

Yuma School District-1
March 20, 2018 Regular Meeting
Board of Education

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Ross, President	Dianna Chrisman, Superintendent
Duane Brown, Vice President	Sherry Dennis-Murphy, Business Manager
Kim Langley, Secretary/Treasurer	Angela Weathers, Executive Secretary
Thomas Holtorf, Director	
Lindsey Galles, Director	

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

1.0 CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board President, Dan Ross called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 in the Yuma School District Board Room.

2.0 AGENDA-ADDITIONS/DELETIONS-APPROVAL

- Superintendent Chrisman noted a revision to the agenda; addition of 4.4 Activity Trip Request – YHS FCCLA to State Convention in Denver April 5th-8th to Consent Agenda. Motion by Holtorf, seconded by Langley to approve agenda revision; addition of 4.4 Activity Trip Request – YHS FCCLA to State Convention in Denver April 5th-8th to Consent Agenda as presented.

Voting Aye: Brown, Galles, Holtorf, Langley, Ross. Motion carried.

3.0 FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT

- Business Manager Sherry Dennis-Murphy gave financial report for the month of February.
 - ❖ Expenditures \$758,927; Revenue \$523,795; Payroll and benefits \$569,526
 - ❖ Highlighted expenditures
 - Rasmussen Mechanical for installation of boilers - \$60,670
 - Water heater at YHS for \$9,202
 - Expansion tank at MES for \$5758
 - Sunbelt Rentals for use of heaters during boiler installation for \$3,177
 - ❖ Noted correction in the check register for month – payment sent to incorrect vendor
 - ❖ Received BEST Grant reimbursement for \$129,455
 - ❖ Several donations made during month of February
 - YHS Wrestling Activity Fund
 - \$30.00 from John and Linda Lovell
 - \$300.00 from Yuma Booster Club for State and Regional Wrestling
 - \$145.00 from Wrestling Parents for Banquet Meal
 - YHS Softball
 - \$106 from Lindsey Galles

- YHS Art Club
 - \$240 from Lindsey Galles
- YHS Boys Golf Activity Fund
 - \$200.00 from Brian's Repair Service, LLC for tournament fundraiser
 - \$150.00 from Premier Farm Credit for tournament fundraiser
 - \$25.00 from Mathias Insurance for tournament fundraiser
- YHS Boys and Girls Basketball
 - \$300 from Tan Foundation Inc. to rental of charter bus for state basketball tournament
 - \$270 from Bank of Colorado for Boys Basketball team meal for players and coaches
 - \$270 from Bank of Colorado for Girls Basketball team meal for players and coaches
 - \$600 from Yuma Booster Club for Boys Basketball team
 - \$600 from Yuma Booster Club for Girls Basketball team
- YHS Band
 - \$550 from Yuma Booster Club
- Chrisman asked if the heater rental costs were going to be reimbursed by Rasmussen. Dennis-Murphy stated that it is yet to be determined. Chrisman stated that due to the timing of the installation, Brian Sobnosky of Rasmussen had stated that Rasmussen will reimburse for the cost of the rentals.
- Vice President Brown asked if the BEST Grant reimbursement arrived in March or February. Dennis-Murphy stated February. Chrisman added that the reimbursement check was for the previous BEST Grant, not the current grant that the district has applied for.

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Approval of Minutes

4.1.1 February 12, 2018 – Regular Board Meeting

4.2 Routine Business

4.2.1 Financial Reports as of February 28, 2018

4.2.2 February 2018 Check Register

4.2.3 Donations – Stated in Financial Officer Report

4.3 Personnel

4.3.1 Recommendations

- ❖ Leaura Basler – YHS Para
- ❖ Laurie Kjosness – 2018-19 Crisis Response Coordinator/Student Support Services Director
- ❖ Hugo Arvizo – Maintenance
- ❖ Kent Chrisman – YHS Volunteer Track Coach
- ❖ Marisela Estrada – YHS Counselor Assistant/Registrar
- ❖ Leaura Wagner (Basler) – Change from YHS para to YMS para

*There are two employment authorizations for Leaura Basler. Second authorization states transfer from YHS to YMS, with name change to Wagner.

4.3.2 Separations and Resignations

- ❖ Robin Vincent – Custodian
- ❖ Jodene Boerner – YHS Principal
- ❖ Cheyanne Woodward – MES Para
- ❖ Joyce Zwirn – YHS Para

4.4 Activity Trip Request

- CTE/Practical Business Applications calsss to Cashwa Food Show in Kearney, NE on March 28th
- YHS FCCLA to State Convention in Denver April 5th-7th

Motion by Brown, seconded by Holtorf to approve Consent Agenda as presented.

Voting Aye: Brown, Galles, Holtorf, Langley, Ross. Motion Carried.

5.0 VISITORS COMMENTS/REQUESTS

- President Ross asked if there are any citizens wishing to address the board and read visitors comments/requests disclosure.
 - ❖ Community member, Keven Means addressed the board with concerns pertaining to the scheduled board work sessions for the potential bond issue, stating that he has spoken with some other community members and they would like to know why the work sessions are held during the noon hour. Adding that there has been some suggestion that the reasoning is that the board does not want good community turnout for the work session. He suggested that the time be moved to the evening.
 - Director Galles stated that part of the scheduling may be, in part, due to her availability because of the drama club play rehearsals in the evening in preparation for the spring presentation.
 - Ross stated that community attendance in the work sessions is highly encouraged, adding that the board will take in to advisement when scheduling the times for future work sessions.
 - Chrisman noted that the upcoming work sessions could possibly be scheduled to alternate day and evening sessions.

6.0 SCHEDULED AUDIENCE WITH BOARD

6.1 Kris VanDeraa, K-12 ELL Coordinator presented an overview of the district's ESL Program.

- Why the district has a ELL (English Language Learners) Program -
 - ❖ Federally mandated by CDE. District is required to maintain compliance. Title III Funding.

- How the district identifies ELL students
- How the district meets the needs of the ELL students
 - ❖ Language instruction program
- EL student demographics
 - ❖ 2016/2018 comparison – majority of students born in U.S.
 - ❖ 9% from other countries – majority from Chihuahua, Mexico
 - ❖ YSD-1 has exchange student from South Korea in 2018
- Number of students in EL program by building
 - ❖ Comparison made for student numbers in 2016 and 2018
- Length of time it takes to become proficient in Academic English
 - ❖ ACCESS test in Literacy, PARCC or NWEA proficiency in reading and writing, grade level understanding in academics.
- Proficiency goals for ELL Students.
- How Title III Funds are utilized

7.0 CORRESPONDANCE

- Ross recognized two thank you cards and a letter received by the board.

8.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 District Employee Health Benefits

- Chrisman stated that action on the benefits information will not be needed until the April meeting.
 - ❖ Benefits committee met with Andy from Cherry Creek Benefits.
 - Andy working on scenarios to make out of pocket expenses, costs for district and employees reasonable
 - ❖ Insurance premium increasing 26% = \$200,000
 - Heavy year in claims
 - ❖ Discussed budgeting; do not go in to reserves for operating costs.
 - Possibly increasing deductibles
 - ❖ Will have committee recommendations for board action at April board meeting

8.2 2018-19 School Calendar

- YHS Science Teacher, Amy Melby spoke on behalf of the calendar committee to present board with recommendation for Yuma School District's 2018-19 School Calendar
 - ❖ Committee met 4 times to discuss calendar options, needs of each building and department, difficulties with current calendar
 - ❖ Noted that both calendars have 161 student contact days
 - ❖ Alternating between five and four day weeks in 2017-18

difficult. Option B has same issues.

- ❖ Reported option percentages of teachers at each building for the option that best meets the academic needs of the students;
Option A –
 - 100% at Morris Elementary
 - 70% at both Yuma Middle and Yuma High Schools
- ❖ Committee recommends Calendar Option A – strongest consensus of teachers and community survey results that meets the needs of as many people as possible, strongest academic calendar of the two options.
- Brown asked how the percentage of teacher support for each option was established. Melby replied that each building Principal spoke with each of their building's teachers individually and privately.
- The committee asked that the board take in to consideration the expertise of the teachers in knowing and understanding the needs of the students.
- Morris Elementary Teacher, Sheri Morton also addressed the board.
 - ❖ Addressed daycare and lunch concerns
 - Spoke with parents at conferences, Elda Sauer (Migrant Program), Barb Brown (homeless liaison) and Margo Ebersole (Rural Communities Resource Center).
 - Greatest concern is non consistency
 - ❖ Research of schools using 4-day calendar average 10-15 days less student contact days than the 161.
- Ross stated that the requirement for student contact is based on number of student contact hours, not days.
 - ❖ Recognized that the calendar committee and Superintendent Chrisman make valid points in their recommendations.
 - ❖ District has opportunity to provide great education to students; best teachers
 - ❖ Adding that decisions are not personal, has done much research on 4-day weeks – some good, some bad
 - ❖ Comes down to reason behind why schools go to 4-day week, such as to reduce expenses (Brighton).
 - ❖ Option B is consistent; no school every other Friday, does not have some Mondays (other than holidays) as current school year calendar.
- Chrisman stated that 255 completed surveys were received
 - ❖ Compiled survey results
 - 34 (20-21%) – Preference not identified, or chose neither option
 - 48 (19%) – Prefer Option B

- 176 (69%) – Prefer Option A
 - Elda Sauer and Margo Ebersole collected surveys for Spanish speaking families, most consistent with A
- ❖ Many surveys questioned why so many professional development days are needed.
 - 599 of the 773 K-12 students in district are on some type of educational plan (IEP, ELL, 504s (health based), Read Act, ALP, RTI, etc.). Staff development days will assist in better meeting the educational needs of these students and compliance with federal mandates.
 - Averages to approximately 20 students per 3 teacher team.
 - Time needed to prepare equates to all of the in-service days. Teacher work days (professional development) is in addition to curriculum planning, assessment and teaching.
- ❖ Appreciates board's support on providing in-service days; both calendar options provide for needed teacher work days.
- ❖ At 161, calendars meet state day requirements and is in excess of required hours. Structure of school day will not change. Will have an additional 3 days of potential snow days above what 2017-18 calendar has.
- ❖ Intrigued by potential enrichment opportunities for ELL Program with Option A.
- ❖ Recommends Calendar Option A
- Director Galles stated that they (board) have to take multiple sides.
 - ❖ Board talked to different 4-day and 5-day schools to better educate.
 - ❖ Spoke with community members
 - Board must consider the staff, teachers, community, and students' opinions. Set personal opinions aside. Becomes jaded.
 - ❖ Interpretation of surveys different than reported results
 - Chrisman added that the board was given the comments, they do not match up with the responses to each survey.
 - ❖ Not all concerns are being addressed, knows that not all can be. Does not want to do anything that could be a detriment to the students.
 - ❖ Prefers 5-day, but understands and supports needed professional development days.

- ❖ Appreciates teachers, do not devalue
- ❖ Option B is a compromise that meets both 5-day and 4-day school week supporters.
- Brown thanked the calendar committee and Superintendent Chrisman for all the work they put in to putting the options together.
 - ❖ Also researched 4-day schools. Focused on how it affects students.
 - Evidence in some categories there is improvement, didn't find evidence of harm to students.
 - Many western states are going to 4-day school weeks.
 - ❖ Option A is a compromise that meets the consistency needs of students; includes both 4-day weeks and 5-day weeks that "bookend" the school year.
 - ❖ Option A helps with teacher recruiting.
 - ❖ In favor of Option A
- Director Holtorf stated that he has been on the fence with his decision
 - ❖ Looking more down the road in needing to replace retiring teachers. Option A will be more attractive to potential teachers, especially those that are young, fresh out of school or have been in the teaching field for 2-3 years.
 - ❖ Many students attend sporting events on Fridays, if it were a non-school day, the students would not miss class time.
 - ❖ Ideal calendar would be 5-day, but not reality. Need to make Yuma Schools more attractive to potential teachers.
 - ❖ Spoke with people who prefer both options.
 - ❖ Supports Option A
- Kim Langley stated that she would have liked to have had some of the information presented by the calendar committee a month ago.
 - ❖ Does not like "book end" days.
 - ❖ Spoke with people who, if there were to be months that were 5-day weeks and some that are 4-day, prefer that the 4-day weeks be in May, August and September. And, would rather have Mondays as no-school days, not Fridays.
 - ❖ Stated that some comments made were offensive in regard to not supporting future decisions of the board.
 - Every decision that the board makes is ultimately for the students, staff and teachers of Yuma schools.
 - The board is in the most difficult situations in needing to make tough decisions in what is best for the district.
 - Chrisman commented that positive contact would begin earlier. The same daycare needs is the same with both calendars at 161 days.

- Galles added that the board appreciates all that the teachers do.
- Holtorf moved to close discussion.
 - ❖ Ross raised Point of Order
 - Asked if there was any further discussion on subject
 - Seeing none, Ross closed discussion on 2018-19 School Calendar.

9.0 ACTION ITEMS

9.1 Approve District Employee Benefits

- Superintendent Chrisman recommended tabling until April meeting of the board.

Motion by Langley, seconded by Brown to table Approving District Employee Benefits until the April Board Meeting.

Voting Aye: Brown, Galles, Holtorf, Langley, Ross. Motion carried.

9.2 Approve 2018-19 School Calendar

- President Ross opened voting roll call for Calendar Option A

Voting Aye: Brown, Holtorf. Voting Nay: Galles, Langley, Ross.

- Ross opened voting roll call for Calendar Option B2

Voting Aye: Galles, Langley, Ross. Voting Nay: Brown, Holtorf

- Ross declared board majority vote for Calendar Option B2.
- Calendar Option B2 passes.

10.0 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Art display in board room have been changed with new student art work.
- Celebrations:
 - ❖ 4 Student Award winners at Regional Science Fair
 1. Nasa Earth System Award and Colorado Science & Engineering Fair Qualifier
 2. American Meteorological Society Award and Colorado Science and Engineering Fair Qualifier
 3. Colorado Science & Engineering Fair Qualifier
 4. Northeast Colorado Regional Science Fair Overall Runner-up, Colorado Science and Engineering Fair Qualifier, Recipient of Frank and Gloria Walsh Foundation Scholarship for Science Excellence and qualified as a student observer at the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh, PA
 - ❖ Qualifiers for State FBLA is actually 56, not 41. Some students qualified for multiple events.
 - ❖ Yuma High School Boys and Girls Basketball teams are state champions!
- Chrisman stated that this is one of her favorite times of the school year, a lot of events accumulating from all the work the students have put in throughout the year, academically and athletically.

- BEST Grant update:
 - ❖ There are some questions that need clarification in regard to long-term contract with Rasmussen.
 - ❖ Need to make 3-5 minute presentation to prove case
 - Brian with Rasmussen helpful in presentation
- BOCES retreat on Monday, March 26th in Julesburg
 - ❖ All board members, minus Holtorf will attend
 - ❖ Content for meeting is Finances, looking at Modernized Superintendent Finance Plan Recommendation, Tax increase
 - Tax increase would be for people who make over \$150,000/year.
 - On a graduated schedule
 - Affects property taxes, commercial properties
 - ❖ Will learn a lot at meeting on how district will be impacted
 - ❖ Mr. Miles, Director of BOCES willing to do presentation for board and community members. Can do an event.
- Bond Work Session moved to next Wednesday, March 28th at noon.
 - ❖ Work sessions so far have been well-attended
- Mrs. Boerner has been selected to receive lifetime achievement award from FBLA.

11.0 BOARD REPORTS/COMMENTS

- Galles commended Mrs. Melby on student success at science fair.
- Ross added to commendation, adding that Yuma fans at state basketball tournament were great, very proud of the Yuma fans.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m. by Dan Ross.
Motion by Holtorf, seconded by Langley to adjourn the meeting.
Voting Aye: Brown, Galles, Holtorf, Langley, Ross. Motion Carried

Sincerely,



Kim Langley, Secretary/Treasurer
Yuma School District-1
Board of Education



Dan Ross, President
Yuma School District-1
Board of Education

