

Salida School District R-32-J Board of Education

May 9, 2023 - 6 p.m.

Crest Academy, 627 Oak Street, Salida

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

President Smith called to order at 6:00 p.m. The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

In attendance were Directors Jodi Breckenridge Petit, Ben Hill, Matt Hobbs, Carrie Mattix, Mandy Paschall, Jenn Schuchman, and Joe Smith, Superintendent David Blackburn, Secretary Kim LeTourneau, Assistant Superintendent William Wooddell, and Business Manager Aaron Dobson. Also in attendance were Darcy Harris, Jen Lang, Bill, Betsy, and Nina Haas, Stacia Kriebel, Erin Johnke, Elena Dziura, Jessica Bena, Courtney Miller, DJ DJong, Deb Bass O'Brien, Sarah Zhang, Evalyn Parks, Kate Clark, Kristie Servis, Dave Armstrong, Kate Madden, Ilona Witty, Cory Scheffel, Jesse Hull and Shannon Bingham.

Board Member Comments

Director Breckenridge Petit attended the CMC Graduation and shared the inspiration of graduates to the community. She shared a thank you to Maggie Falconi and Ursala Jones who supported non-English speakers who pursued GEDs through associate's degrees. JBP – CMC graduation! Woop Woop – inspiration – jewel for our community, people making their way. Thanks to Maggie F. and Ursula Jones.

Director Schuchman attended HEA Walkabout Night and found it amazing and very special. She took her son and appreciated how cool it was for him to see the students and projects at the school.

Director Mattix noted teacher appreciation week, and nurses week, and thanks our teachers and nurses who serve the District. She reminded everyone about Market Night the next day from 5-7 p.m. and acknowledged the hard work students have been putting in on their projects.

Director Smith noted he had received the LES yearbook and enjoyed seeing photos of Directors Breckenridge Petit and Mattix were featured in many of the photos from the lunchroom and thanked them for their many contributions this year.

Written Messages to the Board

President Smith thanked the City of Salida, Salida Police Department, and Salida Fire Department for their letter and their partnership and continual focus on school safety.

Public Comments

Jen Lang shared celebrations from the testing season and thanked Jim Sampson and Will Wooddell were helpful and gracious through testing efforts at all schools.

Director Breckenridge Petit made a motion to **Approval of Agenda with the following changes:**

Add Consent Item 3j Approve Early Literacy Assessment Tool (ELAT) Grant

Add Reference Policies IHAK and IHAM to Discussion Item 4b SEL Policy Discussion

Add Action Item 5e Approve 1.0 Psychologist position SMS paid for by School Health Professional Grant

Salida School District R-32-J Board of Education

Director Mattix seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Dr. Hill, yes; Mr. Hobbs, yes; Mrs. Mattix, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Ms. Schuchman, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; and was approved.

Reports

During the **Guest Reports** the Board extended a huge congratulations and admiration to Lane Baker, Lane Dzuira, and Nina Haas who all graduated from CMC with their associates degrees. All three are also students with Salida Schools who made use of concurrent enrollment programs provided through the partnership between the two campuses. The Board expressed their excitement for the promise of the partnership with CMC to provide this incredible opportunity for local students to earn a certificate or associate's degree at the same time as working towards earning their high school diploma. Lane, Lanee and Nina – Salida Schools is proud of your accomplishments and knows you will do amazing things!

Director Paschall asked if there was any information from the middle school, as there wasn't a board report submitted for **Campus Reports** while Principal Saab is out on maternity leave. Superintendent Blackburn shared they he has been meeting with Dean Stephen Crane and are working to support students through end-of-year middle school needs. There were no other questions for principals.

Director Breckenridge Petit began **District Reports** by noting clarification on Assistant Superintendent Will Wooddell's spreadsheet of recent hires for the '23-'24 school year. Mr. Wooddell noted that there are promising candidates for a number of positions that are still open. Superintendent Blackburn shared his excitement about the collaborative work towards curriculum selection and gaining ground after the pandemic towards a proactive approach. Transportation worked through a tough week with needed bus repairs, and handled the challenges well. They are looking to evaluate bus routes for the '23-'24 school year. The Board thanked Ilona Witty and congratulated her on attending her final Board Meeting as principal of SECC.

Director Breckenridge Petit made a motion to approve the **Consent Agenda** to include items:

- a) Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting on April 11, 2023
- b) Claims Payable – All Funds
- c) Claims Payable – Bills over \$20,000
- d) Personnel Items
- e) Acknowledge and Approve Exhibits and Regulations as Recommended by the Superintendent – None
- f) Approve on 1st Reading Policies – Pending
- g) Approve on 3rd Reading Policies – None
- h) Approve Minutes of Special Board Meeting on April 25, 2023
- i) Approve Early Release of funds for '23-'24 Capital Project Stadium Turf Replacement - \$291,035.25
- j) Approve Early Literacy Assessment Tool (ELAT) Grant

Director Hobbs seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Dr. Hill, yes; Mr. Hobbs, yes; Mrs. Mattix, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Ms. Schuchman, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; and was approved.

Salida School District R-32-J Board of Education

Discussion Items

Shannon Bingham with Western Demographics shared an update on progress towards his final draft of a **demographics study of the Salida School District**. He shared a slide deck with the Board detailing some of his initial findings, including upcoming housing projects and birth rates that impact his estimates for population growth in coming years. He noted that many districts are seeing a decrease in enrollment, based in part on a shift to online learning opportunities and a slow in birth rate, sometimes called a “baby bust”. Salida and Poncha Springs however continue to see steady, slow growth. Bingham reflected on the fact that Salida is unique and it is hard to find a comparable community with similar attributes. He shared a few insights about current and planned housing developments and their expected demographic impacts to the District. He noted potential growth limitations based on current wastewater treatment capacities. There was discussion about how the pandemic impacted expected growth and generated new trends and behaviors that are reflected in local populations. Bingham will dig into an estimated ratio of 2nd homes/retirees/working homes for his final report. Directors were encouraged to send any additional questions to Superintendent Blackburn to pass on to Bingham to address in his final report as well. It is important to the District to have a quality estimate of population change for future facility use planning.

The Board then began a discussion about Salida Schools’ guidelines of **Social Emotional Learning (SEL) within Policy, including policies ADF, JICDE, IG, ADB, KEC, IHAK, and IHAM**. Conversation about SEL has become a charged topic around the country, and Superintendent Blackburn noted recent local interest in the conversation. He expressed that generally most agree on the role of SEL in schools. He shared a reminder that policy and law provide the District with legal guardrails relating to SEL curriculum in Salida Schools’ programs. As the volume of SEL conversations across the nation grows, the District plans on having a town hall style meeting in the fall for parents and the community to better understand the policies that guide SEL in the District, how curriculum is reviewed, recommended and approved by the Board, and why providing a specific curriculum to teachers is helpful to ensure that these guidelines are followed. Director Hill requested more clarity on the goal of SEL programming and how programs are evaluated for efficacy. He was interested in how metrics were generated to evaluate the success of such programs, including how to track the success of health and wellness programs for our youth.

The curriculum currently in place at ECC, LES, and SMS currently provides appropriate guidelines and expectations. However, at SHS, the most recent SEL curriculum didn’t provide teachers enough guidance, students weren’t engaging with the content, and it wasn’t proving to be effective. The Wayfinder curriculum proposed for approval for use at SHS appears to provide better tools for teacher use for coming years. The Healthy Kids Colorado survey was recognized as one metric of self-reported data that could be used to help evaluate success of some SEL programs.

Superintendent Blackburn recognized the request for more clarity in the goals of the District’s SEL curriculum and ways to note where there is success and where there are gaps that still need to be addressed. The high school will introduce a health class next year and there is a commitment to ensuring the program is vetted and the curriculum is age appropriate. Another parent information session will be scheduled to discuss the class in advance so parents have an opportunity to understand the goals, the curriculum and teaching methods so they can make educated decisions about their child’s participation.

Salida School District R-32-J Board of Education

The Health and Wellness Policy, ADF, is also due to be updated and reviewed. A committee has been working to review and generate a revision for approval by the Board.

Director Schuchman shared her expectations that students shouldn't be objected to hate speech in their schools, and clear policy should be in place and be implemented to meet this expectation. There was discussion about the best way to gather information from the community and gathering stakeholders to the table to help gather information to guide the conversation. Superintendent Blackburn acknowledged he had clarity in the Board's needs and expectations.

The Board then took a short break and reconvened at 8:19 p.m.

Action Items

Director Hobbs made a motion to **approve policies JFBA – Intra-District Choice/Open Enrollment and JFBB – Inter-District Choice/Open Enrollment on second reading.** Director Paschall seconded the motion. Superintendent Blackburn noted that these have been through significant legal review. This is an important topic for Salida Schools, as the District does maintain a waiting list and asks that students who are out of district reapply each year. Out of district students do impact our growth and our ability to meet the needs of students who do live in the district. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Dr. Hill, yes; Mr. Hobbs, yes; Mrs. Mattix, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Ms. Schuchman, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; and was approved.

Director Breckenridge Petit made a motion to **Approve the Recommended Science Resource Adoption.** Director Schuchman seconded the motion. Darcy Harris, MTSS coordinator, and Kate Madden, 7th Grade Science Teacher, represented the science adoption committee. They shared a presentation with the Board about the curriculum being recommended by the review committee. They described recent changes to Next Generation science standards nationally, which were then adopted in Colorado. Because of the pandemic, adoption of more appropriate curriculum has been slowed. The new standards put an emphasis on students figuring out science through exploration. After reviewing a number of different options, the science curriculum committee is recommending Amplify for 5th through 8th grade, BSCS: Understanding for Life for Biology, McGraw-Hill Inspire for Physical and Earth Sciences, and Gizmos' Try It! program. The team was able to reduce the price of the budget request by \$75,000 by really digging into the quote and looking for creative ways to cut the quote down in cost. The request covers a six-year period. Salida Middle School has already evaluated where there might be gaps through the transition and has already created a plan to make sure students don't miss anything. Amplify is also available for younger grades, which might be pursued in the future. The final ask for the entire package, including \$10,400 for professional development related to the new resources, is \$123,419.84. This also includes an SOSS grant of \$7500. Director Breckenridge Petit noted the importance of planning ahead and making sure annual set asides will reflect the rotational nature of curriculum review and adoption. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Dr. Hill, yes; Mr. Hobbs, yes; Mrs. Mattix, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Ms. Schuchman, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; and was approved.

Director Mattix made a motion to **Approve the Recommended High School SEL Resource Adoption.** Director Paschall seconded the motion. Principal Hull shared a presentation that detailed Wayfinder, the proposed SEL curriculum. The resources would work in partnership with Naviance, a college and career readiness tool, to help guide teachers through lessons for advisory classes. Wayfinder is solid, evidence based curriculum, is

Salida School District R-32-J Board of Education

grant funded, and will help students learn durable skills they can apply for the rest of their lives. School psychologist Jessica Bena was also on hand to answer questions from the Board about the recommendation. She shared the importance of having resources that are age appropriate and keeps students engaged. She feels Wayfinder will provide this for students and staff. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Dr. Hill, yes; Mr. Hobbs, yes; Mrs. Mattix, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Ms. Schuchman, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; and was approved.

Director Paschall made a motion to **Offer CBT an MOU**. Director Schuchman seconded the motion. Director Hobbs shared an update that CBT met on May 1 to talk about a path forward on policy GBB and changes the board had discussed. Superintendent Blackburn noted the proposed MOU as a way to do that, more clearly outlining a timeline to work through the proposed changes to negotiated policy. The hope is to continue on a positive path forward. There is an understanding the change takes time, and there is a need for the Board to continue forward progress towards shared goals of a better process. There was discussion of the pros and cons of offering the proposed MOU, and a desire to not let the process lag for legal and operational needs. A straw group from CBT has been looking through proposed red lines and feels like they would like for the entire group to review before they make any recommendations. It was noted that Dennis has been a wonderful facilitator, and that it might be a good time to bring in someone else for a fresh, neutral perspective. CBT is scheduled to meet on May 19 to discuss GBB. General consensus of the Board is a hope to have recommended revisions to GBB at the June meeting for review. Then, the Board would like to see forward progress made on the proposed list of revisions to N policies. The MOU outlines a December deadline, but there is some desire to see that timeline sped up. The Board noted the important desire to continue receiving staff input, and a need to balance that with a clear process established in a timely manner that works within the many annual deadlines the District must meet. Director amended her motion to table the decision on an MOU for CBT until June. Director Schuchman seconded the amended motion. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Dr. Hill, yes; Mr. Hobbs, yes; Mrs. Mattix, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Ms. Schuchman, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; and was approved.

Director Breckenridge Petit made a motion to **Approve 1.0 Psychologist position SMS paid for by School Health Professional Grant**. Director Mattix seconded the motion. It was noted that this is this intended use for this grant, and Business Manager Moore asked that the Board formally approve this use. It was also noted that there is not a promise that the position will be picked up at the end of 3 years. This would be an additional position. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Dr. Hill, yes; Mr. Hobbs, yes; Mrs. Mattix, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Ms. Schuchman, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; and was approved.

Board Communications and Committee Reports

Director Hobbs and Superintendent Blackburn thanked the Collaborative Bargaining Team for continuing the conversations and dedication to forward progress.

Director Paschall shared that BOCES would be meeting on Thursday and are in the process of reviewing a number of policies.

The Facilities team of Directors Smith and Mattix were interested in what the demographic study would indicate for future planning of the District. Superintendent Blackburn shared that he is expecting a bid from CLR, and looking forward to a plan for the HEA remodel at the Oak Street building.

Salida School District R-32-J
Board of Education

Secretary LeTourneau noted the delay in the annual report, but noted an increase in smaller scale communications through email and social media that were proving to be well received by the school community.

Director Schuchman noted the Colorado Legislative wrap up for the year and an upcoming CASB review of the work done during the session.

Secretary LeTourneau shared a reminder that it is an election year more election items will be on upcoming agendas.

Future Business

There will be a Special Meeting at 5 p.m. on May 23, 2023 in the commons at The Crest Academy at 627 Oak Street for '23-'24 Budget Approval. The next regular meeting of the Board will be at 6 p.m. on June 13, 2023, also at The Crest Academy. Director Schuchman will join agenda review which will be scheduled for either June 1 or 2.

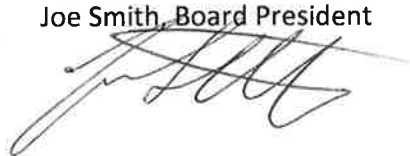
Director Hobbs made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim LeTourneau, Board Secretary



Joe Smith, Board President





SALIDA SCHOOL DISTRICT R-32-J

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Joe Smith, President

Jodi Breckenridge Petit, Vice-President, Carrie Mattix, Treasurer

Directors: Ben Hill, Matthew Hobbs, Mandy Paschall, Jenn Schuchman

David Blackburn, Superintendent

William Wooddell, Assistant Superintendent

May 2023 Personnel Changes for Board Approval

New Hires

None for '22-'23 School Year

Resignations (During School Year 2022-2023)

Ellen Horarik- ECC Paraprofessional

Don Tanner- Food Services

Resignations (End of School Year)

Cara Rosingana - HEA

Sara Evans- SHS Science

Lara Fischlein- SHS Social Studies

Ingrid Youngblood- LES Kindergarten

Chenoa King- ECC Paraprofessional

FYSA – Maternity Leave

Keri Weis – LES –Leave First 12 weeks of '23-'24 School Year – Return to Work 10/30

Felicia Mundell - Due September 2023 (No other information yet)

Lisa Monroe - Start Maternity Leave on 8/9/2023 and end on 11/23/2023. Return to work on 11/27/2023.

Updated 5/3/23 at 5:22 p.m.