

**MONTEZUMA-CORTEZ SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1**  
**Tuesday, November 2nd, 2021**

**400 N. Elm Street, Cortez, CO 81321 Building closed during school Closure.**  
**Broadcast publically on the district's YouTube Channel**

**MINUTES**

**Work Session Meeting 7:00 PM**

**Board Attendance:**

Sherri Wright, President, District C  
Sheri Noyes, Vice President, District F  
Tammy Hooten, Treasurer, Director, District E  
Stacey Hall, Director, District D  
Cody Wells, Director, District A

**Absent:**

District B, Vacant  
District G, Vacant

**Administration Attendance:**

Risha VanderWey, Superintendent  
Lis Richard, Assistant Superintendent  
Kyle Archibeque, Exe. Director of Finance (ZOOM)  
Jim Parr, Exe Director of Curriculum (ZOOM)  
Cynthia Eldredge, Exe. Director of HR  
Debra Ramsey, Exe. Assistant

Eric Chandler, Principal (ZOOM)  
Drew Pearson, Principal  
Katie Nelson, Principal  
Whitney Rapp, Principal  
Angela Sauk, Principal (ZOOM)  
Robert Laymon, Principal  
Andrea Martinez, Director (ZOOM)

**Call to Order**

- a. The meeting was called to order by President Sherri Wright at 7:03PM. President Wright noted to the attendees that she received comments about the agenda not being posted 24 hours prior to the meeting. She explained that we only took off the agenda item of Officers because we would not know yet, so it will need to be at a later meeting.

**2. Pledge to Flag**

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

**3. Set the Agenda**

- a. Cody Wells moved to set the agenda. The motion was seconded by Stacey Hall. Tammy Hooten asked to strike agenda items k. ESSER Bonus for staff since we are not in a pandemic and the funds could not be used for that and l. STEM program since she wasn't prepared to discuss it. Director Wells amended hi motion and Director Hall seconded the amended motion.

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

Director Wells asked to add P. Curriculum Audit to the agenda.

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

Director Wells made a motion to accept the agenda with the changes. Director Hall seconded the motion.

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



**4. Discussions Items****a. Consolidation of Schools – Community Involvement**

A discussion about consolidating the elementary schools to help with the current staff shortages took place. The discussion also included the four day week /2022 Spring Schedule from agenda item b since it also pertains to the staff shortage solutions. President Wright asked if the administrators could come up with a schedule to host public meetings at each school before the regular board meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup>. A survey could be given as well. Board members agreed to attend and Dr. VanderWey will facilitate. Director Noyes requested to leave the rural elementary schools out of the consolidation plan. VanderWey reminded the board of the several years old Master Faculty plan that sited multiple issues at Pleasant View that to date have not been addressed. Richards suggested making the Pleasant View community aware of their options that could even include a charter school.

**b. Four Day Week / 2022 Spring School calendar – Community Involvement**

Conversation was a part of discussion in agenda item a.

**c. Preliminary Salary Study**

Cynthia Eldredge provided handouts with trends and comparisons in teacher salaries. Kyle Archibeque explained that for the Finance department to move forward with suggestions based on the budget he would need some recommendations since current topics like school consolidation could greatly affect the budget. He suggested that an ideal class size be identified. Mrs. Eldredge explained that another part of the issue was our ESS (Exceptional Student Services) teachers are paid at the same rate as all other district teachers, while this is usually not the case in most districts since they are required to carry extra certifications. A suggestion of salary and a half for an ESS Teacher was given by Eldredge, but she did not think it would be feasible at this time. Dr. VanderWey said 22-23 would be a fair class, but that the district would not want to ever move into the 40's. Current data provided by Eldredge said our current enrollment was much less than our current capacities allowed. President Wright asked for a recommendation on regional ESS Teacher Salaries by Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Eldredge added that a third issue was that the salary schedule does not plan for a yearly cost of living increase. This is causing our Salary Schedule to go stagnate. Director Noyes shared that the current state of discipline could be hard for a low paid teacher. President Wright asked for discipline data to be presented in January's work session by Lis Richard.

**d. Health Kids Survey**

President Wright had received multiple emails about the healthy Kids Survey that was administered to Middle School and high school Students. She told the board that the district had selected to give the censored version. President Wright read the survey and felt that some of it was not appropriate. Mrs. Richard explained that the district's participation was voluntary and that the data does help local programs like the county to get funding for programs they offer like suicide prevention and teen pregnancy programs. The survey is considered a local partnership and the county asks yearly if the district plans to give it. It is administered to students much like a standardized test would be. Richard said it was given in Dolores. Board members had different opinions about the importance of collecting this private data. VanderWey will bring back more information about the survey pertaining to parent waivers, opt outs, and allowable question changes.



**e. Policy IMB**

Teaching about Controversial/Sensitive Issues and Use of Controversial Materials

Mrs. Richard worked on this policy and found that most districts also have IMB-R to give principals more guidance. She presented both with her suggested changes. She built IMB-R from samples she found on other districts had in place. Director Hooten had reviewed the suggestions with CASB's attorney and they did not see a need for the referenced positioned statement. This will be presented as first reading on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

**f. Policy JLCD Administering Medication to Students**

No additional changes since first reading.

**g. Policy JLCD-R Administering Medication to Students Regulation**

Richard suggested striking the word marijuana since it was already covered by the word medication.

**h. Policy JLCD-E Administering Medication to Students Exhibit**

No additional changes since first reading.

**i. Policy JLCDB\* Administration of Medical Marijuana**

Richard explained that boards will need to rule on how they will administer medical marijuana as of 2020. The recommendation from the CDE website was to assign a volunteer. A conversation about the volunteer and school nursing staff ensued. It was identified that school nurses would not make good volunteers as their licensure may be effected. Richard explained that a parent can be used. The board felt that a parent or guardian would be the best to administer. Mrs. Richard will update the wording for the second reading on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

**j. Continuing Education (College Credit Courses)**

President Wright suggested teachers might benefit from continuing college credit opportunities that could be offered at night or on the weekends through a satellite college. Courses could be a salary benefit. A handout was given by Mrs. Richard on the concurrent enrollment offerings at M-CHS as preparation for the agenda item that was not clear if it was for teachers or students. President Wright suggested the administration team bring the board a proposal if they were interested in having this type of program.

~~k. ESSER Bonus for Staff~~ Removed from Agenda

~~l. STEM Program~~ Removed from Agenda

**m. Student Representative on the School Board**

President Wright reminded the group that they had had a student representative on the Board of Education prior to COVID and she expressed interest in starting that back up. Per policy JIBB; student would not be a voting member and would not be allowed in executive session but would be welcomed into all discussions. Eric Chandler let the board know the M-CHS Student Government had already been working on providing a student representative. President Wright asked Drew Pearson if he could provide a representative as well from M-CMS. Pearson did not have a student government at this time, but had a few students in mind that might like the opportunity. Mr. Chandler will have a representative at available for the November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.



**n. Meeting with M-CHS Students**

President Wright reminded the Board that in the past they had set up a day to visit M-CHS and have a question and answer session with the students. An introduction and explanation of the school boards duties would be given by the panel that attends. Wright asked that this be set up for February and well-advertised.

**o. Wit and Wisdom**

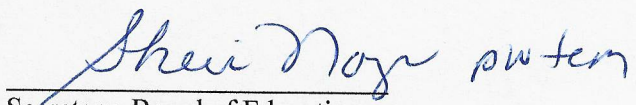
A conversation was had by the board to identify what was currently being taught in the classrooms pertaining to the use of the Wit and Wisdom curriculum. VanderWey reported that Mr. Parr has a few different curriculums on the way for preview. Dr. VanderWey will email President Wright a list of CDE READ ACT compliant curriculums. Director Wells suggested we keep Wit and Wisdom as a secondary curriculum tool for teachers to pull approved content from. Director Hooten suggested restructuring the curriculum committee and mesh in the curriculum audit. Mrs. Richard expressed concern mostly toward the K-3 curriculum due to our current program not being on the CDE List. She explained that CDE does an audit of these programs and that's how they get on the list. She said what the district is lacking is a reading program that meets the state criteria, an intervention program for struggling readers that is vertically aligned throughout the district. Richard said we need an integrated language arts program for K-3<sup>rd</sup> that teaches phonics, vocabulary, literature, and writing skills all in one. Director Noyes pointed out that some curriculum was not presented to the board because it was under a certain price point. She requested all curriculum no matter the price be presented to the board. President Wright requested the district order curriculum samples and to have it put out for the community to review, with a plan to make a decision in January on the curriculum to be purchased, then ordered and in the teacher's hands do they can be trained before August 2022. Handouts were given by Mrs. Richard. Dr. VanderWey explained that the High School and Middle school currently have alternative pathways for differentiated instruction, the elementary does not. Director Hooten reported teachers are taking an extra 3-4 hours of prep time to go through curriculum. Director Noyes had received reports that during the current shut down some students are not getting their assignments. Principal Rapp said her staff attempted to reach 100% of families, but there were issues reaching 100% due mostly to problems with parent contact information. Contacting the Ute Mountain Ute Education department was included in Mrs. Rapp's staff's efforts. School Secretaries are checking phones and Mrs. Nelson reported that the Kemper phones are now ringing straight through to her cell for the time being.

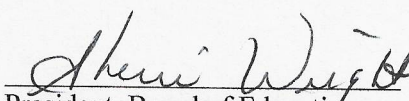
**p. Curriculum Audit**

Resolved during agenda item o.

**5. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 PM.

  
Secretary, Board of Education

  
President, Board of Education