

MONTEZUMA-CORTEZ SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1
Tuesday, July 20, 2021
Administration Building – 400 North Elm Street

MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

Attendance:

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

Risha VanderWey – Superintendent
Lis Richard – Assistant Superintendent
Kyle Archibeque – Executive Director of Finance
Jim Parr – Executive Director of Academic Student Services
Cynthia Eldredge – Executive Director of Human Resources

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

1. A motion was made to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(c) by Tammy Hooten and seconded by Jack Schuenemeyer. Sherri Wright explained that originally there was a second discussion planned with the attorney, but that part of the session was no longer necessary. Ms. Wright then adjourned the regular session until 7:00 pm.

The meeting was reopened with a call to order by President Sherri Wright at 7:01 PM.

2. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by President Sherri Wright.

3. **Set the Agenda**

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

4. Student Presentations:

M-CHS Softball players gave a break down on several different upgrades to the Softball field. Mr. Carver explained that they still need more dirt to complete the project. Stotz Equipment had lent equipment towards the project. Ms. Wright thanked the players and parents for their hard work on the project.

5. Approval of Minutes for: June 22nd, Regular & Executive Session

Stacey Hall moved to accept the meeting minutes from June 22nd as presented. The motion was seconded by Chris Flaherty.

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

6. Celebration Reports:

Sherri Wright said that the new Softball field and having our new district office staff in place were both worth celebrating.

7. Superintendent's Report: Dr. Risha VanderWey

Superintendent VanderWey introduced herself and her team; Jim Parr, Cynthia Eldredge, Kyle Archibeque, and Lis Richard. VanderWey sited that the previous staff was well prepared with their strategic plan for this new administration. She wants to work to enhance everyone's experience. A new organization chart was provided as to how the Administration Team will lead the district. This will be a working document while the team brainstorms. The focus will be on the district's internal and external communications strands. She referred the board to her provided report.

Dr. VanderWey and Ms. Wright had an opportunity to travel to Towaoc and meet with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal leaders. They had conversations about the new K-1 charter school and improvements that are coming this fall to the IPP meeting. They asked Dr. VanderWey to extend an invitation to the Board of Education to join them at any of their local events.

8. Staff Reports:

a. Mrs. Lis Richard referred to her written report that was submitted to the board. Work is beginning on the Safety Plan and meetings. The current plan is from 2017 and needs updated. There was no response to the RFQ. The draft Plan for Reopening will be presented during action items.

b. Mr. Kyle Archibeque referred to his written report that was submitted to the board. Due to COVID several schools had money left over last year and more is coming in from the state. The district is sitting in a good position for our 4th quarter financials.

Softball Field: Most of the work is done and materials ordered. Some items need prioritized if the district plans to use the field this fall. Foul line poles and bases may need another \$5,400.00.

Kemper Roof: All leaks were repaired.

Mesa Roof: The contractor is currently waiting on materials and permits. The Finance and Maintenance Offices realized it would be best practice in the future to require the contractor to pull the permits instead of the district. This will improve the timing of projects.

Transportation Light Pole: Maintenance is waiting for the pole to arrive.

High School Carpet: An insurance claim was made by the contractor (Nunn Construction) based on the work done by the subcontractor installer. The claim allowed for a new subcontractor to replace 70% of the carpet at M-CHS. The replacement of the remainder of the carpet should go on the 5-year plan.

Manaugh Playground: \$100,000 was awarded by Montezuma County, but due to the current market the district has not been able to lock in a proposal. Manaugh is already on a time extension, but the school can request to extend it again. The Board of Education may have to consider if the district will fund the overrun so Manaugh can get some contractors to look at the RFP. This is not an action item currently, but it will need to be a discussion item for August.

Lewis-Arriola Playground: Invoices are coming in and Finance Office will pay them, knowing that reimbursements will be sent to the district in return, in January.

- c. **Ms. Cynthia Eldredge:** She referred to his written report that was submitted to the board. Ms. Eldredge has been reviewing the district's benefits packages and working with the insurance broker to get a handle on what's available. She reported that the wellness portion/ EAP was being utilized by the staff. She met with reps about our prescription drug plan to identify savings. Ms. Eldredge is also looking into our insurance pool at the district's liability claims. The district was given a reduced price this year due to less claims. There will be a training portal for district staff to access that can add their training certifications straight into their personnel files.

Recruitment of J-1 Teachers: Four teachers from the Philippines will be arriving mid-August once they obtain their visas. The teachers are very excited to come to Kemper and Manaugh. Manaugh is still short 4 teachers.

Exit Interviews: The data will be prepared once a quarter (if there are any exits). Ms. Wright asked if the board could see the comments but said not to include the names.

8. Board Request / Reports

- a. **Legislative Update:** Ms. Hooten reported a few legislative bills are coming up that will affect our CASB membership. She thanked the board for allowing her to attend the Fall Legislative Conference in Oct. Ms. Hooten expressed the ongoing need to have rural voices be heard in Denver. This seems to be affecting the four corners of our state. The director expressed kudos to our staff for being able to reopen last year safely and for the district's work to provide a safe environment.

Requests for the August 3rd Work Session Discussions:
M-CMS Carpet and Facility Master Plan

- b. **CASB Resolution Rural Schools Update:** Ms. Wright requested assistance with the deciding on the wording from the other board members. Ms. Wright's next CASB board meeting is in November, but the new legislation deadline is July 31st. It was decided that Sherri Wright, Tammy Hooten, Jack Schuenemeyer, and Risha VanderWey will hold a special meeting to work on the wording of this resolution. The meeting date and time will be posted on the website once the time is set.

CASB Convention in December: The entire school board and Dr. VanderWey have been registered and Mrs. Ramsey is waiting on the link from CASB to book their rooms. Montezuma-Cortez School Board is being consider as a priority attendee since we were unable to attend in 2019. Mrs. Wright said she was appointed to the Early Childhood committee and the started meeting last week. The committee is designing what the early childhood program will be.

CASB Legislative Conference: Attendees will be Sherri Wright (representing as a CASB Board member), Tammy Hooten, Dr. VanderWey, and Lori Haukeness (representing as a presenter).

Request from Media: Ms. Wright reminded the board that if asked for their personal options to clarify that it is not the opinion of the board. The superintendent of schools will serve as the point of contact for the school board.

9. Citizens Address the Board **(3 minutes allotted per address)*

A parent requested that the Board of Education and the School District review the M-CHS Wrestling program. The parent sited a low number of students in the program locally and the lack of a girl's program at M-CHS. The parent requested that there be reconstruction to the program or that the school district drop the program so that those athletes could compete for other schools. She thanked all the coaches of all the sports and activities and pointed out that coaching was not the reason for her request. Ms. Wright requested it be added to the August agenda.

10. Action Items:**a. Consent Calendar** (see list)

Jack Schuenemeyer moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented to the board. The motion was seconded by Tammy Hooten. A short discussion ensued about the fact that several new hires are still pending as the Finance and Human Resources Department correctly identify the necessary salary amounts and accounts that will cover them. Most of the names still pending needed more review due to ESSER 3 funding questions.

Aye: Flaherty, Hooten, Noyes, Schuenemeyer, Wells, and Wright Nay: None, Abstain: Hall. The motion carried.

b. Supplemental Budget: Childcare Relief Grant, \$18,100

Read by Jack Schuenemeyer. Tammy Hooten moved to accept the Childcare Relief Grant supplemental budget for \$18,100 as presented. The motion was seconded by Cody Wells. Mr. Archibeque explained that this grant applied for by Beech St. was part of the COVID Relief funds meant to help with staffing for childcare needs.

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

c. Supplemental Budget: School Counselors Corp Grant, \$26,100

Read by Jack Schuenemeyer. Chris Flaherty moved to accept the supplemental budget for \$26,100 as presented. The motion was seconded by Tammy Hooten. Mr. Archibeque explained this was for counselor supports. The dates align with the grant, but the budget will carry over into the new school year.

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

d. Supplemental Budget: ESSA School Improvement Grant (EASI) Cohort IV, \$26,500

Read by Jack Schuenemeyer. Sheri Noyes moved to accept the ESSA School Improvement Grant (EASI) Cohort IV supplemental budget for \$26,500 as presented. The motion was seconded by Stacey Hall. Mrs. Wright explained that this was money that will pass through for the SWOS and Kiva Charter Schools and will not involve RE-1 school district.

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

e. Supplemental Budget: CHF Playground Renovations, \$709,955

Read by Jack Schuenemeyer. Sheri Noyes moved to accept the CHF Playground Renovations supplemental budget for \$709,955 as presented. The motion was seconded by Tammy Hooten. This budget is for the playground renovations at M-CMS and Lewis-Arriola Elementary. The Colorado Health Foundation contributed \$609,955 and the Lewis-Arriola PTO contributed \$10,000. Materials are ordered. Drew Pearson stated that the demo will be done this summer and the area will be marked off once school starts. Mrs. Wright expressed kudos to Lewis-Arriola for their parent support. Mr. Flaherty added that the \$10,000 was only the monetary piece; the project wouldn't have been possible without the hard work put in by the parents.

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

f. M-CSD RE-1 Proposed Re-Entry Plan for 2021-2022

Report was presented by Lis Richard. Montezuma County currently does not have a dial. We will rejoin the counties group meeting when it starts back up. CHSAA has not sent out guidelines yet, but they meet this week. The plan asks for staff and students to continue to screen at home daily but would not require masks at this time. Indoor events (other than the school day) will require screening of attendees since the daily self-screening is only asked of our staff and students. A disclaimer will be posted on all sites to ask those not immunized to please wear a mask. Social distancing is best practice but there will not be cohorts or class size limits. Cleaning protocols will remain with the exception that deep cleaning will be done at night, and isolation areas will still be in place. Visitors will be allowed into the schools, but they must be screened at our Raptor check-in areas. Re-1 students will attend in-person, with a remote learner option for families that still need it. The plan will be a living document that can be amended if public safety guidelines change. Mrs. Wright asked that should changes be required the Board of Education would be made aware.

A motion to accept the Re-Entry Plan was made by Stacey Hall and seconded by Cody Wells. Dr. Schuenemeyer thought it was a good plan for everyone. Sheri Noyes asked about the staff exemption. Richard explained that Food Services and Bus Drivers are under a different mandate that does require them to wear masks even with vaccinated. Ms. Noyes asked for clearer wording.

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

President Wright called for a 5-minute break.

Meeting was called back into session at 9:19PM.

11. Discussion Items:**a. BOE Venue**

A discussion followed about what the Downey gym would require for making it into a boardroom. The M-CHS and M-CMS Libraries were discussed as possible new permeant sites. There were some issues pertain to moving the Board Secretary and Technology Departments, concerns for additional expectations on the building custodial staff and parking during multiple events. The Board settled on remaining at their current site with room upgrades to make it more appropriate as a meeting site. Mr. Archibeque get with Mr. Knox to provide a plan for the upgrades.

b. Teacher Plan times

Conversations continued about the issue of teachers having students to observe on their present plan time (in reference to before and after school). Input was received from the elementary principals in attendance about the timing of school specials. Suggestions were given to have outside sources to help with coverage during these times. Nancy Dickerson Shaw thanked the board for facilitating the conversations. The district administration staff committed to reviewing the issue to identify the barriers and report back to the Board.

c. Transportation Routes

Lena Galloway reported her staff was in the process of reviewing our route options as this year's crop of request comes in. They had Mr. Knox send out an auto-dialer message to the parents. It seems that the number of bus riders will go up. Currently, the Transportation Department has enough buses but not enough drivers. An estimate would be 15 routes, 14 drivers and 4 subs. They are trying to track exactly how far they can go before time requires them to turn back, to avoid using as many common stops as possible. The Board thank Ms. Galloway for her department's efforts.

d. Lakeview

Ms. Wright expressed that it was not clear why the district was keeping Lakeview on its books, instead of returning it back to the community, per the original usage agreement. The district must insure it and it is only being used for storage. Dr. VanderWey said her, and Kyle Archibeque had planned to travel out to review the situation. They will include Ray Lopez.

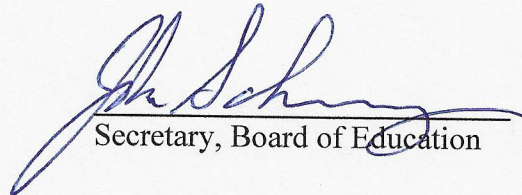
e. Election

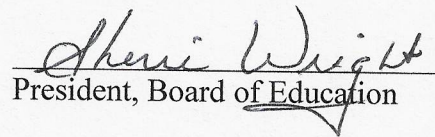
This week, Mrs. Ramsey will send in the official notice to the county that the School District will hold an election for Board of Education Directors this November. Directors wishing to run should plan to pick up the required petition from Mrs. Ramsey on August 4th, 2021.

12. Items to add to the August 3rd work session agenda:

- a. Wrestling Program Review
- b. Critical Race Theory Discussion
- c. Facility Master Plan
- d. Lakeview School Property Update
- e. M-CMS Carpet Needs
- f. Manaugh Playground
- g. BOE Venue Update
- h. STEM Opportunity
- i. School Year Calendar

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 PM.


Secretary, Board of Education


President, Board of Education

MISSION STATEMENT:

**EVERY STUDENT.
EVERY DAY.**

TOGETHER WE ARE...

Growing our team of effective and committed educators

Creating a culture of high expectations

Respecting our diversity

Inspiring community trust and support

Building pathways to successful futures

BOARD VISION STATEMENT

In five to seven years the district will be recognized as a beacon of educational excellence. Our students are 21st century scholars who are proud owners of their learning and successfully interact and compete in a global society. As the core of our community, we set the standard for inspiring, equipping, and empowering the diverse learners in the Montezuma-Cortez School District.

ESSENTIAL BOARD ROLES

Guiding the district through the Superintendent

- Engaging constituents
- Ensuring alignment of resources and structure
- Measuring effectiveness
- Modeling excellence

BOARD LONG-TERM FOCUS AREA

Increasing student achievement

BOARD FOCUS AREA

- Engaging constituents
- Enhancing safety, morale and wellness
- Enhancing personnel development and seeking, selecting, developing, celebrating
- Maximizing finances
- Building board effectiveness

BOARD'S CORE, DRIVING VALUES

Respect for All,
Honesty,
Accessibility,
Deliberation,
Celebration,
Teamwork, and
Engaged Communication

MONTEZUMA-CORTEZ SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1

CORTEZ, COLORADO -- BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

AGENDA

District Office – 400 N. Elm Street

Our regular session meetings may be viewed on our YouTube Channel at:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHfOVI7thefkOWXvZTq4DTQ>

Regular Board Meeting 6:30 PM

Executive Session – 6:30 PM

Conference with District's Attorney

Executive session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(c)

Personnel Matters

Executive session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f)

1. Call to order
2. Pledge to Flag
3. Set the Agenda
4. Student Presentation: M-CHS Panther Softball
5. Approval of Minutes for: June 22, 2021 Executive Session and Regular Session
6. Celebration Reports
7. Superintendent's Report
8. Staff Reports
 - a. Archibeque update on used Lewis-Arriola playground equipment
9. Board Requests/Reports
 - a. Legislative Update
 - b. CASB Resolution Rural Schools
9. Citizens Address the Board *
10. Action Items:
 - a. Consent Calendar (see list)
 - b. Capital Reserve Request –N/A
 - c. Supplemental Budgets from Grants
 - d. Reopening Plan
11. Discussion Items:
 - a. BOE Venue
 - d. Teacher Plan Times
 - c. Transportation Routes
 - d. Lakeview
12. Items to add to the Next Agenda:

August:

Work Session Tuesday, 3rd, 7:00 PM

Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, 17th, 7:00 PM

A few welcoming notes:

- The board's meeting time is dedicated to the mission and top-priority focus areas.
- Your insights are needed and welcomed and the board encourages you to meet with the most appropriate person
- "Citizens Address the Board" is an opportunity to present brief comments or pose questions to the board for consideration or follow-up. *Each person is asked to focus comments to **three minutes**. The time limit is designed to help keep the meeting focused and in no way should limit conversations beyond the board meeting
- The "Consent Calendar" is based around decision points backed by prior information/discussion or highly routine
- If you are interested in helping the Montezuma-Cortez achievement effort, please talk with any member of the Leadership Team or call the District Office at (970) 565-7522. Opportunities abound. Your participation is highly desired.