

MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

DULCE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

September 21, 2021

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- A. Board President, Diana F. Vigil called the meeting to order at 3:02 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: Diana F. Vigil- Board President; Leon K. Vigil-Board Member; Levi Pesata-Board Secretary; Phillip Salazar-Vice President; LaVonna James-Board Member arrived at 3:07 p.m.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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

Dr. Juanita Becenti-Superintendent, Vicky Abreu-High School Principal; George Waybenais-Middle School Principal/Athletic Director; Carole Gomez-Business Manager; Ina Montoya-Elementary Principal; Donna Aguilar-SPED Director; Clifford Martell-Security Supervisor; Melody Gomez-HR Director; Yvette Mares-Recorder

TEACHERS PRESENT:

OTHER STAFF PRESENT: Inky Vicenti-MS Counselor

OTHERS PRESENT:

III. APPROVE AGENDA (A)

Dr. Becenti, Superintendent made the recommendation to approve the Agenda as presented. Leon Reval inquired why HR Update is under Executive Session stating this should be part of the record. Phillip Salazar stated the HR update should be stricken from the Agenda because HR matters should be under the Superintendent. After further discussion Diana Vigil polled the Board to approve to strike HR update from the Agenda. Leon Reval made the motion to approve the Agenda with the change of striking HR Update from Executive Session and move it to the Superintendent Report; seconded by Phillip Salazar. Motion carried.

IV. LIMITED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORUM (I)

None at this time

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S ITEMS (I)

1. Superintendent Report

Dr. Becenti presented the Superintendent Report to the Board. Dr. Becenti's report included updates on NM PED testing/vaccination mandate, laptop imaging, JANPA wi-fi installation, safety and security, upcoming webinars/virtual learning conferences and upcoming events.

Melody Gomez presented an HR update. Her report included vacancies, newly hired staff and in-house transfers. Leon Reval inquired what is the strategy for hiring. LaVonna James asked for a summary on why staff are leaving the District and what can be done to keep staff here with the District. Phillip Salazar inquired if there going to be any extra curricular activities for middle school and elementary.

2. Principal's Update

Vicky Abreu-HS Principal

Dr. Becenti presented the HS report to the Board. The High School Report included updates on enrollment, Pathway Program, credit recovery, attendance, testing, school initiatives and upcoming events. At this time Diana Vigil call for a recess at 3:51 p.m. due to technical difficulties with the internet. Meeting back in session at 4:08 p.m.

George Waybenais-Middle School Principal/Athletic Director

Middle School Principal/Athletic Director George Waybenais introduced himself to the Board and presented his Middle School and Athletic Report to the Board. Mr. Waybenais informed the Board he has been busy learning and dealing with issues with the Middle School and Athletics. Mr. Waybenais stated he has gotten a lot of support from the staff and community and enjoys being here.

Ina Montoya-Elementary Principal

Elementary Principal, Ina Montoya presented her report to the Board. Mrs. Montoya's report included updates on enrollment, staffing, testing data, update on laptops. Mrs. Montoya stated they are all working very hard to make up for the one year of lost learning.

3. Donna Aguilar-SPED Director

Donna Aguilar, introduced herself and presented her report to the Board. Mrs. Aguilar informed the Board, the term SPED will not be used and will be changed to Exceptional Programs, SPED will still be used at the federal and state level. Diana Vigil inquired how many students are in the program and LaVonna James asked if IEP meeting have already begun.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (A)

August 17, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Dr. Becenti asked for a recommendation to approve the August 17, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented. LaVonna James asked to correct the spelling on page 3 the first sentence change mad to made and correct the dash on page five 10th sentence down. Diana Vigil wanted to clarify if the Board needed to approve the election proclamation, Dr. Becenti replied it was not needed because there are no bonds attached to the election. Diana Vigil inquired if Dr. Becenti had taken care of the administrative leave issue and Dr. Becenti stated this was because of the fire and treated like weather related leave. Dr. Becenti asked for a recommendation to approve the Minutes of the August 17, 2021 with changes made. Motion made by Leon Reval to approve the Minutes of the August 17, 2021 with the recommended changes; seconded by Phillip Salazar. Motion carried.

VII. FINANCE COMMITTEE (I/A)

1. Consolidated Board Report (I)

Ms. Gomez presented the Consolidated Board Report for information purposes. Ms. Gomez stated as of today we have received payment for fund CSI and Indian Education Act.

2. August 2021 Disbursement Report (A)

Business Manager, Carole Gomez presented the August 2021 Disbursement Report for Board approval. The Board had questions on check number 61593 payable to Yvette. Ms. Gomez explained the check was for athletic/activity starting cash banks and we can't make checks payable to cash and this is the procedure we follow every year, and we have dual verification and the cash is kept in the vault and checked out when needed and checked back in at the end of the school year. LaVonna James asked if we issue P-Cards for athletic travel and meals. Ms. Gomez replied, yes we do send P-Cards with the coach for day/overnight trips for meals. Dr. Becenti asked for a recommendation to approve the August 2021 Disbursement Report as presented. Motion made by Phillip Salazar to approve the August 2021 Disbursement Report as presented; seconded by LaVonna James. Motion carried.

3. Monthly Budget Changes Report (A)

a. Monthly Maintenance Budget Transfers

Business Manager, Carole Gomez presented the Monthly Maintenance Budget Transfer Report for Board approval. Dr. Becenti asked for a recommendation to approve the Monthly Maintenance Budget Transfers Report as presented. Motion made by LaVonna James to approve the Monthly Maintenance Budget Transfers Report as recommended; seconded by Diana Vigil. Motion carried.

b. Last Minute BAR

None at this time

4. Permanent Cash Transfer Request

Business Manager, Carole Gomez presented two Permanent Cash Transfer Requests for Board approval. First transfer request is from Operations into fund 24109-Preschool in the amount of \$2,677.10 and the second transfer request is to fund 27502 Career and Pilot Program in the amount of \$5,591.76. Dr. Becenti asked for a recommendation to approve the Permanent Cash Transfer Requests in the amount of \$2,677.10 and \$5,591.76 as presented. Motion made by Phillip Salazar to approve the Permanent Cash Transfer Requests as recommended; seconded by LaVonna James. Motion carried.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS (I/A)

1. Reconsider approval of the July 20, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

At this time Board Recorder-Yvette Mares explained these Minutes were not approved at the last board meeting and the Board does need an approved set of Minutes for the record even if the Board makes changes. After discussion, Dr. Becenti asked for a recommendation to approve the July 20, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion made by Leon Reval; seconded by Phillip Salazar. LaVonna James abstained. Motion carried.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION (I)

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

A. Limited Personnel Matter as permitted under Section 10-15-1 (H))2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act; specifically to discuss:

a. Safety/Security

At this time Levi Pesata read the motion for closure:

Pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H) (1) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, I move that we vote to close the open meeting to discuss the following matters identified on the agenda, Safety & Security.

Each Board Member was polled; Leon K. Reval, Phillip Salazar, Diana Vigil, LaVonna James and Levi Pesata, all voted yes.

The meeting closed at 5:03 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 5:40 p.m.

The matters discussed in the closed meeting were those specified in the motion for closure, no action was taken. Levi Pesata polled the Board, all voted yes.

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

None at this time

XI. NEW BUSINESS (I/A)

1. Amend Stipend Schedule

The amended change on the Stipend Schedule was the addition of the stipend of \$125.00 a day for chaperones. Dr. Becenti asked for a recommendation to approve the amended Stipend Schedule as presented. Motion made by Phillip Salazar to approve the Amended Stipend Schedule as presented; seconded by LaVonna James. Motion carried.

2. Consider Workshop for:

- a. Activities Fund Policies
- b. Athletics Policy Handbook
- c. Staff & Student Policy Handbook
- d. Discuss Hybrid Model at the Middle School

Leon Reval asked Carole Gomez if its necessary to have such a comprehensive Activities Fund Policy. Ms. Gomez replied this policy only pertains to the Business Office and preferred to stay with the current policy but she can condense it. The Board discussed dates and times to schedule a Board work session to review the Activities Fund Policy, Athletics Policy Handbook and the Staff & Student Policy Handbook. Dr. Becenti stated she will present the Hybrid Model at the MS at the next Board Meeting. Dr. Becenti asked for a recommendation to approve the Board Work Session date for Wednesday, September 29th, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Leon Reval stated he will check his schedule. Motion made by LaVonna James to approve the Board work session date as recommended; seconded by Phillip Salazar. Motion carried.

3. Consider MOU Between Jicarilla Behavioral Health Department and Dulce Independent Schools

Middle School Counselor, Inky Vicenti informed the Board of her concern regarding the monthly on call crisis counselor from Jicarilla Behavioral Health. Ms. Vicenti stated she is no longer given the calendar listing the on call crisis counselor. Ms. Vicenti stated she wants to see the dialog changed regarding this process with Jicarilla Behavioral Health. Leon Reval asked Dr. Becenti to have a discussion with the Principals and Miss Inky to help bridge the gap with build a better foundation. Dr. Becenti stated she would like to table this discussion because there is a meeting scheduled for tomorrow, September 22, 2021 with Behavioral Health. Board President, Diana Vigil stated item # 3 under New Business is tabled and the Superintendent will get back to the Board after her meeting with Behavioral Health.

4. Consider New Legal Law Firm Retainer

- a. Cuddy McCarthy Law Firm
- b. Dina Holcomb Law Firm
- c. Ortiz-Zamora Law Firm

Leon Reval recommended the District get RFP's from these firms before the Board makes any decision. After further discussion, Diana Vigil stated the Superintendent will do research on law firm a. and law firm b. and present at the next board meeting. Levi Pesata asked for the information be sent to each Board Member before the board meeting. Dr. Becenti replied, yes we can do that.

5. Status of Federal Grants Update

Dr. Becenti and Vicky Abreu-High School Principal presented the status of Federal Grants update for Board information. Diana Vigil called for a recess at 6:09 p.m. due to technical problems, meeting back in session at 6:15 p.m. After discussion on the Title III ESSER Grant deadline the Board agreed to schedule a Special Board meeting for Monday, September 27th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at which time the Board can approve the grant.

6. Designate Superintendent to Authorize Documents for PSFA (Public School Facility Authority)

Dr. Becenti explained this document needs approval to authorize the Superintendent to sign documents regarding the Facility Master Plan. The PSFA (Public School Facility Authority) requires the District to designate an individual to sign documents related to the Facilities Master Plan.

Dr. Becenti asked for a recommendation to designate the Superintendent to authorize documents for the PSFA. Motion made by Phillip Salazar to approve the Superintendent to authorize documents for PSFA; seconded by Levi Pesata. Motion carried.

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

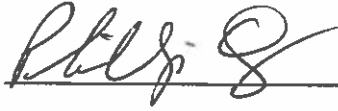
1. Superintendent Announcements

- Update on the School Board Election

Dr. Becenti read the names of the candidates for the November 02, 2021 school board election.

XIII ADJOURNMENT (A)

Board President, Diana Vigil asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Leon Reval to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Phillip Salazar. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.



Diana F. Vigil, Board President



Levi Pesata Board Secretary