

## MINUTES

Boulder Elementary School District No. 7

August 10, 2020

Regular Meeting

Boulder Elementary School

Board members present:

Eric Rykal      Carrie Harris      Matt Strozewski      Andrea Dolezal      Niki Conroy

Administrators present:

Maria Pace, Superintendent/Principal

Britton Mann, District Clerk

Staff: Devyn Ottman – Zoom Meeting Operator

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Visitors: Rochelle Hesford, Megan Dawson, Kessie Strausser, Mr. & Mrs. Tynan, Zoom Participants

CALL ELEMENTARY BOARD TO ORDER      The Elementary Board was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Eric, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA REVIEW      None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES      Carrie motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes for July 2020. Niki seconded, all present approved.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS      Claims were present at the meeting for review and approval. Eric asked about the liability insurance claim with MSPLP. Ms. Pace explained that the premiums were increased for all schools due to the fact that it is hard to find a carrier to cover liability costs for schools. PayneWest shopped around and provided us with the least expensive company. Niki motioned to approve claims and warrants with the prior month ending with warrant # 8882 and the current warrant numbers 8883-8956 in the amount of \$146,039.48. Carrie seconded, all present approved.

APPROVAL OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES      Nothing to approve at this time. There were no transactions done with Student Activities.

PUBLIC COMMENT      Eric read the Public Comment and instructed participants to please provide their name prior to asking any questions.

COMMUNICATIONS      **LETTERS:** None at this time.  
**STUDENT ISSUES:** None

COMMENDATIONS/ RECOGNITIONS      Ms. Pace wanted to thank the custodian staff for all of their hard work during the summer, as well as the office staff getting everything ordered.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS      None

COMMITTEE REPORTS      **Leadership** – Chair and Vice chair: Eric Rykal & Carrie Harris: This committee did meet.

1. Discussed the plan for Bullock Contracting to demolish the house at 219 S Washington.
2. Literacy Grant – Ms. Pace hired a new consultant.
3. Additional Staff.

**Handbook/Policy** – Matt Strozewski & Niki Conroy: This committee did meet. They discussed the student handbook.

**Budget/Finance and Negotiations/Personnel** – Carrie Harris & Niki Conroy: This committee did meet. They met with the Union reps to discuss and implement another MOU. The committee is waiting for language clarification from MTSBA.

**Facilities** – Matt Strozewski & Andrea Dolezal: This committee did meet. They met with Mr. Deskins and did a walkthrough of the school. The question did come up if we had enough internet support to handle all of the new devices. Eric stated that all of the wiring was updated several years ago and we are in a good position right now.

**Transportation** – Andrea Dolezal & Eric Rykal: This committee did not meet.

## ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Ms. Pace provided notes for the official minutes.

1. Ms. Pace and Sarina are working on getting info on website – for Coronavirus.
2. Discussion on staying home when ill.
3. In the event of a closure, IXL is an online program that the teachers can use for the students
4. Silverback Model – Walkthrough program that Ms. Pace can upload right into the summit; the program will have better methods of professional development for each teacher.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Personnel –

1. Custodian – Ms. Pace recommended hiring Allysha Wilkinson to work as an additional custodian. She has been a sub here for many years and is aware of the cleaning procedures. Matt motioned to approve the hiring of Allysha Wilkson as an additional custodian. Niki seconded, all present approved.
2. Para Professional – No applicants at this time.
3. Grant Coordinator – Cheryl Breker was the only applicant. This is a position for the Literacy Grant. Ms. Pace recommended hiring Ms. Breker. Carrie motioned to hire Cheryl Breker as the Grant Coordinator for the Literacy Grant. Matt seconded, all present approved.
4. COVID Stipend – Rochelle Hesford has put in a lot of extra work keeping track of the COVID information. Ms. Pace recommended paying Rochelle a stipend of \$5000 for her work from August - October. Eric asked if this is something that we will need throughout the year and if so should it be more than just a three-month stipend. Ms. Pace stated that yes, the school would need someone to continue this work, and she was looking at more of a fall, winter and spring stipend. Rochelle also stated that the initial up front has already been completed. Matt motioned to approved the COVID stipend in the amount of \$5000 to Rochelle Hesford. Andrea seconded the motion, all present approved.
5. Family Engagement Coordinator – This topic will be tabled until the September meeting.

**Non Resident Student Acceptance – *Standing Agenda Item*** – None

**Liquidation of School Property – *Standing Agenda Item*** – There are extra desks and computers that Ms. Pace would like to liquidate. Niki motioned to approved the liquidation of the extra desks and computers stated by Ms. Pace. Carrie seconded the motion, all present approved.

**Handbooks** – Andrea motioned to approve the staff handbook with name changes. Matt seconded, all present approved. Carrie motioned to approve the student handbook with recommended changes. Niki seconded, all present approved.

### School Foods –

1. Ms. Pace stated that she did not want to raise prices on school foods this year due to the current climate. The board agreed.
2. Carrie motioned to approved the School Foods contract with Basin Elementary and keeping things the same as last year. Niki seconded, all present approved. Andrea motioned to approved the School Foods contract with Jefferson High School, also keeping the contract the same as last year. Matt seconded, all present approved.

**Superintendent Goals** – This topic will be tabled until the September meeting

**2020-2021 Budget Adoptions** – Carrie motioned to approved the 2020-2021 budgets as presented. Andrea seconded the motion. All present approved.

**Leave of Absence** – Ms. Pace wanted the board to be aware that Kayla Hecht will complete her student teaching here at Boulder and will come back to work as a Para once that is completed. Matt motioned to approved the leave of absence for Kayla Hecht. Niki seconded, all present approved.

**Policy 1905** – Ms. Pace recommended masks be worn upon entry and non-social distancing areas. For example, the common areas like the teachers' lounge. We have ordered face shields. Ms. Pace stated that is important for quality instruction that students, especially the younger students are able to see the teachers face and mouth and vice versa. Eric asked if we could go back to MTSBA and re-work the language for a possible third option. Ms. Pace did state that there will be a strict



notice for staff to wear masks in all common areas and arriving and leaving school. Face shields will be used in classrooms. Via Zoom, Lindsey Hays asked if parents and or kids want to wear their masks at all times, will that be ok. Both Eric and Ms. Pace stated yes. Sandy Hays from Harlows, also via Zoom, asked how will bus drivers enforce the kids keeping their masks on at all times on the bus. Ms. Pace stated that if it becomes an issue then those students are to be referred to Ms. Pace. Niki asked about purchasing the masks that have a clear barrier over the mouth. Ms. Pace stated that she purchased the shields. She wants to honor what public education is all about; creating positive interaction and connection with students and teachers. Ms. Pace said she would draft an option and submit to MTSBA to get something that fits more to our school. Policy 1905 will be tabled until the September meeting.

**Policy Series 1900 – State of Emergency** – Carrie motioned to declare a state of emergency and adopt the 1900 policy series. Niki seconded, all present approved.

**Re-Opening School Plan** – Eric once again stated to the public and zoom participants to please state their names prior to their question. Ms. Pace had sent out via email and text to the families of Boulder Elementary students the 3 options that the board would consider for adoption in regards to re-opening the school. Those options will be added to the official minutes. Mr. Tynan asked the board if they actually looked at how these options would work for families. Eric stated that finding a good balance to fit everyone's needs is a challenge and the board will do their best to accommodate families and staff. Megan Dawson stated that she sent an email to Ms. Pace and cc'd the board and would like it added to the minutes. She stated that option 3 or 4 would be best for her family. Please refer to the attached email for a more detailed description of Megan Dawson's opinion of the options. Bear Taylor, via Zoom, also agreed that option 3 or 4 would be best for their family. He was also concerned about Internet being given to just any family. Eric stated that chrome books have been purchased for each student in the event that the school will have to go entirely to remote learning and the school will provide Internet access to those students who do not have access to the Internet. Bear thanked everyone for all of their hard work. Cassie Nordlinger, via Zoom, asked why the schedule is different for K-2 and 3-5 for option 2. This would not work for her family. She has children in both grades and both parents work. Option 3 or 4 would also be best for them. Jessie Martin, via Zoom, agreed with what most parents were already saying. He wanted to know what option the school was going with. Eric stated that is what they are deciding on right now and wanted input from families before the Board made their decision. Jessie Martin also asked why schools twice the size of Boulder are starting school in a traditional normal way. Eric stated that a lot has to go into this decision. For example, funding, staffing, facilities, etc. And that no two schools are doing the same thing. Niki stated that what amount of risk are we willing to take. They have to keep in mind the safety of the students and the staff and these options have to be discussed thoroughly and the board may or may not make the right decision. She went on to say that Ms. Pace is doing her best to keep our risk down and keep learning at the fore front of the decision. Rochelle Hesford stated that she is concerned for the staff especially when it comes to the lack of substitutes. Niki said that as she stated before the board might not choose the best plan, however the board is doing the very best they can, given the current circumstances. Carrie also stated that a certain population has already decided that they are remote learning only. Jessie Martin asked if there was money in our budget to hire specific teachers for remote learning. Eric stated that we currently are having struggles with hiring additional para professional and subs. Sandy Hays stated that from a Transportation standpoint, option 2 or 3 would be best. Andrea Sarchet, via Zoom, asked for clarification on Intervention Groups. Ms. Pace stated that this is a determination to see where students are in reading and math for Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade and second grade. She stated that their family would be most in favor of option 2. She also wanted to let the board know that she appreciates everything the school is doing. Rachel Heaton, via Zoom, felt option 3 or 4 would also work best for her family. Lindsey Hays asked about class size and stated that option 2 is not a good option for her family. Carrie wanted to hear from Ms. Pace and see what option she was leaning towards. Ms. Pace stated she would go with option 3 based on what has been said so far and also because of transportation. She said that we have talked a lot about families and parents, she also wanted the staff to be considered. Carrie stated that with option 3 there still is a little remote learning which in the long run would be

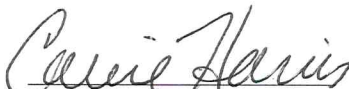
good in case we had to go completely remote learning. Eric asked what happens if a student tests positive. Rochelle stated that the whole school will shut down for 3-5 days and the cohort will shut down for 14 days. Ms. Strausser felt option 3 would work best for staff. Mrs. Ottman was asked and she stated that as a parent and staff member that option 3 would be best. At this time Eric asked to hear input from each board member. Andrea stated that number 2 is not an option at all, speaking as a parent. Option 3 is ok, option 4 is ideal but option 3 would work and hopefully get to option 4. Matt stated that this whole process is a work in progress. He appreciates all of the input from parents. He stated that option 3 would provide the best balance and also considers our teachers. Eric stated that option 1 is a forced option. Option 2 would not be great for anyone. Option 3 provides the best balance and option 4 would be great. Carrie stated that she has nothing more to add and agrees with everything already stated. Her choice would be option 3. Niki stated that the only true viable option with balance is option 2, however considering the risk of exposure, option 1 is best. Ms. Pace stated that they want to make the remote option for students as robust as possible. Eric stated that whatever decision is made tonight, things could change instantly. Matt stated that he feels it is the right time to get the kids back with the experts. Sandy Hays, Harlows, stated that with option 3 it gives the employees at Harlows time for sanitizing and cleaning buses. They would go with option 3. Eric asked if there was any more discussion and if there was not then he would like to entertain a motion on the re-opening plan. Andrea motioned to approve option 3 for the re-opening plan. Matt seconded, all present approved. Eric stated that he really appreciates everyone's input. This entire process has taken a lot of work and time by Ms. Pace, Rochelle Hesford and the board. He also stated that things could change.

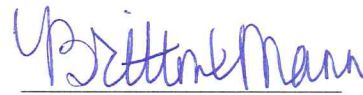
TOPICS FOR FUTURE  
AGENDAS

Family Engagement Coordinator  
TFS  
Superintendent Goals

ADJOURNMENT

Matt motioned to adjourn at 8:10, Niki seconded, which passed unanimously.

vice   
Chair, Elementary Board

  
Clerk, Elementary Board