



**NORWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
January 17, 2023**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by school Board President, Mr. Morlang. Those in attendance: Mr. Harris, Mr. Fournery, Mrs. Bray, Mrs. Snyder, Mr. Bittner, Mr. Ryan, Mrs. Reams. Others present: Shelley Fournery, Ken Watt, and Catherine Kolbet.

- A. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all in attendance.
- B. Request for Additional Items: Mr. Bittner asked that the February board meeting date be changed. This was added as Consent Item Q. on the agenda for discussion.
Mrs. Bray asked that the quarterly work session for policy review be placed on the agenda. This was added as Consent Item R. Mr. Fournery made a motion to add the Consent Agenda Items as stated. Mrs. Bray seconded the motion and the motion carried.
Roll call vote: “aye’s” 5, “no’s” 0. Motion carried.

II. OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Ken Watt was present to address the Board per his request. He began by thanking the Board for serving on the board. He then voiced his disappointment in the Board for Policy and Procedure in the way that the cooping of all sports programs occurred. Recognizing it is an emotional subject, he stated that he did not feel he had a say in the cooping. He stated that he had been keeping up with the cooping from the background and read the agenda and noticed that the Board would be discussing cooping football and wrestling as a consent item and made a decision then that he needed to attend the meeting because cooping does not affect football and wrestling classification; only later to find out that the Consent agenda item had been modified to include *all* of the sports programs. Had he been aware that this would occur, he would have come to the meeting. He feels that this decision pushed the boundaries of the legal limits of the sunshine law, and added that the Board had time to make adjustments to the agenda in order to notify the community of this change ahead of time.

He gave an example of an agreement between he and Clint Wytulka of Nucla High School to combine the baseball team 15 years ago and that the Coaches were allowed to make

decisions that affected their respective sports then, while at the December meeting there were 4 coaches in attendance whom all recommended against cooping. The athletic director did not give a recommendation, in his opinion. The committee that was formed to attend the meetings with regard to cooping did not make a recommendation to coop all sports, but were open to discussion; yet the Board still voted in favor of cooping. Mr. Watt concluded that the agenda was not amended, but instead was *modified* to include all sports, and that he is looking forward to reading what the minutes say in comparison to the recording because right before the call of vote, there was no reading of the amendment.

III. CELEBRATIONS

Mr. Harris stated that the High School wrestling tournament that Norwood hosted this past weekend was the largest turnout in well over a decade. Eleven teams participated. It ran smoothly and went great!

Mrs. Bray mentioned that she has heard so many good things about the Christmas program and is hopeful that this will continue. She gave kudos to the two ladies who ran the program this year.

Mr. Harris also thanked Ms. Kolbet for taking the students to the Stock Show. The students really enjoyed the experience.

IV. COMMUNITY REPORTS

None

V. STAFF REPORTS

VI. APPROVE CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Approval of December 13, 2022 Minutes
- B. Approval December/January General Fund Bills
- C. Approval of Colorado Minimum Wage from \$12.56 to \$13.65 per hour
- D. Approval of Revised Budget for 22-23 SY
- E. Approval of 3rd Reading of Policy AC-R-2* Sexual Harassment Investigation Procedures
- F. Approval of 3rd Reading of Policy DIA* Online Schools and Online Programs
- G. Approval of 3rd Reading of Policy IHBD- Equivalence of Services
- H. Approval of 3rd Reading of Policy IKA-R- Grading/Assessment Systems
- I. Approval of 3rd Reading of Policy IKF- Graduation Requirements
- J. Approval of 3rd Reading of Policy JFABE* Students in Foster Care
- K. Approval of 3rd Reading of Policy JFBA- Intradistrict Choice/Open Enrollment
- L. Approval of 3rd Reading of Policy JLCDB*E- Administration of Medical Marijuana to Qualified Students
- M. Approval of 3rd Reading of Policy JRCB* -Privacy and Protection of Confidential Student Information
- N. Approval of 3rd Reading of Policy KB- Parent and Family Engagement in Education

- O. Approval of 3rd Reading of Policy KDBA*- Parent Notification of Employee Criminal Charges
- P. Approval of Paul Pyles full-time (Woodshop and HS Science)
- Q. Change February Board Meeting Date
- R. Schedule Work Session for Board Policy Review

Mrs. Snyder asked the Board if there needed to be any discussion on the Policies that are listed for 3rd Reading. Mr. Morlang and Mr. Bittner stated that all policies listed were CASB policies. Blanket motion: Mrs. Snyder made a blanket motion to approve action items A through O. Discussion: Mrs. Bray noted that there was an error in the minutes as presented in Item II. Opportunity to address the Board. Mr. Fourney made a motion to modify the motion to only include Consent Items B through O for approval. Mrs. Bray seconded the motion. Mrs. Reams gave a high level overview of the budget revisions. Mr. Bittner reported that we still have not received our audit. Mrs. Reams stated that if the fund balance changes once the audit is received that we will have to do a revision to the budget if it is less than what we had initially been given by the auditors. Roll call vote: “aye’s” 5, “no’s” 0. Motion carried.

Mrs. Bray made a motion to table the approval of the December 13, 2022 board minutes until the February meeting. Mr. Fourney seconded the motion. Mr. Morlang clarified that the reason for tabling the minutes was due to the error on Item II. that needed to be corrected based on the recording. Roll call vote: “aye’s” 5, “no’s” 0.

Mrs. Bray made a motion to approve Consent Item P. Approval of Paul Pyles full-time (Woodshop and HS Science). Mrs. Snyder seconded the motion. Mr. Ryan clarified that Mr. Pyles will be supervising the online Science curriculum, along with continuing to teach Woodshop. Roll call vote: “aye’s” 5, “no’s” 0.

Mrs. Snyder made a motion to approve Consent Item Q. to modify the February Board Meeting date. Mrs. Bray seconded the motion. Discussion: The Board determined that February 13th was the best date for the meeting based on their schedules. Roll call vote: “aye’s” 5, “no’s” 0.

Mrs. Bray made a motion to approve Item R. Schedule a work session for Board Policy Review. Mr. Fourney seconded the motion. It was determined to hold the first meeting on March 6th at 6 PM. Mrs. Bray stated that she had been in contact with CASB and representatives would be willing to attend by Zoom if needed. Mr. Morlang stated that further meeting dates can be determined at the March 6th meeting. Roll call vote: “aye’s” 5, “no’s” 0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS- none

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Update on Town of Norwood property purchase
 - a. Environmental- Goff Engineering is working on the environmental
 - b. Civil/Traffic
 - c. Soil

Updates for the above were included in the Superintendent's report previously submitted to the Board. Once all of the information listed above is received, then the property purchase for the 19 acres will move forward. All contractors worked on the Pinon Park project so they are familiar with the area. No Board action was taken.

B. Update on BEST Grant/Neenan

Grand Valley Environmental came through the school building to do an asbestos and environmental study, they did not get through the outer buildings. They will complete the study and we will have a report and cost estimates for the abatement and demolition soon to submit for the BEST grant. The highschool building is not sellable.

After a lengthy discussion with Meg Donaldson, the cost increased because of the cleanup and significant issues that will need to be addressed when separating the K-8 from the highschool. Aside from the asbestos issue, water is pushing through the bottom of the middle school through the cement, which is lifting the tiles. Meg stated that no matter where the new school is built, the estimated bond capacity is \$10.2 million and it is a 20 year bond. New construction on the 19 acres for a K-12 with football/baseball fields, etc. we need to ask for \$10.2 million; and although the cost is approximately \$10 million less on the current acres, the bond will be 20 years. The K-8 building is already 30 years old, currently, which did not make sense financially to build a new building and leave the current K-8 knowing that in 10 years, the building will be 40 years old.

Superintendent Bittner sent the Board the information on the estimation (approximately a 5% bond for every \$100,000 is \$71 per house). The State is trying to determine how to reduce the impact on businesses, which is much higher (approx. 27%).

We are looking into waivers, private donors, or grants or other avenues in how we might reduce the total bond. An example Superintendent gave: if BEST gives us \$64 million, we will owe \$10.2 million before CDE will fund and before the project can begin. If we can offset the \$10.2 million with a waiver or other funding, the less the Bond would need to be.

Timeframe: The BEST approval will come in May. If we are approved we will go for a Bond in November, beginning a campaign in July.

Superintendent Bittner requested a commitment from the Board to move forward with the new direction of the facilities being built on the 19 acres. Mrs. Bray reminded the Board that a vote had already taken place so the motion will probably need to be amended. A Special Board may be needed. Superintendent Bittner will check with the attorney on this.

Mr. Fourney asked about the baseball and football field, if it would be built at the new site. Mr. Bittner stated that it would.

Mrs. Snyder mentioned that because we had ESSER funds (approx. \$400k) for the HVAC that went into the new elementary school, if we do not utilize this for 5 years, we may need to repay the funds back, however, Neenan suggested that the new HVAC can be salvaged and placed in the new facility. We can theoretically lease the building for 5

years. Possibly the Town can utilize it as a recreation facility or something for a period of time.

C. Update on Co-oping Athletics Program

Last month the Board did not vote in alphabetical order in accordance with Colorado State Statute, when voting to Co-op the athletics programs with the Nucla High School for 24-26 SY. A new vote will take place on February 13th, 2023 at the next regular board meeting. Superintendent Bittner stated that with the West End making the decision to coop all sports, at their board meeting right before our meeting, it changed our situation, which then impacted the agenda. The attorney will be providing the verbiage for the Resolution next month.

Mrs. Bray stated that when situations come to the Board that are contentious, the Board needs to have time to discuss with the community. She felt it was a big decision that was moved forward quickly and expressed her apologies to the community for that. Mr. Bittner also expressed apologies to the community for the timing.

D. Other

Mr. Fourney asked about the Pinon Park home purchase. Superintendent Bittner stated that there was significant funding for this project. The funding exceeded the cost of the homes, however, the temperature and weather has delayed the project, where now money is being lost on the project. The houses were constructed in Buena Vista. The school's home is one of the first houses to close. We should have a close date by the end of March and should be able to tour the home soon.

Mrs. Snyder asked if there has been time to write a policy for employee housing. Superintendent Bittner will be working with our attorney on the selection process and the leasing and liability conditions.

IX. PRINCIPAL REPORT

Student graduating class photos were framed and hung. Drafts of the elementary and secondary schedules, as well as a draft calendar.

SMCSO is coming in to talk to the Staff about the drugs that are prevalent in the County and community, specifically fentanyl.

X. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT included in Old Business- nothing further to report.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fourney made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. Seconded by Mrs. Snyder. Roll call vote: "aye's" 5, "no's" 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Carla Reams