

Yuma School District-1  
March 22, 2021 Regular Meeting  
Board of Education

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dan Ross, President  
Duane Brown, Vice President  
Thomas Holtorf, Director  
Lindsey Galles, Director  
Kim Langley, Secretary/Treasurer

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 7:01 p.m. on Monday, March 22, 2021, in the Yuma School District Board Room.

**2.0 AGENDA-ADDITIONS/DELETIONS-APPROVAL**

- None

Motion by Ross, seconded by Langley, to accept the 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 \$760,365; Revenue \$581,340; Payroll and Benefits \$601,621.
  - ❖ Larger Bills
    - Rasmussen for second half of preventative maintenance contract for \$29,341
    - Other bills as noted in check register
  - ❖ Donations as listed on agenda.
- Dennis-Murphy stated there will be discussion later in the meeting on the 2021-2022 budget

**4.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

4.1 Approval of Minutes

4.1.1 December 9, 2020 – Corrected Minutes

4.1.2 February 15, 2021 – Regular Board Meeting

4.2 Routine Business

4.2.1 Financial Reports as of February 28, 2021

4.2.2 February 2021 Check Register

4.2.3 Donations

- ❖ City of Yuma - \$800 in disinfection and sanitation supplies

4.3 Personnel

4.3.1 Authorization

- ❖ Connor Morton – YMS Boys Basketball Coach
- ❖ Maria Flores - Custodian
- ❖ Maria Bencomo – Cook
- ❖ Mariya Mekelburg – Volunteer YHS Volleyball Coach
- ❖ Valerie Walters - Custodian

4.3.2 Resignations and Separations

- ❖ Ian Blake – YHS English Teacher

Motion by Langley, seconded by Holtorf, to approve Consent Agenda as presented.  
Voting Aye: Brown, Galles, Holtorf, Langley, Ross. Motion carried.

## 5.0 VISITORS COMMENTS/REQUESTS

- None

## 6.0 SCHEDULED AUDIENCE WITH BOARD

6.1 Neenan/Project-1 Update – Chad Rayl

- Chad Rayl gave a general update on the construction project at YHS with the CTE addition and the Art/Band area.
- Question was asked from the board regarding the project completion date for the Band/Art area. Rayl answered the completion date for the Band/Art area is set for the end of summer.

## 7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

- None

## 8.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 Approval of 2021-2022 Calendar

- Superintendent Chrisman reported that the calendar is highly reflective of construction needs. The late start date to be after Labor Day was approved a couple of board meetings ago. Chrisman went through the rest of the calendar.

Motion by Ross, seconded by Galles, to approve the 2021-2022 Calendar as presented.  
Voting Aye: Brown, Galles, Holtorf, Langley, Ross. Motion carried.

## 8.2 Budget Update and Planning

- Superintendent Chrisman gave some background and information relevant to the salary schedule change that will be discussed. Chrisman touched on the following budget points.
  - ❖ Health insurance premiums are going to be less than initially thought saving the district approximately \$30,000 from initial projection.
  - ❖ State funding is looking better than previously thought adding approximately an additional \$500,000.
  - ❖ It appears the district will receive an additional amount of at least \$500,000 from stimulus funds.
- It is reported that the district currently has a very, very healthy budget.
- General discussion followed.

## 8.3 Salary Revision Proposal

- Superintendent Chrisman explained the salary revision proposal. The proposal includes increasing the salary steps to 25. Starting salaries will be increased as well as for veteran teachers. Classified employees will receive a 3% raise as well. The proposal includes the district taking care of the health insurance increase.
- Discussion followed where the board agreed they would like to go to step 30 however there is the question of sustainability. It was decided that capping it at 25 with an annual review for anything over 25 would be the best way to go.
- There was also discussion on the 0.5 percent PERA employee contribution increase. Chrisman was not recommending the district cover this. There was board agreement for district to cover this.
- General discussion followed.

Motion by Brown, second by Holtorf, to approve Option 2 with .5 PERA increase and the option of considering annually increasing the cap from 25 years to 30 years of service.  
Voting Aye: Brown, Galles, Holtorf, Langley, Ross. Motion carried.

## 8.4 Neenan/Project-1 Update

- Superintendent Chrisman reported that more work has been completed with Neenan going over plans and coming up with pricing. A few things have been found that are concerning. Chad Rayl, Project-1, expounded on findings with duct boarding and some exposed wood where rooftop units are sitting. Budget is on track. Rayl explained what would be included in the commons upgrade.
- Rayl also gave general information and updates on the rest of the project. General questions and discussion followed.

Motion by Holtorf, second by Galles, to approve the YHS commons renovation project not to exceed \$400,000.

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

## 9.0 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Superintendent Chrisman began her report by stating that Season B has concluded with students having a lot of success despite many challenges. The district is moving into Season C now. Lots of changes due to COVID but students have done quite well.
- Chrisman stated the state has approved suspension of some of the testing. Currently only grades 3, 5 and 7 will do the English Language Arts assessment and only grades 4, 6 and 8 will do Math. There will be no Science and no Social Studies. SAT remains the same with half-day testing.
- Chrisman reported that the district had 2 students receive the Daniels Fund Scholarship which is a great scholarship of \$25,000 per year for four years at a four-year institution. This is a great accomplishment.
- Superintendent Chrisman shared an email she received with several questions regarding the handling of the COVID situation. Chrisman read the questions to the board along with her response to each question.
- Chrisman reported on state conversations.
  - There is a lot of talk on the mascot bill. This is on the agenda calendar for April 1<sup>st</sup>. VP Brown is planning to do a testimony with information from the district patrons expressing support and why our Indian mascot is a highly respected tribute and nothing meant to be hurtful or derogatory.
  - There are also conversations on the local share mill levy. Chrisman states she doesn't have all of the information yet but will get something officially prepared soon.
  - Chrisman stated she will email the bill tracker from the Rural Alliance to each board member.
- Chrisman reported that the COVID numbers in Yuma County are a little bit higher than the area. Chrisman believes the community has had good opportunity for vaccinations. Chrisman asked for feedback and discussion on the board members thoughts on opening board meetings back up for building administrators to come give reports as well as public to attend in person based on what numbers would allow. Discussion followed.

## 10.0 BOARD REPORT

- Director Galles wanted to recognize the students and coaches who participated in wrestling and basketball for working hard and keeping a good attitude through their season amidst the challenges of COVID. The board agreed that the streaming of events worked really well and was actually a positive that came out of the changes. The board acknowledged Michael Dischner's hard work to make the streaming of the events happen.
- The board acknowledged the great achievement of the two students who received the Daniels Fund Scholarship.
- VP Brown reminded the board that Senate Bill 21-116 is scheduled for hearing on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Brown intends to go to the committee hearing to protest the bill. The rest of the board members indicated complete support of Brown in attending and protesting on behalf of Yuma Schools.

## 11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 P.M. by President Dan Ross.

Motion by Langley, seconded by Galles, 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

