

MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

DULCE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

February 16, 2021

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

A. Mr. Leon Reval, Board President called the virtual meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the conference room at the District Administration Building, Dulce, New Mexico.

B. The Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the State Flag of New Mexico was recited.

II. ASCERTAIN QUORUM (I)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Members present at roll call were: Leon Reval-President; Levi Pesata-Vice President; Diana F. Vigil-Board Member, Phillip Salazar-Board Member; LaVonna James-Board Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Present including Teams platform and phone conference were:

Dr. Jim Hattabaugh-Superintendent; Carole Gomez-Business Manager; Ina Montoya-Elementary Principal; Vicky Abreu-HS Principal; Samantha Archer-Middle School Principal; Yvette Mares-Recorder

TEACHERS PRESENT:

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

III. APPROVE AGENDA (A)

Superintendent Hattabaugh made the recommendation to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion made by Phillip to approve the Agenda as recommended; seconded by Diana Vigil. Motion carried.

IV. LIMITED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORUM (I)

None at this time

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S ITEMS (I)

Superintendent Hattabaugh presented his report to the Board, Dr. Hattabaugh informed the Board the District's three kitchens were recently inspected and under the leadership of Food Service Manager, Christina Martinez they have provided over 138,234 meals since last March and they are ranked in the top 3 kitchens in the state. Dr. Hattabaugh thanked each food service worker for their hard work and dedication.

Dr. Hattabaugh's report included updates on Calendar Committee, Budget, Green House, Transportation to include the tribute to former bus driver, Stanley Naranjo, Staffing, Facilities, and Community Outreach.

Dr. Hattabaugh's report included information on the Board Work Session which was held on February 04, 2021 led by NMSBA – Hugh Prather to work on the Board Self Evaluation process. Dr. Hattabaugh also provided the Board with the superintendent evaluation form which was adopted last year along with the policy on goal setting. Dr. Hattabaugh asked the board to complete the evaluation form by February 26th and return to Yvette Mares in a sealed envelope so we can forward to the attorney who will compile and will be presented at the March board meeting.

Leon Reval inquired about the update on the Mid High BPA and thanked Ms. Martinez for her professional work. Dr. Hattabaugh stated the event was postponed and will send a link to the Board so they can participate when it's been rescheduled.

Principal's Report

Vicky Abreu-HS Principal

High School Principal, Vicky Abreu presented her report to the board. Her report included updates on enrollment (189 students currently enrolled,) staffing, staff training, parent/teacher conferences, senior updates, attendance, fall CTE Pathways initiatives and Dual Credit.

Diana Vigil stated she like the article in the Jicarilla Chieftain on student achievement.

Samantha Archer-MS Principal

Middle School Principal, Samantha Archer presented her report to the Board. Ms. Archers report included updates on enrollment (133 students currently enrolled) staffing, attendance testing data, parent/teacher conference, BPA, student council and thanked Lisa Martinez and Shawna Garcia for all their hard work.

Diana Vigil asked why the scores are down for the 7th graders. Ms. Archer stated its not uncommon and probably due to developmental stage for the age group.

Ina Montoya-Elementary Principal

Elementary Principal, Ina Montoya presented her report to the Board. Mrs. Montoya's report included updates on enrollment (301 students currently enrolled) and attendance (in the high 80's %), staffing, academics data, testing data, professional development, staff morale, parent/teacher conference. Mrs. Montoya's report included information on moccasin and micaceous pottery making class by Sheldon Nunez to finish the fine arts grants funds and local science lessons by Herbie Gomez to spend some CSI funding.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (A)

January 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Superintendent Hattabaugh made the recommendation to approve the January 19, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion made Phillip Salazar to approve the January 19, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as recommended; seconded by Lavonna James. Motion carried.

VII. FINANCE COMMITTEE (I/A)

1. Consolidated Board Report (I)

Business Manager, Carole Gomez presented the Consolidated Board Report for information purposes. Ms. Gomez stated she has no areas of concern.

2. January 2021 Disbursement Report (A)

Business Manager, Carole Gomez presented the January Disbursement Report for Board approval. The Board did question payments made to the Irwin Law Firm, payments made to contract employees and a fuel payment for student travel. Levi Pesata asked what the cost was to repair the Dulce Athletic Complex floor. Carole stated she will email the information to the Board. Dr. Hattabaugh made the recommendation to approve the Disbursement report as presented. Motion made by Phillip Salazar to approve the January 2021 Disbursement report as recommended; seconded Diana Vigil. Motion carried.

3. Monthly Budget Changes Report (A)

a. Monthly Maintenance Budget Transfers

Business Manager, Carole Gomez presented the Monthly Maintenance Budget Transfers Report for Board approval. Dr. Hattabaugh made the recommendation to approve the Monthly Maintenance Budget Transfers report for January 2021 as presented. Motion made by Phillip Salazar to approve the Monthly Budget Changes as recommended; seconded by LaVonna James. Motion carried.

b. Budget Transfer-Debt Service

Business Manager, Carole Gomez presented the Budget Transfer request for Debt Service in the amount of \$20,000.00 for Board approval. Ms. Gomez stated this transfer is for the county tax collection. Dr. Hattabaugh made the recommendation to approve the Budget Transfer request

for Debt Service as presented. Motion made by Phillip Salazar to approve the Budget Transfer request for debt service as recommended; seconded by LaVonna James. Motion carried.

c. Last Minute BAR's

No last minute BAR's at this time

VIII. OLD BUSINESS (I/A)

No Old Business at this time

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION (I)

The Board may elect to go into Executive Session for reasons permitted in the New Mexico Open Meetings Act.

No Executive Session at this time

X. CONSIDER TAKING ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION TOPICS (A)

None at this time

XI. NEW BUSINESS (I/A)

1. Approval of COVID 19 Administrative Leave Guidelines and Procedures

Dr. Hattabaugh presented the COVID 19 Administrative Leave Guidelines and Procedures for Board approval. Dr. Hattabaugh stated this policy replaces the Family First Corona Virus Response Act (FFCRA) which expired on December 31, 2020, this allows us to pay employees who are sent home due to a possible COVID 19 exposure. Leon Reval asked if this was previously approved by the Board. Dr. Hattabaugh stated the Board just has to approve this one time and this is specific to the Corona Virus and will become part of our personnel policy. LaVonna James asked if this policy was reviewed by legal review and if so which law firm reviewed the policy. Dr. Hattabaugh stated he is not sure what law firm the NMSBA uses to review policies but will follow up to find out. Dr. Hattabaugh stated this will be part of our school board policy and also HR policy. Dr. Hattabaugh made the recommendation to approve the COVID 19 Administrative Leave Guidelines and Procedures as presented. Motion made by Phillip Salazar to approve the COVID 19 Administrative Leave Guidelines and Procedures as presented; seconded by Diana Vigil. Levi Pesata stated will abstain because he has not seen the changes. LaVonna James states she will abstain as well. Leon Reval stated the motion passed with three majority votes in the affirmative. Leon Reval asked for a highlighted version on the changes. Levi Pesata stated the Board should have the opportunity to see any changes to any policy for Board review prior to approval. LaVonna stated at the conference she recently attended they were cautioned on the use of waivers and this looks like a waiver and wants to protect the District. Leon Reval stated the Board reviewed a policy on COVID last year and questioned if this is a change to the policy and asked for a red lined version to Board review. Dr. Hattabaugh thanked the Board for their insights and concerns and yes we want to do things legally and stated he would research these concerns and get back to the Board.

2. Review and Discussion of Previous Board Action Regarding Remote Instruction and Recommendation as Needed

Dr. Hattabaugh explained the recent updates from the Governor's office regarding schools going back to in person learning. Dr. Hattabaugh reminded the Board about the decision the Board made to stay in virtual learning until the end of the school year back in December to be revisited when needed. Dr. Hattabaugh stated schools will be allowed to go back to in person learning on February 04, 2021 and February 22, 2021 the date NMAA will allow sports and activities. Dr. Hattabaugh explained his concerns about DISD going back to some type of hybrid learning mode:

- Dr. Hattabaugh stated he met with Jicarilla Apache Nation President and Counsel Members and they recommended the District remain in remote learning.
- Facilities concerns:

- The high school and Vietnam gymnasium cannot accommodate the MERV 13 filter requirement due to the age of the system/equipment.
- The DAC floor is still under construction with a date of completion for May 2021.
- Staff and parent survey results, a majority of staff and parents stated they prefer to stay in virtual learning
- Extra custodial staffing needed to sanitize the class rooms
- Staff vaccines: about ½ of staff have received at least one COVID vaccine
 - Policy will have to be written to require all staff to be vaccinated
- We will not be able to meet the Hybrid Learning Guidelines within the timeframe given by PED & Department of Health

Levi Pesata stated he recommends we stay in remote learning for the rest of the school year to ensure safety. Diana Vigil stated she agrees with Levi and she votes to stay in remote learning. LaVonna James stated she also agrees with Levi Pesata and standards keep changing, we need to make sure we stay up to date to keep up with the changing standards and maybe we can get a copy of a presentation given at the conference she recently attended and is in agreement to remain in remote learning to ensure the health and safety of everyone our top priority. Phillip Salazar stated the safety and well being of our kids is important we need to stay with our decision to remain in remote learning and maybe get more feed back from parents and students and look at the legalities of this issue as well, the virus is not going anywhere soon and we need to remain in remote learning. Leon Reval stated, due to the sudden decision by the state to throw this back on the School Boards creates a division and we need to have more buy in. The decision is scary to make this kind of black and white decision when we factor in what the parents, students and staff have to do. We all have to do what we have to do and it takes a village. We are stake holders and we have to do our part.

Leon Reval asked if the Board will have to vote on this item, Dr. Hattabaugh stated because this is an action item on the Agenda, yes the Board will have to take action and made the recommendation to remain in remote learning till the end of the academic year. Motion made by Levi Pesata to remain in remote learning till the end of the 2020/2021 school year; seconded by Diana Vigil. Motion carried.

At this time Carole informed the Board the cost to replace the gym floor is \$134,902.00 with a deductible of \$10,000.00 and Mark Marez is on his way to show the Board a sample of the floor. Dr. Hattabaugh asked the Board if they want a piece of the floor as a souvenir piece to please let him know. Leon Reval had two reminders for the Board, please don't forget to get your surveys to Hugh Prather from NMSBA, he is still needing two and he will work with the Superintendent to schedule another work session and will get back to the Board with a date and the March board meeting will be set for the 23rd of March due to spring break being the second week of March.

XII. ADJOURNMENT (A)

At this time Leon Reval adjourned the Board meeting at 4:23 p.m.



Leon K. Reval, Board President



LaVonna James, Board Secretary