

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
School District No. Re-1 Valley, Logan County, Colorado

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Location: Hagen Administration Center, Sterling, CO

February 6, 2023

6:00 pm

At 6:03 President Shinn called the meeting to order.

Present: Deb County, Dr. Marty Foster, Kelly Jo Harlow, Heather Harris, Dennis Klein, Ron Marostica, Joel McCracken, Ronda Monheiser, Michelle Sharp, and Steven Shinn.

Guests in person: Megan Eurich, Callie Jones, Dan Jorgensen, Liz Mauler, Cindy Reyes, MaryBeth Skerjanec, Annette Vergilio, and Joe Vergilio.

Guests Remote: Brenda Klobberdanz, Dan Jorgensen (presenter), Dennis Klein (host), Holloways, iPhone, Maria Gomez, MaulerD, and Merb

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Five members present, showing a quorum.

2. Approval of Agenda

Director McCracken moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Director Monheiser seconded the Motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Harris: aye McCracken: aye Monheiser: aye Sharp: aye Shinn: aye

Motion Carried

3. Public Comment: None

4. SCHOOL/PROGRAM/COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS:

Joe Vergilio, Caliche Principal and Megan Eurich, Caliche Academic Advisor, shared information regarding a trip to New York City they are proposing for Caliche students. Planning and organization of the trip are in the early stages. Travel would take place in early June of 2024 and include guided tours, visits to historical places, and even a Broadway Show. The group will have its own 24-hour security and tour director. Ms. Eurich shared that the trip she took in high school was the most memorable of her life and wants to offer her students that kind of opportunity. She provided the cost of the trip, possible fundraising activities and payment plans. Tonight she is asking the Board to approve preparations for the trip so that the information can be disseminated to parents and students and planning can begin in earnest. An official Trip Request will be submitted when the number of attendees, chaperones and dates of travel are finalized.

5. Communication

5.01 Staff Reports:

Deb County, Interim CFO, reported that the District financial audit is underway; auditors have received the District's Trial Balances and are on-site for one more week. The goal is to provide the completed audit to the Board at the meeting scheduled for February 21, 2023. Once the audit has board approval, she will upload the finalized audit report to CDE. On another note, the approval of the new Payroll Accountant is on the consent agenda.

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5.02 Superintendent Report:

- Campbell Backflow Valve

A backflow valve at Campbell Elementary burst over the weekend. Mike Manuello and his crew were able to get the water turned off and the mess cleaned up. The heater, in a room on the east side of the building, malfunctioned causing the problem. Because the pipe was part of the fire sprinkler system, Nebraska Fire and Safety will be on fire watch until repairs are completed. The building is safe and ready for students to return.

- Enrollment Report

The Enrollment Report for this month shows a drop in student numbers, Sterling Middle School had the biggest loss. Based upon an enrollment loss report students have moved to different areas or towns, some transferred to Merino, a family moved to Cheyenne, and others enrolled at GOAL Academy. Dr. Foster will keep a close eye on changes as they will be a key factor in developing next year's budget.

- Principal Selection Update

Job postings for the open principal positions at Sterling Middle School and Sterling High School are active. Interviews will be scheduled for February 23 and 24 at the Middle School. High School Interviews will be scheduled for March 1st through 3rd with February 28th as a backup date. At this time there are 5 applicants for SMS position and 6 applicants for opening at SHS. Last-minute applications are not uncommon for this type of position.

- 2022-2023 Calendar Revision

The State of Colorado requires students to receive 1080 hours of instruction time each school year. It is general practice to add extra days into the student calendar in case of emergencies such as snow closures or closure for student events. As of January 19, 2023, the District has had six snow days. In order to regain lost pupil/teacher contact hours, and be sure schools meet the minimum number of hours required by the state, Dr. Foster found it prudent to audit the number of student contact hours at each school. Based on the findings of the audit, the initial calendar created for 2022-23 was short contact hours. Therefore, the 2022-2023 student calendar will need revision and three schools will alter their bell schedules. These changes provide time for another one-day closure if needed. Beyond that, based on our good faith effort to make adjustments, Dr. Foster will work with CDE to obtain a waiver should additional snow days be needed.

- Calendar Committee

The changes to this year's calendar have delayed work on the 2023-2024 calendar. The new date for the presentation to the Board is March 6, 2023. Calculations used to audit this year's calendar, which aligns directly with CDE Guidelines, will be used to ensure that the 2023-2024 Calendar meets state guidelines and that school closures are protected.

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5.03 Board of Director Reports

- Director Harris congratulated students for their success at the FBLA Conference and the Stock Show and celebrated Tanner Gerk and Karsyn Huss, athletes of the week at Caliche, Aiden Young who achieved his 100th pin with SHS wrestling and Ryder McConnell who signed with NJC.
- Director Monheiser was a Judge for the District FBLA Contest held at Northeastern Junior College and shared that RE-1 students presented themselves well and were very successful. She also thanked Deb County for her work on the audit process and Dr. Foster for troubleshooting the school calendar.
- Director Sharp has been invited to read to students at Ayres Elementary for “Read to your Student’s Day” on February 14. She encouraged everyone to participate in the day in some way. She also congratulated Sterling Boys Basketball for “beating Eaton!”
- Director McCracken echoed Director Harris’ sentiments concerning FBLA and FFA excellence and thanked the advisors for their leadership skills. Mr. Walker has grown the program at Sterling High School from 3 to 99 since he took the position. He also applauded Ryder McConnell by saying “NJC is getting a heck of a ball player!”
- Director Shinn commented that there are things happening all around us and we don’t always see everything. He attended a meeting with Judge McGuire about truancy issues this week that was a real eye-opener. He is pleased that the District is working on a focused, common-sense approach to the problem. He recognized Mike Manuello and his team for their diligence and thanked the entire staff for their work. “People are putting in extra effort everywhere we look.”

6. Discussion Items: Summer Trip Proposal: Caliche High School

6.01 Mr. Vergilio and Ms. Eurich answered specific questions from the Board regarding the proposed trip to New York. A minimum of 20 students are required for the discounted cost. Once students sign up the cost will be guaranteed. They clarified that fundraising efforts will not impact other school groups, a behavior contract will be considered to augment built-in consequences for bad behavior, and any funds not covered by fundraising efforts will be the responsibility of the student. The Board agrees that this sounds like a great opportunity. Tonight the Board is asked to approve the preparation and planning of the trip. They will be asked to approve an official trip request when trip details are finalized.

6:02 Proposed 2022-2023 Calendar Revision

As stated previously the District has had six snow days this year, creating the need to regain pupil/teacher contact hours that were lost. To achieve this, the District administration is asking the Board to modify three blue professional development days, currently in the calendar, and make them student contact days. Those dates are February 27, 2023, April 17, 2023 and May 15, 2023. In addition, Sterling High School, Caliche Elementary School and Campbell Elementary School will add time to their school day. Additionally, Campbell Elementary School will shorten lunch recess by five minutes, and Sterling High School will deduct five minutes from their lunch period.

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6.03 Remote Learning Resolution

The revisions to the District calendar allow for one more day of emergency closure at every school except Sterling High School. If another day is required, Sterling High School will activate its Remote Learning Plan. To be sure that CDE recognizes this day as pupil/teacher contact time, the Board is asked to approve a Resolution addressing temporary remote learning in the case of hazardous weather or other emergencies which threaten the safety, health, or welfare of students or staff.

6.04 Accept Resignation of Director Chartier and Declare a Vacancy

Board Policy requires Board Members to live in the Director District that they represent. Makayla Cartier has moved out of Director District 7 and therefore must resign from her position on the Board.

6.05 EARRS Grant Position Proposal

Truancy is a very common problem across the country; the numbers that RE-1 Valley is seeing are astounding. Liz Mauler, Special Education Director, applied for, and was awarded, the Expelled and At Risk Student Services Grant (EARSS). This multiyear grant is designed to assist in providing educational and support services to students at risk of suspension and expulsion, and students at risk of habitual truancy. Funds will be awarded for this year, 2022-2023, and continue each year until the final award for the 2025-2026 school year. The District would like to use this grant to finance two full-time Family Community Coordinator Positions. These individuals, one for elementary students, and the other for secondary students would work directly with families and act as case workers for at-risk students. Judge McGuire, Chief Judge of the Thirteenth Judicial District, is willing to work with the District in developing specific expectations for these positions. The goal will be to reach students as early as possible to keep them in school and out of the courtroom.

6.06 Policy for First Reading:

Policy JH: Student Absences and Excuses, is presented for first reading. The only change, indicated by red print for changes and strike-through for deletions, is to allow two days per day of absence for makeup work. Current policy only allows one day. These changes have been discussed with and agreed to by Principals. This will constitute tonight's first reading of the policy.

At 7:15 p.m. the Board took a break

At 7:26 p.m. the Board reconvened

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7. Action Items:

7.01 Consent Agenda

- Personnel Approvals
- Meeting Minutes from January 26, 2023

Action Items / Consent Grouping				
Monday, February 6, 2023				
Personnel				
a. Classified /	Resignation / Retirement	/ Work Agreement:		Effective Date
Pennock, Angela	Resigned	Sterling Middle School	6th Grade Paraeducator	1/20/2023
Douglas, Glenda	Resigned	Sterling High School	Health Assistant	1/13/2023
b. Certified / Contracts / Reassignment / Transfer / Resignations / Disciplinary Actions:				
c. Classified /	New Hire / Rehire	/ Work Agreement:		
Forster, Heather	Rehire	District Office	Payroll Accountant	2/27/2023
VanNostrand, Fumie	Change in Position	Ayres Elementary	Food Services	2/1/2023
Lewis-Bruce, Kimberly	Change in Position	Campbell Elementary	SPED Paraeducator	2/1/2023
Hite-Swofford, Alyssa	Change in Position	Sterling Middle School	Administrative Assistant	2/7/2023
Hanson, Crystal	Extra Duty	Sterling Middle School	Parking Lot Monitor	1/17/2023
Cooley, Cheryl	Extra Duty	Sterling Middle School	Parking Lot Monitor	1/17/2023
d. Certified /				
New Hire / Rehire				
/ Work Agreement:				
Kendrick, Peighton	New Hire	District Wide	Substitute Teacher	1/31/2023

Director Sharp moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Director Harris seconded the motion.

Approved by consensus.

7.02 Summer 2024 Trip Proposal: Caliche High School

Director Monheiser moved to approve the planning and preparations for a Caliche High School Student trip to New York City in June 2024 with the expectation that, when the number of attendees, chaperones, and dates of travel are finalized, an official trip request will be submitted for approval.

Director Harris seconded the Motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Harris: aye McCracken: aye Monheiser: aye Sharp: aye Shinn: aye

Motion Carried

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7.03 Proposed 2022-2023 Calendar Revision

Director McCracken moved to approve the revisions to the 2022-2023 Student Calendar that change February 27, 2023, April 17, 2023 and May 15, 2023 from professional development days to student contact days, add additional time to each school day at Sterling High School, Caliche Elementary School, and Campbell Elementary School, shorten lunch recess by five minutes at Campbell Elementary School, and deduct five minutes from the lunch period at Sterling High School in order to meet state required pupil/teacher contact hours for the 2022-2023 school year.

Director Sharp seconded the Motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Harris: aye McCracken: aye Monheiser: aye Sharp: aye Shinn: aye

Motion Carried

7.04: Remote Learning Resolution

Director Monheiser moved to approve the Remote Learning Resolution as presented.

Director Harris seconded the Motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Harris: aye McCracken: aye Monheiser: aye Sharp: aye Shinn: aye

Motion Carried

7.05 Accept Resignation of Director Chartier and Declare a Vacancy

Director Harris moved to approve the resolution to accept the resignation of Makayla Chartier and declare a vacancy in Director District 7 as presented.

Director Monheiser seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Harris: aye McCracken: aye Monheiser: aye Sharp: aye Shinn: aye

Motion Carried

7.06 EARRS Grant Position Proposal

Director Monheiser moved to approve the creation of two full-time Family Community Coordinator Positions that include benefits, to be funded by Expelled and At-Risk Student Services Grant monies.

Director Harris seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Harris: aye McCracken: aye Monheiser: aye Sharp: aye Shinn: aye

Motion Carried

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8. School Board Governance w/Dan Jorgensen

Dan Jorgensen, with the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), talked to the Board about the importance of having a platform for continuous improvement that will effectively support positive outcomes in student proficiencies. The expectation is that all students have the opportunity to receive instruction that allows them to meet basic levels of literacy and math in order to be ready for life after high school. CDE has many tools available to districts. They can provide specific support to help the Board contemplate accountability and minimum performance expectations for students and staff. He shared that there are funds available that could be used to create a Board Handbook. He is willing to help draft an outline and provide examples to get the process started. In preparation for a change in leadership for the 2024-2025 school year, Mr. Jorgensen offered to share various Superintendent evaluation templates for the Board to consider. Having an evaluation process in place would create clear and measurable expectations for the next leader.


9. Closing Remarks: None


10. Adjournment

Director Monheiser moved to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 6:00 p.m. at the Hagen Administrative Center.


Steven Shinn
President


Heather Harris
Secretary/Treasure