

DOLORES SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-4A
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 23rd, 2017
BOARD MEETING

Regular Board Meeting
Professional Development Room

February 23rd, 2017
6:00 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER - The Dolores School Board regular board meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. on February 23rd, 2017.

- II. ROLL CALL - Members present were: Rebecca Frasier, Vangi McCoy, Dee Prock, Deanna Truelsen and Linnea Vass. Scott Cooper, Superintendent, Jenifer Huffman, Secondary Principal, Doreen Jones, Finance Manager, staff and community members were also in attendance.

- III. PLEDGE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
A motion was made by Deanna Truelsen and seconded by Dee Prock to approve the agenda with the additions.
Votes: Frasier-aye; McCoy-aye; Prock-aye; Truelsen-aye; Vass-aye

- V. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING FOR REVIEW OR CORRECTION – None.

- VI. CELEBRATIONS – None.

- VII. SCHOOLARAMA FAMILY NIGHT – LORI HARRIS (Presented after IV)
Ms. Harris announced the date is Thursday, March 2nd, for the third annual Schoolarama at Dolores Elementary, which is also Dr. Suess' birthday; hence the Dr. Suess theme. Ms. Harris passed out information to the board for the planned activities for the evening and all are invited.

- VIII. CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – Sheriff Nowlin reported obtaining radios for the Dolores schools to have direct communication with the dispatch center. They are portable and will increase communication during a critical incident. They have been tested throughout the district buildings and will work everywhere. There is no cost to the school. It is recommended to use them during drills to familiarize everyone with how they work. There can also be additional training for all staff.
The mounted patrol program is moving forward. The horses are being trained now. Before school is out, he's hoping to have the horses brought to the school to introduce them to staff, students and deputies. Pictures will be taken of the horses, and he'd like students to participate in a naming contest to name the horses. The details will be worked out on the selection of the names. The horses will be a common sight around Dolores and the schools. Their names will be posted above their stalls at the sheriff's office. There is an intense training and bonding process that will occur to make sure all are acclimated with each other before introductions take place.

IX. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE:

- A. Strategic Plan #1: Student Success! - Ms. Huffman reported on National History Day. The regional contest is March 17. Everyone is invited to volunteer to be a judge at the competition. Training for judges on March 17 from noon to 2:00, and judging begins at 2:00. Awards will be distributed that night. There are 18 regional competitions; the top three in each category move on to the state; the top two move to nationals. There is a poster contest in May on next year's theme; the winner's design will be used in advertising for next year's event. There are several students going to regional science fair in Durango next week. Ms. Huffman reported on several accomplishments of students within the district. Mr. Cooper highlighted the 100-mile club, of which Ms. Snow is the Physical Activity Leader (PAL). The MS playground is in the works.
- B. Strategic Plan #2: Student Centered Culture – Mr. Cooper reported information is in the board packets. Ms. Truelsen reported the FFA tractor day was a success, very educational and fun. Ms. Snow reported DI students are practicing this week everyday after school and Saturday is the competition at Fort Lewis College, 11:00 a.m.
- C. Strategic Plan #3: Student First Financing – Mr. Cooper reported the budget was finalized two weeks ago. Ms. Huffman reported setting aside title funds for herself and Mr. Livick and some K-12 staff to tour an expeditionary learning school on May 1. It's a project based learning environment model.

- X. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Mr. Cooper's report was in the board packets. Calendars were discussed and weighed in on. They'll find out on March 1 regarding the school based health clinic planning grant; a collaborative project with SWOS and their health clinic. The GOCO grant with the town will also be announced on March 15 for the track and field facility at Joe Rowell. Again, this would just be planning funds for a year's worth of planning. GOCO grant would be capped at \$375,000, which is only a third of what is needed. Other funding sources would need to be sought out, at least another \$700,000 in funding. Disabled American Veterans, next Tuesday, bingo fundraiser at the community center, 6:30 p.m.

XI. ACADEMIC REPORT

- A. Elementary – Mr. Livick's report was in the board packets.
- B. Middle School
- C. High School – Ms. Huffman's report went to the board today. The HS principal's advisory committee is going through the student survey data; concerning areas, student engagement with their coursework. Students report engagement happens when teachers are passionate and knowledgeable about their content, not just lecturing to the students. They appreciate hands-on applications and collaboration. The next topic will be the meaning of grades. There are also three teachers on the HS committee and two on the MS committee to provide "balance." Information will be taken back to the teachers. Starting fourth quarter they are adding five minutes to the lunch period; students are feeling they are rushed to class and they are hoping this will help with tardies in fifth hour.
Ms. Vass asked about the PARCC assessment, is it April 10-28? Yes, it is. Ms. Huffman reported PARCC may not be done after 9th grade this year and the PSAT will be, which she considers a plus. The PSAT is a precursor to the SAT for college bound students. Ms. Huffman reported last year the HS performance rating was based only on the 42 students who took the PARCC assessment, which is an unfair look at what the HS is providing to their students. She reported that in testing Dolores HS students are scoring above the state averages across the board, providing HS students with a quality education and preparation for college.

XII. BOARD REPORTS AND REQUESTS

- A. Student Government (Report Presented after VII) – Ms. Boyd, president of HS student government, reported that she has been interning at the hospital; the counselor Ms. Stark has provided HS seniors with quite a few intern opportunities. Ms. Huffman reported the pathway grad requirements now require an internship, and that's being integrated into the HS programs. Ms. Boyd reported that student government has been focusing on the constitution this year; i.e., organizations that want to do things need to get the approval of the student government. Ms. Huffman assigned them to create one Bears activity a month; they have turned this into a pep rally event, and the first one was successful. There is another pep rally planned for March 8th, after lunch, 12:45 – 2:06, all board members are invited.

- Fundraisers are being looked at for future events. Ms. Huffman reported an increase in student enthusiasm and participation with the pep rally and school events.
- B. BOCES – Ms. McCoy reported there was a meeting last week, different departments have been coming and presenting on what they do; Child Find, Early Childhood Special Ed., are a couple. There was an eSchool update and that program is self sustaining, not impacting the budget at all. The big discussion centered around the reconfiguration of BOCES, east and west side coordinators. It seemed to be going well. Another reconfiguration is being looked at because of Durango's removal. Ms. McCoy expressed some dissatisfaction with this change, so things are being put on hold for now so it can be looked at a little more closely. It's a big change that should be evaluated more closely. Ms. Huffman reported the east/west side split has been huge for our district. Of the 25 most populated counties for the last two "Kids Count" surveys, Montezuma has been 25 of 25, according to the data, which shows a big need here.
 - C. District Accountability – Wildly Important Student-Centered Advisory Team (WISCAT) – Ms. Snow reported the data on the Smart Source survey is in and being assessed. The data has been positive overall. The next meeting is March 9 at 4:00 p.m.
 - D. Legislative Network Reports – Mr. Cooper reported calling Senator Coram, because of upcoming voting on Senate Bill 61, which would force the reallocation of Mill Levy override funds to charter schools within a district's boundary. We don't have a charter school within our boundaries, but some of our neighboring districts do. Many rural districts are against this bill. Ms. Huffman reported being on the CASE outreach committee; she calls in once a month. They are kept up to date on when legislators need to be contacted regarding legislation.
 - E. Board requests for agenda items, information, etc. – Ms. Truelsen would like to see a calendar to the school board about when reports are due, teacher contracts, superintendent contract, etc., anything that is due. She sensed in the linkages frustration in purchasing; she feels the policy is ambiguous and unclear on who can do purchasing. She'd like a committee put together to go through this policy and come up with some suggestions. Ms. Truelsen would also like to know what the cost is to the district for the elementary secretaries to come in at 6:00 a.m. to get substitutes. It was done automatically in the past and now it's not. She reported frustration with the new system. Ms. Huffman clarified it's comp time, not overtime. Training still needs to occur on how to effectively utilize the new system and the process will be looked at.
 - F. Advocacy – Continued discussion on the linkage meetings on February 21st, 2017, took place. Ms. Truelsen reported Mr. Soukup would see about getting salads to fifth and sixth graders. It's a time and quantity issue that needs to be assessed, though. The drinking fountains need to be checked and fixed. The fifth graders are requesting that they not have assigned class tables in the lunchroom so they could be with their friends. They would also like more supervision because there are a lot of arguments during lunch. Fourth and fifth graders reported sports being taken away because of increased cursing and cheating; the students don't want to say something during recess because of negative retaliation. Ms. Snow reported six adults on the playground at recess and there is quite a bit of supervision. Fourth graders have two administrators out on the playground. Suggestions are welcome. The student to adult ratio is actually pretty good at this time regarding supervision. Mr. Cooper suggested wearing yellow vests when on supervision duty. Ms. Vass reported the fourth and fifth graders are looking for more age appropriate playground equipment. Ms. Snow reported through the Take 10 grant, they purchased new equipment for the playground; hula hoops, volleyball net, basketballs, footballs, etc. Painting of hopscotch and muscle memory activities are also being looked at. The new equipment should be here within a month.

Ms. Vass reported the theater department needs new curtains; they've been asked to submit a quote for that. There are still some funds from the anonymous donor that should be able to fill that request. The bus barn needs to be looked at and reconfigured for the longer buses. Mr. Soukup would like his doors replaced. Folks would like Mr. Cooper to discuss and address problems and issues instead of always being a cheerleader. Both schools, elementary and secondary, would appreciate the August 15 start date for planning purposes, PLCs, etc. The purchase orders are a big issue that needs to be addressed, along with finding subs. One staff member attended the staff linkage. There was a suggestion to stay on campus for the linkages next year, and staff that can't attend can write a letter to the board. They had more positive feedback regarding the bears and advisory groups than they had last year.

(Break taken.)

- G. Town Board Report – None.
- H. Other Information – None.

XIII. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of February bills and financial statements for period ending January 31st, 2017
- B. Personnel: **Approval of:**
Substitute Teachers: Brett LeCompte, Christine Szeredy, Andrew Spear, Kelsey Carver
Custodian: Jose Barrera Monterroso
Retirement of:
Preschool Teacher: Mary Cross
Nonrenewal of:
HS Head Cheer Coach: Ashley Johnson

C. Policies:

CODE	TOPIC	READING
ADF	School Wellness	1 st reading
◆ Required by law		
† New Policy		

- D. Approval of Hearing Officer's recommendation for Expulsion

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

Votes: Frasier-aye; McCoy-aye; Prock-aye; Truelsen-aye; Vass-aye

XIV. DISCUSSION AMONG BOARD MEMBERS

- A. Policies JICDA-Student Conduct, JICDD-Violent and Aggressive Behavior, JICDE-Bullying Prevention and Education

All of these policies are in board packets, along with the Policy 312 that Sheriff Nowlin presented at the last meeting. Will a new policy be drafted? Will the policy Sheriff Nowlin presented be incorporated into what Dolores has? These are all decisions the board will have to make after having reviewed the policies and given them all some thought. Mr. Cooper feels regardless of what takes place, keeping a close eye on at risk students going forward is paramount. There have been several calls to Safe 2 Tell recently. Mr. Cooper reported more kids in crisis this year than ever before. Anything done for new policies needs to be in line with CASB as well. The hands on help for students, though, is already occurring. Ms. Huffman reported a recent assembly at the school regarding a recent community tragedy, and another will take place with the community in the near future. Mental health training for staff is occurring and ongoing.

A policy meeting will take place before the board meeting on March 14th, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. This gives the board members time to look over all of this material to have an informed discussion. It was suggested and agreed to focus on these policies only at that time.

- B. Future counselor/ESS Teacher Positions

Mr. Cooper reported a plan is developed for next year; Ms. Finch would like to step back to a part-time leadership role as counselor at the elementary, but still provide monthly training for staff, while providing support for the new hire. This could take place at least for next year, and in future years if needed and if Ms. Finch is available. Professional positions are hard to fill in this area. Mr. Cooper would like the board to allow an ad to be run for elementary counselor, to see what applications come in. Approval would be on for the April board meeting. He feels getting the position out there and advertised now is important. This adds counseling support for the district, especially the elementary, a full-time counselor, as well as a three-quarter time counselor. Funding: Three-quarter time is the most desirable, but that can be adjusted to make the numbers work. Three-quarter time equals full benefit package with equals \$40,000. If the district can't afford that, it is up for negotiation. Several staff members will be affected by the inability to staff many positions; at least four, possibly five certified positions have been notified that they may not be brought back in their current position. Mr. Cooper is confident he can find places for all staff in different positions through attrition, repositioning to other

positions. Very low numbers are coming in to kindergarten, the lowest in a very long time, so this helps with some of the repositioning. \$250 – \$300,000 in positions will be cut back next year because of decreased funding.

Ms. Finch would be support across the district, focusing on kids in crisis. Instead of calling Access, getting Ms. Finch here seems more feasible. Ms. Huffman reported in 2019 another round of mental health grants will be funded. The numbers of students that need paras and one-on-one aides has increased across the district and is a great cost to the district. Ms. Huffman reported some staff members being overwhelmed with the workload. Ms. Jones thinks the position is a good idea, but she can't give an answer on budget yet, until things are more firm on the numbers. This will be up for further discussion at the March board meeting. Mr. Cooper will share more information on costs, positions, etc., with Ms. Jones before the next board meeting as well, so she is more informed.

- C. 2017-2018 Academic Calendar – Mr. Cooper presented the draft versions of the calendar; the current version is Version 6. Mr. Cooper took last year's calendar and rolled it forward to start. Version 6 is a later start date and decreases the PLC days, per the request to start later from some staff and maintenance. Was there a committee to work on the calendar? No, there wasn't. Staff did have input on what they would like to see. The drafts will be posted on the website tomorrow. The cutoff for student contact is 160 days; these calendars have 162 days, which is pretty close to the minimum. Ms. Frasier would like discussion on a year-round school. It can't be done for 2017-'18 but can be discussed for future years. Ms. Truelsen said this is a ranching/farming community and kids are needed in the summer. Extensive discussion took place on the calendar and what folks, the majority, prefer. Ms. Snow feels teachers want more time and more time off, many probably didn't realize that PLC days were decreased with a later start time. This needs to be explained better. A calendar committee would be helpful; Mr. Cooper will start that in November next year. Ms. Huffman doesn't think it's fair to ask teachers to write curriculum on their own time.

Mr. Cooper needs feedback for a final decision on March 14. The discussion of year-round school will start next year.

- D. Future Board Meetings/Possible Workshops – There is a policy and board meeting on March 14. In April there will be a budget workshop. Ms. Jones will bring a draft budget in May. The board votes on the budget in June. After discussion, April 13 is the regular board meeting; April 27, 6:00 p.m. is set for the budget workshop only.

Ms. Huffman reported working on getting Mr. Mellott approved to teach a college level math course; feeling he has the requisite experience.

Ms. Jones would like the June approval meeting in the last week of June. After discussion, the June board meetings will be: June 7, 6:00 p.m., regular board meeting; June 27, 5:00 p.m., budget approval meeting.

Ms. Vass reported the retreat may need to be bumped into July, depending on when school starts. This can be discussed further when the calendar is finalized.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION: SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION

A motion was made by Deanna Truelsen and seconded by Rebecca Frasier 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: Frasier-aye; McCoy-aye; Prock-aye; Truelsen-aye; Vass-aye

The Board broke into Executive Session at 9:44 p.m. and returned at 10:45 p.m. with no votes taken and no decisions made.

A motion was made by Deanna Truelsen and seconded by Dee Prock to accept the superintendent's evaluation and proposed suggestion as per his contract: A decrease in superintendent salary of \$400.17 per year, and a contract rolled forward for two years instead of one, superintendent contract ending June 30, 2020.

Votes: Frasier-aye; McCoy-aye; Prock-aye; Truelsen-aye; Vass-aye

XVI. ADJOURNMENT was at 10:46 p.m. The next Board (policy) meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14th, 2017, at 5:00 p.m.

Simna R. Vass 4-13-17
Board President Date

Deanna S. Tuden 4-13-17
Board Secretary Date