

DOLORES SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-4A  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 13th, 2014  
BOARD MEETING

Regular Board Meeting  
Professional Development Room

February 13th, 2014  
6:00 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER - The Dolores School Board meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014.
- II. PLEDGE
- III. ROLL CALL - Members present were: Jon Kelly, Vangi McCoy, Joye McHenry, Deanna Truelsen and Linnea Vass (entered at 6:58 p.m.). Scott Cooper, Superintendent, Brandon Thurston, Secondary Principal, Jimmie Lankford, Secondary AP/AD, Sherri Maxwell, Elementary Principal, Karen Andrews, Business Manager, Faith Pejsa, Student Government President, staff, students and community members were also in attendance.
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
**A motion was made by Vangi McCoy and seconded by Deanna Truelsen to approve the agenda with the additions.**  
**Votes: Kelly-aye; McCoy-aye; McHenry-aye; Truelsen-aye**
- V. EXECUTIVE SESSION - LEGAL ISSUES (15 min.)  
**A motion was made by Deanna Truelsen and seconded by Vangi McCoy to move into executive session for the purpose of discussion regarding legal matters as authorized by C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b). Those present at the outset of the executive session shall be members of the Board of Education, the Superintendent, the Business Manager and the District's Attorney (telephonically).**  
**Votes: Kelly-aye; McCoy-aye; McHenry-aye; Truelsen-aye**  

The Board broke into Executive Session at 6:20 p.m. and returned at 6:27 p.m. with no votes taken and no decisions made.
- VI. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING FOR REVIEW OR CORRECTION  
The January 14, 2014, Board-Student Linkage and January 14, 2014, regular Board meeting minutes were approved as presented.
- VII. PRESENTATION - JIMMIE LANKFORD  
Recognition of All Conference and All State Athletes & Middle School Cheer  
Mr. Lankford and Coach Trusler reported a successful fall athletic season, and they introduced the All Conference and All State athletes.  
Mr. Lankford also commended MS and HS Cheer, HS Volleyball and Golf, all athletes represented Dolores very well.
- VIII. CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD  
Ms. Gilstrap, Ms. O'Neill and Ms. Baines, along with several 6th grade students thanked the Board for the \$500 given for the 6th grade end-of-year campout in Moab.

IX. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

A. Strategic Plan #1: PLC's - Mr. Cooper reported a push to create more PLC time for teachers, future calendars will embed more of this. If Dolores Schools makes their accreditation with distinction this year, it may hold for two years. TCAP ends this year. The District could possibly present to the state board with their local assessments to present their case for accreditation with distinction if it's not achieved this spring.

B. Strategic Plan #2:

C. Strategic Plan #3: Construction Project Update - Things are ahead of schedule and under budget. The trenching is done in the elementary for the foundation, no surprises. Mr. Cooper and Mr. Kelly participate in weekly meetings. Money is being saved where possible. The supplemental grant has been applied for, it includes a new roof for the gym, all new exterior doors (16 double doors, hinges, frames, magnetic locks), securing the front entrances to the elementary and secondary. We are going for a waiver, so there will be no additional money out of our budget. Mr. Cooper will be traveling to Denver next week to talk to the director and then again in late May.

Mr. Kelly reported that all minutes, agendas and schedules for the construction project are in the Board packets. He invited other Board members to also attend the weekly meetings at noon on Wednesdays.

X. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

In the Board packets, no questions.

XI. PRINCIPALS' REPORTS PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Mr. Thurston reported the secondary is investigating implementing a block schedule, changing from seven periods to eight, but only having four classes a day, alternating days. It's still in the research stage, and won't be implemented until at least the end of next year. Early results show the majority of the staff have taught in a block system and liked it; 80% of Dolores teachers would like to see it happen. Students spend less time in transition, focus on only four classes in a day, and it would fit in well with either draft academic calendar. This team meets every two weeks and brings any research they've done; they may visit schools in the future. It would be implemented for 7th-12th grades.

XII. BOARD REPORTS AND REQUESTS

A. Student Government Report - Ms. Pejisa reported traveling to Montrose for a Leadership Conference. It was fun and informative, they learned about fundraising and projects for schools, focusing on school pride/unity/leadership. They were also able to see how student government is run in other schools.

Spirit Council - They have been meeting and talking about doing a video to represent Dolores in a CHSAA contest; the theme is if you can play you can play. They're focusing on the fact that we don't have cuts at Dolores, everyone is incorporated into sports and that shows good unity.

Mr. Thurston reported the four topics looked at, respect, drug/alcohol awareness, diversity and safety. MS and HS Student Government are having different conversations.

B. BOCES - Ms. McCoy reported meeting last night; highlight, extending Rubadeau's term as interim director, which will be voted on in March. They're looking at their vision, mission and goals. The report on career fair day was very successful.

C. District Accountability - Mr. Cooper reported working on the UIP, it will be finalized on Tuesday. They will also be discussing the calendar. Ms. McCoy reported the preschool has sent off the paperwork for accreditation; there's only one other preschool with this accreditation and it's in Pagosa Springs. It's very impressive to achieve this status, showing that quality is higher and national standards are being met.

- D. Legislative Network Reports - Mr. Kelly reported he and Mr. Cooper will be at the legislative conference next Thursday and Friday. Ms. Andrews reported that a bill that would make pupil count based on average daily attendance is being watched.
- E. Board requests for agenda items, information, etc. - None
- F. Communication plan reports and discussion - Mr. Cooper suggested looking at the plan reports quarterly. Some things discussed before that need to be done: a monthly column in the Star written by a Board member; attendance at monthly Town Board meetings. A section called "Our Town" will be coming out in the Star, and columns from our school paper, the Goose, etc., will be used for articles. Ms. Truelsen will start attending the monthly Town Board meetings.
- G. Other - Ms. Vass asked about the letter in Ms. Maxwell's Board packet concerning the 6th grade alignment; she is concerned that arts and sports be treated equally. Band needs to be worked on and incorporated into the schedule for 6th grade, along with athletics.

(Break taken.)

XIII. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of February bills and financial statements for period ending January 31st, 2014
- B. Approval of minutes for the January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014, regular board meeting and the January 14, 2014, board-student linkage meeting
- C. Personnel: **Approval of:** *Preschool Teacher:* Emily Christenson; *Registrar:* Lezlie Dibsie; *Assistant Drama Coach:* Peter Swingle; *Middle School Assistant Wrestling Coach:* Chris Trusler  
**Retirement of:** *Sixth Grade Teacher:* Carol Gilstrap; *Elementary Principal:* Sherri Maxwell; *K-6 P.E. Teacher:* Ann Sanford
- D. Approval of Early Retirement Stipend and 110-day contract for FY 2014-2015 for Carol Gilstrap
- E. Approval of Early Retirement Stipend and 110-day contract for FY 2014-2015 for Sherri Maxwell
- F. Approval of Early Retirement Stipend and 110-day contract for FY 2014-2015 for Ann Sanford
- G. Approval of \$500 donation to the Elementary School from Dolores Mountain Quilters
- H. Policies:

CODE	TOPIC	READING
BE	Board Meetings	2nd reading
EBCA	Disaster Plans	REPEAL
EBCC	Bomb Threats	REPEAL
GCBA-R	Instruct. Staff Contracts / Salary Schedules	2nd reading

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

Discussion: Policy GCQEA has been put on hold, per Ms. Andrews, because the stipends do not match, the conflict being paid up to 30 annual days is listed in the annual policy, but the early retirement policy says all sick days will be paid. The District will honor those retirees now, even if they have more than 30, but this issue needs to be corrected so the policies match.

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

XIV. DISCUSSION AMONG BOARD MEMBERS

- A. Elementary Parking Lot - Ms. Andrews negotiated with the owner of the lot the appraisal price of \$43,000, payments spread over four years with no interest. After discussion regarding the water tap, safety, surrounding property values and step increases, the Board would like Ms.



Andrews to counteroffer with \$34,000 over three years with no interest. Ms. Andrews will report back on March 13, 2014.

B. Student Athletic Handbook - possible Action Item

Mr. Lankford put together this Code of Conduct after doing some research. Highlights - first violation, out for 50% of the season; 2nd violation, out for the rest of the season, plus the next two seasons; 3rd violation, suspension from the rest of the student's HS career. If a student self reports before they're reported by others, they will get a one-time reduction of up to 50%, with 30 hours of community service. The standards would be the same for MS, but there's no carryover, students start fresh in HS. Counselor costs are the responsibility of the student. Ms. McHenry suggested pulling out the coaches' conduct, since nothing here refers to that.

**A motion was made by Joye McHenry and seconded by Linnea Vass to approve the Athletic/Activity Code of Conduct with the proposed changes.**

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

Mr. Lankford stated that he would make the changes and get it back to the Board in the morning.

C. Field Trip Policy, Regulation & Checklist - possible Action Item

Mr. Lankford made some changes based on discussion with staff on their overnight trips. Discussion ensued on the checklist, what to expect on trips from students, chaperones, parents.

**A motion was made by Deanna Truelsen and seconded by Linnea Vass to approve the Field Trip Policy, Regulation and Checklist as presented.**

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

- D. Academic Calendar Discussion - Two draft calendars are included in Board packets and are posted on the website. Mr. Cooper is requesting more feedback from all stakeholders, with possible approval in March. Concerns addressed: more PLC time, early release is not working overall, consistency is needed daily. 1,080 hours is the requirement for the secondary. Discussion ensued on the options with the scheduling, sports, academics and staff work time, also aligning the calendar as much as possible with surrounding districts. Mr. Kelly suggested making it a one-year calendar so it can be changed if necessary.
- E. Reminders - Administrative Linkage - February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014, at 5:30 p.m. & Policy Meeting - February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. - Mr. Kelly reminded all of these upcoming meetings. Ms. McCoy, Ms. Andrews and possibly others will be attending a rural caucus meeting in Durango on February 27th, so they will not be attending the policy meeting.
- F. Board Discussion on Town Hall, Student & Staff Linkages - Ms. Vass and Ms. McHenry reported HS concerns: ACT prep is needed; academic advisory is not productive, they're doing PBIS and not grade review and makeup work, college prep is not happening. Mr. Thurston has had some of the same complaints, and he's talked to some staff about what they should be doing. He'll follow up soon with students. Ms. Vass also mentioned technology is extremely lacking. Ms. Pejsa feels that part of the technology issue is students not taking care of computers and computer equipment. Mr. Thurston and Ms. Maxwell feel technology across the district needs to be worked on. Mr. Kelly reported that HS students overall like the idea of the block schedule; Ms. Truelsen said MS students didn't quite understand it. Ms. McHenry reported that 8th grade students would like to see separate passing periods from 6th and 7th grade. All Board members will send itemized lists from these meetings to Mr. Kelly for review and further discussion.
- G. Schedule budget workshop - Reminders: School Finance 101 is on February 26, 2014, at 5:00 p.m. in the Professional Development Room, led by Ms. Andrews, everyone is invited;

April 24, 2014, at 6:00 p.m., is the budget workshop. Mr. Cooper would like the technology discussion to take place at the budget workshop.

- H. Resolution in Support of Eliminating the Negative Factor - possible Action Item  
Mr. Cooper reported on the draft resolution included in the Board packets from CASB; 90 plus percent of districts are pressuring legislatures to pull out less money from education. There is a surplus in the education state trust fund, and maybe some of this can be given back to districts. The rural caucus is in support of this resolution.

**A motion was made by Deanna Truelsen and seconded by Linnea Vass to pass the resolution in support of eliminating the Negative Factor.**

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

The board thanked Ms. Maxwell for her service and commitment to the district and the elementary.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION - SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION

**A motion was made by Deanna Truelsen and seconded by Linnea Vass to move into executive session for the purpose of discussion regarding personnel matters as authorized by C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f). Those present at the outset of the executive session shall be members of the Board of Education and the Superintendent.**

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

The Board broke into Executive Session at 9:10 p.m. and returned at 10:05 p.m. with no votes taken and no decisions made.

XVI. SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT - DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM

**A motion was made by Deanna Truelsen and seconded by Vangi McCoy to approve Amendment 1.2, extension of the Superintendent's contract, as written.**

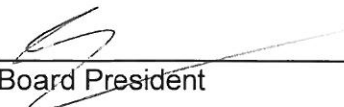
**Votes: Kelly-aye; McCoy-aye; McHenry-aye; Truelsen-aye; Vass-aye**

**A motion was made by Vangi McCoy and seconded by Deanna Truelsen to extend the Superintendent's contract to June 30, 2016.**

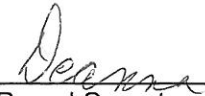
**Votes: Kelly-aye; McCoy-aye; McHenry-aye; Truelsen-aye; Vass-aye**

After discussion no motion was made to approve a \$5,000 stipend for education for the Superintendent's license through the Adams State program.

- XVII. ADJOURNMENT was at 10:25 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014, at 5:30 p.m.

  
Board President

3-10-14  
Date

  
Board Secretary

Deanna E. Truelsen 3-20-14  
Date