

DOLORES SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-4A
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 12th, 2013
BOARD MEETING

Regular Board Meeting
Professional Development Room

November 12th, 2013
7:00 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER - The Dolores School Board meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. on November 12th, 2013.
- II. PLEDGE
- III. ROLL CALL - Members present were: Jon Kelly, Vangi McCoy, Deanna Truelsen and Linnea Vass. Scott Cooper, Superintendent, Brandon Thurston, Secondary Principal, Karen Andrews, Business Manager, Faith Pejsa, Student Government President, staff and community members were also in attendance.
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
A motion was made by Deanna Truelsen and seconded by Linnea Vass to approve the Agenda and Additions with the following change: Adding XIII, Item F, Mill Levy meeting discussion.
Votes: Kelly-aye; McCoy-aye; Truelsen-aye; Vass-aye
- V. APPOINTMENT AND SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS
Ms. Andrews swore in Ms. Vass and Ms. McHenry as the newly elected Board members.
- VI. DISCUSSION – BOARD OFFICES

Mr. Kelly reported that election of officers must occur in the following order: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. In addition, a BOCES representative needs to be chosen.
- VII. ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS AND BOCES REPRESENTATIVE
A motion was made by Vangi McCoy and seconded by Linnea Vass to appoint Jon Kelly as President of the Board.
Votes: Kelly-aye; McCoy-aye; McHenry-aye; Truelsen-aye; Vass-aye

Mr. Kelly reported that Vice President can take a more active role than what's happened in the past, being a liaison with the superintendent, sitting in on agenda meetings, etc.
A motion was made by Deanna Truelsen and seconded by Vangi McCoy to appoint Joye McHenry as Vice President of the Board.
Votes: Kelly-aye; McCoy-aye; McHenry-aye; Truelsen-aye; Vass-aye

A motion was made by Vangi McCoy and seconded by Linnea Vass to appoint Deanna Truelsen as Secretary of the Board.
Votes: Kelly-aye; McCoy-aye; McHenry-aye; Truelsen-aye; Vass-aye

A motion was made by Vangi McCoy and seconded by Deanna Truelsen to appoint Linnea Vass as Treasurer of the Board.
Votes: Kelly-aye; McCoy-aye; McHenry-aye; Truelsen-aye; Vass-aye

A motion was made by Deanna Truelsen and seconded by Joye McHenry to appoint Vangi McCoy as the BOCES representative.

Votes: Kelly-aye; McCoy-aye; McHenry-aye; Truelsen-aye; Vass-aye

VIII. FY2013 AUDIT PRESENTATION – CHRIS MAJORS

Mr. Majors provided a recap of the audit report handed out to the Board.

A couple of points to highlight: The Lunch Fund lost \$13,000. The fund balance is \$39,000; this fund has been continuously losing money over the years. Something needs to be done now before that completely runs out. Ms. Andrews reported they're limited in the amount that lunch costs can be raised. There's also been a loss of a la carte services. Other districts are experiencing losses also. The danger with transferring from reserves is that you'll need to continue that transfer until a permanent solution is found. Nutritional USDA guidelines need to be maintained. More discussion on this fund at the January or February meeting.

Another item for discussion, our reserves are up to approximately \$3 million. Sometimes it is necessary to dip into reserves, but don't make it a common practice. Once there is a drop in reserves, that money is hard to recover. If Mr. Majors has to put a number on it, \$2 million are healthy reserves to maintain.

The actual audit report shows that everything looks good. It was completed on August 8th, but just approved by CDE a week ago.

There were no other questions. Mr. Majors said the Board can call him any time with any questions that they may have.

IX. ALIGNMENT OF AG. STANDARDS TO STATE STANDARDS PRESENTATION – AMANDA RAMOS

Ms. Ramos handed out a packet to the Board. She's taught ag education in Cortez for the past six years. Mr. Lankford asked her to come and speak about the standards, because she served on the state committee that revised these standards back in 2010. She said each district does it differently, figuring out ways to credit students with classes they take. She showed examples from other schools of creative ways for students to satisfy credits.

Ms. Truelsen suggested that Mr. Gordanier along with the math and science teachers work on a program to make sure standards are met and benefit students the best way possible. Mr. Thurston said this is something they'll be working on during their PLC time.

X. DROPOUT PREVENTION PRESENTATION – BRANDON THURSTON

Mr. Thurston provided the Board with a handout. What are we doing for dropout prevention? Mr. Thurston discussed the focus at the MS and HS levels, along with the various ways they keep students engaged. Having real time grades available via PowerSchool, teacher websites and email has also been beneficial, instead of having to wait for report cards.

Ms. McHenry asked about the advisory periods; Ms. Pejsa feels they're using that time much better this year.

Mr. Thurston did report that all students are worked with, none are written off; they want to get them all to graduation.

(Break taken.)

Ms. Pejsa updated the Board on student government projects. The Thanksgiving Food Drive is underway until 11/26; their goal is 10 families served from the elementary. They'll also be doing Christmas shopping for 20 kids from the elementary, taking them to Walmart with \$100/child to buy things they need that their families can't provide.

DSLCS did wrapping for Operation Christmas Child; Operation Graduation planning is underway; announcements have been changed up on the website, check them out.

Spirit Council will meet on 11/21 at the public library with the CO Legacy Foundation.

XI. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE:

- A. Strategic Plan #1: PD Day Reflections - Mr. Cooper reported the addition of the PD days to this year's calendar has been very beneficial for staff. This will be an item of discussion for the calendar committee, ensuring the teachers get this PD time.

Mr. Thurston reported they went off site to the public library for their PD day; the feedback he received was it was the most powerful PD ever experienced. It connected the staff, and they worked on core 6, the six instructional strategies that work well in the classroom.

- B. Strategic Plan #2: Drama Club Update – An anonymous donor donated \$10,000 to the startup of the drama club here at Dolores. They're trying to work out the logistics of this program, asking staff with experience who are interested. Ongoing costs and logistics of the program need to be determined. The goal is to produce something for a spring performance, or some one-act plays. It will be a K-12 program. Mr. Thurston would like to start off fairly small, and make sure the interest and support are there to build on the program.

Discussion ensued on combining Dolores with Cortez, benefitting both districts, how the program will be developed. It was determined more research and dialogue is needed, along with input from teachers, students and the Cortez drama kids. An update will be put on the agenda for December.

- C. Strategic Plan #3: Grant Project Update – Mr. Cooper reported they're tracking within budget and time constraints. Bids go out in December/January for subs. By the mid or third week in January, they'll be close to ground breaking. At that time another update will be provided.

XII. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of November bills and financial statements for period ending October 31st, 2013

- B. Approval of minutes for the October 22, 2013, regular Board meeting

- C. Personnel: **Approval of:** *Head Baseball Coach:* Rusty Hamilton; *Substitute Teachers:*

Barbara Smith, Christopher Schmidt, Donna Pleasant, Mari Martin, Melissa Hackett;

Substitute Bus Driver: Carl Barnes; *Substitute Cook:* Mary Foster

Resignation of: *Elementary SPED Para:* Edd Metzger; *MS/HS Secretary:* Laurie Larricq

- D. Approval of \$10,000 anonymous donation to the Drama Club

- E. Approval of FY2013 Audit

A motion was made by Deanna Truelsen and seconded by Vangi McCoy to approve the Action Items as presented.

Votes: Kelly-aye; McCoy-aye; McHenry-aye; Truelsen-aye; Vass-aye

XIII. DISCUSSION AMONG BOARD MEMBERS

- A. Student/Board Linkage Meeting – Mr. Thurston suggested lunch time for a meeting with students. After discussion a tentative date of 1/14/14, between 11:00-1:00 was decided upon.

- B. Staff Linkage Meeting – After a scheduling discussion, a tentative date of 1/22/14, at 4:00 p.m. was decided upon.

- C. Town Hall Meeting – After a scheduling discussion, a tentative date of 1/14/14, at 7:00 p.m. was decided upon.

An update on the grant and the construction project will be provided at the 1/28/14, Board meeting.

After discussion, a motion was made by Deanna Truelsen and seconded by Vangi McCoy to set the following meetings: Student/Board Linkage meeting on 1/14/14, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., during MS/HS lunch hour; Town Hall meeting on 1/14/14, 7:00 p.m.; Staff Linkage meeting on 1/22/14, 4:00 p.m.

Votes: Kelly-aye; McCoy-aye; McHenry-aye; Truelsen-aye; Vass-aye

D. November 14th, 2013, Thanksgiving Lunch; December 14th Christmas Dinner

Mr. Cooper reported that families can join their student for Thanksgiving lunch on 11/14/13; Mr. Soukup is cooking extra food. The invitation extends to staff, the administration and the Board.

The Christmas dinner is at 5:00 p.m. on 12/14/13, at the Community Center, the Board is invited. The Depot is catering Mexican food.

E. CASB update – The plan is still to leave at 4:00 p.m. on 12/4/13, return late on 12/7/13. Ms. Andrews reported since there are not as many financial courses as there were last year she'd like to stay home. This will save space in the Suburban. She's taken all the courses they're providing.

On Thursday they received a special invitation to do a community engagement training, it interferes with the new Board member training. After discussion, it was decided that Ms. McHenry will attend the community engagement piece with the rest of the Board. Ms. Andrews will pull Ms. McHenry out of the new board member meetings.

F. Mill Levy Meeting – Ms. Andrews reported they can't do anything before 5:00 p.m. on 12/10/13; that's why the meeting was set last time for 7:00 p.m.; the information has to be turned in to the commissioners by 12/13/13.

After discussion, a motion was made by Vangi McCoy and seconded by Deanna Truelsen to set the following meetings: Consolidate the Board meeting on 12/17/13, to include the budget meeting; set the Mill Levy meeting for 12/11/13 at 7:30 a.m.

Votes: Kelly-aye; McCoy-aye; McHenry-aye; Truelsen-aye; Vass-aye


XIV. ADJOURNMENT was at 9:45 p.m. The next Board (policy) meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 19th, 2013, at 5:30 p.m.



Board President

12/17/13

Date



Board Secretary

12-17-13

Date