

Salida School District R-32-J Board of Education

August 8, 2023

Crest Academy, 627 Oak Street

Regular Board Meeting

President Smith called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

In attendance were Directors Hill, Hobbs, Mattix, Paschall, Schuchman, and Smith. Director Breckenridge Petit was not at the meeting. Also in attendance were Superintendent Blackburn, Board Secretary LeTourneau, Assistant Superintendent William Wooddell, Business Managers Shiela Moore and Aaron Dobson, IT Manager William Stokesberry, and Principals Hull, Saab, Scheffel, Servis, and Gilson. A reporter from the Mountain Mail was also present.

Board Member Comments

Director Schuchman thanked all of the Salida Schools' Team who put in hours over the summer to make sure that schools were ready to go for the return of students to the school.

Director Paschall shared a few insights following her attendance at the EDC Insight Series presentation by Colorado State Demographer Elizabeth Garner on July 25. She was joined by Director Schuchman and Superintendent Blackburn. She looks forward to getting a copy of the slidedeck which will be very helpful in discussing how potential changes in the future of Chaffee County may impact the Salida School District. Generally, the county has rebounded better than a number of communities following the COVID pandemic, seeing continued growth. However, the growth appears to be coming primarily in the retirement age bracket more so than families with school age children.

Director Mattix offered her thanks to everyone who helped make Sports Physical Night an overwhelming success, with more than 200 athletes in attendance.

Director Smith welcomed staff back following the summer break and thanked those who joined the board for the meeting.

There were no **Written Messages to the Board**, and there were **no public comments**.

Director Paschall made a motion to approve the agenda with the following changes:

- Table 3ei KF-E-1 - Facilities Use Agreement to September
- Table 5ai 2nd Reading of ADF to September
- Table 3eii KEC-E - Public Concerns/Complaints About Institutional Resources to September
- Remove all items associated with 5.2 CASB Special Policy Updates from 5/5/23

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

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Reports

There were no **Guest Reports**

There were no questions for principals following the submission of their Campus Reports. President Smith shared his appreciation of the list of updates that have been in process over summer break. Director Mattix thanked everyone for returning to the District for the '23-'24 school year and welcomed Theresa to the team.

Superintendent Blackburn opened the District Reports section of the meeting. He noted the focus on shifting back to more proactive practices, and the success of getting back to that approach to the District, clearly moving away from the crisis approach needed to navigate the pandemic. Nearly all positions have been filled, including a few last minute openings. The District continues to draw incredible staff members and will continue to focus on ways to provide staff, including Americorp volunteers, wonderful experiences to ensure a positive experience. Assistant Superintendent Wooddell shared an update on the progress of summer capital projects and ensured that schools will all be prepped and ready for soft school openings on Friday, and most students will return to school on Monday, August 14, 2023. A new Employee Handbook has been compiled and will be shared with all staff as they begin coming back for the year. Wooddell noted he would have more information on the final costs for the summer's capital projects for the regular meeting of the Board in September. A new mentor program has also been added to help support teachers in the District. The bus rodeo, organized by Salida Schools' own Evalyn Parks was very successful, and the event may need to look for a new venue next year because of the popularity of the event. Some members of CBT met the previous evening to set their expectations and create a plan for the year.

The District will host the second annual Safety Training Day for front office and support staff on Friday. A focus for the year will be holding several reunification drills in an effort to be prepared for the potential need of the process in the future. It was reminded that in the case of an emergency, parents are asked to stay away from the campus until first responders have contained any threat and the school is ready to reunify parents with students, at which time they will get a message from the school with more details on how to pick up their children safely. It is important that each student's emergency contacts are current for this process to run as smoothly as possible.

There will be a parent information night on Tuesday, Aug 22, 2023 at Salida High School for families and the community to learn a bit more about the District and our local first responder community work together to create safe schools for our students. Superintendent Blackburn, SPD Chief Johnson, and SFD Chief Bass will begin with a presentation and then the audience will have an opportunity to ask questions of the panel. President Smith thanked the principals for their time.

Consent Agenda Items

Director Schuchman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda to include items:

- a) Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting on June 13, 2023
- b) Claims Payable – All Funds

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- c) Claims Payable – Bills over \$20,000
- d) Personnel Items
- e) Acknowledge and Approve Exhibits and Regulations as Recommended by the Superintendent
 - ~~i) KF-E-1 Facilities Use Agreement~~
 - ~~ii) KEC-E Public Concerns/Complaints About Institutional Resources~~
 - iii) KDB-R Public's Right to Know/Freedom of Information (CASB Special Policy Update 8/1/23)
- f) Approve on 1st Reading Policies
 - i) EJ - Service Animals
 - ii) CASB Special Policy Updates - 8/1/23
 - (1) JK - Student Discipline
 - (2) JKA - Use of Physical Intervention and Restraint
 - (3) LBD - Relations with Charter Schools
 - (4) JKD/JKE - Suspension/Expulsion of Students
 - (5) AC - Non Discrimination/Equal Opportunity
 - (6) GBAA - Sexual Harassment
 - (7) JBB - Sexual Harassment
 - (8) IC/ICA - School Year/School Calendar/Instruction Time
 - (9) IHBIB - Primary/Pre-primary Education
 - (10) BDFC - Repeal Preschool Counsel
 - (11) BC - School Board Member Conduct
 - (12) CBF - Superintendent's Conduct
 - (13) GBEB - Staff Conduct
- g) Approve on 3rd Reading Policies - None
- h) Approve Hoelting & Company as Auditor for '22-'23 School Year
- i) Approve IGAs with Chaffee and Fremont County for 2023 General Election
- j) Acknowledge SRO IGA
- k) Acknowledge Emergency Operating Plan
- l) Acknowledge 22-23 Safe Schools Report as per ADD-E-1

Director Hobbs seconded the motion. It was noted that the SRO IGA needs to be updated with the Oak Street address, and confirm dates are correct for the '23-'24 year before being signed. Director Hobbs shared a concern about the potential liability of paying out sick leave when staff members leave the District and would like to review the policy and consider changes for the future to protect the District's assets. Business Manager Moore shared that the District does compile a potential for total liability at about \$600,000.

Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Hill, yes; Mr. Hobbs, yes; Mrs. Mattix, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Ms. Schuchman, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; and was approved.

Discussion Items

Business Managers Moore and Dobson discussed **Financial Reporting** in the District and asked for clarification on what type of report and information the Board would most like to see. The new quarterly report is required by the state, and the Business Office wants to see if that covers the needs of the BOE, or if they would like to

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see something else. There was interest in receiving more clarity on fund balances and reserves. Director Paschall shared that she liked the narrative report added to the packet with a bit more detail on what all the numbers mean. Superintendent Blackburn noted that the auditors would be on site the last week of August.

The Board **Set the Retreat Agenda**. Superintendent Blackburn began with the rough outline traditional to the annual retreat including reviewing roles and responsibilities, strategic priorities, and long-term facility planning. The Board identified looking more closely at the presentation by the State Demographer to help guide the facility discussion. The Board will also discuss potentially conducting a broad policy audit, and would like an update on work towards minimizing bullying.

Action Items

Director Mattix made a motion to Approve on 2nd Reading Policies DAC – Federal Fiscal Compliance and JRCB – Privacy and Protection of Confidential Student Information. Director Schuchman seconded the motion. Superintendent Blackburn shared that suggested changes to the DAC policy incorrectly identified the assistant superintendent instead of the business manager, and in policy JRCB there was an instance where there was a missing “assistant superintendent” that would be added before third reading. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Hill, yes; Mr. Hobbs, yes; Mrs. Mattix, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Ms. Schuchman, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; and was approved.

Director Schuchman made a motion to Approve the ECC Quality Improvement Plan. Director Mattix seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Hill, yes; Mr. Hobbs, yes; Mrs. Mattix, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Ms. Schuchman, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; and was approved.

Director Hobbs made a motion to Approve the HEA Construction Documents, not to exceed \$30,000. Director Schuchman seconded the motion. Superintendent Blackburn talked about breaking some bigger projects down into more manageable pieces in order to not over commit money or time. The goal with this request is to gain more detail on the move for HEA to Oak Street. Said motion was voted on as follows: 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 noted that there will no longer be a representative from the Board on the **Collaborative Bargaining Team**. Superintendent Blackburn shared that CBT has good momentum and is moving in a positive direction.

Director Pashcall shared that the next **BOCES** meeting will be September 13, and that there were no updates from the summer. BOCES is evaluating their alternative licensure program to make sure it is meeting expectations.

There was not an update for the Facilities Committee, as the Board will take a close look at facilities and planning at the annual retreat.

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The **Communications Committee** would like to add more structure to better achieve and meet goals for the District. There has been significant work done on the District and School websites over the summer.

Director Schuchman will attend the Regional **CASB** Meeting in September. The District has a goal to send 2 students to the Leadership Strand at the Annual CASB conference in December. Superintendent Blackburn and Director Breckenridge Petit have been accepted to present at the Annual Conference.

Secretary/Designated Election Official LeTourneau noted that appropriate paperwork has been completed for **election** deadlines so far, and interested candidates can pick up petitions starting Aug 9, 2023 at 8 a.m. If anyone has any questions, they should reach out to her.

Future Business/Calendar of events

The Board will hold their annual retreat (work session) on August 19, 2023 at 627 Oak Street from 8 a.m - 4 p.m. Secretary LeTourneau will take care of food needs for the day. The next regular meeting of the Board will be Sep 12, 2023 and Director Mattix will help with the agenda review. The Board would like to host a public listening session following the September meeting. LeTourneau will help get that organized. Director Mattix made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 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

August 2023 Personnel Changes for Board Approval - Updated 8/8/2023

New Hires:

Alejandra Godina - SHS Science Teacher

Christopher "Tex" Bertolino - SMS Long-term sub (McFarland)

Katie Pigott - 8th Grade Science

Angie Reno - ECC Paraprofessional .75

Haylee Hayden - Certified Toddler Teacher

Amy Blomquist - ECC Teaching Assistant

Dustin Krupa - ECC Cook

Josh Buckberg - Technology Manager

James White - Bus Driver

Calvin Troutman- LES Custodian- Start Date 6/28/23

Tiana (Jade) Modrzejewski- SHS Custodian- Start Date 7/3/23

Retired:

Julie Bright

Left the District:

Lisa Ledwith - HEA Teacher .75FTE

Wendy Walters - LES OT Assistant

Laura Wancura Atwood - ECC Teaching Assistant

Cindy Millsap - LES Para

Cammie Simpson - LES Sped Teacher

Ashley Griffin - LES Secretary

Amy Green - SECC Toddler Teacher

Cristina McNeirney - SHS English