

**DOLORES SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-4A
BOARD OF EDUCATION MONTHLY STRATEGIC MEETING MINUTES
DISTRICT BOARD ROOM**

Thursday, August 12, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – The Dolores School Board meeting was called to order at 6:07pm on August 12, 2021.

ROLL CALL – Members present were: Casey McClellan; Kay Phelps; Lenetta Shull via phone; Clay Tallmadge. **QUORUM** was present. Also in attendance: Reece Blincoe, Interim Superintendent; Doreen Jones, Finance Director; Alesa Reed, Curriculum and Assessment Director; Principals and Directors; members of the community in the audience and via Zoom.

PLEDGE

The Board Secretary read the vision and mission statements.

The Board Secretary read the Board's Citizen's Comments guidelines statement.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (DSD Policy BEDB)

A motion was made by Lenetta Shull and seconded by Kay Phelps to approve the agenda with the following change: change Item VII.G. to Selecting a Delegate for Fall CASB Convention, and move all subsequent items down accordingly.

Discussion: Sup. Blincoe stated that agenda items should usually be posted 48 hours in advance; the Board discussed that while this is the goal, it has also been routine to adjust the agenda in real time.

Votes: McClellan - aye; Phelps - aye; Shull - aye; Tallmadge - aye.

Motion Passed.

III. REVIEW OR CORRECTION OF May 13, 2021 regular meeting; June 3, 2021 workshop and special meeting; June 10, 2021 regular meeting, July 9, 2021 special meeting, and July 13, 2021 special meeting MINUTES (BEDG)

Due to operations shifts and leadership changes in the district, the Board did not have access to the above listed meeting minutes prior to this meeting.

A motion was made by Kay Phelps and seconded by Clay Tallmadge to postpone approval of all listed minutes until the next Board meeting.

Votes: McClellan - aye; Phelps - aye; Shull - aye; Tallmadge - aye.

Motion Passed.

IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS (BEDH)

Eight community members spoke:

1. Amanda Winter- stated her opposition to children wearing masks in school.in medical profession. opposition to children wearing masks. Voiced opinion that wearing masks transmits COVID because they are not used properly. People reuse masks a lot; carry germs; masks get pulled down constantly.
2. Heather Barrett- stated her belief that masks and distancing do not work and her opposition to masking in the district, and asked why an article in the Cortez journal cited Superintendent Blincoe's comments about COVID protocols for the district prior to discussion with the Board.
3. Kristen Pejsa- thanked the Board and the elementary Principal, and recognized the efforts of the Principal in standing up for the district's kindergarten teachers.
4. Kim Hampton- expressed disappointment that Superintendent Blincoe made a statement to the newspaper, and that Alesa Reed was not chosen as superintendent; stated her opposition to a mask mandate.
5. Shay Allwood- expressed opposition to the superintendent making an executive decision about masking protocols.
6. Justin Wyatt- encouraged other parents not to comply with any masking protocols.
7. Renwood Jacket- expressed opposition to masking in school, and concern about school athletes having to wear masks again, or having sports shut down again.
8. Brandi Tulley- stated opposition to masking and vaccination.

V. CONSENT AGENDA (DSD Policy BEDB)

- A. Approve Disbursements of Checks for Payment of all Bills/Debts for July 2021

VI. BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Board Member Reports - (Policy BIB)

Casey McClellan - nothing to report.

Kay Phelps - BOCES Board resumes next week- will provide a report at the next meeting.

Lenetta Shull - nothing to report.

Clay Tallmadge - Nothing to report.

B. Finance Report – Doreen Jones (DSD Policies BBA, DAB)

Finance Director Doreen Jones shared that the normal finance report is not available this month because it's the end of the previous fiscal year and the beginning of the new fiscal year. She stated that the Board will receive a regular finance report in the next month.

She explained that June had high expenditures, including: using up prop EE monies; PCC concurrent enrollment; paved preschool parking lot; sprinklers and sod at health clinic; painting of preschool; doors, security camera work, etc.

She also stated that July included the payment of property and liability insurance for the year, but that everything else for the month was regular expenditures.

C. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Blincoe shared with the Board that this week was convocation, and that the administrative team has been spending most of its time making sure the in-service activities are going well. He worked with transportation and food service to ensure everything is ready to go for the start of the school year. The flooring project in the kitchen was behind, which caused other delays, but the kitchen is now reassembled and ready to operate.

He also shared that enrollment is up- the district picked up another 40 students this week, mostly in the Middle School.

Lenetta Shull inquired about current enrollment numbers. Sup. Blincoe stated that he would provide exact numbers in an email, but that a rough estimate of the current number is in excess of 700, with another 60-80 in the preschool.

VII. ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

A. Current Covid Protocols

Superintendent Blincoe explained that these protocols were developed in coordination with all district principals and Curriculum Director Alesa Reed; the team took into consideration recommendations from the Montezuma County Health Department, the Colorado Dept of Health, the CDE, and the CDC. They started with looking at the protocol that was used last spring. Dr. Blincoe also met with the superintendents of Cortez and Mancos earlier this week, and determined that all three districts are almost exactly on the same page. The goal is that every school in the county will maintain the exact same protocols.

Those current protocols are: masks are recommended for students and staff in the building, and are required on buses and for food service staff. Parents are not allowed in the building.

Dr. Blincoe shared that these recommendations are based on the most recent document from the CDC, "roadmap to in-person learning." He stated that the administration's goal is to keep students in in-person learning, and that if a mandate is given by the state, it will be followed. Casey McClellan asked whether the document from the CDC is the most current, since it contains verbiage referring to last winter; Sup. Blincoe stated that it is the most recent document that districts have to work with.

Kay Phelps stated that she tuned in today to Governor Polis' update, and was happy to hear that Sup. Blincoe will be meeting twice monthly with the team tasked with COVID protocols, as the district needs to be vigilant since things can change very quickly with the new virus variant.

Sup. Blincoe added that the district nurse gets information weekly, which will be passed on to the Board via their weekly Friday updates.

Lenetta Shull stated that Mancos policy and Cortez policy should be reviewed by the Board, and that the Board should then come back and make a policy that matches. She stated that she wants parents and staff to make decisions on masking requirements rather than the school board.

Clay Tallmadge pointed out that the presented policy states that masks are recommended, not required. Casey McClellan asked for clarification of what "recommendation" means in this document; Sup. Blincoe explained that a recommendation is not a mandate- the measures are recommended but not required. He stated that he had worked with and consulted upper administration, the CDE, the CDC, etc. to come up with these recommendations, and that since school starts on Monday, it is necessary to get something in place.

A motion was made by Lenetta Shull and seconded by Casey McClellan to table the COVID protocols until the Board can review Cortez and Mancos policy and have input on a policy with an explanation of its contents.

Discussion:

Sup. Blincoe and Kay Phelps reiterated the need for a provisional protocol since school is starting on Monday. Kay Phelps inquired whether the district could begin the school year with the presented protocols in place and then revisit and change them if needed.

The motion was restated.

Clay Tallmadge stated that these protocols are very open, and give people freedom to wear a mask or not depending on preference, except for on the bus and in food service, which is federally mandated.

Casey McClellan suggested that the Board consider the presented protocols as a draft to start with, approving them as temporary, with the promise to continue to work on them and involve parents in designing them. Sup. Blincoe stated that he saw no issue with that suggestion, since we need something in place for the start of the year. Kay Phelps pointed out that the protocol is by nature temporary, and may change as conditions change, but that the district needs something in place now, and needs to remain flexible.

Lenetta Shull stated that she believed the Board should have discussed the topic in their workshop, and that therefore she would not approve the proposed measures.

Clay Tallmadge stated that this protocol was designed by school principals and the school nurse as well as the superintendent, working with other area superintendents, and that he believes it important to trust their decisions around the safety of our students. He pointed out that the protocols allow for freedom of choice, and are aligned with recommendations from the state.

Votes: McClellan - aye; Phelps - nay; Shull - aye; Tallmadge - nay.

Motion Died.

The Board and Superintendent discussed the fact that the hangup seems to be the use of the word "recommended." Sherri Wright, from Cortez School District, spoke from the audience to help clarify, since the Board was discussing both Mancos's 3-page and Cortez's 18-page document with which the Dolores document is aligned. She stated that masks are highly recommended but optional, except for on the bus, which is not negotiable as it is federal and state law. Sup. Blincoe stated that the verbiage could be changed to add the same two words- highly recommended but optional.

A motion was made by Casey McClellan and Clay Tallmadge to temporarily adopt current COVID protocols with the following change: first bullet: add these words: “masks are highly recommended but optional indoors for students and staff”; and that the Board will work on a final draft of these with the superintendent and with community input.

Discussion:

Kay Phelps inquired how citizen input would work, and pointed out that the Board and administration are working with students’ best interests in mind. She asked whether the added verbiage “highly recommended but optional” would not address parent concerns.

Clay Tallmadge stated that last year the district set up a group that designed the COVID protocols, which included parents, teachers, the superintendent, principals, a board member (Lenetta Shull). He suggested that that would be a better way to proceed, rather than soliciting community comments.

Sup. Blincoe stated that if the district were to put together a committee like that, it should not only address current virus percentages, but create contingency plans for other percentages- a dial-type system of green blue yellow orange red- so that we know as needle moves that we have protocols that will go into place. The Board can task that previous committee, or use the standing DAC. Alternatively, the Board can take recommendations from the community and do a workshop as a Board, including the superintendent, the principals, and Alesa Reed, to work on this topic.

Lenetta Shull inquired whether Sup. Blincoe had looked at the COVID protocol from last year; Sup. Blincoe replied that he did not have access to it, which is why he called upon the principals to advise.

**Votes: McClellan - aye; Phelps - aye; Shull - aye; Tallmadge - aye.
Motion Passed.**

A motion was made by Clay Tallmadge and seconded by Kay Phelps to direct the superintendent to create a COVID taskforce with input from staff, the community, and healthcare officials.

**Votes: McClellan - aye; Phelps - aye; Shull - aye; Tallmadge - aye.
Motion Passed.**

B. Board Calendar

Sup. Blincoe explained that he worked with Maegan Crowley to put together the presented Board Calendar. They used the previous year's calendar, which outlines for each month from July through June exactly what will be tackled at each board meeting. He stated that it is a basic guide that will help the superintendent and administration know what materials to prepare for each meeting.

The Board discussed the timing of the superintendent evaluation process, which they had previously discussed shifting to a midterm evaluation in January and a final evaluation in June.

A motion was made by Kay Phelps and seconded by Clay Tallmadge to approve the proposed Board Calendar with the change of shifting the midterm superintendent evaluation from February to January.

Discussion:

Board members discussed that these are agenda topics, not events, and that they can be revised at any time. The purpose of the calendar is to ensure that all of these topics are covered throughout the year, such as policy reviews, UIP, etc. Items can be added to any month's agenda- this is just a starting place with the big items.

Votes: McClellan - aye; Phelps - aye; Shull - nay; Tallmadge - aye.

Motion Passed.

C. Strategic Plan

There will be a meeting on Tuesday to work on the UIP; this will affect the strategic plan, but there are no changes at this time. Superintendent Blincoe suggested bringing this item back to next month's meeting when there are updates to work with, and having a workshop on it in the meantime.

D. Superintendent Evaluation

Kay Phelps stated that the Board had held a discussion at the recent work session about clarifying the superintendent evaluation policy and process. She and Clay Tallmadge consulted Archuleta and BOCES; they concluded that the Board is satisfied with the district's current policy for superintendent evaluation, but that the process needs to be firmed up. Based on the discussion at the work session:

- January- midterm evaluation; surveys sent to school leaders, results given to board members; board members complete evaluations, board chair compiles and summarizes, board meets with superintendent to review
- June- summative and formative assessments and goal setting

Clay Tallmadge clarified that surveys will be sent out to directors at midterm, which will give the Board some input and feedback on the superintendent's day to day performance and interactions. He stated that it didn't seem appropriate to put any sort of percentage on this input, but that it would be considered carefully by the Board. The results of these surveys will go directly to the Board, and will not be filtered through the superintendent.

Sup. Blincoe asked that the survey tool (questions etc.) be agreed upon by the Board and the superintendent, and stated that this process sounds great. He recommended having a team-building exercise, as had been discussed at last workshop, and having this process discussed as part of that meeting, because the board evaluation of the superintendent is an important part of the team working well together.

E. School Board Elections

Superintendent Blincoe provided information regarding school board elections: the candidate packets have been developed, and notice was given to the paper and published on August 4th, encouraging candidates to step forward; we are currently in the timeline for candidates to pick up packets.

Clay Tallmadge stated for community members that anyone interested in running needs 25 signatures completed by August 27th, and that candidates must live within the Dolores district.

A meeting was set for August 31st to draw for ballot order (order in which candidates appear on the ballot). Laurie Arnett is overseeing this, as she has in previous years.

F. Resolution for Rural Schools

Sherri Wright presented to the board as the director of CASB. She stated concern that we are left behind as rural schools, as everything is centered on the Front Range. She explained that CASB has put together a statewide resolution that will be voted on, and that districts need to send a delegate to CASB convention in order to vote. The resolution points out disadvantages and inordinate burdens faced by students in rural schools, including low income, low funding, no internet access, etc., and advocates for increased school funding for rural schools. She asked Dolores School District to send a delegate to vote, and pointed out that if all rural schools sent delegates, they could outvote the urban schools and pass this and further resolutions. She and the Board discussed that this resolution is a first step, moving toward legislation that would change formulas that hold rural schools at a major disadvantage.

Upcoming CASB dates:

Oct 5 in Cortez High School Library- regional meeting

Oct 22-23 at Hilton in Fort Collins- vote on resolution

Dec 2-4 in Greeley- annual convention (board is already planning to attend)

G. Select Delegate for Fall Conference

A motion was made by Clay Tallmadge and seconded by Kay Phelps to select Casey McClellan as the delegate to the Fall CASB Conference on October 5th.

Votes: McClellan - aye; Phelps - aye; Shull - aye; Tallmadge - aye.

Motion Passed.

H. ESSR II Grant

Superintendent Blincoe reminded the Board that the ESSR II funds came down from the federal level to help with COVID-related items; they are passed through CDE. He stated that district's grant will request funds to:

- reimburse for summer school salary, including benefits
- pay friday school director salary
- provide two-percent hazardous pay stipend for all personnel
- pay for special ed staff- stipend for 4 special ed teachers (having trouble finding and retaining!)
- pay for the remediation portion of friday school- voluntary teacher pay, plus aid stipends
- pay for the enrichment portion of friday school- field trips, STEM, etc.

The total ESSR II Grant request is \$262,101, which is the maximum for which the district can apply per the state. ESSR III will come after this grant, and will require a committee to be put together. Superintendent Blincoe recommended using the DAC.

Kay Phelps asked what the 2% hazardous pay stipend would be based upon. Sup. Blincoe replied that it would be on base pay only, and would be paid as a one-time bonus in December.

Lenetta Shull expressed concern about paying for Friday programming. Sup. Blincoe responded that these are federal funds, which we have to apply for and use or we will not get. The requirements for the grant stipulate that the district has to spend 20% of the funds on learning loss- this is covered in the remediation portion of the Friday programming. He stated that this grant will sustain us until at least 2023, and that ESSR III funds will then come into play, which will be almost double the ESSR II amount.

A motion was made by Kay Phelps and seconded by Clay Tallmadge to approve the ESSR II proposal.

Votes: McClellan - aye; Phelps - aye; Shull - nay; Tallmadge - aye.

Motion Passed.

- I. Approval of \$1,260 donation from Montezuma County Democratic Committee for school lunch debt

A motion was made by Lenetta Shull and seconded by Clay Tallmadge to approve the donation from Montezuma County Democratic Committee.

Votes: McClellan - aye; Phelps - aye; Shull - aye; Tallmadge - aye.

Motion Passed.

J. Personnel:

1. Recommendation to Hire
 - a) Emily Adie - MS Science Teacher
 - b) Chelsey Lacey - Preschool ESS Para
 - c) Josie Clark - MS/HS ESS Para
 - d) Sheena Groff - Infant Para
2. Resignation
 - a) Shauna Wark - Payroll Specialist / Finance Asst.

A motion was made by Lenetta Shull and seconded by Clay Tallmadge to approve the hires listed above.

Votes: McClellan - aye; Phelps - aye; Shull - aye; Tallmadge - aye.

Motion Passed.

The Board and Superintendent recognized Shauna Wark for her service to the district.

VIII. AGENDA PLANNING

A. Next Agenda


- electronic version of Board proceedings displayed on screen/Zoom

- complete materials packets
- COVID protocols
- update on Friday programming
- bus barn parking lot
- charging of DAC, including using their input on ESSR III Grant

B. Meeting Recap

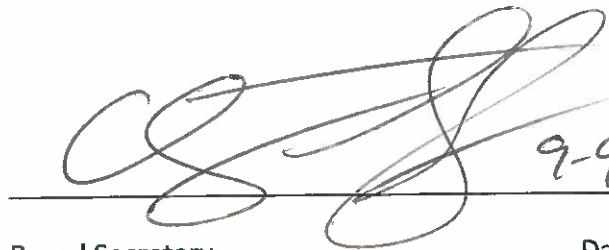
IX. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned by Casey McClellan at 8:05 pm.

 9/9/21

Board President

Date

 9-9-21

Board Secretary

Date