

Official Minutes
Wednesday, August 26, 2020

Hudson Elementary Training Room

Regular Meeting

1. **Call to Order** by Vice President Grundy at 6:35 pm.
2. **Roll Call** Directors Grundy, Gustafson, and Jensen were present. Director Baumgartner participated electronically.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Approval of Agenda**

Director Gustafson moved to approve the agenda as presented. Director Jensen seconded the motion.

Baumgartner - Y	Grundy - Y	Gustafson - Y	Jensen - Y	Director District D - Vacant
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5. **Public Open Forum**

5.1 **Recognition of Visitors**

Dr. Rabenhorst introduced Justin McMillan, new principal at Weld Central Middle School. Mr. McMillan shared briefly about his background.

5.2 **Notification of Public Comment Period**

A public comment period was announced with instructions for submission of the public comment.

5.3 **Correspondence**

- Letter from Iris Mersbergen

6. **Special Reports**

6.1 **Director District Boundaries - Presentation from Western Demographics**

At a previous meeting, Mr. Shannon Bingham with Western Demographics gave a presentation regarding possible scenarios for redistricting of Board of Education Director Districts that must be completed every four years including this year, 2020. Using additional information provided by Board members, Mr. Bingham submitted two more possible scenarios. He joined the meeting remotely to explain the methodology and answer any questions. Statute requires that the districts be compact, continuous, and as nearly equal in size as possible. Scenario #4 does not comply with statute regarding the percentage deviation as noted in the table provided in the information. Scenario #3 does comply with the statute, reflects the majority of Board member preferences from the previous meeting, and takes into account a requested change from Director Jensen. Mr. Bingham explained that he discovered that the data company that he uses was still counting people formally housed within the closed

detention facility in Hudson. Mr. Bingham removed those numbers from the population and generated new data for the scenarios submitted. He noted that the average Director District population is 3,000 people and again confirmed that Scenario #3 is the most viable in complying with statute requirements and the goals of the Board. Director Grundy thanked Mr. Bingham for reexamining the maps in order to include Board member feedback. She also asked for clarification regarding the size of the Director District A, and Mr. Bingham agreed that the size of that district has been reduced but that no Board members have been displaced. Mr. Bingham also noted that if approved, his next steps will be writing property descriptions, providing new maps for the school district's use, and providing indefinite support for confirmation of Board member candidates in specific districts. By consensus, the Board agreed that Scenario #3 was a good option. Dr. Rabenhorst explained that this item would be discussed and recommended for action later in the meeting.

6.2 Capital Construction Update

Ms. Hohnholt reported to Dr. Rabenhorst that the open-trench repairs to the gravity line at Highway 52 were successful in correcting the standing water issues identified in previous camera scoping of the line. On August 12, the Town of Keenesburg sent an email to NV5 and Dr. Rabenhorst accepting the sewerline infrastructure. On August 13, the Town of Keenesburg provided an eleven-item punch list consisting of both questions and requested actions for NCC before project closeout. NCC is in the process of collecting information and performing these final tasks. NV5 anticipates receiving the final pay application from NCC once the Town accepts NCC's punch list response. The official change order for the recent repairs has still not been received, so Dr. Rabenhorst explained that he was not yet prepared to recommend an official change to the project budget. Once all punch items are completed, Dr. Rabenhorst will communicate with the Town regarding a formal acceptance of all components of the project. Director Baumgartner asked if there will be any cost to the district regarding the remaining punch items and if any equipment needs to be replaced. Dr. Rabenhorst explained that he does not believe there will be additional cost since all items should fall under warranty. Further inspection of the lift station is still to occur due to previous issues with water reaching the electrical system, and Dr. Rabenhorst noted that he is currently unaware of any equipment replacement needs. Director Jensen asked if the system is currently operational, and Dr. Rabenhorst noted that the bypass is still being used, but that the line under 52 is operational. The team is also still waiting on final information regarding the decommissioning of the old lift station. Plans for a complete demolition of the old lift station are still uncertain and not included in the scope of the project.

Administrative Contract/Agreement Approvals since previous meeting:

- None

Administrative Change Order Approvals since previous meeting:

- None

7. Board Consent Agenda

7.1 Approval: Meeting Minutes

- (a) July 22, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes
- (b) July 22, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
- (c) August 12, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes
- 7.2 Approval: Financials
 - (a) July Financials
 - (b) Quarterly Financial Report (October, January, April, July only)
- 7.3 Approval: Resignations / Retirements / Separation of Employment
 - Haley Scoggins - Full-Time Substitute Teacher @ WCHS
 - Sara Johnson - 1st Grade Teacher @ Hoff Elementary
 - Zoila Villa - Custodian @ Meadow Ridge Elementary
- 7.4 Approval: Contracts for Licensed Employees
 - Amanda Carmody - Online Facilitator (9th & 10th Grades) @ WCHS
 - James Stalcup II - Science Teacher @ WCHS
- 7.5 Approval: Letters of Employment for Classified Personnel
 - None
- 7.6 Approval: Additions to the 2020-2021 Coaching/Extra Duty Employment Agreement/Notice of Assignment
 - None
- 7.7 Approval: Resignations for 2020-2021 Coaching/Extra Duty Employment Agreement/Notice of Assignment
 - None
- 7.8 Approval: Intra-School / Intra-District Staff Transfers
 - Lori Dottavio - Transfer from Licensed Substitute Teacher to Online Facilitator @ WCMS
 - Charlene Bye - Transfer from Paraprofessional - Library @ WCMS to Online Facilitator @ WCMS
- 7.9 Approval: 2020-2021 Amended Contracts
- 7.10 Approval: Additions to the Substitute Teaching List
- 7.11 Approval: Out of District Student Requests for 2020-2021
- 7.12 Approval: Request for Open Enrollment / Within District Transfers for 2020-2021
- 7.13 Approval: Home School Requests for 2020-2021
- 7.14 Approval: Administrative Policy
- 7.15 Approval: Monitoring Review Cycle
 - (a) EL-6 Educational Program

Director Jensen moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Director Gustafson seconded the motion.

Baumgartner - Y	Grundy - Y	Gustafson - Y	Jensen - Y	Director District D - Vacant
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8. Public Open Forum: Public Comment

No public comment was received.

9. Action/Discussion

9.1 Approval of Director District Boundaries

Board members were asked if they had any additional discussion regarding the director district boundaries as discussed in agenda item 6.1 Board members confirmed they were supportive of Scenario #3 as presented by Mr. Bingham. The Board had no further discussion.

Director Jensen moved to approve Scenario #3 as presented by Western Demographics for the redistricting of the Director District Boundaries. Director Gustafson seconded the motion.

Baumgartner - Y	Grundy - Y	Gustafson - Y	Jensen - Y	Director District D - Vacant
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9.2 Weld Re-3J Online Learning Platform / Curriculum Adoption

At the April 22, 2020 Regular Meeting, the Board reviewed and approved a Resolution granting emergency powers to the superintendent in light of the pandemic. Use of alternative curriculum/materials was noted to be of particular concern given the circumstances at the time. Due to the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, administration made plans to offer a fully online educational program available to all students in grades K-12. Students in grades 6-12 are using the Apex Learning platform which the district has previously used with high school students. Students in grades K-5 are using Florida Virtual School. Dr. Rabenhorst requested official Board approval of the curriculum in spite of no first reading/review and public display which were waived under the aforementioned resolution granting emergency powers. Costs for the programs are primarily being funded through the federal Coronavirus Relief Funds. Director Grundy asked for a report regarding the use of the two programs. Jenny Wakeman, Executive Director of Instructional Support, reported that teachers did not have much time to prepare, but that things seem to be going well with many teachers preparing video tutorials for students and parents. Feedback from online teachers has been positive.

Director Gustafson moved to approve the adoption of online programs and curriculum including Apex Learning for grades 6-12 and Florida Virtual School for grades K-5. Director Jensen seconded the motion.

Baumgartner - Y	Grundy - Y	Gustafson - Y	Jensen - Y	Director District D - Vacant
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9.3 Critical Shortage of School Personnel

The Board reviewed a document summarizing House Bill 17-1176 which allows rural school districts in Colorado to declare a critical shortage for certain positions in order to hire a PERA retiree who can then be exempt from PERA working limits post retirement. The critical shortage can be declared for teachers, bus drivers, and school cooks. There are currently no employees who fall within this exemption; however, not all hiring is complete, and Dr. Rabenhorst requested the resolution in case a future applicant falls within this category as not all positions in the district have been filled. There was no discussion from the Board.

Director Jensen moved to declare a Critical Shortage of Personnel, including Teachers and School Bus Drivers, for Weld County School District Re-3J. Director Gustafson seconded the motion.

Baumgartner - Y	Grundy - Y	Gustafson - Y	Jensen - Y	Director District D - Vacant
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9.4 Personnel Performance Evaluation Council Membership

A PPEC is a required committee that must be established, and this group reviews and makes revisions to the licensed educator evaluation plan. There are slight changes in membership this year, so Dr. Rabenhorst asked for approval of the membership. Dr. Rabenhorst asks WCEA leadership to select the teacher members, and administration selects an equal number of administrator members. This council will need to meet this year to discuss pending changes to teacher evaluation due to the pandemic. Dr. Rabenhorst explained CDE recently announced that they will no longer be collecting Measures of Student Learning (MSLs) data for this school year. MSLs typically count towards 50% of teacher evaluations, and CDE does not have the authority to say that school districts do not need to include the MSL component of teacher evaluation. It is expected that the legislature will take action this spring either allowing school districts to decide whether MSLs will continue to be used or if they will be prohibited. Decisions made by the PPEC will hinge on what action is taken by the legislature. Director Jensen asked what data will be used. Pertaining to state data, Dr. Rabenhorst explained there would be no state data from 2020, so CDE may have to weigh in on whether to use previous year data. Local MAP data could be used assuming schools stay open and the data could be collected throughout this year. Director Gustafson clarified that this change would only be for one year, and Dr. Rabenhorst confirmed that is the expected intention of CDE. Recommended members of PPEC are:

Brenna Morris	Greg Rabenhorst
Anne Blodgett	Judy Orbanosky
Cassandra Haner	Dan Kennedy
Erin Patrick	Justin McMillan
Christie Ruppel	Jennifer Forbes
Jerad Sutton	Ben Palmer

Parent representation would continue to be fulfilled by including the District Accountability Committee members in major changes to the plan.

Director Gustafson moved to approve the members of the Personnel Performance Evaluation Council as presented. Director Jensen seconded the motion.

Baumgartner - Y	Grundy - Y	Gustafson - Y	Jensen - Y	Director District D - Vacant
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9.5 Resolution 2021-2 A Resolution Calling an Election on November 3, 2020 Authorizing the Extension of a Mill Levy Override; Setting the Ballot Title and Content for the Ballot Issue; and Providing Other Matters Relating Thereto

The reviewed resolution was initially prepared by Tom Peltz with Kutak Rock. Language contained in it was reviewed and discussed by Board members at the August 12, 2020 Special

Meeting. Dr. Rabenhorst also asked general counsel to review the resolution and ballot language. Mr. Ray also had another consultant review the language and additional review took place and a new version of the resolution was submitted to Board members prior to the meeting. The goals of the MLO were not altered, but Mr. Ray noted that the new language focuses on verbs that are more action oriented. Dr. Rabenhorst recommended the language included in the revised resolution and exhibit (ballot question). By consensus, the Board agreed that they were in favor of the new language.

Director Jensen moved to approve the Resolution 2021-2 A Resolution Calling an Election on November 3, 2020 Authorizing the Extension of the Mill Levy Override; Setting the Ballot Title and Content for the Ballot Issue; and Providing Other Matters Relating Thereto as presented. Director Gustafson seconded the motion.

Baumgartner - Y	Grundy - Y	Gustafson - Y	Jensen - Y	Director District D - Vacant
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10. Information/Discussion (EL-4 Communication and Counsel to the Board)

10.1 Mill Levy Override Extension Discussion

The Board reviewed an overview of permitted and prohibited activities under the Colorado Fair Campaign Practices Act. Bill Ray joined the meeting remotely to continue discussion of mill levy planning with the Board and administration. Mr. Ray will be creating a calendar of major dates for the election and a preliminary budget for the campaign as he indicated he would participate with the issue committee. Mr. Ray currently recommended finding members to commit to the Campaign committee especially in the roles of Chair and Treasurer. Dr. Rabenhorst and Mr. Ray have already begun working on a possible Factual Summary that he district can use to communicate information to constituents. Ms. Wiener will submit the ballot content to the counties as soon as possible after consulting with both Bill Ray and Tom Peltz from Kutak Rock regarding formatting. Director Grundy asked when we would know the ballot number and whether or not the numbers would be, and Mr. Ray noted that many county clerks will release the number earlier than the deadline; however, coordinating between two counties may make that process more difficult because the numbers do need to match. Mr. Ray also discussed with the Board members several ways to currently be involved in the process and reminded them that school district employees can only volunteer their time. Dr. Rabenhorst asked Board members to consider who in the communicate they could ask to be a part of the issue committee.

11. Superintendent Reports and Presentations

11.1 Superintendent Annual Goals

Annually, goals must be established for the year by August 30. The goals reflect the annual evaluation of the superintendent and the items discussed at the last meeting. As Dr. Rabenhorst is comfortable with discussion regarding the goals in open session, the Board members did not choose to enter into executive session. Dr. Rabenhorst stated that he worked more closely with district leadership this year regarding goals. Goal areas were reviewed.

Director Gustafson asked if there will be long-term staff for the online program, and Dr. Rabenhorst noted that discussions regarding the longer term future of the online program have already started. Board members expressed their support for the goals as reviewed.

Director Gustafson moved to accept the Superintendent Goals as presented. Director Jensen seconded the motion.

Baumgartner - Y	Grundy - Y	Gustafson - Y	Jensen - Y	Director District D - Vacant
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11.2 School Opening & Enrollment Summary

Dr. Rabenhorst informally shared information regarding the opening of schools. Accurate enrollment data will not be available until after the 10th student attendance day; however, attendance data to date was shared. Dr. Rabenhorst did share that enrollment is at least 40 students lower than projections with many neighboring districts also reporting lower attendance. This number does not include those students who are currently still enrolled but have not yet attended school. Dr. Rabenhorst stated that schools are reaching out to families to determine why students have not returned to school or indicated enrollment in another location. Director Grundy asked if there have been any discussions regarding a hold harmless approach for funding, and Dr. Rabenhorst stated that regional discussions have continued with CDE staff but that it is really a decision to be made by the legislature. Director Gustafson asked if the district has looked at different areas such as families that work within the oil field to track why students have moved away. Dr. Rabenhorst explained that the district does not have that level of data available but there has not been a local isolated situation that would cause a drastic change in enrollment. Director Gustafson also asked if the district has seen an influx of students from other districts due to differing reopening plans, and Dr. Rabenhorst indicated that there has not.

Principals present gave updates regarding the reopening of schools. Parents and students have been supportive of new changes. Director Jensen noted that schools should consider what changes made in light of the pandemic have been positive and have them become permanent protocols. Dr. Rabenhorst agreed especially regarding transportation registration. Director Gustafson if the number of students utilizing transportation is lower, and Dr. Rabenhorst noted that it is lower due to parents transporting students and the large number of students participating in the online program. No one was denied transportation. Director Grundy noted that the only negative feedback that she has encountered is regarding issues with log-ins for the middle school online program. Dr. Rabenhorst explained that many of those issues occurred because of parents not completing the general registration process and the separate process for signing up for the online program. As online learning will likely become a permanent offering for the district, Dr. Rabenhorst noted that it will be combined with the regular registration process next year. Director Jensen asked how cell phones are being handled since lockers are not in use at the middle school. Mr. McMillan explained that phones are to be turned off at the beginning of the day and remain off and in student backpacks for

the duration of the school day. Dan Kennedy, WCHS principal, and Dr. Rabenhorst explained that cohorting is not possible at the high school but how a positive case of COVID would potentially be handled.

12. Board Member Reports/Discussion

Baumgartner - None

Grundy - Noted that she heard that some parents struggled with online learning for the first couple of days but that issues have mostly been resolved

Gustafson - Noted that CASB is calling for resolutions and that Board members can speak with her if they are interested in a resolution submission; Dr. Rabenhorst noted that many of the resolutions that he would support are usually submitted by other larger districts

Jensen - Asked about the CASB conference and whether or not it is being held.

13. Adjournment at 7:50 pm.

Two handwritten signatures are displayed side-by-side. The signature on the left is 'Cynthia Baumgartner' in a cursive script. The signature on the right is 'Paul Jensen' in a cursive script.