

Yuma School District-1
May 21, 2019 Regular Meeting
Board of Education

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Ross, President

Duane Brown, Vice President

Lindsey Galles, Director **Arrived at 7:23 PM

Kim Langley, Secretary/Treasurer

Thomas Holtorf, Director

Dianna Chrisman, Superintendent

Sherry Dennis-Murphy, Business Manager

Rhonda Metcalfe, Executive Secretary

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 PM on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, in the Yuma School District Board Room.

2.0 AGENDA – ADDITIONS/DELETIONS – APPROVAL

Addition to list of Notice of Assignments noted on revised agenda.

Motion by Ross, seconded by Brown, to approve revised agenda.

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

3.0 FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT

- Business Manager Dennis-Murphy gave the financial report for the month of April.
 - ❖ Expenditures \$801,336; Revenue \$842,969; Payroll and Benefits \$584,606.
 - ❖ Larger bills paid:
 - Star Playgrounds \$23,775 – Music Garden Grant
 - Synscapes of Colorado \$21,684 – Music Garden Grant
 - The Graphic Edge \$6,600 – Track Uniforms and Warm Ups
 - Northeastern Junior College \$39,206 – Spring classes
 - McCandless International \$25,638 – Bus 12 Repairs
- Dennis-Murphy noted that next month the 2019-2020 budget will be presented as well as possibly doing the supplemental for this year's budget and those numbers should be out by the end of the month.
- Donations were noted.

- Dennis-Murphy asked for questions.
 - ❖ Vice President Brown asked for clarification on what the paid account to QuinTech in the amount of \$409.80 is for. Dennis-Murphy responded that QuinTech offers a group rate for the district's employees and this is to pay for those participating. Each participating employee has this deducted from their pay each month.
 - ❖ Brown also asked for clarification on how the grant money for the music garden is being tracked, whereas a check is being cut to the district and then gets booked to the Capital Reserve Account and then you see expenditures coming out of there. Dennis-Murphy explained that when the playground grant was first started several years ago, this was set up to be run through Capital so that big expenditures could be tracked more easily. In the Capital Reserve there is a playground line. Therefore, when the money was originally received it was receipted into grants. That money should have been put into playground grant in Capital. The funds were then moved into the Capital Reserves in the playground line.

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Approval of Minutes

4.1.1 April 15, 2019 Regular Meeting

Vice President Brown stated there are changes that need made to the April 15, 2019 regular meeting minutes.

Motion by Brown, seconded by Langley to remove the approval of the April 15, 2019 regular meeting minutes, 4.1.1, from the consent agenda and moved to 8.3 of the agenda.

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

4.2 Routine Business

4.2.1 Financial Reports as of April 30, 2019

4.2.2 April 2019 Check Register

4.2.3 Donations

- \$100 to YHS for Scientific Research from Greg & Heather Klein
- \$100 to YHS for Scientific Research from 21st Century Equipment
- \$100 to YHS for Scientific Research from Yuma Co Fed Credit Union
- \$20 to YHS for Scientific Research from Jay Flaming Jewelers
- \$1400 to YHS Boys & Girls Track for timer from Booster Club
- \$500 to YHS Boys & Girls Golf for golf greens from Booster Club
- \$683 to YHS Weight Room from Caleb Metzler
- \$1500 to YHS Weight Room from Booster Club

- \$25 to YHS Scientific Research from Premier Farm Credit
- \$500 to YHS Scientific Research from Perry Brothers Seed
- \$300 to YHS Baseball from Booster Club
- \$40 to YHS Girls Golf from Booster Club
- \$720 to YHS Track from Booster Club

4.3 Personnel

4.3.1 Recommendations

- 2019-2020 Notice of Assignments and Contracts
- Heather Bledsoe – MES 4th Grade
- Victoria Campbell – MES Literacy/Impact Coach
- Stefanie Cheshire – YHS Winter Cheerleading Sponsor
- Stefanie Cheshire – YHS Fall Cheerleading Sponsor
- Joseph Oss – YHS Weight Room Supervisor
- Cristi Powell – MES Summer School, June 2019
- Abbie Reed – YHS Guidance Counselor
- Luz Sanchez – MES 2nd Grade
- Crystal Schwartz – MES 3rd Grade
- Crystal Schwartz – MES Summer School, June 2019
- Marilyn Lynch – YMS Summer School, June 2019
- Lysondra Yost – YMS Summer School, June 2019
- Peggy Hemphill – YMS Summer School, June 2019

4.3.2 Separations and Resignations

- Rigoberto Melendez – YHS ESL Para
- Rita Bowland – Special Ed Para
- Linda Dinsmore – YHS Custodian
- Christine Daugherty – 4th Grade Teacher
- Joni Maxson – Special Ed Para

4.4 Activity Trip Requests

- 4.4.1** YMS to Bolder Boulder Race 5/27/19
- 4.4.2** Yuma FFA to State FFA Convention in Pueblo 6/3-6/6/19
- 4.4.3** YHS FBLA to National Convention in San Antonio, TX 6/27-7/2/19
- 4.4.4** Ratify Activity Trip Requests

Motion by President Ross, seconded by Langley to approve the consent agenda as amended.

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

5.0 VISITORS COMMENTS/REQUESTS

- Kadi Rayl, Student, addressed the YSD-1 board regarding concerns over the proposed schedule to move away from a block schedule at YHS for the 19-20 school year. Kadi

reported that a trial run of the new schedule took place the previous week. She stated that though she and other students understand the benefits of the proposed schedule, from their perspective the new schedule did not run as smoothly as they had hoped it would. Kadi also stated that the students started a petition so that their voices would be heard. The petition is to keep the block schedule and is summarized that “the students who signed believe Yuma High School should keep the block schedule for the upcoming school year. The block schedule allows students more time to complete projects and homework. Workloads of students now seem overwhelming. It would be very difficult to complete the amount of homework the students have now if it was due day by day. No matter what, if the student misses school they would still be behind. There is no way to prevent that. The action petitioned for “we the undersigned are concerned citizens and students who urge Yuma High School to act now to keep the block schedule for the 2019-2020 school year.” The petition has 92 signatures which represents approximately half of the returning student population next year. There is a diverse amount of students that have signed their names and written their comments. This is signed by kids who work, kids who play sports, kids who just simply prefer the block schedule. Kadi presented the petition, as well as a letter, to the school board members for them to read. Kadi reported one of the main concerns identified in the trial run was the amount of time in the passing period, which is three minutes, and since they are not allowed to carry their backpacks for safety reasons, which is understood, it was very difficult to get to class on time and be able to get settled in and focused on class. Kadi asked for any questions and none were asked.

6.0 SCHEDULED AUDIENCE WITH BOARD

6.1 YHS FBLA

- ❖ YHS FBLA Sponsor, Marylu Smith-Dischner, spoke on behalf of YHS FBLA with the purpose of sharing what the organization had done during the 2018-2019 school year and also reported upcoming changes for 2019-2020. FBLA is currently the largest and most diverse student organization at YHS with 81 students. Approximately 70% of those students are 9th and 10th graders, with the other 30% 11th and 12th graders. The organization is fairly even with White to Hispanic students, as well as male to female students. There is also representation of students coming from homes in poverty, middle class, and also some students living in fairly wealthy homes. FBLA has students working with ALPs and also IEPs. YHS FBLA had 70 students qualify for State FBLA this year and 6 of those students qualified for National FBLA which will be held in San Antonio, TX, this summer. Kadi Rayl was elected to a district office for next school year. Several students were present, introduced themselves and told a little about the projects they participated in and competed in at the state level. Smith-Dischner concluded her presentation by sharing that FBLA tries to focus on community service because no matter how well FBLA does competitively, if they have done

community service along the way there is a lasting impact in Yuma and also helps the students become integrated into the community which has led to many work study positions and jobs. The lettering requirement in FBLA has been 10 hours of community service. Starting next year that requirement is being increased to 50 hours.

President Ross expressed his appreciation to FBLA for what they do to represent Yuma School District-1 in our community.

Vice President Brown also expressed his thanks to the FBLA organization. Brown asked Smith-Dischner who will be identifying the community service projects as they will be increasing the community service hours requirement times 5. Smith-Dischner responded that there are two parts to that. She believes that many of the students are already at the 50 hours, but with the requirement of 10 they are only logging 10. There are a lot of students who are doing things at church, at the library, and many other places that are community service but they are not writing them down. Smith-Dischner reports that each year she receives more calls from community members looking for help in community service areas. The challenge will be to help the kids keep good records and track all that they are doing as they are so involved in so many activities.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

- President Ross stated there was some correspondence to the board including a letter from the FBLA.

8.0 DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Policy GCQEB – Employment of Retired Individuals

- ❖ Superintendent Chrisman reported Policy GCQEB is not a CASB recommended policy, which does not mean it is not necessary but it is not one that CASB has done any work on. It is becoming more prevalent with staff retiring and requesting transition contracts. Last year the stipulation was added for critical shortage, which gave some provisions within the PERA regulations to allow teachers, cooks and bus drivers to go beyond the transition contract. This policy has therefore become necessary to spell out what the district is willing to allow and to state specifically that it is at the district's sole discretion. There is no assumption of ability to do a transition or a critical shortage position as those are considered on a case by case basis. This will be considered the first reading. Superintendent Chrisman has had brief consultation with the district's attorney. The items in red are basically a local control issue and not anything mandated by PERA.

School

- President Ross noted for the record that Lindsey Galles, Director, arrived at 7:23 PM.

Superintendent Chrisman continued by calling attention to letter f on the policy stating that one of the key differences between a critical shortage criteria and what PERA requires is that those staff members would be provided the same health insurance and other benefits as non-retired persons. That is different from someone that is requesting a transition contract where it is not required that the staff member be provided health insurance. Superintendent Chrisman's recommendation from looking at other districts and maintaining competition on this is that the district would provide health insurance making it consistent whether in a critical shortage position or allowed by the district in a transition contract.

The other point that is fairly common in the district's area is letter e that states as employees retire and are hired back they come back in at the point where they left on the salary schedule but do not incur raises if they are in a critical shortage position and they continue, as that would be a double dip benefit. The other part is, it is typical in surrounding districts as well that because the district has already contributed to the retirement of the individual and even if the individual comes back there is still a member contribution that they would have to pay along with the employer portion. It is common that the employee would start paying the district portion which is 21.4%.

Chrisman states these are the main points that the district needs to focus on as the rest is based on PERA rules. She also states it is important for all staff to understand that if they are requesting either the critical shortage determination or the transition contract that they are essentially terminating employment and retiring, not working anywhere for a specified amount of time set by PERA, and then they are working in an At-Will position. There are no legal rights for ongoing employment as a non-probationary teacher would have. This is a critical piece in the understanding. It is also understood that it is not the district's responsibility to make sure that the employee is following the PERA requirements.

Vice President Brown asked for clarification on the transition retirement, as far as is it a one year transition. Chrisman responded that she had always understood it to be that way, however there is no PERA requirement that it is only one year, but because of the number of days that PERA allows, 110 days per calendar year, and the way the school year runs from August to December then the 110 usually falls in that. Therefore, a person can do transition retirement for an unlimited time as long as they stay under the 110 days per calendar year requirement. The district is allowed to identify up to 10 individuals per year that

can go up to 140, but even at 140, after the first academic year, there wouldn't be enough days in a full-time teaching position to work that many days. In the critical shortage piece it is up to six years that a person could continue with no limit of days that can be worked.

Superintendent Chrisman added that when the district's attorney read through this policy she felt the policy covers this well. One area that she suggested possibly adding more to was letter I making sure it is very clear if someone works over the hours that there are no penalties to the district.

Brief discussion followed.

Chrisman then stated there is another line that will need consultation with the school district attorney on the wording. It is not recommended that this policy be applied to substitute teachers. The district does have some substitute teachers who are retired. If the district had those individuals pay for the member contribution it would cause them to go below minimum wage causing other issues. Therefore, the district needs another line stating this policy does not apply to substitute teachers who are retired individuals. They still need to comply with the rest of the PERA days and hours but it could potentially put the district in jeopardy with other labor laws if this policy was applied to substitutes.

Motion by Vice President Brown, seconded by Holtorf, to approve this policy, file # GCQEB, for first reading.

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

8.2 2019-2020 BEST DISCUSSION

- ❖ Superintendent Chrisman reported that the district received the BEST Grant that would fund a significant addition and renovation to the high school facility, as well as some renovation to the middle school. This is very good news that would provide \$16,000,000 that the district would receive for this project. The district now needs to get the bond that would provide the other \$16,000,000.
- ❖ Vice President Brown directed the board to look at the enclosure on page 101 in the board book. This page is the list of projects that applied for BEST Grants, totaling 58 applications. The total number of requests was for \$447,000,000 of BEST funding. With matching requirements of \$378,000,000 on a statewide basis. This is a very big list that the BEST board must comb through. This year the process was rearranged a little bit in that they considered the major building and renovation projects first on the first day. There were total requests and matching contributions of \$737,000,000 of projects requested by people wanting approved by the BEST board. The district made its presentation on Wednesday, May 15th, requesting \$31,936,000, which is the budgeted project costs that the

Neenan Company has come up with. Brown reported that Chrisman was given two minutes to give the district's presentation. He stated that Chrisman did a great job with the presentation. Based on the fact that many other applicants were asked multiple questions after their presentation, the board members in attendance expected the same after the district's presentation was completed, however, virtually no questions were asked. Brown then directed the board's attention to page 100 where there is a list of final approved projects. On Friday, May 17th, the district returned to find the rankings of final and approved projects. Brown gave a brief explanation and history of the preparation and application process the district worked on to secure the best possible outcome for this grant application. Brown also explained that during the last legislative session, House Bill 1055 was adopted dramatically increasing the amount of money available from BEST to \$230,000,000 providing much more funding than first anticipated. House Bill 1055 made it through the legislature with funding for kindergarten buildings. The Governor signed the bill today, 5/21. Brown emphasized that it is a recognition by the BEST Board and the Colorado Department of Education that the district is a high priority project awarded by BEST showing that the district has an important project. They awarded 43 projects and only 11 of those were for major building and renovation projects. YSD-1 was the number two major building and renovation project awarded out of the 11. The other 9 either dropped into back up status or were rejected outright. Brown states this is telling that YSD-1 has an important and very vital project that needs to get done; the renovation, the new addition, and getting the Vo Ag program in a secure location rather than 430 feet from the back door of the high school.

Brown also pointed out that the district was twelfth which was within the first \$35,000,000 of funding available. So, even if House Bill 1055 would not have been adopted and signed into law by the Governor, YSD-1 would have been within the first \$80,000,000 of funding that was originally thought to be the amount of funding available. Brown reported that the requested projects varied widely from major building projects, HVAC projects, roof projects, and the last two years the district has had HVAC projects that went to the BEST board and both were funded for the middle school, making Superintendent Chrisman three out of three in the district's requests to the BEST board.

Also noted by Brown was that out of the 11 projects funded, YSD-1 is basically in the middle of that as far as getting \$16,000,000; ranked #6 and the other building projects are smaller than YSD-1. Brown reports it was a great week for the district to come up with \$16,000,000 in basically free State money. The challenge now ahead of the district is to come up with a match of \$16,000,000 and to do that this will be on the ballot on November 5, 2019. The district will be working on more detail of the project. There will be work with the financial

advisor and Neenan as to what the tax impact will be to voters and property owners in the district. Brown impressed upon the board that it is important to keep in mind that the high school the district is renovating today was designed in 1974 or 1975 and the first graduating class came out in 1977, making this a 44 or 45 year old building. The project the district is working on today has to have the same life. It has to last for the next 40 to 50 years so it is very important that it is done well and done right. Also noted by Brown is that three of the key members of the BEST Board have reached their term limit of six years. These members have been very good friends to YSD-1 over the last three years and very helpful. Next year BEST does not know how much funding they will have. It may fall back to \$80,000,000. What happens if the bond issue is not approved and the district does not come up with the matching share, is that the BEST Board approves four other back up recipients and the first is Adams/Arapahoe and they already have their matching money in hand. If YSD-1 does not approve the bond issue the money will go back to Adams and Arapahoe in Front Range and the district will get nothing, which means no project. Brown emphasized the importance of getting the word out about the BEST Grant and the importance of this project for the future of the high school and school district. President Ross added that this would affect the district globally. Master Plan copies are available for anyone wishing to see the plan.

Brief discussion followed.

8.3 Amend Minutes of April 15, 2019

- ❖ Vice President Brown stated he has a couple of minor changes to the April 15, 2019, minutes on page 6. He states that in the very last paragraph on page 6 there is a name he does not recognize. Lysondra Vaughn should have been written as Lysondra Yost. Also needing clarification is on page 11 in the first paragraph in the 2nd sentence that reads "Instead of just under \$30,000,000 it is now just over \$30,000,000. This changed by about \$400,000 within the line items for one of the contingencies that Neenan didn't build in as much as BEST recommends." should read "Instead of just under \$30,000,000 it is now just under \$32,000,000. This changed by about \$700,000 within the line items for two of the contingencies that Neenan didn't build in as much as BEST recommends", which were two components that Jay recommended, that the district increase the Architect and Engineering by 1% which amounted to \$266,000 and the Foundation and Soils work by \$450,000, then add "and additional hard costs of about \$1,100,000 upon further review of sub-contractor estimates." That is how the district got \$2,000,000 additional included in the application from the time it was initially approved and as the district went through the process with BEST to get final costs.

Brown suggests these changes be made as an amendment to the April 15, 2019 minutes.

President Ross moved, Langley seconded, to accept Brown's recommended amendment to the April 15, 2019 minutes.

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

9.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- ❖ Superintendent Chrisman reported that the district is on track with the changes in the activity accounts. Sherry has been working with SDS and the district is closer to being able to sit down and finalize accounts and come up with a process.
- ❖ Chrisman stated that we are lucky to be in such an amazing district. It would be hard to list all of the things that have happened – graduations, celebrations, promotions, state champions, state participants, regional champs, league champs, state FBLA, ISEF, state FCCLA. The district has so many kids doing amazing things that the district is working to come up with a better way to track all of it and to communicate it. Chrisman wants to celebrate what has been a very successful year academically, activity and athletic-wise. The district's students Pre-K through 12 are doing amazing things, teachers and administrators are working really hard. She states she is lucky to work in a great district.

10.0 BOARD REPORTS/COMMENT

- ❖ Director Galles stated she agrees with Superintendent Chrisman's statements saying it has been a pretty phenomenal year.
- ❖ Brown stated he would like to echo that. As his first full school year on the board it has been a great year watching all the terrific things people do and it has been a real learning experience for him. Brown announced that he is going to run for re-election in November, 2019.
- ❖ President Ross stated that he has been a parent in the district for 15 years and has been in the district for 25 and he stated it has been amazing to see the expansion in the academics and the 8 years he has been on the board it has been an amazing adventure to see what the kids and staff and great administration will do.
- ❖ Director Holtorf added that it is not just about hanging banners but what we do on the FBLA side that probably doesn't get recognized as much as it should with FBLA, FFA, FCCLA, Science Fair, Robotics, STEM.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

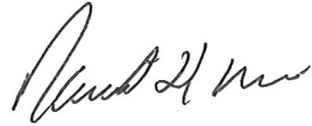
Motion by Ross, seconded by Langley, to adjourn.

Voting Aye: Brown, Galles, Holtorf, Langley, Ross. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kim Langley in cursive script.

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

Handwritten signature of Dan Ross in cursive script.

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

