

MONTEZUMA-CORTEZ SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1
Tuesday, January 4, 2022
400 N. Elm Street, Cortez, CO 81321

MINUTES

Work Session 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.
Amita Crowley, M-CMS Student Rep.

Absent:**Administration Attendance:**

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

Katie Nelson, Principal
Drew Pearson, Principal
Robert Laymon, Principal
Eric Chandler, Principal

Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order by President Sheri Noyes at 7:00 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

- a. Stacey Hall moved to set the agenda. The motion was seconded by Cody Wells.
Aye: Frazier, Hall, Hart, Noyes, Rice, Wells and Wright Nay: None. Motion carried.

4. Discussion Items:**a. Laurel Schafer & Arlina Yazzie from Montezuma County Health Department, Healthy Kids Survey**

A presentation on PowerPoint was given before the board. Ms. Schafer said the mission of the county is to educate and prevent. She was open to any questions about the counties use of the data from the Healthy Kids Survey. They advocated for the school district to continue administering the survey as it was vital to their programs and other area organizations like Pinon Project, SCYC, United Way, and the Child Advocacy Center. The data is used for these groups to apply for money to host programs based on the needs of our community like suicide prevention and by some groups to form action teams like the early childhood action team. Ms. Schafer reported the next scheduled survey would be fall of 2023 since it is administered every

two years. The state generally reaches out to the schools the spring prior to see if any censoring will be needed. The 2021 survey was only given at M-CHS since other area school district / schools opted out. The ladies both said if local schools did not take part in the survey then Cortez would be lumped into regional data that may not be a reflection of what is happening with our students. The board thanked them for their presentation.

b. Cortez Wrestling Club Request

Dr. VanderWey thought their request was to have fees waived for Facility Use since it had come up a lot lately with more than one group. She had learned recently that several groups' fees have been being waived over the last few years. Dr. VanderWey said she had set up a Facility Use agreement with the Pinon Project who will host a Friday offering at Mesa to RE-1 students that have a need for supervision. Their fee will be waived since they are offering a support directly to our students. She explained that the Facility Use Application had been updated this summer when the old one was found to be ineffective. Mrs. Eldredge consulted with the CSDSIP (Colorado School District Self Insurance Pool our Liability Insurance provider) to build a new form and identify fees. Eldredge received the Facility Use form from the Cortez Wrestling Club with the request to waive fees. She denied the request because their organization serves children from multiple areas, not just Re-1 and they collect fees from the families. Dr. VanderWey expressed that the most important item on this issue is that the district follow its own guidelines and that it is clear, fair, and consistent to keep liabilities down. She said this could become an Office of Civil Rights Complaint if not handled properly. The money collected is covering wear and tear on the buildings, covering cleaning products, providing security/custodial staffing. Organizations will be required to provide certificate of insurance. Mr. Parr reported that in the past there have been MOU's with the City of Cortez since both they and the district benefited from using each other's facilities. Mr. Pearson said that generally groups/clubs practices did not affect things at the school, but the all-day tournaments really caused issues and concerns. These types of events need a stronger supervision expectation. He said when a group is charging for entrance and profiting on the event they should expect to pay for the facility. Director Rice suggested charging a larger deposit, with the majority returned after the organization completes the contract. The board decided they would read the provided policies (KF, KF-R) and forms as prep for the regular meeting. Dr. VanderWey reporting learning of an MOU with Dept. of Social Services that had no end date that also had fees waived for use of the back building at the New Wings School site. She said the district was in the process of updating that agreement.

c. Kyle Archibeque

i. Final Budget Review

Mr. Archibeque gave a handout of the "Amended Budget for 2021-2022". This data will be used by the board to approve the "Final Budget for 2021-2022" at the regular meeting in January. He highlighted that the district has allocated about \$900,000 to capital projects this year, the retention pay was sent out and may even be covered by ESSER funds, and that if the board wants to change our current self-insurance option there would need to be a budget /plan in place for anticipated startup expenses of a new plan.

ii. Bank Information and Signatures

Mr. Archibeque will need signatures for the banks from the new officers. One of our banks requires for the officers to come into the bank to sign.

iii. Flooring & Roofing Projects update

Mr. Archibeque reported that the district now has signed RFP in place. Mesa and Manaugh will start this summer since it tested positive for asbestos and will need to be abated. The work must be done while students are not in the building, as well as the roof work will be very loud. Flooring at Mesa, Manaugh, and M-CMS and Roofing at Mesa – all done by the same contractor. The contract says June 8th is the start date, but they would like to start sooner. They are set to finish before school starts.

A break was taken at 8:48 PM. The meeting was restarted at 8:54 PM.

d. Cynthia Eldredge**i. New Position: HR Generalist**

Mrs. Eldredge requested that the board consider a new position in the HR Office for a Human Resources Generalist at the regular January meeting. They would be working on compliancy reports, processes, and procedures. Cynthia will provide the compensation package information in her next board report. Mrs. Eldredge reported that the pipeline with the Workforce Center was working out well with position being filled. The program has been extended. If she does not get this new position she may be able to use one of these positions part-time. One of the issues of using temporary or part-time help is that confidentiality of personnel records becomes an issue. Dr. VanderWey reported that our district's HR needs have increased tremendously due to COVID. Some long time issues have been treated with benefits and not actually dealt with the actual issues. Mrs. Eldredge praised and credited the hard work of Stephanie Martinez in payroll for all she has done to keep things going.

e. Student Discipline

Vice President Wright was concerned that she heard issues were rising and that our staff's hands were tied to fix it. She suggested a call to CDE to see what the district could do. Dr. VanderWey reported that recently the district had dealt with 5 different suspensions and some students were expelled as well. Some of these students have special needs and we have to provide services to meet their needs. There is a rise in students with socio-emotional where the student can escalate quickly and may attack a teacher. This comes from traumatic issues in their past most times. Dr. VanderWey has to work with attorney to make sure we are following the guidelines. The district has offered alternate learning to these families but most families do not like it because it can be far away from home. Mr. Pearson reported recently 3 students were taken out in hand cuffs and 4 teachers have been attacked this year. He said the issue had grown beyond his staff's capabilities with flipping off, cussing, and hostile behaviors coming out on a daily basis. He reporting this has directly cost him staff. Dr. VanderWey suggested that a situation where Alternative placement could be provided would be a better way to handle this situation, as a district. We want to serve the needs of these students but not at the cost to the others. Vice-President Wright mentioned Paul Foster at CDE has been said to be a great contact to reach out to on this topic. Principal Nelson said these issues have affected the elementary as well and they made a program called "Effective Kids" that was helping. Director Hart asked if School Phycologist have been utilized. Principal Nelson said they work closely with SJBOCES but that program is also struggling with staff shortages. Principal Chandler added that the for some students the mentality has changed and it's no longer about academics for them.

f. 2022-2023 School Calendar

Dr. VanderWey said has been working with Mr. Parr to put some options together. Their thoughts have been to have a version that is 4 day like our neighboring districts, but they did identify the issue of Mancos and Dolores only go to school 144 days a year but Cortez, due to being a turnaround school, attends 160 days per year. If Montezuma-Cortez chooses to do less we would need to apply for a waiver. Another difference is Mancos still takes 4 days off for things like MLK day and 2 professional days a month. Cortez may not need that much time for professional development. They will start with the 160 and make scenarios for 4 and 5 day weeks and then present them in February. Vice President Wright asked that aligning Spring break with area school be a priority as well as not overlapping graduation and working with Pueblo Community College. Dr. VanderWey also reported that the district had stating talking about this issue with transportation and they were starting to identify what fleet would be needed. Three busses are currently being delivered to the district.

g. IMB, IMB-R, and EBCE

The board had a conversation about changes they felt needed to be made to the 3 policies. They gave their edits to Mrs. Ramsey and she will prep them for first reading at the January meeting. Discussion was about having the school require permission slips for movies viewed in the classroom, wording about how teachers should not share their personal opinions when discussing controversial issues, and adding the term “law enforcement” to EBCE.

h. Retreat Update

President Noyes reminded the Board they will be meeting Friday, January 14th from 1 to 5PM and again on Saturday, January 15th from 8 AM to 5PM, at First National Bank in Cortez, for there Board retreat and training session. Friday will focus on Dr. VanderWey and the directors presenting to the Board the District’s story –an overview of district. Saturday will be used by the board to focus on board training in Robert’s Rules and a separate presentation on the district Insurance by Mrs. Eldredge. Notice of a quorum will be posted. Dr. VanderWey requested time on the 15th to work on Strategic Planning so she can guide the district towards the Board’s vision and goals.

i. Board Evaluation

The Board filled out their self-evaluation tool and turned it into Mrs. Ramsey. She will compile it and get it back to them before their retreat so they can use it in their training. President Noyes suggested each director bring 2 or 3 goals to the retreat to discuss.

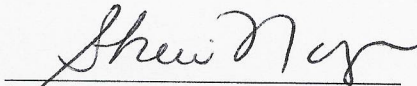
j. Other:

- i. Dr. VanderWey informed the Board that we had received a letter from the District’s Attorney that their fees are increasing by 4%.
- ii. Director Hall asked to recognize Student Representative Avery Wright as she has signed a National Letter of Intent to run Track at Colorado School of Mines in Boulder, Colorado.
- iii. To add to next meeting agenda: Action Item: To approve a Secretary Position at Pleasant View Elementary.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 PM.


Secretary, Board of Education


President, Board of Education