

MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

DULCE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

July 20, 2021

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

A. Mr. Leon Reval 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 K. Reval- Board President; Diana F. Vigil-Board Member, Phillip Salazar-Board Member; Levi Pesata-Vice President

MEMBERS ABSENT: LaVonna James-Excused absence

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Present including ZOOM platform were:

Dr. Juanita Becenti-Superintendent, Ms. Vicky Abreu-High School Principal; Carole Gomez-Business Manager; Ina Montoya-Elementary Principal; Yvette Mares-Recorder

TEACHERS PRESENT:

OTHER STAFF PRESENT: Melissa Polaco-Federal Program; Katie Cachucha-SPED; Melody Gomez-HR Manager;

OTHERS PRESENT:

III. APPROVE AGENDA (A)

Vicky Abreu, High School Principal made the recommendation to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion made by Phillip Salazar to approve the Agenda as recommended; seconded by Levi Pesata. Motion carried.

IV. LIMITED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORUM (I)

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S ITEMS (I)

At this time Vicky Abreu, High School Principal introduced newly hired Superintendent, Dr. Juanita Becenti. Dr. Becenti briefly addressed the Board and thanked the Board for this opportunity. Dr. Becenti also informed the Board she had to leave the Board meeting at this time because she had to attend a training session out of town.

Interim-Superintendent Board Report

Vicky Abreu presented her Interim-Superintendent report to the Board. Ms. Abreu's report included updates on the DISD Reentry Plan, Ms. Abreu stated she has been working closely with the Jicarilla Apache Nation Legislative Council on the reentry plan and stated the Jicarilla Apache Nation Legislative Council will have a community meeting on Friday, July 30th and Jicarilla Nation President Velarde will announce guidelines and recommendations to the District for school re-openings. Ms. Abreu also stated, she contacted NM PED and was told since we are located on the Jicarilla Apache Nation we will have to comply with the recommendation of the JAN Council.

Ms. Abreu's report also included updates on the Athletics (we are currently having open practices and still hiring coaches) Staffing-We have hired a new Middle School Principal, she will not start until August 23rd and Ms. Abreu will be the Interim-MS Principal until the new Principal gets here, a new Security Supervisor has also been hired, Bart Owen stated he will start in about three weeks. Ms. Abreu also presented updates on Facilities/Maintenance, and housing. Ms. Abreu informed the Board we are working with the Jicarilla Apache Nation to ensure we have enough computers for each student enrolled and DISD.

Leon Reval stated the Utility Authority should be an integral part of the infrastructure repair or at least made aware that way they can come and make quick repairs and we should consider an MOU with the Nation regarding utilities and with the new computes we are getting, will the computers be able to handle the software needed? Ms. Abreu replied our IT Department is

aware and they will need to do a little bit of work to make them compatible. Leon Reval asked if it would be possible to get one computer early to test out the software and hopefully everything syncs together well.

Levi Pesata inquired if we have given the Jicarilla Apache Nation any type of recommendations and guidelines regarding the re-opening plan and we should consider presenting the Jicarilla Apache Nation with our own re-opening plan. Mr. Pesata also stated we need to have a re-opening plan and parents should have a choice on whether they want full re-entry or virtual and he personally doesn't support virtual learning at this time because of the loss of time and student contact and lack of teaching and he does endorse a full classroom approach. Leon Reval stated he would like for Vicky Abreu and Dr. Becenti to write a letter to the Jicarilla Apache Nation stating we are in support of in person learning. Levi Pesata asked to include in this letter DISD will make accommodations for any positive COVID cases that may come up and also stated he wants to recommend we implement an MOU with the Jicarilla Apache Nation-Utility Authority to help us out at night if we have any type of emergencies. Leon Reval stated we should ensure we have separate MOU's in place and may provide more grant opportunities for the Nation. Vicky Abreu stated the Nation has appointed a police office to the District. At this time the Board discussed the phase out of old computers issued to students and how to phase in the new computers.

Phillip Salazar mentioned that the JAN Emergency Management will be dropping off PPE supplies in the next few days.

Vicky Abreu presented the Federal Programs report prepared by Federal Programs Director, Melissa Polaco and stated Mrs. Polaco was present for any questions. Ms. Abreu stated the Board might want to have a work session to review all the remaining grants. Business Manager, Carole Gomez stated for clarification regarding Federal Grants, any allocation balance left, the remaining balance does not automatically transfer over, we have to get a new grant awards letter from PED. Ms. Abreu asked Melissa Polaco if a meeting can be scheduled to discuss grant information once we get the new grant information. Leon Reval stated having reports like this in the packet or email do go a long way.

Leon Reval asked Vicky Abreu what time frame is she looking at submitting the letter to Jicarilla Apache Nation regarding the in person learning of the school. Ms. Abreu responded she would write that letter tomorrow and hopefully submit it as well.

At this time Leon Reval stated he will recess the meeting due to a ZOOM/recording issue. Meeting recessed at 3:44 p.m. Meeting reconvened at 3:51 p.m.

Principal's Report

Vicky Abreu-HS Principal

Ms. Abreu summarized her principal report, her report included updates on enrollment (enrollment prediction 182 students) and staffing. Ms. Abreu also presented a re-entry schedule for both hybrid and full face to face learning. After discussion regarding language arts classes, Leon Reval asked Ms. Abreu to provide the Board with a syllabus showing what is being taught to the Board.

Ina Montoya-Elementary Principal

Elementary Principal, Ina Montoya presented her report to the Board, Mrs. Montoya's report included newly hired employees, staff projections, vacant positions, new math curriculum purchase, new English Language arts text book adoption, incentives for improvements in reading scores & progress, attendance and afterschool goal is to start tutoring after Go-Jii-Ya. Mrs. Montoya also presented fully remote learning schedules and full re-entry learning.

Katie Cachucha, explained what the general framework for providing services to students who have IEP's will be when school starts. Leon Reval stated SPED should work on providing a updated report to the Board.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (A)

June 15, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Vicky Abreu made the recommendation to approve the June 15, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion made by Phillip Salazar to approve the June 15, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as recommended; seconded by Diana Vigil. Motion carried.

June 21, 2021 Special Board Meeting Minutes

Vicky Abreu made the recommendation to approve the June 21, 2021 Special Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion made by Phillip Salazar to approve the June 21, 2021 Special Board Meeting Minutes as recommended; seconded by Levi Pesata. Motion carried.

June 29, 2021 Special Board Meeting Minutes

Vicky Abreu made the recommendation to approve the June 29, 2021 Special Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion made by Phillip Salazar to approve the June 29, 2021 Special Board Meeting Minutes as recommended; seconded by Diana Vigil. Motion carried.

VII. FINANCE COMMITTEE (I/A)

1. Consolidated Board Report (I)

Business Manager, Carole Gomez introduced her newly hired accounting technician, Sherwin Serafin to the Board. Carole Gomez stated she would like to start having quarterly meetings with the Finance Committee, which consists of Board Member Salazar, Board Secretary, James, Superintendent Becenti and herself. Carole Gomez stated the reason for wanting to have quarterly meetings is to review the budget report. At this time Carole Gomez presented the Consolidated Board Report for information purposes only. After discussion on providing budget reports to the Board, Phillip Salazar stated in Ms. Polaco's defense she was asking him if this is the report the Board is wanting and that he was explaining that it was already part of the budget report. Leon Reval stated that everyone in the loop to include principals should get all the reports that the Board gets. Ms. Abreu stated she has had discussions with the Board at the last meeting about presenting budget information and giving them the opportunity to review and to ask questions before they come to the Board meetings. Ms. Gomez stated she will not have a problem sending the Consolidated Board Report along with the Disbursement Report to the Board prior to the preparation of board packets.

Mr. Reval stated just to circle back, any information will be emailed out, we will have a finance committee meeting, these meetings will be open and notice will be posted if three or more board members will be present and principals will receive information.

2. June 2021 Disbursement Report (A)

Business Manager, Carole Gomez presented the June 2021 Disbursement Report for Board approval. Diana Vigil questioned a disbursement made payable to Jennifer Martinez check # 61386 in the amount of \$19,800.00. Ms. Abreu explained Ms. Martinez did 2 ½ days of high impact, true colors training for teachers and Phillip Salazar questioned if check # 61384 payable to Brian Steen was for the same training. Phillip Salazar stated, for future trainings we should consider sending 2 teachers so they can come back highly qualified to train the other teachers because this is a lot of money to spend. Leon Reval asked what is the process for contracting this type of training. Carole Gomez explained the process. Leon Reval stated, again this is after the fact, the process was followed and we need to have communication to discuss these things. Ms. Abreu stated this is why she wants the Board to see the grants prior to expenditure of the funds and yes \$36,000.00 is a lot of money and she takes accountability for this. Carole Gomez stated the Board will hopefully have an opportunity to review the Indian Ed. Grant prior to Board approval so that everyone understands the grant. Vicky Abreu made the recommendation to approve the Disbursement Report as presented. Motion made by Phillip Salazar to approve the Disbursement Report as recommended; seconded by Levi Pesata. Motion carried.

3. Monthly Budget Changes Report (A)

a. Monthly Maintenance Budget Transfers

No report to present at this time

b. Last Minute BAR-

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 Time

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

No Action Taken at This Time

XI. NEW BUSINESS (I/A)

1. Amended Salary Schedules
 - a. Amended Food Service Salary Schedule

Vicky Abreu asked for a recommendation to approve the Amended Food Service Salary Schedule as presented. HR Director Melody gave a brief explanation for the amendment request. The reason is the years of service is capped at 25 years and we currently have an employee who has exceeded the 25 years mark and an extra step needs to be added to the salary schedule. Diana Vigil asked what is the difference between the head cook and the supervisor and director. Levi Pesata asked if this is a state recommendation or an internal procedure. Motion made by Phillip Salazar to approve the Amended Food Service Salary Schedule as recommended; seconded by Levi Pesata. Motion carried.

- b. Amended Test/SAT/504/Coordinator Salary Schedule

Vicky Abreu asked for a recommendation to approve the amended Test/SAT/504/Coordinator Salary Schedule as presented. At this time Ms. Abreu asked Melody Gomez to explained the request to amend the salary schedule. HR Director, Melody Gomez stated this position has to be reintroduced to the salary schedule because during the transition of leadership this position was removed but we currently have an employee in this position so we need to put this position back on the schedule. Leon Reval asked Ms. Abreu to explain the difference between SAT and 504 and Test Coordinator. Ms. Abreu stated one person is the SAT/504/Test Coordinator. Levi Pesata stated this should probably be reviewed and separated by job description and looked at by the Board to ensure there is no duplication of duties. Phillip Salazar stated this is a good idea. Levi Pesata stated the Board made an agreement, the new Superintendent should look at all these positions. After more discussion to clarify Leon Reval asked for a breakdown report and to meet with Superintendent Becenti and asked Ms. Abreu to recommend the Board table this item. Business Manager, Carole Gomez stated there may be a problem with tabling this time. Ms. Abreu explained if the Board does not approve the salary schedule, this individual may not get paid. Phillip Salazar stated this would have to be discussed in Executive Session. At this time Leon Reval stated he heard there may be an issue if this item is not addressed, if this action is not considered what is the outcome. Melody Gomez responded, not good and her recommendation is to table the District Director position. Vicky Abreu stated yes she understands because we currently don't have anyone in that position yet and keep the Coordinator position because we currently have someone in the Coordinator position and has been in this position for years. Leon Reval asked Ms. Abreu as Superintendent Designee, what is your recommendation and he will call for a motion. At this time Ms. Abreu stated this person has started contract, the previous superintendent wanted to move her to a Director position and he didn't provide or leave any documentation but he eliminated the Coordinator position on the pay scale. Ms. Abreu stated she didn't upgrade her to the Director because this would be a Superintendent decision but for now we need to bring back the Coordinator position in order to pay her. Business Manager, Carole Gomez stated the easiest thing to do at this time is to eliminate the Director position and reinstate the Coordinator. Leon Reval asked Ms. Abreu to make the recommendation. Ms. Abreu made the recommendation to eliminate the Director position from the salary schedule and add in the Coordinator. Mr. Leon Reval asked for a motion. Levi Pesata stated the changes need to be made. Leon Reval stated he will come back

to that and asked for a motion. Phillip Salazar made a motion to approve the amendment to the salary schedule as recommended; seconded by Leon Reval. Levi Pesata and Diana Vigil abstained. Motion did not carry. Leon Reval asked for a remedy for this situation as soon as possible.

- c. Approval of the SAT/504/MLSS (Multi-Level System of support) Contract Date Change

Phillip Salazar stated the next pay date for the District is next Friday, July 30th and if there is no action taken on this Coordinator position this person will not get paid. At this time, Vicky Abreu attempted to clarify again what happened to cause the confusion. Leon Reval called for a recommendation. Vicky Abreu stated the Board may consider scheduling a special board meeting in 72 hours and Superintendent Becenti should be able to attend. Vicky Abreu made the recommendation to table items b. and c. under New Business. Motion made by Phillip Salazar to table these items as recommended; seconded by Levi Pesata. Levi Pesata stated no existing employee should ever be left off the salary schedule. Diana Vigil asked to clarify why this happened. HR Manager, Melody Gomez explained the decision was made by the former superintendent to create the Director position and move this individual from Coordinator to Director.

2. Approval of MOU's

- a. Approval of MOU with DISD and Jicarilla Apache Nation Behavioral Health

Vicky Abreu clarified to the Board items a, b and c are not approval of the MOU's but permission to pursue the MOUs and the MOU's have been looked at by our school attorney and they are still in draft form, then we will send the drafts back to the entity, have them review them and then bring them back to us at which time we can have them approved. Leon Reval stated for the record, permission has been granted for the MOU's in draft form to move forward with DISD and the Jicarilla Behavioral Health Dept, MOU with DISD and National Indian Education and permission to move forward with DISD and the Workforce Investment Opportunities Act.

- b. Approval of the MOU/Contract with DISD and NIEA (National Indian Education Association)

Leon Reval stated for the record, permission has been granted for the MOU's in draft form to move forward with DISD and the Jicarilla Behavioral Health Dept, MOU with DISD and National Indian Education and permission to move forward with DISD and the Workforce Investment Opportunities Act.

- c. Approval of the MOU with DISD and WIOA (Workforce Investment Opportunity Act)

Leon Reval stated for the record, permission has been granted for the MOU's in draft form to move forward with DISD and the Jicarilla Behavioral Health Dept, MOU with DISD and National Indian Education and permission to move forward with DISD and the Workforce Investment Opportunities Act.

- d. Approval of the MOA and DISD and Jicarilla Apache Legislative Council (Grow Your Own Teachers)

Vicky Abreu presented the MOA between DISD and Jicarilla Apache Legislative Council (Grow Your Own Teachers) Ms. Abreu stated this is a request to ask for permission to move forward with the MOA. Leon Reval stated again this is a MOA in draft form and asking permission to move forward and to come back to the Board for further discussion and possible approval.

3. Approval of Out of State Travel Request- Dr. Loyola Bird

Vicky Abreu presented the Out of State Request for Dr. Loyola to attend the NACEP's National Conference in Orlando Florida on October 25-26, 2021. Ms. Abreu made the recommendation to approve the Out of State Travel Request for Dr. Loyola Bird to attend the NACEP's National Conference in Orlando Florida on October 25-26, 2021. Phillip Salazar asked Business Manager, Carole Gomez if we are going to have funding available for this because there is no cost breakdown for this request. Carole Gomez stated we do have budget for employee travel. Ms. Abreu mentioned the Board may table this item and can be presented again with the information needed at the special board meeting. Carole Gomez said she will also present the Board with the employee travel budget at the special board meeting. Vicky Abreu made the

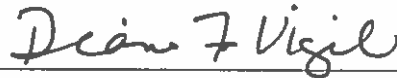
recommendation to table the out of state travel request until further information is provided to the Board.

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements at this time

XIII. ADJOURNMENT (A)

High School Principal, Vicky Abreu made the recommendation to adjourn the meeting at 5:41 p.m. Motion made by Phillip Salazar to adjourn the meeting at 5:41 p.m.; seconded by Levi Pesata. Motion carried.



Diana F. Vigil, Board President



Levi Pesata, Board Secretary