spoke to the Board about their concerns with High School Head Boys Basketball Coach, Robert Siemering.
 - a. Player Michael Savala stated that coming in as a freshman he was excited to play. He spoke about the self-esteem that he gained from basketball, and how playing High School Basketball changed his love for the sport. He did not end on good terms with the coach and feels like he was never given a fair chance no matter how hard he tried. He and a couple teammates got into trouble, yet he was the only one who was going to be kicked off the team. He stated he went home crying every night because he was not given a fair chance. My parents were unable help me.
 - b. Parent Corey Garcia, stated his son Darrius was coming home crying two to three times a week. Corey stated Darrius has been depressed and has experienced mental duress from practice. There was a specific incident that happened in practice that resulted in Darrius getting chewed out by the coach for something the coach miss-communicated. Corey requested immediate action to be taken.
 - c. Parent Jonathan Chavez, stated Marcus, his older son played his freshman year and loved it but has not played since. Jarren, his younger son, played as a freshman this year and would come home complaining how much the coach yelled at him. He lost his love for something that he grew up playing. Jonathan stated that he sat in on some practices and Siemering was instilling fear. This is a process he is not willing to repeat with his younger son. He will move his son to another school.
 - d. Assistant Coach Phinel Garcia shared two letters. The first spoke about the leadership of Robert Siemering, players quitting, fear and intimidation, bullying tactics and asked for hiring of a new coach signed by parent Steve Lopez. The other letter was from Gene Glover summer coach in Del Norte. He stated there was an incident between Siemering and Jaden Wilson when it came time to shake hands. Siemering's conduct was unprofessional and he continued to follow Jaden off the floor yelling. Several people witnessed the incident.
 - e. Tracy Valdez, parent of Steven Martinez, shared a letter to express her concerns. At a game in Cortez, her son got hurt. Tracy was never notified that her son was hurt and feels that he should have received medical attention right then and not waited until he returned home. She states that her son was punished for missing practice and was not treated the same as other players. The coach yelled frequently and on one incident after the team lost Siemering yelled at her son making him feel as though the loss was his fault. She stated she did not go to the coach for fear of retribution. She stated Siemering is controlling.
 - f. Grandmother, Darlene Sims, stated she has two grandsons playing. One played for Robert and the other for Nevada. She stated she is the one who started this because her grandson would come home so upset and depressed. Her grandson did not want her to talk to the coach, but then decided to quit because of the tension with the coach. Several other boys also decided to quit. Darlene stated her grandson was then willing to have her speak up. She scheduled a meeting with the parents and players.

- g. Cynthia Martinez, parent of Lupe Cervantes, stated these boys have been playing for a long time together. Her son, over the last few months, has lost his love for this game. If Siemering is going to be coach we will move our son to another district.
- h. Sandra Dominguez, parent of Dominic Dominguez, stated she would like to thank Phinel for what he is doing for these kids. Sandra stated an incident happened but at the time she did not know about it. She feels as though she should have been notified.
- i. Joe Dominguez, parent of Dominic Dominguez, stated Dominic was depressed. Joe stated his son was unable to go to a tournament because of track events. He stated coaching is a difficult situation, but you cannot go around berating kids. We need to enhance the ability of the kids to go forward with life.
- j. Yolanda Gonzales-Martinez, parent of Daniel, stated he had it rough this year. He was called a fat ass and several other names by the coach, which was uncalled for. She will not put him in this situation again. He is a multisport athlete and was told at a parent meeting he would not be punished for that, but the coach sent a message to his friends to tell Daniel that he could not play. The coach should have called her or Daniel. My son did fund raising, and then not allowed to play.
- k. Jamie Wilson, parent of Jaden Wilson, stated it was her son that Gene Glover referred to in his letter. Jaden did shake his hand, but after doing so Siemering started yelling at him and proceed to come after him. I contacted CHSAA to let them know about this situation. I sent a letter to Mr. Webb and Mr. Jones and I never received any response back. Jaden hated everything after Siemering broke his spirit. She states she moved her son to Del Norte but was unaware of the paperwork that needed to be completed. She also states that her son had started passing out and the doctor said it was related to stress.
- l. Rob Clark, parent of Sam Clark who now attends Alamosa Schools, he stated Sam participated in summer programs with baseball and basketball. In august he came to us and asked to transfer to Alamosa. We talked to Siemering in the fall and he wished Sam the best. Later on in the year, we found out that his name was used during practice in a negative manor. This spring Sam was playing baseball here for Alamosa. He was playing well and was intentionally walked. We do not appreciate this retaliation. We have a younger son who we are concerned will be retaliated against for his brother.
- m. Judy Lujan, former driver of Robert Siemering, stated it is really sad what I am hearing. The kids should never go through verbal abuse. Monte Vista takes great pride in what they do.
- n. Claudia Marquez, parent of Andres Maestas, stated her son played for Nevada. He was always in a bad mood and she would ask how practice was and he would say ok but I suck. She did not know he was going through all of this. He will not be playing for any of the Siemering Coaches. He will be moving to Alamosa.
- o. Player, Darius Garcia, stated Siemering broke him down to his lowest point and he will not play for him.

Dr. Nehring stated this week is the first I have heard of this situation. We do need to get to the bottom of this. We do not want to lose any students. We need to make sure we hear both sides of this situation. I would like to set up a smaller group to discuss this. I would like to purpose to have two to three parents and two Board members to help us understand what has happened. The group needs to pick two to three individuals to represent the parent group. We have agreed that myself and Beverly will meet with the three chosen from the parent group tomorrow night. We will not take action tomorrow. There is a process that we must follow.

DISTRICT REPORTS:

- A. BOCES Report. Mr. Reschke reported BOCES has recalculated their assessments of the districts. We will be paying about 1100 more than we usually do. It is because of the how CPP is being calculated.
- B. Education Foundation Report. Mr. Wilkinson reported they are going to have a work session on the 23rd of May to firm up our scholarship and funding policies.
- C. City/District Conversations. Mr. Reschke reported they discussed Pirate Pride Day. They appreciate all of the work. We are very proud to be part of this community. The city will be doing an alley pick up and will try to communicate what alley and when they will be by as well as they can.
- D. Follow-up to Principal Reports. Mr. Tichy 7th grade went on a trip and worked with the BLM. Gary Wilkinson went with them. It was a great time. The 6th and 8th grade stayed behind and participated in Pirate Pride Day. The elementary kids also participated in Pirate Pride Day. Mrs. Rachael Torres deserves a lot of credit for the elementary schools getting involved in Pirate Pride Day.
- E. Board Report. Mr. Nehring stated we have a lot of ongoing work with CDE and the accountability system. It will take a lot of consistent pressure to get CDE to change.
- F. Superintendent Report. Mr. Web reported we have finished the E-Rate documentation. This will be the second year in a row that we are able to submit the computer consulting full contracted amount. We are upgrading the bandwidth for the internet.

Legislator waited to the last possible hour but the result was pretty good. The rural relief money that was approved will be about \$192,000 for our district. This will be a onetime amount. We should consider using this for the Marsh roof. It will not completely cover this expense but it will be a good start.

We need to commend the staff in their efforts to be safe. We have lowered our workers comp premium by \$11,000.

We have learned that we will receive the Wish Foundation Grant. We will be hiring a full time coordinator for this.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A. 2018 Senior Class Trip. Erika Medina, Junior Class President, presented on the 2018 Senior Class Trip. Erika reported that 70% of the class is planning to go. They had a parent meeting to address concerns and answer questions. They will be checking luggage before leaving. The eligibility guidelines will be strictly enforced. One of the biggest concerns was the possibility of needing medical assistance. We are planning to have a sponsor in the medical field available and all areas being visited have medical staff on site. Emma, the Junior Class Vice President, reported they currently have \$20,000 and need about \$32,000 to be able to on this trip.
- B. Tuition Reimbursement. TSJC per credit hour is higher than Adams State University. We currently have 49 students who are planning to participate in concurrent enrollment. We are now budgeting \$25,000. We need to increase the budget to allow for 6 credit hours to be taken. We have seen in the past that students who go on-site for classes do much better than the students who take on-line classes.

C. Policy Review. The Board reviewed the following policies:

IKF-R	Graduation Requirements Monte Vista High School
JICFA	Hazing
JIE	Pregnant Students
JII	Student Concerns, Complaints and Grievances
JII-R	Student Complaints and Grievances

ACTION ITEMS:

- A. CPP Supplemental Budget. A motion was made by Beverly Martinez and seconded by Gary Wilkinson to approve the CPP supplemental budget. The vote was Elizabeth Conner, aye; Beverly Martinez, aye; Matt Nehring, aye; David Reschke, aye; and Gary Wilkinson, aye. Motion passed 5 to 0.
- B. Connect for Success Supplemental Budget. A motion was made by Elizabeth Conner and seconded by David Reschke to approve the Connect for Success supplemental budget. The vote was Elizabeth Conner, aye; Beverly Martinez, aye; Matt Nehring, aye; David Reschke, aye; and Gary Wilkinson, aye. Motion passed 5 to 0.
- C. 2018 Senior Class Trip. A motion was made by Gary Wilkinson and seconded by Elizabeth Conner to approve the 2018 senior class trip pending sufficient funds. The vote was Elizabeth Conner, aye; Beverly Martinez, aye; Matt Nehring, aye; David Reschke, aye; and Gary Wilkinson, aye. Motion passed 5 to 0.
- D. 2017-2018 Negotiated Agreement. A motion was made by Elizabeth Conner and seconded by David Reschke to approve the 2017-2018 negotiated agreement. The vote was Elizabeth Conner, aye; Beverly Martinez, aye; Matt Nehring, aye; David Reschke, aye; and Gary Wilkinson, aye. Motion passed 5 to 0.
- E. Policy Revisions. A motion was made by Gary Wilkinson and seconded by David Reschke to approve IKFA – Byron Syring DELTA Center Graduation Requirements and IKF – Monte Vista High School GPA and Graduation Requirements. The vote was Elizabeth Conner, aye; Beverly Martinez, aye; Matt Nehring, aye; David Reschke, aye; and Gary Wilkinson, aye. Motion passed 5 to 0.
- F. Special Meeting. A motion was made by Elizabeth Conner and seconded by Beverly Martinez to schedule a special meeting for May 25th at 5:00 pm. The vote was Elizabeth Conner, aye; Beverly Martinez, aye; Matt Nehring, aye; David Reschke, aye; and Gary Wilkinson, aye. Motion passed 5 to 0.
- G. Next Regular Meeting. A motion was made by Beverly Martinez and seconded by Elizabeth Conner to move the next regular meeting from June 8, 2017 to June 15, 2017 at 6:00 pm. The vote was Elizabeth Conner, aye; Beverly Martinez, aye; Matt Nehring, aye; David Reschke, aye; and Gary Wilkinson, aye. Motion passed 5 to 0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF PERSONNEL C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f):

A motion was made by Elizabeth Conner and seconded by Beverly Martinez to move into executive session at 5:30 p.m. for discussion of personnel C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f). The vote was Elizabeth Conner, aye; Beverly Martinez, aye; Matt Nehring, aye; David Reschke, aye; and Gary Wilkinson, aye. Motion passed 5 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned 10:15 p.m.



Matt Nehring, President



Beverly Martinez, Secretary