

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

Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – The Dolores School Board meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm on September 9, 2021.

ROLL CALL – Members present were: Maegan Crowley; Casey McClellan; Kay Phelps; Lenetta Shull; 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.

- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (DSD Policy BEDB)**

A motion was made by Clay Tallmadge and seconded by to approve the agenda with two additions: VII.1.a - COVID-19 School Screening Testing Program, and VII.5.b. Tonya Carver - Substitute Teacher.

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

Motion Passed.

Lenetta Shull stated that her nay vote was due to the fact that the changes were not available to the public 72 hours before the meeting.

- III. MINUTES FOR REVIEW OR CORRECTION: July 15th Special Meeting, July 23rd Special Meeting, August 12th Regular Meeting, August 31st Special Meeting (BEDG)**

A motion was made by Casey McClellan and seconded by Kay Phelps to approve the above listed minutes.

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

Motion Passed.

IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS (BEDH)

Lenetta Shull stated that she wanted to make it clear that while she may know everyone in attendance in the room personally, she did not organize them to come here and speak. She takes her oath as a board member to heart, and also believes that everyone has a right to speak.

Heather Barrett- stated that she would like to address two ideas. First: that on June 11th of this year, the CDC and FDA made class 1 recalls against the PCR test for SARS-COV2, stating that it can't differentiate between virus and influenza. She stated her belief that the PCR tests being used are faulty and inaccurate, can't distinguish between COVID and any other type of virus. Second: in regard to the advisory committee and wellness policies: she stated that policy states that community groups are encouraged to offer suggestions and advice to the Board to assist with decisions, but that the Board makes the ultimate decision. She read aloud the policy that states that advisory committee meeting notices shall be posted in the same places as Board meetings. She stated that she had attempted to listen to and observe COVID taskforce meeting, and was asked to leave, because it wasn't an open meeting. She stated that the Taskforce was not appointed by the Board, and that its meetings have not been posted.

Kim Hampton- provided her phone number and email, and stated that she is 37, has two students at Dolores, and is Lenetta Shull's daughter. She stated that she was very upset to hear a rumor that Lenetta Shull coerced her daughter to speak at the previous meeting, and emphasized that she was and is speaking for herself. She expressed dissatisfaction with the Board regarding body language, such as eye rolling, during comments made by community members as well by each other during public meetings.

V. CONSENT AGENDA (DSD Policy BEDB)

- A. Approve Disbursements of Checks for Payment of all Bills/Debts for August 2021
- B. Directors Reports

VI. BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Board Member Reports - (Policy BIB)

Maegan Crowley - stated that she had attended the CASB webinar, which included training on policies, strategic plans, superintendent-board relationship strengthening; she stated that she is looking forward to the regional conference in Cortez on October 5th, which will be open to anyone running for the open

Board seats. She stated that it will be a really helpful professional training for board members, and hopes that all candidates will attend, as well as current board members.

Casey McClellan - nothing to report.

Kay Phelps - reported that BOCES resumed a couple weeks ago, and is working on a strategic plan, in collaboration with all superintendents in the area. BOCES will be working with individual superintendents on identifying areas of need for each district.

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 auditor is still working at Mancos School District, so the year-end audit is not in yet; she stated that she will have very short finance reports for the Board until the audit is completed.

She stated that hopefully by next month the audit will be complete, and the Board will have regular finance reports. The federal money coming into school districts is requiring a lot more auditing, which is slowing down the auditing process.

C. Superintendent Report - Dr. Reece Blincoe (Policy DAB)

Superintendent Blincoe shared current enrollments:

- high school: currently at 167,
- middle school: started at 205 on 8/3, currently at 211
- total in secondary is 378

- elementary: currently at 286, has stayed level
- preschool: currently 70, with 25 infants- 95 total

Superintendent Blincoe shared that the UIP committee met Wednesday, and that it will have to submit a report by the 15th of next month. The UIP will be the main topic at the Board's workshop on the 23rd.

He also shared that the first directors and principals meeting was held on Tuesday, and those meetings will be held every other week, with principals-only meetings on alternating weeks. He stated that the meeting went well.

Other updates:

- The BOCES meeting will be held next Wednesday.
- tomorrow will be the first FUNDAY Friday, with voluntary student attendance. There are a full array of Fridays already planned throughout the semester, and over 60 students will be attending tomorrow.
- There is a home football game tomorrow night vs. Dove Creek, at 7pm, which will also be first responders appreciation night.
- Board candidates will be contacted by the newspaper, and will receive a questionnaire.
- A school board candidate election forum will be held on October 6th at the community center, hosted by the Dolores Education Association. Introductions will start at 5:30, followed by a Q&A session, and then a meet and greet with refreshments.

Lenetta Shull requested that the superintendent report be submitted as a written report next time.

VII. ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

A. Covid Protocols

Dr. Blincoe showed the revised document, which board members were sent yesterday afternoon as soon as the Taskforce completed their meeting. He stated that the flow chart was added this morning, and that all changes were left in red so that they can be easily found and reviewed.

He expressed gratitude to the members of the wellness committee, and shared that they had had three productive meetings, compromised well, and tried to meet in the middle wherever possible. He also thanked local health officials that met with him, the parents that met with him; and the district attorney and liability insurance attorney for their assistance.

He stated that the committee had made all additions requested at the previous Board meeting.

He explained that active cases will be determined by a student that was positive while on campus, and will roll off after 10 days. He explained how the count would be determined, and gave the example of the two positive cases from last week- 1 did not come to school, one did; this would only count as a 1 for the school.

He also stated that the district nurse checks county numbers weekly, on Thursdays.

He stated that he believes that there is good and bad to this policy. Starting with good: the foundation is extremely strong. The narrative and flow chart are particularly helpful. He also really likes the flexibility and adaptability it allows for, providing for the committee to meet if unforeseen circumstances arise and the protocol needs to be adapted.

Maegan Crowley asked how the levels and protocol details will be communicated so that parents and staff know about it. Dr. Blincoe stated that it will be on the website- broken down by campus, because each campus could be on a different level.

Casey McClellan inquired about the ratios of the county number. Dr. Blincoe explained that it is a standardized ratio used by the state. County case counts are turned into a standardized ratio per 100,000.

Superintendent Blincoe stated that what he is concerned about is the cases-on-campus calculation. To be counted, a student has to have come to the school while positive. To date, the most we've ever had at once, based on the best of the committee's knowledge: secondary 6, elementary 1, teddy bear 2.

He stated that the false positive case at the beginning of the year was a perfect storm: because the family involved had 4 students, and they had 1 student in each of our campuses, every campus had to react. So with those 4 kids, a bus, and several kids and teachers at the elementary school had to be sent home; the middle school would have had to quarantine the entire 8th grade because contact tracing was impossible, and there would have been another 8-10 students quarantined in the high school at a minimum.

He suggested another scenario: 10 secondary students that tested positive and had come to school- or 8 elementary- could result in 150 kids being quarantined, since part of the policy is that siblings have to go home too. So we would have 150 kids at home without a single mask required on anyone.

He stated that Cortez had to close down an elementary school because there were not enough subs and too many teachers were out and had to quarantine. Teachers who are also parents would have to go home to care for their quarantined students.

Maegan Crowley asked for confirmation that the threshold number is the consensus of the committee, and that the committee's consensus is that this is a good plan. Sup. Blincoe confirmed this, but stated that he wanted to share his own concerns with the number, as he believes that the threshold number is too high.

Casey McClellan stated that he was certain that the way the data was being looked at is wrong, and asked if there was someone that Sup. Blincoe would defer to. Superintendent Blincoe responded that Dr. Clay Aiken would be helpful, and the two agreed to call Dr. Aiken together and go over how to read the county numbers.

Casey McClellan asked how the committee is justifying the percentages listed, since they don't match the CDE, and the CDE oversees 178 school districts. Sup. Blincoe responded that the committee discussed at length, talked about scenarios, then met in the middle, and created consensus.

Casey McClellan asked whether the committee's meeting was posted. Sup. Blincoe responded that there are two different types of committees- those called by the superintendent, and those called by the Board. He stated that he had called a meeting, as tasked. Casey McClellan asked where he had gotten his understanding that the wellness committee was a superintendent's committee. Superintendent Blincoe responded that the Board tasked the superintendent with calling the committee, so that therefore it was a superintendent's committee.

Maegan Crowley reminded the Board of its roles and responsibilities, and state that this was task they had given staff. Casey McClellan responded that Clay Tallmadge had called a motion to task the superintendent to call a taskforce. Lenetta Shull stated that there was perhaps a misunderstanding on all parts, and that while the Board had given a general directive to call the taskforce, they may have created the understanding that it was a community committee.

Lenetta Shull stated that Sup. Blincoe had brought up an important point: 1 kid came to school, 1 stayed home- how many children had to quarantine because of that 1 child who came to school. She stated that it is important that no one come to school when they are sick, and that it be made clear to families that their child's academic needs will be worked with to make sure they feel comfortable staying home.

Sup. Blincoe stated that consensus was reached, even if there are particular parts that he is still concerned with and does not agree with, and that he recommends to the Board that the protocol be adopted, stating that it is the best we can do at this time.

Clay Tallmadge asked how a false positive would fit into this. Sup. Blincoe stated that quarantines, etc. would be reversed as quickly as possible in that event. Clay Tallmadge asked where getting retested lies on the flow chart, and stated that since the district has had both real and false positives recently, we need to make it clear that if you are asymptomatic, you need to get retested.

Lenetta Shull asked what would happen in the event that a person continues to test positive even if they are negative. Sup. Blincoe stated that he discussed the scenario with the nurse, and that in the rare cases when someone continues to test positive when they are negative (these are known outlier cases), they would come back after 10 days.

Clay Tallmadge asked whether this revised plan has been taken to the attorney or to the insurance company. Superintendent Blincoe stated that have not, but that the committee has worked carefully to ensure that the district is not “willfully and wantonly” disregarding guidelines, so he feels confident that this plan will be acceptable from a liability standpoint.

Lenetta Shull referred to the second bullet point on the document, and stated that she would like to see the wording even more specific, so that it’s very clear that even if someone is vaccinated- staff or student- if they don’t feel well, they should stay home. She stated that she wants parents and students to feel very comfortable that there will not be an undue negative impact on a student’s learning if they have to stay home.

Kay Phelps stated that all her questions have been answered, but that she wanted to state that she hopes school leaders and parents will all stay very vigilant as our understanding of COVID-19 and its variants continues to evolve, especially for kids 12 and under. We don’t know the long term effects.

Maegan Crowley stated that leaders have done well communicating, and that she understands this is an extra burden. She expressed appreciation for their work and diligence. She also acknowledged that we were able to get a lot of community input via the talk to the board tab, citizen comments, and parent input on the committee as well.

A motion was made by Kay Phelps and seconded by Clay Tallmadge to approve the COVID protocols as presented, with the understanding that the district will stay in close touch with the health department.

Discussion:

Lenetta Shull stated that the Board had discussed that this is a living document, and as such it will have to be revisited. She wondered whether any sort of timeline could be created for possible updates. Clay Tallmadge suggested putting this protocol on next month's agenda for updates; Maegan Crowley said that she doesn’t want to limit the Board from acting fully if things come up in the meantime.

Superintendent Blincoe stated that he will begin putting this information in the Board’s Friday reports, including exact numbers, not just the current color level.

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

Motion Passed.

Casey McClellan stated that he voted nay because he wants to speak to Clay Aiken- that he disagrees with the math, and wants to match CDE's numbers. He stated that the Board called for this committee, and tasking the superintendent with setting it up doesn't make it a superintendent committee.

Lenetta Shull stated that she voted nay because while she believes this is a good plan, and she appreciates the work that has been done, policy states that information must be provided 72 hours ahead of time. She stated that she understands that we didn't have that time, and that everything she had asked at the workshop had been addressed, but that the Board hasn't had the opportunity to dig into it.

1. COVID-19 School Screening Testing Program

Superintendent Blincoe stated that he attended a zoom meeting yesterday, during which Sarah Hama from CDPHE addressed this screening program at length.

Clay Tallmadge asked whether the program is optional and voluntary, and whether parents can opt out at any time. Sup. Blincoe replied yes on both counts.

Lenetta Shull asked whether Sup. Blincoe had talked to the nurse about using the clinic. He replied yes, and that the district nurse stated that the clinic is already over-tasked; if the district elects to use this program, full service makes more sense. The district would get to choose the day and time that the program set up on campus.

Maegan Crowley stated that the Board had asked at their workshop whether this program interferes with instructional time, and this provided documentation clarifies that it does. It will cost the district extra time as well, for additional paperwork. It also offers monetary incentives to students to get tested- she stated concern about offering incentives to children for testing, as well as concern about the loss of learning time. She stated that the district does currently have access to testing (rapid test kits).

Clay Tallmadge stated that the district has had a long history of providing medical services for its students.

Superintendent Blincoe suggested that the district could watch neighboring districts as they implement this program, and see how it goes- and sign up at a later date if it seems prudent.

Kay Phelps expressed agreement with this, and stated that she believes the district should hold off. Regular testing catches asymptomatic children, which could be beneficial if things change; but for now, it seems best to hold off.

Maegan Crowley stated that this doesn't seem like a fully realized plan at this point, per the paperwork.

Lenetta Shull stated that a payment directly to children isn't appropriate, and that the school shouldn't be associated with that. Superintendent Blincoe stated that he agreed with this concern. He explained how that payment works- that the student would be sent a debit card, and incentives would be loaded onto those cards.

Maegan Crowley clarified that this item is on the agenda because it had been discussed at the workshop, but that the Board does not have to take any action.

B. District Accountability Charge (AE, AE-R, AE-R3, BDF)

This is the usual time to charge the DAC for the year. The Board discussed adding the DAC charge to the upcoming workshop, to allow members to go back and review minutes and notes to ensure that nothing that the Board needs the DAC to work on is missed. The DAC charge and DAC member approvals will be part of the workshop.

Maegan Crowley referred to the committee policies that came up in discussion earlier, and stated that the DAC is appointed by the Board. The DAC also has its own policies. She stated that having the DAC recommend its own members makes the most sense, as they solicit members from all parts of the school community.

C. ESSER II Grant

Superintendent Blincoe introduced the revised list that will be requested for the ESSER II Grant. He stated that some things have been added, mostly due to COVID, including:

1. 10 extra salaried days for the nurse, since she's been working a lot of extra days
2. funding for extra chromebooks, since several have turned up missing or broken beyond repair
3. PD in google classroom, so that in the event we have to go to remote learning, we can ensure that all teachers are trained in google classroom
4. a stipend for K-3 teachers, to compensate them for 45 hours of state mandated additional training that they were all were required to complete without compensation
5. funding for some bus repairs

Clay Tallmadge asked about who will receive the 2%-of-salary stipend. Superintendent Blincoe and Finance Dir. Jones clarified that it will be for ALL employees.

A motion was made by Lenetta Shull and seconded by Kay to accept the new ESSER II plan.

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

Motion Passed.

D. Review Policy GCBA-R2 (First Reading)

In order to distribute the 2% salary stipends from the ESSER II grant, the district has to have a policy in place. This draft policy was taken from a neighboring district, with whom Dolores RE-4A shares an attorney- since the attorney most likely wrote it, it will probably pass legal review.

Clay Tallmadge asked how the Board did one-time stipends in the past without this policy, since they have been common practice. Dir. Jones stated that those were all using state funds, but that this is federal funding, and the feds require a policy to be in place for disbursing any one-time money.

Maegan Crowley stated that this is first reading, and that a copy will be available on file in the district office if anyone wants to stop by to read it. It will be on agenda at the next two meetings, so that we have the policy in place before we receive funds, if we do receive them.

Lenetta Shull asked whether the policy should be held until the next meeting, in case the lawyer or someone else finds a discrepancy. Maegan Crowley stated that the policy can still be revised at the second reading, but would just need to be completed by the third. The Board can also call a special meeting if needed.

Sup. Blincoe gave the first reading of the policy, reading it aloud.

E. Personnel:

1. Recommendation to Hire
 - a) Curt Haun - Bus Driver
 - b) Tonya Carver - Substitute Teacher

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

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

Motion Passed.

VIII. AGENDA PLANNING

A. Next Agenda

workshop

- DAC charge discussion
- UIP- going to truly address student achievement; presentation

special meeting after workshop

- DAC charge and committee member appointment votes

October meeting

- health clinic is to give an annual report- it has to fit certain criteria (Doreen Jones said that Sup. Blincoe will get an email with the data needed, and then correspond with health clinic to get those numbers)
- report of whatever is shared with BOCES regarding district needs
- COVID protocol updates

Sup. Blincoe stated that COVID protocol documents and levels will be added to the website ASAP, and that admin will begin working on that tomorrow.

B. Meeting Recap

Clay Tallmadge stated that this morning at 7am he looked through the Board materials drive, but when he looked again this afternoon, there was a lot of new items added; he stated that he wants to make sure to have time to be informed and read through everything, and requested a clearly stated time by which all documents will be provided to the Board. Maegan Crowley agreed, stating that the policy stipulates 72 hours. She stated that she understands that there have been a lot of transitions in the administration, as well as a lot of last minute updates, but that returning to the 72 hour cutoff is needed.

The Board discussed that it would also be helpful to have materials projected, so that members of the audience and those attending via zoom can follow along.

Lenetta Shull asked whether donation thank-you notes had been sent, and expressed concern that the Board may have in fact missed 2.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION- Pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f), Personnel matters. If requested by board: C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b), Conference with an attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice.


A motion was made by Maegan Crowley and seconded by Lenetta Shull for the board to enter into executive session Pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f), Personnel Matters, and if requested by the Board, C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b), conference with an attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice. Those present at executive session shall be members of the board.

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

The Board entered into executive session at 7:47pm.

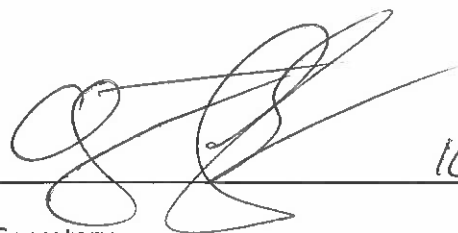
X. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned by Maegan Crowley at ___ pm.

 10/14/21

Board President

Date

 10-14-21

Board Secretary

Date