

MONTEZUMA-CORTEZ SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1
Tuesday, March 15, 2022
400 N. Elm Street, Cortez, CO 81321

MINUTES
Board Meeting 6:00 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:

Tom Burris, Interim Superintendent
Kyle Archibeque, Exe. Director of Finance (ZOOM)
Jim Parr, Exe. Director of Academics
Cynthia Eldredge, Exe. Director of Human Resources
Debra Ramsey, Exe. Assistant
Katie Nelson, Principal
Whitney Rapp, Principal
Robert Laymon, Principal
Angela Sauk, Principal
Drew Pearson, Principal
Eric Chandler, Principal
Andrea Martinez, Preschool Director

1. Call to order

- a. The meeting was called to order by President Sheri Noyes at 6:00 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. Executive Session: For a conference with the district's attorney for legal advice on pending litigation per C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b).

Vice President Wright made a motion to go into executive session for a conference with the district's attorney for legal advice on pending litigation per C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b); she invited the board, the attorney (by ZOOM), Mr. Burris, and Mrs. Eldredge. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rice.

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

They adjourned to this executive session at 6:03PM.

The board returned at 6:06 PM.

Vice President Wright amended her motion to invite into the session James Parr and Kyle Archibeque (by ZOOM) as well. The motion was seconded by Ed Rice.

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

The board and invited attendees reentered the session at 6:09 PM. The session ended at 7:08 PM and the board meeting restarted at 7:11 PM.

4. Set the Agenda

Vice President Wright moved to set the agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Hall.
Aye: Frazier, Hall, Hart, Noyes, Rice, Wells and Wright Nay: None. Motion carried.

5. Student Presentation: N/A**6. Approval of Minutes for Feb. 8th Executive Session, Feb. 22nd Board Meeting, Feb. 26th Special Meeting, March 1st Special Meeting, and March 10th Special Meeting.**

Vice President Wright made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from Feb. 8th Executive Session, Feb. 22nd Board Meeting, Feb. 26th Special Meeting, March 1st Special Meeting, and March 10th Special Meeting. Director Hart seconded the motion.

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

7. Celebration Reports

Vice President Wright reported that the middle school play went well. President Noyes said their wrestlers were also having a good season. Director Rice had attended the Cortez FFA Fundraiser and reported that they had a good crowd. Director Hall reported that the high school play starts this weekend and involves community members. President Noyes asked Nancy Shaw to report on the Budget Stabilization Resolution. Mrs. Shaw reported that in 2008 the state borrowed \$10 billion from K-12 education funding and since the 2009-2010 school year has been under-funded school districts statewide. M-CSD RE-1 School Board put together a resolution to make sure this issue is talked about. Over 700 signatures from other rural schools were collected and Mrs. Shaw talked to the chairman of the state education committee, and a rally was held in Durango, Rep. Don Coram is on board. The resolution quickly reached the correct people and is now being considered with a possible result expected as soon as the end of the month. President Noyes then celebrated the employment of Tom Burris as the new Interim Superintendent. President Noyes thanked the executive directors for being rock stars over the last couple months.

8. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Burris submitted his report to the board. Burris highlighted that he was spending time at the schools and planning a board retreat on March 22nd with a boardmanship training provided by Linda Paul. He asked the board if they approved of having the meeting at the Mancos Water Conservancy District Office. They all agreed. He pointed out that the district would provide sandwiches and refreshments.

9. Staff Reports

Mr. Archibeque submitted his report to the board, he was attending by ZOOM. He highlighted that the Lakeview property has been reviewed by legal and there will be a resolution later in the meeting to be signed by the board to finalize the process of returning it back to the proper owners. Mr. Burris will sign the Quit Claim deeds addressed to the Mikkleson's and Schaffer's and it will be notarized: then the owners will need to get those filed at the county. Mr. Archibeque mentioned the board would be seeing supplemental budget requests for the Connecting Colorado Students Grants and the Emergency Connectivity Fund. He said the district had received a donation of wood scraps from Muscanell Millworks to the M-CHS Building Trades class with a possible 2nd similar donation coming in again next month. The estimated value was about \$100.00 per donation.

Mr. Parr submitted his report to the board. He highlighted the pending adaption of new K-5 ELA Curriculum. Of the 5 programs reviewed he was pleased to announce the curriculum committee all agreed on suggesting Benchmark Education – Benchmark Workshop (2021) to the board for their approval. He has discussed a 3 year agreement with the sales representative and based on our current K-5 enrollment, the district should expect to pay \$257,972.00 for this program (with digital options, 3 year commitment, and call support center). If board approves, the next steps would be finalize cost & purchase, order and delivery, and then set up of professional development. This choice was also favored by the District Accountability Committee. Parr wanted the board to know he was encouraged to see turnout during the review process. He gave handouts to the board with samples of this curriculum and the rubric used by for the program reviews. He also advised the board of the upcoming assessment dates.

Mrs. Eldredge submitted her report to the board. She highlighted staff benefits and invited John Corbett from USI (the district's insurance broker of record) to report to the board. Mr. Corbett showed a Powerpoint presentation to the board. He suggested some options for the district to consider are changing the contract start dates from July to January, he advised again the current stop loss sick levels, and he reported identifying commissions that were being paid that were not transparent. Director Hall and President Noyes thanked Mr. Corbett for the presentation and his efforts to save money for the district. Mrs. Eldredge also highlighted the employee systems and utilization report.

Principals & Preschool Director: Reports were submitted by Andrea Martinez, Katie Nelson, Drew Pearson, and Eric Chandler. Mr. Chandler explained the pending action item on the Rural CO Action Program was an opportunity for M-CHS to apply for two upcoming grants along with a cohort school (currently not finalized which one). This would provide an estimated \$250,000 for career connected learning. The first deadline was April 1st and a second option deadline was May 1st. The second grant is the CDE Concurrent Enrollment expansion and Innovation Grant Program for an estimated \$50,000 to help teachers get certified to teach concurrent enrollment classes and helps students with some concurrent enrollment fees (books, student fees etc.). Mr. Chandler wanted to get the board's blessing to proceed.

10. Board Requests/Reports

Vice President Wright reported on legislative changes from her most recent meeting and Avery Wright reported the high school was preparing the play, Prom and testing.

11. Citizens Address the Board * 1 Hour limit (3 minutes each / Must turn in a filled out ticket)

Nancy Shaw- Teacher & EAC Representative: Mrs. Shaw said the staff was not consulted on the new calendar options, causing 3 options of the calendar to be presented to both the community and the staff at the same time. The item most questioned seems to be the 2 half day professional development on Fridays. She felt that if the calendar was truly a 4 day calendar there should be no Fridays at all. She thought the staff deserved a vote. Other suggestions were about the professional development were to have 1 full day Friday a month or possible to use a Tuesday afterschool.

Matt Wolford – Teacher: He was aware the board would be looking at a proposed salary schedule soon and he wanted to ask the board to consider adopting it. He is a graduate of CU Boulder, and has a master's degree from Adams State University, and is a Navy veteran. He was new to the district this year and only made \$900.00 from months' worth of service to the district. He heard about Cortez at a recruiting fair in Denver attending by Dr. Jason Wayman. He cited that over 8,000 teachers applied for 37 jobs in Boulder Valley, but that Cortez was not well known. He thought the district needed to be better known because this is a great place to live, work and play. He said the district not only needed to get the necessary raises but they need to get attention and ideas out. He said a constant fresh prospective would be helpful. He talked about the high costs involved in teacher turnover.

Cassie Panther – Teacher: She thanked the board and superintendent for being here every month. She loves her job and the area. She is a 4 year employee and still struggles to make ends meet. She knew it was tough for everyone right now in Montezuma County. She observed that her school allow had a turnover of 12 people and that it greatly impacts the children. She said a competitive pay scale would help us retain and save on training. She said money was a bigger issue at the state as well, but please consider a livable wage for Cortez.

Laurie Austin- Teacher: She said teaching has been the best journey ever. We need to keep our dynamite teachers here in Cortez. She felt that the proposed 2 half days on Fridays for professional development was unacceptable. She suggested the board make the calendar a true 4 day calendar, as supported by the community. She suggested other options were 1 full Friday a month or use afterschool on Tuesdays for professional development. She said we have dynamite teachers, administrators, and board members and we all just need to work together.

Paul DeWitt – Community Member: He addressed the board about ESSER III grant spending considerations. He thought mental health resources should be part of the district's plan to recover. He gave data about effecting our local children. He said the board has said they know their district best but the data is surprising as it does not reflect our families. He suggested that the board talk to other groups like tribal leaders, the staff at the homeless shelter, and local pediatricians. He said to use this opportunity to support all.

A short break was taken at 8:47 PM.

The board reconvened at 9:01 PM.

12. Discussion Items:

- a. **6-8 Curriculum:** President Noyes said this was added to the agenda to start the conversation. Parr said any changes wouldn't be ready for fall 2022. He said whether we need to replace this curriculum or not, he thought allowing the proper amount of time was the most important part for him to allow the district to have transparency and an opportunity for all parties to be involved. Parr explained that the district currently use a 5 year cycle for curriculum and that is an ongoing process. His suggestion would be to start talking about in early fall if needed. He pointed out there was less guidelines involved in replacing 6-8th grade curriculum; it would just have to pass state standards. He said he should note the state standards align with common core. The staff at the middle school is doing a good job with what they have. Director Frazier expressed wanting something a curriculum that does not have to be supplemented. The board felt like it was fair to allow teachers a chance to amend what they have now. Mr. Archibeque reminded of the 20/21 expense of \$130,000 curriculum and then this year's expense of \$257,000, and we are considering replacing something from year at an additional \$150,000. This big dollar amounts will take away from building projects we want to do. The district needs to stick to a cycle for large purchases. Mr. Pearson added that teachers just want consistency and preparation. Noyes said to keep this as a talking point.

13. Action Item:

a. Consent Calendar (see list)

Director Hall made a motion to approve the consent calendar, and it was seconded by Vice President Wright. Wright asked that the list label which school, grade, and subject a teacher teaches so the board will quickly know what needs the district has. Mrs. Eldredge said the district could provide that information. Aye: Frazier, Hall, Hart, Noyes, Rice, Wells and Wright Nay: None. Motion carried.

b. K-5 ELA Curriculum

Director Wells made a motion to approve the K-5 Curriculum. It was seconded by Sherri Wright. Wells remembered there were multiple options and decided to amend his motion. Director Wells then made a motion to amend his previous motion to specify that it will be for Benchmark Education – Benchmark Workshop (2021) Curriculum, with 3 year digital, at a cost of \$257, 972.00. Vice President Wright seconded the amended motion.

Vote on amended motion: Aye: Frazier, Hall, Noyes, Rice, Wells and Wright Nay: Hart. Motion carried.

Vote on original motion: Aye: Frazier, Hall, Noyes, Rice, Wells and Wright Nay: Hart. Motion carried.

c. 2022-2023 School Calendar

Vice President Wright made a motion to accept the proposed 4 day school calendar for 2022-2023. Director Hall seconded the motion. Wright asked Mr. Parr about the Friday professional development days? Mr. Parr reminded the board that M-CSD RE-1 is a Priority Improvement school. The chosen professional development was decided to the best timing to drive/honor the district's data. The team decided that the 2 half Fridays a month gave us a consistent plan. The district needs to get our students back to pre-covid and we have a lot of loss. Parr was passionate about the necessity of consistency so the district does not end up back where they always seem to be. This time will also help the district to development a common assessment platform district wide so the district knows what level our children are at. Director Hall said we need to move forward with this and give our administrators a chance to do what works for their staff. Director Wells likes getting opinions from multiple viewpoints, but felt it was most important to listen to our administrative teams. Principals supported 2 half day Fridays for professional development. Adding it to a work day evening

would be a huge mental ask and an all-day data session may be better in the morning than the afternoon as data is taxing. Staff can choose plan time, but this is about data collection and use. This district would be about the middle of what the area schools are asking for on professional development. Avery Wright said for students, if a workday evening was used it would take away from a student's ability to retake a test or talk with their teacher.

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

d. Flag Donation

Vice President Wright made a motion to accept the donation of an American Flag, which was seconded by Director Hart.

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

e. Rural CoAction Program

Director Wells made a motion to approve M-CHS's request to apply for the Rural CoAction Program. Director hall seconded the motion.

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

f. Lakeview Property - Surplus Resolution

Director Hall read the resolution. Vice President Wright made a motion for the board to sign the Lakeview Property - Surplus Resolution, which was seconded by Director Rice.

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

g. Supplemental Budget:

i. CCSG – Connecting Colorado Students Grant - \$139,800

Director Hall read the supplemental budget for CCSG – Connecting Colorado Students Grant - \$139,800. A motion was made by Vice President Wright to approve the supplemental budget for CCSG – Connecting Colorado Students Grant for \$139,800, and was seconded by Director Hart.

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

ii. ECF- Emergency Connectivity Fund - \$254,836

Director Hall read the ECF- Emergency Connectivity Fund - \$254,836. A motion was made by Director Wells to approve the supplemental budget for the ECF- Emergency Connectivity Fund for \$254,836.

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

f. Policy Revisions – First Reading: N/A

g. Policy Revisions – Second Reading

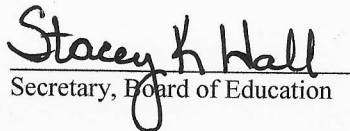
i. KDB-E Public Request for Open Records Form


Motion made by Vice President Wright to approve policy KDB-E Public Request for Open Records Form for second reading. The motion was seconded by Director Wells.

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

13. Adjournment

President Noyes adjourned the meeting at 10:09 PM.


Secretary, Board of Education


President, Board of Education