

Yuma School District-1  
December 6, 2021 Regular Meeting  
Board of Education

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Duane Brown, President  
John Deering, Vice President  
Thomas Holtorf, Director  
Lindsey Galles, Director  
Terri Cooper, Secretary/Treasurer

Dianna Chrisman, Superintendent  
Sherry Dennis-Murphy, Business Manager  
Dani Crossland, Executive Secretary

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board President, Duane Brown called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 6, 2021, in the Yuma School District Board Room.

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

- Superintendent Chrisman stated there was one correction on Agenda
  - Need to move 8.1.1 Fall Uniform Purchase to 8.1.2 and add 8.1.1 the Approval of the Commission of Indian Affairs Compliance Submission

Motion by Brown, seconded by Holtorf, to accept the agenda as amended.  
Voting Aye: Brown, Cooper, Deering, Galles, Holtorf. Motion carried.

**3.0 FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT**

- Business Manager Sherry Dennis-Murphy gave financial report for the month of November.
  - ❖ Expenditures \$817,882; Revenue \$706,993; Payroll and Benefits \$595,770.
  - ❖ Larger Bills
    - Scholastic Book Fair – \$5,313 from Activity Fund
    - Strictly Technology – \$21,591 for licenses, laptops, and view boards
    - Yuma School District – \$158,601 moved funds back into Capital projects as an adjustment through the audit
    - Carolina Biological Supply – \$10,793 for curriculum
    - Rasmussen Mechanical - \$15,058 for 2021 back invoices not billed in timely manner
- With the new board and officers we need to update signatures for our banking information for Bank of Colorado and First Farm Bank. Duane Brown, Board President and Terri Cooper, Secretary/Treasurer are deemed as official signers for all school district banking business.

**4.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

- 4.1 Approval of Minutes
  - 4.1.1 November 15, 2021 – Regular Board Meeting

4.1.2 November 29, 2021 – Special Board Meeting

4.2 Routine Business

4.2.1 Financial Reports as of November 30, 2021

4.2.2 November 2021 Check Register

4.2.3 Donations

- ❖ Gibbs & Soell, Inc. - \$100 for YHS FFA

4.3 Personnel

4.3.1 Recommendations

- ❖ Amy West – YHS Para

- ❖ Ella Gale – YMS Para

- ❖ Karina Gonzalez Anchando – YHS Para

4.3.2 Separations and Resignations

- ❖ Lesley Gonzalez – MES Secretary/Translator

- ❖ LeAnn Eyring – YHS Para

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

## 5.0 VISITORS COMMENTS/REQUESTS

- Ronella Noble spoke about recently getting involved in school board member meetings and talking with teachers and parents. One of the things she has heard is that the teachers would like to see the school board members in the buildings more often. There is an avenue there to develop an even better working relationship with the members of Yuma School District and a growing of the mutual respect that everyone has for the teachers, staff, and building administrators and school board members. Noble sees this as cooperation from people who share responsibility for the kids and the buildings and the joint commitment to students' success. She feels that the board signed on to support the staff members and that three individual board members should visit each building, High School, Middle School, and Elementary School, for one full day each month for the next 5 months commencing in January 2022. This duty should be shared on a rotating basis. This could possibly give the staff a chance to bring up concerns or offer the board member to come to their class and observe. Noble challenges the board to support the Yuma School District staff because they are great and we want to support having great people and support that to build great student achievement.

## 6.0 SCHEDULED AUDIENCE WITH BOARD

### 6.1 Neenan/Project-1 Update – Chad Rayl

- Superintendent Chrisman gave a project and schedule update on behalf of Chad Rayl.
  - ❖ Nearing the end of the project, don't have exact move in dates yet, projecting sometime near the last week prior to break for 3.0 to open, which is the center areas. Also 3.9 which is the 1<sup>st</sup> bank of

classrooms into the new renovation wing which is Family Consumer Science and the Language Rooms. Still on track for that move in.

- ❖ Will determine as we get closer in January when the final move in will be. We will do remote instruction for 2 days and then everyone else will move in.
- ❖ Chrisman wasn't able to report on any of the budget information as Rayl has that information.

#### 6.2 YHS Principal Brady Nighswonger, High School Schedule change

- Nighswonger gave a presentation on the High School schedule change. YHS is changing to an alternative bell schedule for the new year, currently running a block schedule with 90 minute classes and 4 classes per day.
  - ❖ Suggesting a switch to a combination schedule, all 8 classes on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday with classes being 50 minutes long. We would then run a block schedule on Tuesday and Thursday with periods 1-4 for 90 minutes and periods 5-8 for 90 minutes. Will also have Advisement class on Tuesdays and Thursdays allowing for some remedial work, activity or group meetings, and also extended lunch period.
  - ❖ The biggest benefactor would be that the teachers would see their students 4 times a week. With the current schedule teachers see their students 2 days a week one week and 3 days a week the following week.
  - ❖ After having a block schedule for 6 years, we've noticed some trends that are worrisome. We've seen a decline in work being turned in on time along with the idea of being able to put things off.
  - ❖ Difficult to engage students during a 90 minute block.
  - ❖ One of the biggest issues is lack of retention with what the teacher has taught.
  - ❖ There are students that are doing well with the current schedule and would do well with any schedule that they were given.
  - ❖ The biggest challenge we face with this schedule is when a student is absent from school. If you miss one day for any reason, you have missed half of your classes for that week. Unless you are fortunate enough to have that class on Friday of that week.
  - ❖ Our teachers want to see their students in their classrooms as often as possible. Throughout building discussions this topic is brought up frequently.
  - ❖ Students have some fears regarding the thought that homework would increase especially on days when all classes are being offered. This is a topic that we have discussed, one thing to remember is that we are doubling the amount of students that our teachers see in a day. This is something that we are aware of and it's something that we will monitor.
  - ❖ Current contact days on block schedule are 64 days of contact this semester; 34 days with 90 minute classes is 51 hours of instructional time for this semester. With a combo schedule we would have 55 days of contact per class, at either 50 or 90 minutes which works out to be 56.5 hours, just a few more hours. But the contact days are

what the difference is; 34 to 55 contact days.

- ❖ Many different variables that go into educating students. Reasons for success and failures, we look at things we can control and those things typically take place during school hours. Day to day scheduling of classes is one of the variables that we can control. Will use eligibility list to compare data regarding pros and cons of running a new schedule. Will also rely on the teachers to analyze and see what is going on in the classrooms.
- ❖ Still working through a few problems with the new schedule with NJC as they are providing classes for students. It would also impact some of the work study programs and we understand how important that program is. It does make it difficult to change the schedule in the middle of the school year.
- ❖ Our goal is to make decisions that positively impact students of YHS and provide them with the best education possible.
- ❖ Nighswonger answered some questions from the board regarding the schedule change.
- ❖ Most of the staff is in favor of the new schedule. Want to meet with students and get the word out in the next couple of weeks.

## 7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

- None

## 8.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 8.1 Mascot Change Discussion

#### 8.1.1 Approval of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs Compliance Submission

- ❖ Superintendent Chrisman has been checking the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs website daily for information posted on their quarterly meetings. Found out last week that they posted about the December quarterly meeting which is December 9<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ Chrisman shared a document for review and approval that will be submitted tomorrow with the compliance information. The Commission has identified Yuma School District as being in noncompliance for SB 21-116 and the Commission won't necessarily say they approve Tribe as our mascot choice, but they can say we haven't done enough in our changes and our planning changes to be taken off of the noncompliant list. President Brown had some suggestions for a few changes to the document that he will review with Chrisman.
- ❖ The timelines that they aren't holding to are making it more difficult for us to make the decisions that we need to make to be in compliance to avoid any penalties.
- ❖ Brown explained that the NAGA lawsuit's request for preliminary injunction was denied. The decision was

appealed and it's now pending in the US 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals. They can uphold the denial or reverse it, but there's no particular timeline for that and in the meantime we are losing ground every day.

- ❖ This will put us back on track by having a specific time to ask the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs to approve Tribe on December 9<sup>th</sup> at their quarterly meeting which would allow us to proceed down that path.

Motion by Brown, seconded by Holtorf, to approve the Submission for the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs as presented with modifications.

Voting Aye: Brown, Cooper, Deering, Galles, Holtorf. Motion carried.

#### 8.1.2 Fall Uniform Purchase

- ❖ In order to make sure we make all of our timelines and to get ahead of all of the shipping and production delays we want to get moving on the uniform purchases. Michael Dischner and Brady Nighswonger have been working with the staff and they've made their selections. There won't be a mascot on the new uniforms, at this point we are just doing Yuma on the uniforms. This serves a purpose that if something does change with the NAGA lawsuit or anything else, then we aren't bouncing back and forth.
- ❖ Total on this purchase is \$38,223.27. This includes junior high football and volleyball, high school boys and girls cross country, high school girls softball, high school volleyball and high school football.
- ❖ Our plan is to do the next component in January for the winter sports to get those ordered and to get the spring sports ordered in February so we can get everything in on time.
- ❖ Still working on a few things for golf and cheerleading.

Motion by Holtorf, seconded by Galles, to approve the fall uniform purchases to become in compliance with SB21-116 as presented.

Voting Aye: Brown, Cooper, Deering, Galles, Holtorf. Motion carried.

#### 8.2 Mill Levy Certification

- Business Manager Dennis-Murphy and Superintendent Chrisman gave an explanation of this year's Mill Levy. General fund has stayed the same over the past few years, but due to House Bill 21-1164 we have to get mills up into compliance of 27 mills. Legislation provided for 1 mill per year increase until we reach 27 mills to avoid the burden of a large tax increase.
- Brown and Dennis-Murphy gave a report on how much we needed to levy for the bond redemption. We were able to lower our levy for the bond redemption fund this year by 1 mill because of an approximate 10% increase in District-wide assessed valuation from the County Assessor.

Motion by Cooper, seconded by Deering, to approve the Mill Levy Certification for the 2021 taxable year (to be collected in 2022) upon a total district valuation of \$123,645,620.  
Voting Aye: Brown, Cooper, Deering, Galles, Holtorf. Motion carried.

8.3 Appointment of Northeast BOCES Board Representative

- Lindsey Galles has volunteered to serve as the YSD-1 Northeast BOCES Board Representative.

Motion by Holtorf, seconded by Cooper, to approve Director Galles to serve as YSD-1 Northeast BOCES Representative.

Voting Aye: Brown, Cooper, Deering, Galles, Holtorf. Motion carried.

9.0 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Community forum went well with 2 community members, Director Galles and President Brown, and YHS Principal Nighswonger attending.
- Will schedule another forum soon for the evening to accommodate work schedules.
- CASB Conference had good opportunities for learning and refocusing.
- Board of Education will be handing out holiday bonuses to staff on December 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Fall Semester is almost completed, started winter sports, and we have a lot of activities happening.
- Would like to move the regular board meeting to January 24<sup>th</sup> and leave January 17<sup>th</sup> as an opportunity for a work session for budget and board practices.
- Chrisman thanked Athletic Director/Assistant Principal Michael Dischner as this was his last board meeting.

10.0 BOARD REPORT

- Director Galles shared that the CASB Conference had some really good sessions and speakers. Visited with other schools and have some ideas to improve communication.
- President Brown thanked everyone for attending the board meeting.
- Director Holtorf thanked Athletic Director Michael Dischner for the great job that he has done the last few years and wished him the best.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 P.M. by President Duane Brown.

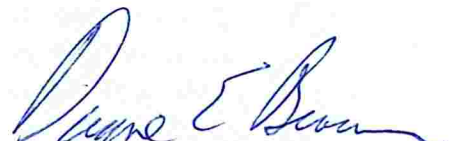
Motion by Galles, seconded by Brown, to adjourn the meeting.

Voting Aye: Brown, Cooper, Deering, Galles, Holtorf. Motion carried.

Sincerely,



Terri Cooper, Secretary/Treasurer  
Yuma School District-1  
Board of Education



Duane Brown, President  
Yuma School District-1  
Board of Education