

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

Thursday, December 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 December 9, 2021.

ROLL CALL – Members present were: Maegan Crowley; Casey McClellan; Lori Raney; Lenetta Shull; Clay Tallmadge. **QUORUM** was present.

PLEDGE

The Board Secretary read mission and vision statements.

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

A motion was made by Lenetta Shull and seconded by Casey McClellan to pull policies JLCDB, JLCDB-E exhibit 1, and JLCDB-E exhibit 2 out of the consent agenda, and to add to the agenda recommendations to hire custodian Luke Godwin and substitute teacher Nancy Rosales.

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

Motion Passed.

- III. MINUTES FOR REVIEW OR CORRECTION (Policy BEDG)** - October 14, 2021 regular board meeting and October 28, 2021 work session minutes

A motion was made by Lenetta Shull and seconded by Casey McClellan to table the October 14, 2021 and October 28, 2021 minutes.

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

Motion Passed.

IV. CELEBRATIONS

The Board intended to celebrate Kay Phelps for her service as a Board member, but she cannot be present tonight, so the Board will postpone this celebration until January when she can be present.

Middle School Principal Mary Weiss and MS ELA Teacher Lisa Vaughn presented a celebration of Middle School Language Arts students who wrote essays about why they love America and read them at the Veterans Day Program at the Secondary School. Five of these students were present to read their essays to the Board.

HS Principal Justin Schmitt and Coach Gina Hollen presented members of the volleyball team to the Board, and celebrated their impressive achievements and positivity during a challenging season.

V. CITIZENS' COMMENTS (Policy BEDH)

Sue Garlick - Teacher, representative of teachers association: stated that the teachers are grateful for support during a challenging year, including a lot of staff shortages, and that they ask that the Board and community stay focused on the issues that are most impacting classrooms. Stated that there has been concern from teachers that the energy of some Board meetings feels a little hostile, which makes it difficult for many to feel comfortable bringing celebrations or concerns to the Board. Asked that the Board and all members of the community retain and build positivity about Dolores schools, at home and in the classroom. Stated that the teachers ask that they be able to continue to get to know the Superintendent, and that families and Board members stay connected with the classroom, and ask that the community continue to value teachers and look for ways to support them, as they provide vital support to the children of the community. Stated that teachers will be asking that the Board and administration look at how to address and adjust teacher salaries.

Diane Dettloff - parent of two students: wanted to say thank you to teachers, particularly to Mr. Witte, the MS and HS Band Director. Before Thanksgiving he took a group of kids to Grand Junction for the Western Slope Band/Orchestra Concert event, giving up the first weekend of his break to take kids on this trip, and is a very supportive and engaging teacher. Also thanked Mr. Warner, 5th grade teacher, who goes above and beyond to make connections with his students. Stated that her children feel kindness, and feel noticed, validated, and valued as students in Dolores.

Jason Hallencak - discussed the bus driver shortage, and stated that this issue needs to not be blamed solely on Covid. Stated that three bus drivers all quit after a single meeting, and a fourth the day after.

Asked whether any members of the Board had reached out to drivers to find out their reasons for quitting, and stated that if there was accountability for behavior and the problem was removed, maybe bus drivers would come back.

Kim Hampton - Discussing the vaccine bus: stated that she had read the minutes from the two previous meetings. Stated that the superintendent lied to the Board and community about authorizing the vaccine bus. Stated that the vaccine bus has nothing to do with education and therefore has no place at school. Discussing the funds being taken from the school by county commissioners: stated that she watched the meeting from the superintendents' meeting, at which all three superintendents talked with commissioners about the funds, and agreed that Imagination Library would be a good idea for those funds. Stated that you can never go wrong with getting books into children's hands. Stated that these details should have been shared with the Board, and not presented as a loss of funds. Stated lack of confidence in the superintendent. Asked Jim Candelaria, County Commissioner, to come speak about these funds (next on Citizens' Comments list).

Jim Candelaria - Chairman of Board of County Commissioners: discussed SRS funding and how it is allocated and distributed. Explained that when National Forest funding comes in, 25% goes to schools, and 50% goes to discretion of County Commissioners. Stated that this year was difficult and the meeting for discussion of the use of these funds had to be delayed until August 9th because all three districts were hiring new superintendents. Stated that this was supposed to be the last SRS fund, and that the commissioners wanted to do something different with it, and that this last endowment would allow the Imagination Library program to be extended into perpetuity. Stated that the SRS funding has now been extended to 2023, which is good. Stated that the conversation that the commissioners and superintendents had was about allocating those funds to early childhood education, and that it was agreed upon during that work session, and that they also discussed making this contribution again next year since the funds were extended. Clarified that the county commissioners did not take away funds, but that they were allocated based on that agreement.

Molly Cooper - discussing Critical Race Theory: stated that the Board is made up entirely of white or white-passing members, which does not disqualify them from opening the discussion but does disqualify the Board's ability to come to any conclusions without any diverse representation in the discussion. Asked that while discussing this topic, the Board not speak for others, particularly people of color, and asked that the Board not make any decisions without creating a committee that is as diverse as the Dolores community actually is. Speaking as a trained social worker, stated that she acknowledges that because of the color of her skin she walks through the world differently, and that choosing not to acknowledge this privilege perpetuates harm both locally and globally. Stated that critical race theory is nowhere near the school curriculum, and that she often has conversations about privilege and race with her own children who bring home lessons that reflect a continued message of

white superiority. Stated that her children don't feel guilt about the color of their skin but are becoming better human beings because of the empathy they are developing by having those conversations. Asked the Board not to fall for the hype, and to stay focused on the issues that are actually affecting our school, such as Covid, teacher support and retention, keeping a superintendent for longer than a year, staff training, a deteriorating school, and mental health. Stated that as a social worker she wishes we were having more discussions centered around diverse stories and voices, but that Dolores has a long way to go with this, and that since this has unfortunately become such a polarized topic, we have a lot more work to do.

Jeff Christenson - father of students in district: stated support for the Superintendent. Stated that he had reached out to administration with a policy issue, and that the superintendent made time to talk about the issues in person. Stated that he appreciated that openness, that the community needs a superintendent that stays on for a longer time and is invested, and that he believes the superintendent is the right person for that job.

Heather Barritt - parent of students in district: discussed bullying issues. Stated that it has been brought to her attention that students of all ages in Dolores are suffering from some extent of bullying, and that it must be addressed. Stated that collaboration between Board members and staff is needed to address the issue. Suggested that teachers, Board members, and administration sit down to revise bullying policy and fix what is broken. Stated that several parents have told her they have considered legal action. Presented survey results from a survey of 18 parents, done by a parent group:

Q1: is interim superintendent bringing relief to troubled district: 18/18 no

Q2: is interim superintendent displaying good integrity of ethical and moral traits: 18/18 no

Q3: interim superintendent too bold or too timid: 18/18 too bold

Q4: has interim superintendent successfully maintained status quo expected of interim: 18/18 no

Q5: has interim superintendent adequately collaborated with school board and community members: 18/18 no

Q6: has interim superintendent revived community confidence, reestablished good business practices, and provided expertise for crucial decisions: 18/18 no

VI. CONSENT AGENDA (Policy BEDB)

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

B. Directors Reports

C. Second reading of policy adoption June 2021 to include:

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

VII. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Four Corners Clinic presentation

Four Corners Youth Clinics Program Director Rebecca Doughty addressed the Board. She introduced members of the program, and gave an overview of the program. Explained that they provide wellness screenings and consultations, treatment for minor illnesses, dental screening, a variety of testing, mental health, risk reduction screening, family planning, substance use, etc. The program also works with the Montezuma County Health Department to provide vaccines, and participates in community health activities. Director Doughty shared that they have been trying to find someone to do dental cleaning at the clinic, but that it has been difficult; they will soon be able to provide clinics 2 days a week for dental cleanings and care.

Explained that the clinics are accountable to HIPAA and to FERPA, and that information about a student's health record is not shared without consent. Explained that permission to treat is obtained at the beginning of the school year or on site, and records are kept secure. Explained that copays and coinsurances are waived, and that those without any insurance can be seen on a sliding scale fee from \$5-35, but even that will be waived if a family cannot afford it, because the goal is full access to care for all. Stated that if a parent ever receives a coinsurance bill for treatment from the clinic they should bring it to the clinic.

Shared that from July 2020 to present, total number of visits to the Dolores clinic 724- 115 sick visits, 171 well child physicals, and 438 behavioral health visits.

From July of 2021 to present: 85 behavioral health, 44 well child, 4 family planning, 25 sick visits.

Stated that having a school based health clinic increases attendance rates, graduation rates; healthy students learn better.

Lenetta Shull asked about recurring vs. new patients; this data is in a report that has been completed. She also asked about progress toward having teachers and paras able to use the clinic; Dir. Doughty stated that this is still being worked on.

Maegan Crowley asked how the Board and the school can help the clinic. Doughty stated that she would love to see more outreach, and more integration into the classroom. She clarified that medical services are available Tuesdays and Thursdays, and behavioral health available Monday through Thursday. She stated that they are hoping by February to have an increase of nurse practitioner time.

Clay Tallmadge asked for clarification about how the clinic works in collaboration with the school nurse. Director Doughty explained that typically the school nurse will see a student first and triage, and that the student may then be referred to and seen by the clinic as needed. Lori Raney asked how that collaboration works for behavioral health. Dir. Doughty stated that it's a similar collaboration- the school counselor will see the student and refer them to the clinic if needed, and will call home to work with parents to obtain consent for treatment from the clinic if needed.

2. Board Members' Reports (Policy BIB)

Maegan Crowley - still working to put together Board retreat focusing on Board-Superintendent relationship strengthening workshop; needs to know by end of next week whether there will be 100% participation and whether the dates and agenda will work. Explained new changes for meeting agenda structure, clearly separating discussion and action items; this allows the public a month to give feedback about what was discussed, before the Board votes on it. This aligns with Board Policy BEDB, and the hope is that this will also make meetings more focused and efficient. Stated that she wants to implement this for the next several months, to get in the rhythm of it, and get feedback from Board and community about how well it is working.

Casey McClellan - nothing to report.

Lori Raney - thanked the Board for the welcome. Stated that as the new BOCES representative, she attended the monthly BOCES meeting last night, and reported that all schools are struggling with the same things we are. One school in particular is really dusting off their strategic plan and using it as their North Star to guide all meetings and decisions. Stated that she thought this was great and hopes the Board can do something similar.

Lenetta Shull - stated that at the last Board meeting there was some question about the SRS funds, and that she had asked to be able to research this. She explained that 25% go to Road and Bridge, 25% go to schools, and 50% is at discretion of County Commissioners. As Jim Candelaria reported during the Citizens Comments portion of this meeting, all superintendents and county commissioners discussed and agreed upon Imagination Library funds.

Stated that the county administrator sent us information that said that the county attorney advised him to send the money to schools in a lump sum, and then to have the school disseminate the funds out to Imagination Library.

Stated that her concern as Treasurer was that per Board policy a donation must be approved by the Board, and provided clarification about how that process had been handled.

Made the following announcements:

Commodity giveaway by Rotary Club is this Saturday, beginning at 6am.

Drug awareness program will be held by Montezuma Sherriff's Department

This Sunday the 12th 5pm- benefit for Axel Durr, recently diagnosed with leukemia

Clay Tallmadge - some members of the Board and the superintendent were able to attend the CASB conferences. All materials will be available for members who were not able to attend. Stated that Colorado schools across the state are struggling with the same issues. Stated that most state funding ends up in the Front Range, and encouraged members to look into Colorado Rural Schools Alliance, who are advocating for schools like ours and working to make our voice heard at the state level.

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

November Revenue: \$607,221.80

November Expenditures: \$1,090,941

Dolores State Bank Balance: \$471,778.65

ColoTrust Balance: \$5,401,315

Finance Director Doreen Jones shared with the Board that expenditures included unusual expenditures such as Aptafund renewal and hazard pay stipends.

Lenetta Shull asked about the MasterTeacher expense- Alesa Reed clarified that this is our staff evaluation program.

4. Superintendent Report

The Superintendent stated that the members received his written report, and asked if they had any questions. No Board members had any questions.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

1. Policies revisions - JLCDB and JLCDB-E - Administering Medical Marijuana

The Superintendent shared that he had continued to meet with the district nurse about this policy. The updated language was sent to the lawyers, who recommended updates that did not mention the FDA.

Clay Tallmadge and the Superintendent clarified that this is a policy change that is required by the state, and that the Board is making two updates to the required changes.

District Nurse Gaddis and the Superintendent emphasized that this update shifts liability for administration off the school nurse and onto the parent or guardian, that administration is voluntary, and that the district highly encourages the parent or guardian to handle the administration.

A motion was made by Lenetta Shull and seconded by Casey McClellan to table Policies JLCDB and JLCDB-E and exhibits 1 and 2 until the next meeting.

Discussion:

Clay Tallmadge: this policy is currently adopted, because it went into effect last year, so by holding it we are holding the proposed changes but not the policies themselves. The policy is law, and the changes are for protecting staff, so holding it keeps us in a gray area.

Lenetta Shull: holding til next policy review, to ensure that the district is doing it correctly, since it is a law.

Maegan Crowley: tabling only until January.

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

Motion Passed.

2. ESSER III

Board received ESSER III fundings documentation; needs to be approved and submitted as application by next week.

A motion was made by Casey McClellan and seconded by Lenetta Shull to approve the proposed ESSER III funds as written.

Discussion:

Clay Tallmadge stated concern about the salary presented for Friday School coordinator, which had initially been discussed as an hourly position. The Board discussed that the numbers in the document are for a full two years, including benefits.

Finance Director Doreen Jones stated that the funds are being applied for on Thursday, but changes to allocations can be made before funds would begin to be spent in July. If the funds are shifted to another already approved category, that can be easy; if it's for a new idea or item, a new application for approval will need to be made.

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

Motion Passed.

3. Mill Levy Certification

Finance Director Doreen Jones stated that the documentation was provided in Board packets. This is done every year; the Mill Levy covers the bond, mill levy override, and mill levy.

A motion was made by Lenetta Shull and seconded by Clay Tallmadge to approve the Mill Levy Certification.

Discussion:

Clay Tallmadge stated that over the next five+ years, we are going to continue to be required by the state to increase mill tax- we need to find a way to talk to property owners about this change; doesn't want this to come back and bite district because it appears that it is our choice, when it is not.

Lenetta Shull agreed and stated that she would like to bring in the county assessor to discuss these and to advise the Board on how to talk to the public about them.

A motion was made by Lenetta Shull and seconded by Casey McClellan to amend the motion.

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

A motion was made by Lenetta Shull and seconded by Casey McClellan to accept the Mill Levy Certification through Resolution #21-13.

A RESOLUTION OFFICIALLY CERTIFYING THE LEVY OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2022 (1/2 Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and 1/2 fiscal year 2022-2023) TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Section 39-5-128 (1), C.R.S. requires that DOLORES SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-4A certify its 2022 levy to the Board of County Commissioners of MONTEZUMA COUNTY no later than December 15; and

WHEREAS, Section 39-10-114 (I) (a) (I) (B), C.R.S. which authorizes school districts to certify an Abatement and Refund Mill Levy in order to recover abatement of taxes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DOLORES SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-4A:

Section 1. Pursuant to section 39-5-128 (1), C.R.S., as amended, the DOLORES SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-4A hereby certifies the Board of County Commissioners of MONTEZUMA COUNTY that the School District's 2022 levy on all taxable property within the County shall be as follows:

Mill Levy per HB20-1418	27 mills	\$1,765,551.60
HB20-1418 Tax Credit	5.117 mills	\$ (334,604.72)
HB20-1418 Net Mill Levy	21.883 mills	\$1,430,946.88
Authorized Override	5.964 mills	\$ 389,990.73
Bond Redemption Fund	4.510 mills	\$ 294,912.51
Abatement	.122 mills	\$ 7,977.67
Total Mill Levy	32.479 mills	\$2,123,827.79

Section 2. Business Services is directed to deliver a certified copy of this Resolution to the Board of County Commissioners of MONTEZUMA COUNTY no later than December 15, 2021.

ADOPTED the 9th day of December 2021. DOLORES SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-4A

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

Motion Passed.

4. Classified and substitute teacher pay adjustments

The Superintendent stated that Board members received comparisons for classified positions and substitute positions for neighboring districts. Stated that in Jan 2022, by state law, pay must be raised to minimum of \$12.56 per hour, and pay scales were provided at that rate as well as raising to \$15 per hour minimum. Suggested that rather than adjusting all current pay for \$15 minimum, add \$2/hr to all.

Casey McClellan asked whether a \$15/hr base is doable without eating into reserves. Finance Dir. Jones stated that this is doable, but that the Board should keep in mind that this is only classified staff.

A motion was made by Casey McClellan and seconded by Lenetta Shull to table the proposal to change classified and substitute teacher pay rates and add it to a workshop.

Discussion:

Lenetta Shull stated that she wants to look at the broader picture of classified and certified staff, and look at the financial health of all of the Dolores District.

Finance Director Jones stated that at minimum the Board must approve moving the minimum to the state requirement of 12.56/hr before it goes into effect in January 2022.

Casey McClellan withdrew the motion.

A motion was made by Casey McClellan and seconded by Lenetta Shull to adopt the minimum salary of \$12.56/hour.

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

Motion Passed.

A motion was made by Casey McClellan and seconded by Lenetta Shull to table further changes to classified and substitute salaries until discussion at a workshop.

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

Motion Passed.

A motion was made by Lenetta Shull and seconded by Casey McClellan to add certified staff pay to the workshop.

Discussion:

The Superintendent clarified that the intention was to make more immediate changes to classified and substitute, and that changes to certified staff would be for next year. The more immediate change particularly to sub pay would make the district competitive.

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

Motion Passed.

The Board took a five minute recess at 8:04.

5. Covid Protocols / Quarantine Protocols

The Superintendent presented updates to the protocols. Changes were made by schools, because each school functions very differently; the preschool uses cohorts, the elementary does for the most part, and the secondary is completely different and has no cohorting.

Stated that at the secondary level, there is now an exemption from quarantine now for those who are exposed but are vaccinated, show no symptoms, and adhere to masking and distancing.

At the elementary level, the school will no longer quarantine if there is only one positive case in a class, but if there are additional cases, a quarantine will be implemented.

District Nurse Gaddis explained that the decisions were made with input from families and teachers, and represent a meeting in the middle.

Clay Tallmadge asked for clarification about the school trips stipulation in the protocol. Nurse Gaddis explained that we had a situation where students left for a sporting event with covid symptoms, tested positive during the trip, and every student had to be quarantined and was not able to compete. She

explained that to avoid this scenario in the future students will be at least screened for symptoms and families will be communicated with prior to a school trip.

Maegan Crowley asked how parents will know what is required, particularly if they have students in more than one school. She pointed out that it needs to be very clearly communicated to parents that each school is different.

Lenetta Shull asked how this connects to the flow chart for quarantining. Nurse Gaddis stated that the quarantine flow chart would indeed need to be updated, and that each school would have its own flow chart.

Casey McClellan asked how family feedback for these changes was obtained. Nurse Gaddis explained that she receives a lot of ongoing feedback from a large portion of the community by talking to all parents whenever there is a positive case, talking to teachers when they are exposed or tested, etc. McClellan stated appreciation that the protocols at the secondary are more relaxed.

A motion was made by Clay Tallmadge and seconded by Lori Raney to approve the updated Covid protocols as discussed.

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

Motion Passed.

6. Personnel:

1. Recommendation to Hire:

- a. Brandi Twilley - Substitute Teacher
- b. Kaylee Uptain - Preschool Substitute
- c. Renwick Jacket Jr. - Assistant MS Football Coach
- d. Casen Eldredge - Assistant Track Coach
- e. Luke Godwin - Custodian
- f. Nancy Rosales - Substitute Teacher

2. Retirement of:

- a. Title I Teacher: Lori Harris

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

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

Motion Passed.

The Board and audience recognized and thanked Lori Harris for her service to the district.

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Vacant Lot at 14th and Hillside

Clay Tallmadge suggested that because the lot is an eyesore and safety hazard as it currently stands, the lot be bulldozed and then the Board can figure out next uses, even temporary ones. The Board discussed getting bids for demolition and reclamation. Lori Raney stated concerns about safety of the property and current traffic issues, and suggested doing some sort of parent survey regarding traffic. Lenetta Shull suggested that the Board contact the town to find out what the district needs as far as permitting, etc. to move forward with improvements to the lot. The Board tasked the Superintendent with gathering this information.

2. Social / Emotional Learning Grant

At the last Board meeting, the Board asked for more information about the current grant. Alesa Reed explained that the grant is in its second year out of three; the grant is 181k per year, and funds counselor pay, pays for anti-drug materials and drug awareness programming. The Board discussed expanding the relationship with the Four Corners Youth Clinic. Alesa Reed explained that another grant is also being applied for.

3. Additional Standing Committees

a. Finance

The Superintendent suggested forming a finance committee consisting of the superintendent, the finance director, two Board members, two administrative staff, two teachers, and two community members. This committee could assist with addressing salary schedules, with things like the ESSER grant funds. Bayfield and Granby districts have similar committees that work well. This committee would help to look at the total budgetary landscape for big decisions like teacher salaries.

Clay Tallmadge brought up Policy BDE, which states that the Board can't appoint a committee to do the job of the Board. He stated that it would need to be very clear that this would be an advisory committee and that final decision making power would rest with the Board. He also brought up Policy BDF and stated that it would need to be very clear how the committee is formed, whether that is by lottery, etc.

Casey McClellan stated that it would be necessary to make sure that this did not mean that the Board did not look as carefully at financial issues and decisions. He asked the impetus for looking at this method, and whether something was not working. The Superintendent clarified that it seems to have worked very well in cases where we have used it, such as the wellness committee, and that it is a good method of cooperation and collaboration within the district. Lenetta Shull stated that she agrees that the Board needs to be very fiscally responsible, and that finance and policy are explicitly the Board's responsibility. The committee would need to understand how the budget works.

The Board discussed that this would be helpful in situations such as the items that were tabled at this meeting; if the committee had been able to work on and present a more full picture ahead of time, delays may not have been necessary.

b. Legislative

Lenetta Shull stated that she was approached by an employee at the school about legislative questions. Stated that a committee could work on a resolution to be presented to CASB and to legislators. Clay Tallmadge stated that his concerns are the same for this type of committee- that particularly with legislation, in which a member's political views come into play, it would be really important to be open and clear about the committee's responsibilities and formation.

4. Lawsuit Outcome from Matt Roane

Maegan Crowley shared that the district has been sued for an error in open meeting laws during the Board's September meeting. She stated that this lawsuit is being brought because the Board entered into executive session without publicly stating the names of the people who would be discussed during that session. She stated that the Board's intention was to protect the confidentiality of the employee. The lawyer who is suing the district is not a member of the Dolores community but is an advocate for sunshine laws and decided to hold the district accountable. The Board has decided in consultation with its attorney that it is in the best interest of the district to settle the suit. She stated that this is a reminder that the Board must follow all meeting laws and policies, and is sharing with the public that they made an error in this case.

Clay Tallmadge asked whether and the Board President and the Superintendent were working with CASB when setting all agendas, particularly Executive Session agendas, to ensure that this type of error does not happen again. Board President Crowley confirmed this, and said that they also work with the district's lawyer on this.

5. Critical Race Theory (CRT)

A motion was made by Lenetta Shull to table discussion of Critical Race Theory resolutions until the January meeting.

No second. Motion Died.

Lenetta Shull stated that she has studied the district's curriculum, and that she has found no evidence of CRT in Dolores curriculum. She stated that some printables are editable, and that this is the only possible issue. She stated that because other districts are passing resolutions and some states have passed laws banning CRT.

Casey McClellan stated that he doesn't think it matters that it is not here right now because it could be. He stated that a lot of energy has gone into convincing the Board that it is not here, and that he does not know what side that is coming from. He stated that this could be resolved by asking each Board member what their response is and whether they would support CRT.

Clay Tallmadge stated that we first have to address the question of what CRT actually is, and that it is an incredibly complex topic, so in order to respond to McClellan's question, a clear definition would be needed first.

Casey McClellan stated that he boils it down to "the white race are the oppressors and everyone else are the oppressed", so teaching in the classrooms would be along those lines."

Maegan Crowley pointed out that the issue and a resolution about it do not tie into the district's strategic plan at all, and that the topic is politically charged.

Clay Tallmadge stated that we currently already have a policy that covers and gives direction for teaching controversial issues.

Casey McClellan stated his belief that the only way that a Board member would not be ok with signing a one page resolution about CRT is if they are ok with it. He stated that he would sign it.

Clay Tallmadge stated that such a resolution oversimplifies and does not clearly define CRT, which is a graduate level topic.

Lori Raney stated that we don't need a policy on something that we are never going to do. CRT is a graduate level college course that will never be taught in our schools. She stated that she does not understand why the Board is using time on it, and that it is taking energy away from what the Board needs to be doing.

Lenetta Shull stated that it was detrimental to Cortez and that CRT was found to be embedded in their curriculum.

Casey McClellan stated that we don't know if it will be here in the future, and that not passing a resolution about it would be putting our heads in the sand.

Clay Tallmadge stated that this has become a highly charged political issue this year, and it became one after the Republican National Committee made a resolution. He stated that the language used in a lot of the resolutions that have been adopted in school districts are closely modeled after that RNC resolution, and that it is a conservative talking point that is bringing politics into the classroom. He stated that we should be focusing on other issues.

Casey McClellan stated that his opinion is that the Board should table this issue until January.

Lenetta Shull stated that the reason she brought this forth is because of the controversy in Cortez. She stated that she knows it is not in our curriculum but that she is trying to prevent that uproar happening here.

Lori Raney stated that she doesn't want to spend any more of the Board's time on this discussion, and that we use our time to work toward our strategic plan. She stated that she feels comfortable with the information that was given by CASB to the Board, and that energy needs to be put toward addressing issues facing the district.

Maegan Crowley stated that the Board received a lot of communication from staff, and that is who knows the most, and that she wants to back the staff. She stated that Covid has created a division in the community, the district is facing loss of learning, and that we need to focus on what is directly impacting students.

A motion was made by Casey McClellan and seconded by Lenetta Shull to move CRT to an action item on the next meeting agenda.

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

Motion Passed.

X. AGENDA PLANNING

1. Next Agenda

