

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

April 3, 2023

6:00 pm

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

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

Guests in person: Travis Ayers, Callie Jones, and Elizabeth Mauler.

Guests Remote: Clint, Clint's iPhone (3), Dennis Klein (host), iPhoneLb, MaulerD, Myra W, reyes, and Theresa.

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Five members present, showing a quorum.

2. Approval of Agenda

Director Monheiser moved to approve the agenda as amended to add the resignation of Rick Jensen to the Consent Agenda.

Director Sharp seconded the Motion.

Approved by consensus

3. Public Comment: None

4. SCHOOL/PROGRAM/COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS: None

5. Communication

5.01 Staff Reports: None

5.02 Superintendent Report:

- Enrollment Report

This month's report is very similar to last month's. Some school counts are up while others are down. SMS again has the most noticeable changes.

- CMAS Testing

State summative assessment for language arts, math, science, and social studies known as Colorado Measures of Academic Success, or CMAS, testing is underway. Sterling High School, having just one test, has completed the process. Campbell and Sterling Middle School will be testing this week and next, and Caliche is scheduled to finish on April 17th. This is the first year of full-scale testing since COVID. All students are encouraged to take the test and do their best. The results are important to the student and the district.

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- Budget

Dr. Foster will be meeting with Deb County, Interim CFO, extensively as the budget is prepared. Work on the Salary Schedules is still underway. It seems the more that is done the more questions come up. Placing all staff on salary schedules based on experience and education and awarding a step to all employees is the goal for this budget year. Dr. Foster will continue to provide information to the Board and hopes to have salary schedules ready for the April 17, 2023 meeting. The draft budget should come to the Board at the second meeting in May and must be finalized and approved by the end of June. It can be amended in January 2024.

- Reports from Finance

Deb County, Interim CFO, is planning on providing a monthly financial report beginning at the next meeting and continuing the practice during the second meeting of each month.

- Health Insurance Committee

The Health Insurance Committee has a meeting scheduled for April 13, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. The Broker will provide numbers from the current provider. Those can be compared to other plans. Although Insurance companies prefer an 18-month history when looking at comparisons; the committee will explore all options.

- Professional Development

Principals are working closely with staff to plan professional development days based on the needs of individual buildings. The District's completed plan will be presented to the Board in May.

- District Accountability Committee (DAC)

Dr. Foster will host a DAC meeting at 4:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 20, 2023. The committee will be discussing the Budget for next year and information from CDE. Colorado lawmakers wait till the last minute when budgeting for schools but it appears that the Budget Stabilization Factor will not be as big this year as in years past.

- In Closing

Dr. Foster has been very busy, there is a lot going on. He did have the opportunity to judge art work at Sterling High School last week. There are some very talented artists at SHS and he had a very good time.

5.03 Board of Director Reports

- Director Sharp attended the FFA Oyster Fry at Sterling High School which looks to be a successful fundraising event. They had a great turn out and there were numerous items for the silent and live auctions. The Universal Preschool Program has postponed the first round of placements due to facility changes, incomplete student data, and unfinished profile setup. They are working diligently to take advantage of this learning opportunity and complete placements before the summer break.

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- Director McCracken attended the Sterling High School FFA Oyster Fry prior to the meeting. The line was out the door when he arrived and when he left. The food was good and the atmosphere was great. Mrs. Reed is doing a great job. Caliche has an oyster fry scheduled for April 14, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.
- Director Monheiser attended the Buffalo Races at Caliche over the weekend. The food was great and everyone had a fun time. In addition, she hopes everyone does well on the CMAS testing.
- Director Harris: The Sterling High School Girl's Golf team was very successful in their first match, taking first place in Varsity and Jr. Varsity competitions. Although she didn't make it to the SHS FFA Oyster Fry, she did share that Mrs. Reed is doing a great job at school and in the community. She did attend the play "Once on This Island" which was a fantastic production. She also recognized Dana May for her Community Champion award.
- Director Shinn Thanked them for their comments and participation in the community and at District events. His other comments dovetail into Agenda Item 6.02 so he will share them then.

6. Discussion Items:

6.01 Liz Mauler: Affective Needs Proposal

Liz Mauler, Student Services Director, presented a proposal to bring an Affective Needs Program to RE-1 Valley. The program, which will include the creation of a Full-Time Learning Specialist/Program Coordinator position, is designed to support students with serious emotional disabilities and those who require more structure and time to focus on self-responsibility and behavior. Students will be referred to the program through the IEP process and evaluated by specific indicators throughout the process. A detailed exit criterion, including a transition plan, will help students to effectively return to the least restrictive environment. If approved the program will be funded by Federal IDEA dollars and provide students a second chance when they aren't successful in a regular classroom environment.

6:02 School Board Member District Reapportionment

President Shinn reiterated that by statute, the School District is required to verify the size and proportion of voting members in each Board Director District and adjust them as needed to make them as even as possible. RE-1 Valley is past due with this process. The Board will be asked to approve the proposal from Western Demographics to provide the service of reapportionment. For the last reapportionment, Board members worked directly with the County Clerk on this task. Due to software purchasing requirements that is not an option this time. Hiring an outside agency also provides the benefit of negating any question of impropriety in the process. The Board also discussed the possibility of changing the District's plan of representation. More information, including community discussion and input, is needed before this option will be considered.

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6:03 Policies for First Reading:

- GCQEB: Employment of Retired Professional Staff Members
- GDQCA: Employment of Retired Classified Staff Members

Both of these policies specifically address transition contracts, which allow employees the opportunity to work for the District in their current position for one year after their official PERA retirement. The policies have been revised to address specific requirements and expectations of employees requesting a transition year and reflect the process for pay and benefits currently in place. With these changes, policy will match practice.

6:04 Policies for Second Reading:

- DKC: Expense Authorization/Reimbursement
- GBEB: Staff Conduct and Responsibilities
- IC/ICA: School Year Calendar/Instruction Time

DKC and GBEB include updates from 2021 as well as newer updates suggested by CASB. Director Monheiser has suggested edits to DKC that include the word *prior* be added in front of approval of travel expenses and the addition of *carpooling is encouraged if more than one employee is attending a conference or training*. IC/ICA has been adjusted to define recess as "actively engaged in the educational process".

6:05 Interview with Travis Ayres: Candidate for Director District 4

Travis Ayers, candidate for the District 4 Director opening, introduced himself to the Board and shared information about his history and why he feels strongly about supporting the students and staff of RE-1 Valley. Board members each asked one question. In answering them Mr. Ayers showed himself to be a team player, who isn't afraid of asking hard questions. He will be honest about his perspective, will respect others even if they don't agree, and will support the decision of the Board in all matters. The decision about his appointment to the Board will be made by President Shinn later in the meeting.

At 7:47 p.m. the Board took a break

At 8:02 p.m. the Board reconvened

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7. Action Items:

7.01 Consent Agenda

Director Harris moved to approve the Consent Agenda including the resignations of Mariah Wagner, Ayres Kindergarten Teacher, effective 5/26/2023, Rick Jensen, SHS Athletic Director, effective 6/9/2023, Aria Abdulla, Paraeducator at Ayres, effective 3/9/2023, Kelli Skinner, Paraeducator at Campbell, effective 3/30/2023, and Stacey Nelson, Administrative Assistant at SMS, effective 4/14/2023; the transfer of Laura Clark back to SHS as an Academic Advisor, effective 4/3/2023; as well as new hires: Ashley Bizal, SSN Paraeducator at SMS, effective 3/20/2023, and Ralph Billyard as Head Custodian at SHS, effective 3/21/2023.

Director McCracken seconded the motion.

Approved by consensus

7.02 Affective Needs Proposal

Director McCracken moved to approve the Affective Needs Program Proposal, including the creation of a full-time position for a Learning Specialist/Program Coordinator, as presented.

Director Monheiser seconded the Motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion Carried

7.03 Policies for Second Reading

Director Monheiser moved to approve policies DKC: Expense Authorization/Reimbursement, GBEB: Staff Conduct and Responsibilities, and IC/ICA: School Year Calendar/Instruction Time, as amended to revise DKC to add *prior* in front of *approval* both times in section 1 and to add “if more than one person attends, carpooling is encouraged”, at the end of section 3, for second reading.

Director Harris seconded the Motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion Carried

7.04 Presidential Decision on Appointment of Director for District 4

After commending Mr. Ayers on his willingness to step forward and serve, his willingness to take responsibility for his actions, his positive involvement in the community, and his dedication to help others, Mr. Shinn appointed Travis Ayers to the Board of Education as Director for District 4 through the end of the current term. He then administered the Oath of Office and made the placement official.

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8. Closing Remarks:

Director Harris: Welcome aboard Travis, this will be the most rewarding job you've ever done; there is nothing more rewarding than working with our youth.

Director Monheiser: Also to Travis, this is the most challenging and rewarding job, congratulations and welcome aboard.

Director Sharp: Congratulations Travis, for joining our team, looking forward to working with you and the experience you bring to the table. Remember it will change tomorrow so don't take it personally. Also, there is a preschool Art show here on Thursday.

Director McCracken: Travis and I had a chance to visit during the break. Thanks for stepping up, I appreciate it. I'm not going to give you any advice. It has been challenging and rewarding. Liz thank you for all you do, it seems like you are always here with new ideas to help kids. Thanks for what you said tonight, I think it's a good program. Art Show here at Hagen this Thursday from 4:00-7:00 the preschool students will have their art on display.

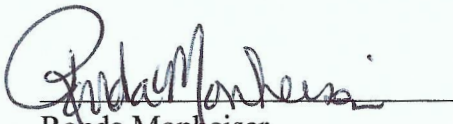
Director Shinn: Thanks again to the Board members for going through the process. Thanks, Liz for the programs that we really need as support for kids. Working with this group is satisfying and I appreciate all the opportunities we have to make a difference in RE-1 Valley. We've got more to do but we are on our way and Travis, I know you'll be a major asset to help us get there.

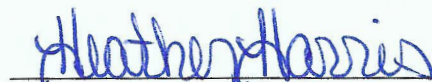
9. Adjournment

Director Monheiser moved to adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 17, 2023, 6:00 p.m. at the Hagen Administrative Center.


Ronda Monheiser
Vice President


Heather Harris
Secretary/Treasure