

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

Thursday, November 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – The Dolores School Board meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm on November 11, 2021.

ROLL CALL – Members present were: Maegan Crowley; Casey McClellan; Lenetta Shull. QUORUM was present.

PLEDGE

Lenetta Shull read mission and vision statements.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Policy BEDB)

A motion was made by Lenetta Shull and seconded by Casey McClellan to make the following amendments to the agenda:

- change item VIII.7 Personnel to VIII.9 Personnel
- add item VIII.7 Vaccination van at the school
- add item VIII.8 COVID Protocol
- under item VI.C Consent Agenda, put a hold on policies JLCDB, JLCDB-E exhibit 1 and JLCDB-E exhibit 2.

Discussion:

Maegan Crowley stated concern that it was unfair to the public who may want to comment on agenda items to add these items for discussion without 72 hours prior public notice. Superintendent Blincoe also stated that adding items to the agenda that are unrelated to other already published items on the agenda without prior notice is against policy. He also stated that the Superintendent Report included updates on the COVID protocol, and that the COVID protocols are slated for the December meeting agenda.

Votes: Crowley - nay; McClellan - aye; Shull - aye;

Motion Passed.

A motion was made by Casey McClellan and seconded by Lenetta Shull to approve the agenda as amended.

Votes: Crowley - aye; McClellan - aye; Shull - aye;

Motion Passed.

III. MINUTES FOR REVIEW OR CORRECTION (Policy BEDG) - October 14, 2021 regular board meeting minutes

A motion was made by Lenetta Shull and seconded by Casey McClellan to approve the minutes as written.

Votes: Crowley - aye; McClellan - aye; Shull - aye;

Motion Passed.

IV. CELEBRATIONS

The Board celebrated Girls on the Run, many of whose members were present. Kathryn Lein introduced the program, which is an after-school program that runs 2 days a week, from September to November. The program focuses on social-emotional skills, self confidence, empathy, caring for others, problem solving, and contributing to the community. It also includes fitness goals, culminating in running a 5k, which the girls completed last weekend in Durango. The participants also raised over \$1000 in scholarships for future participants.

The Board celebrated the high achievements of the girls HS Cross Country team, whose members have shown so much dedication and skill this season.

The Board had hoped to celebrate the service of Board member Kay Phelps, who was not able to attend tonight's meeting. The Board will instead celebrate her at the December meeting.

V. CITIZENS' COMMENTS (Policy BEDH)

Tiffany Nicols, lives in Mancos zip code but in Dolores district: here to talk about COVID protocol. Had sent a letter to Board members as well. Spoke to Superintendent Blincoe about the wellness committee, and wanted to be able to address the wellness committee with her concerns. Mental

health of students is declining due to COVID. She is concerned that concerns about COVID are overriding concerns about students' social-emotional wellbeing and mental health.

Kyle Riddell, from Dolores: here to talk about COVID. Daughter goes to Teddy Bear Preschool; she recently had to miss another week of school due to COVID. He advocated for abandoning current COVID protocols. He stated that neighboring districts allow parents to decide whether a child who is in a class where a student tests positive should go to school, and suggested that Dolores should consider that approach. He stated that he does not believe the current protocols are in the best interests of students and are not allowing for the best education.

Breanna Wyatt from Dolores, who has 3 children in the district: here to talk about COVID. Shared death statistics for children, per the CDC. She argued that having a vaccine bus on campus is not necessary based on these statistics.

Heather Barritt, from Dolores: here to talk about interim superintendent leadership. Discussed the charge of an interim superintendent and ideal qualities of an interim superintendent, and stated that large financial, or extensive, long-term curricular changes should not be part of an interim superintendent's job. She stated that she believes that the fate of the district is upside down right now, and stated that she will be present to speak at every Board meeting to voice concern.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA (Policy BEDB)

- A. Approve Disbursements of Checks for Payment of all Bills/Debts for October 2021
- B. Directors Reports
- C. First reading of policy adoption June 2021 to include:

CODE	TOPIC	READING
CBB	Recruitment of Superintendent	1 st reading
GDBC	Support Staff Supplementary Pay/Overtime	1 st reading
IC/ICA	School Year Calendar / Instruction Time	1 st reading
IHCDA	Concurrent Enrollment	1 st reading
JEB	Entrance Age Requirements	1 st reading
JLCB	Immunization of Students	1 st reading
JLCB-R	Immunization of Students – regulation	1 st reading
JLCD♦	Administering Medication to Students	1 st reading
JLCD-R	Administering Medication to Students- reg.	1 st reading
JLCD-E	Administering Medication to Students – exhibit	1 st reading
JLCDB♦	Administration of Medical Marijuana... - exhibit	1 st reading
JLCDB-E†	Admin. of Medical Marijuana... exhibit #1	1 st reading
JLCDB-E†	Admin. of Medical Marijuana... exhibit #2	1 st reading
♦ Required by law		
† New Policy		

A hold was placed on policies JLCDB, JLCDB-E exhibit 1 and JLCDB-E exhibit 2.

VII. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. PCC Presentation - Dr. Sam Dosumu, Executive Dean

Executive Dean Sam Dosumu and Perry Pepper, Director of Academic Services for the Southwest Campus, presented to the Board about concurrent enrollment.

Dean Dosumu gave an overview of PCC's service area, which covers five counties, including Montezuma County. Last year PCC served close to 10,000 students across all locations. He talked about potential growth opportunities in concurrent enrollment, in general and particularly at Dolores HS. He explained GT (Guaranteed Transfer) courses, and the opportunity that offering more of them would give to students to enter college with more general requirements completed for free. Other opportunities include welding and automotive certifications and police academy training. All of these opportunities are tuition free to families when taken by HS students as concurrent enrollment.

Dean Dosumu and Director Pepper also informed the Board about grants that make funding available for teachers to take masters level coursework in order to become eligible to teach concurrent enrollment courses.

Dean Dosumu shared that in order to help grow concurrent enrollment and develop the connection between Dolores and PCC, the new hire for concurrent enrollment coordinator will be present on site at frequent intervals, helping students with enrollment and any other questions. He discussed the possibility of bussing students to the PCC Southwest campus, for classes that are offered at the campus and not onsite at DHS.

Superintendent Blincoe added that the pathways committee at the secondary school is working on developing concurrent enrollment opportunities, and that one of the policies that the Board will review next month is related to this relationship.

2. Board Members' Reports (Policy BIB)

Casey McClellan - nothing to report

Lenetta Shull - shared that our congressional district is being redistricted, and that our representative will change. Shared that she was tasked by the Board to look into developing policy, because we do not have a policy that covers harassment and bullying of district employees; she has been working with CASB and with the district's legal counsel to develop a comprehensive policy. She shared that she has

also been looking at developing a CRT resolution for the Board, and will bring it for discussion at the next meeting. She also shared that she has been looking at different styles of governance for the Board, that some neighboring districts have moved to different types of governance, and that she would like to ask staff, teachers, and members of the community to look into different forms of governance and give input to the Board. She also shared that she is a member of the Rotary Club and works on commodities, and encouraged anyone in need to reach out to that organization.

Maegan Crowley - shared that she attended the delegate assembly, and that at that assembly unfortunately Resolution 18 supporting higher minimum salary for teachers failed. She shared that some of the nays came from concern that it would be a mandate without backing by state funding, which would particularly burden small rural districts. Resolution 17 creating a spring count in addition to an October count also failed. She shared that she attended the fall conference for CASB. She attended a session on increasing engagement with student voices in Board work, and one on strategic planning and effective agendas. She shared that she attended workshops on the policy governance model and how it clearly delineates the responsibilities of the Board and those of the superintendent. She shared a written statement from her Board report, stating that Dolores' repeated struggles with this relationship could indicate that the way that the district runs governance could be broken. She said that shifting to a policy governance model would require substantial overhaul of policy, and training of all parties including the Board, the superintendent, administration, and the public, to shift to a different governance model that may work better.

3. Finance Report - Doreen Jones (DSD Policies BBA, DAB)

October Revenue: \$529,734.29

October Expenditures: \$689,434.94

Total YTD Expenditures: \$1,720,083.26

Dolores State Bank Balance: \$124,595.35

Colotrust Balance: \$6,198,545.05

Finance Director Doreen Jones shared with the Board that some of the larger expenses in October included welders, curriculum, flood insurance. Also included was a payment to Onward Bound, which raised questions.

Doreen Jones explained as part of our Montezuma County Forest service allotment funds, the county directed the district to give the majority (over \$13k out of roughly \$20k) of the funds to Destination Library. Superintendent Blincoe explained that the county commissioners informed the

superintendents in the district, all three of whom are new, that a large portion of their Forest Service fund had already been allotted.

4. Superintendent Report

The Superintendent had provided a full written report to the Board, which they had already reviewed and about which they had no questions.

For the benefit of the audience, the Superintendent read the COVID report section of his written Superintendent Report aloud. He stated that we are still having COVID issues at the school; the nurse shared with the Superintendent that morning that the secondary is one student case away from moving the district to yellow. The volleyball team, coaches and bus drivers are all quarantined, and we have other new cases as well. We will most likely need to review our protocol at our December meeting and make some adjustments. The nurse has some recommendations, including testing students before going on overnight trips.

Student counts: 726, vs. 670 from last year.

Total FTE: 678 vs. 633.5 last year.

This is good news as far as the budget is concerned.

He also shared important upcoming dates with the Board.

5. Student Achievement Report - Alesa Reed

Curriculum Director Alesa Reed shared PSAT, SAT, and CMAS data from last spring's testing.

There was a substantial decline in the number of students taking these tests throughout the state.

SAT scores increased from 2019, with 60% of students meeting or exceeding;

CMAS declined very slightly from 2019.

Math is a struggle both across the state and in our district, and our district's math testing performance continues to lag behind literacy.

She showed the Board how to find our district's data on CDE's reporting website, and talked them through the results. She discussed factors that could affect student performance, and what the district is doing in order to help address gaps, including staff training on using data to address student learning needs, finding ways to increase parent and student recognition of the importance of test performance, and seeking to hire an interventionist.

The Board discussed the difficulty that the district is having in filling the advertised interventionist.

VIII. ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

1. Capital Improvement Projects

The Board had requested a list of priority projects. Superintendent Blincoe and Maintenance Director Alfonso Goad talked the Board through the recommendations for high priority Capital Improvement Projects:

- Heating and Cooling systems- new AC for elementary and library, new heater for Little Bear gym, and new heating and AC for the preschool (\$291,000)

- second mini-bus (\$72,240)

- bobcat with bucket and blade, to help with snow removal, dirt, etc. (\$50,000)

- windows (\$20,000)

Total: \$433,240

If the Board approves this list, the administration will move forward with seeking bids for those items that are above \$50,000.

Maintenance Director Goad also talked the Board through the list of maintenance projects that were provided to the Board.

\$282,000 of this year's budget is currently allotted to the Capital Improvement fund, but there is room in the general fund- if additional funds are needed for these projects, they can be moved over.

Superintendent Blincoe explained that bus driver shortages make the need for another mini-bus much more high priority, since they don't require a special license to operate and staff members can operate them. There have been several instances already this year where drivers could not be found for sport team activities so minibuses had to be used.

The Board discussed moving the bus yard gravel project to the top of the maintenance project priority list. They also discussed prioritizing dealing with the chronically flooding playgrounds.

They also discussed possible uses of the vacant lot that the district purchased across from the high school. They discussed using it for parking, to alleviate the backed up traffic that occurs at the end of every school day. They solicited ideas from staff for use of this lot.

A motion was made by Lenetta Shull and seconded by Casey McClellan to approve the top four items on the capital improvement list.

Votes: Crowley - aye; McClellan - aye; Shull - aye;

Motion Passed.

Lenetta Shull asked to give a directive to Superintendent Blincoe and Maintenance Director Goad to address the bus barn lot issue as soon as possible and prepare to address the flooding playground issues.

2. Budget Priorities

The Superintendent recommended the following priorities:

- raise classified staff to a minimum of \$15 an hour (budget impact: \$189,487)
- raise pay for substitute teachers to \$130 per day, to get us at least competitive with neighboring school districts
- raise the minimum teacher salary to \$35,000 next year, then \$37,500 following that, and then \$40,000 after that, and adjust the entire salary schedule accordingly. He stated that the administration may look at some additional days to cover this increase.

The Board discussed the fact that they had discussed revising the administrative salary schedule in the spring, and also needs to follow through with that review and revision. They also discussed adding the use of the vacant lot to the priority list.

3. ESSER III

The Board tasked the DAC with providing recommendations for use of ESSER III funding. Staci Cost presented the DAC's recommendations. She stated that transportation should be a major priority, particularly for Friday school and summer school, so that students can make it to school to make up days and educational opportunities that they may have missed due to COVID.

The DAC also recommended prioritizing

- continuing funding for Friday school
- hazard pay for teachers and bus drivers
- an interventionist
- additional support and pay for the nurse
- special education
- chromebooks, so that technology budget can be used for other items, such as online teaching support

Board President Crowley suggested that student mental health should also be prioritized and is emphasized in guidelines for COVID funding, and does not appear to be part of the current proposal. The Board provided the DAC with the COVID guidelines document to amend the proposal, and they all discussed having the proposal completed by the 15th of next month.

The Board also discussed the 2% hazard pay stipend, which will be going out next week.

4. Approval of Audit

The audit was presented to the Board on October 28th.

A motion was made by Lenetta Shull and seconded by Casey McClellan to approve the audit as presented.

**Votes: Crowley - aye; McClellan - aye; Shull - aye;
Motion Passed.**

5. Additions to DAC committee

The DAC chair Staci Cost suggested the addition of Mary Weiss, Valiena Rosenkrance, and Alicia Sainz to the DAC.

A motion was made by Lenetta Shull to approve the addition of Mary Weiss, Valiena Rosenkrance, and Alicia Sainz to the DAC.

**Votes: Crowley - aye; McClellan - aye; Shull - aye;
Motion Passed.**

6. Hiring Secondary Interventionist

A motion was made by Lenetta Shull and seconded by Casey McClellan to proceed with the intention to hire an interventionist.

**Votes: Crowley - aye; McClellan - aye; Shull - aye;
Motion Passed.**

7. Vaccination van at the school

A motion was made by Maegan Crowley to table the discussion of the vaccination van due to the fact that it is not attached to an agenda item and was not properly posted.

No second. Motion Died.

Lenetta Shull stated that she is not comfortable with the school's name being attached to the vaccination van program because it is not a school program. She suggested that the district ask that the school's name be removed from the advertisement, and that it be identified with the Four Corners Youth Clinic, who is hosting it.

Casey McClellan stated that it bothers him that the Board didn't have a say in this program, and that therefore the community didn't have a say. He reported that he had trouble finding out from the town who authorized the vaccination clinic, and finally learned that the Montezuma County Health Department was running the program. He stated concern that hosting it could be a liability, and stated that since it is being held at Joe Rowell Park, there is no need for it to have it at the school.

Superintendent Blincoe stated that he had authorized the clinic to be held at the school, because it is a public service being run by the Health Department. He stated that we would not be held liable in any form if something were to happen.

A motion was made by Lenetta Shull and seconded by Casey McClellan to not allow the vaccination bus to sit on school property.

An amendment was made by Casey McClellan and seconded by Lenetta Shull to remove the school's name from any and all advertisements for the vaccination bus program.

Votes: Crowley - aye; McClellan - aye; Shull - aye;

Motion Passed.

Amended motion: to not allow the vaccination bus to sit on school property, and to remove the school's name from any and all advertisements for the vaccination bus program.

Votes: Crowley - aye; McClellan - aye; Shull - aye;

Motion Passed.

8. COVID Protocols

A motion was made by Maegan Crowley to table this item until the December meeting, so that it can be properly advertised and tied to a specific agenda item.

No second. Motion Died.

Lenetta Shull stated that the Board has received several suggestions by Talk to the Board Tab for the COVID Protocols, which she believes could benefit the Wellness Committee for their next meeting. The suggestion was to move the music program out of the modular and have the quarantined class at the elementary school, which includes the teacher, into the modular. She asked that the Superintendent look into the suggestion.

Superintendent Blincoe shared that there have been recent changes in recommendations from the state level regarding reducing the length of quarantines, and that the nurse will bring those updated recommendations to the next Wellness Committee meeting.

9. Personnel:

a) Recommendation to Hire:

- (1) Jennifer Boniface - Elementary Music Teacher
- (2) Erica Messinger - Substitute Nurse
- (3) Caroline Bogott - Substitute Nurse
- (4) Jenna Payne - Preschool Substitute Teacher
- (5) Casen Eldredge - HS Head Wrestling Coach
- (6) Melody Harris - HS Head Track Coach
- (7) Melody Harris - HS Assistant Wrestling Coach
- (8) Breanna Samore - Preschool Substitute

A motion was made by Lenetta Shull and seconded by to approve all recommended hires

Votes: Crowley - aye; McClellan - aye; Shull - aye;

Motion Passed.

IX. AGENDA PLANNING

1. Next Agenda

Maegan Crowley asked that the Safety and Wellness Committee review protocols, and allow for parent input for that Committee, and that the Superintendent report back.

- report from Wellness Committee on COVID protocols
- classified salary comparisons for neighboring districts

- substitute pay comparisons
- 5pm work session on next round of policies, followed by regular meeting
- recognize and celebrate Kay Phelps
- report on grant-funded mental health / social-emotional learning programming
- CRT resolution discussion
- governance models

2. Meeting Recap

The Board reminded community members that they welcome community input, but that to ensure fairness and maintain professionalism and efficiency it must be through the established systems of communication, and not by interruptions during Board meetings.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION - FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC LEGAL ISSUE WITH THE BOARD'S ATTORNEY AS AUTHORIZED BY CRS.24-6-402(4)(b), TO RECEIVE LEGAL ADVICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW LAWSUIT FILED BY MR. MATT ROANE.

A motion was made by Lenetta Shull and seconded by Casey McClellan that the Board move into executive session for the purpose of discussion of specific legal issue with the Board's attorney as authorized by CRS.24-6-402(4)(b), to receive legal advice concerning the proposed settlement of the open meetings law lawsuit filed by Mr. Matt Roane.

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

Motion Passed.

The Board entered into executive session at 9:15pm

The Board returned from executive session at 9:58pm. No actions were taken or decisions were made during the executive session.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned by Maegan Crowley at 9:58pm.

