

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MANCOS SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-6 BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROOM #503 – WEST WING – MONDAY, January 22, 2018, 7:00 P.M.**

Work Session:

1. Owner’s Rep update: Campus survey of each building, identified areas of deficiency (MEP requirement) and those areas we could “cure.” Each area; athletics, P.E., music, ES, MS, HS, admin, met with engineers to discuss specific wants\needs. Friday, 1/19 they held interviews for General Contractors with four teams utilizing a grading matrix. Janes was the high-scorer. FCI, Nunn, Weeminuche were the other candidates. Meeting this coming Wednesday with Architects. Meetings with arborists about the spruces trees, the think one will have to come down to complete the bus loop. The Architects loved the idea of re-purposing the tree and incorporating it into the project. 2/2 and 2/3 potential BOE member meeting with the Architects.

2. Campus Security: Stacy Houser, the Superintendent in Aguilar, spoke about his District. He’s a former Police Officer in Dallas, TX. Only 2 deputies on call in their large district, 45min-60min response times. They sent home parent and student surveys, and held separate meetings with parents. He open carries every day. Secretary, HS principal are security, teacher is armed personnel, gun stays in their lock boxes, Superintendent is the only one who carries every day. They all attended a 4 day training in Colo Spgs. All four of them have gun safes, ballistic vests, trauma kits in their offices\rooms.

<http://cocivilliberties.org/faster/> <http://fastersaveslives.org/>

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Board of Education - Mancos School District RE-6 was called to order by Board President at 7:04 p.m. Mr. Mitchell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Blake Mitchell	President	Present
Boe Hawkins	Vice President	Present
Pamela Coppinger	Secretary	Present
Tim Hunter	Director	Present
Ed Whritner	Treasurer	Present
Also in attendance:	Brian Hanson	Superintendent
	Chrissie Miller	Business Manager
	Heath Showalter	Dean of Students/Athletic Director
	Cathy Epps	PK-5 Principal
	Adam Priestley	Secondary Principal
	Heather Mckie	Assistant Business Manager
	Erica Holm	Administrative Assistant
Visitors in the audience:	Monty Guiles	Stacy Houser
	Scott Linders	Theresa Oakes
Duff Simbeck	Josh Gardner	Bryan Oakes
Josh Horner	Anna Mathews	Craig Benally
Eli Shostak	Emily Rice (The Journal)	Julia Whilehan
Gretchen Groenke	Tigo Cruz	Amy Hartline
A. Watson	Kate Kearns	Alana Stewart
Laura McNeil	Todd Kearns	Janice Bryan
Ephriam McNeil	Kellie Pettyjohn	Jorve McCann
Betsy Harrison	Lee Hallberg	Chad Cluss
Sylvia Fleitz	Jim Martucci	Marianne Hurley
John Fleitz	Sherry Grazdia	Mark Hurley
Craig Paschal	Liz Bohm	Gabriel Bermin
Allen Farnsworth	David Mallin	Janell Hall
Katie Cahill-Volpe	Andrew Saletta	Stephen Saletta

Jaime Bechtel	Danyel Mezzanatto	Robin Wolthausen
Nathanael Brown	Eva DeGreff	Emily Palmer
Julie Hartline	Pam Kroll	Jim Law

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Mr. Hunter to approve the meeting agenda.

Mrs. Coppinger seconds.

AYE: Ms. Coppinger, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Hunter, and Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Whritner. NO: None. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. **MOTION** by Mr. Hawkins to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting 11/16 and the Regular Meeting 12/18

Mrs. Coppinger seconds.

AYE: Ms. Coppinger, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Hunter, and Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Whritner. NO: None. Motion carried 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS – RECOGNITION FROM DISTRICT OR BOARD

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Monty Guiles – this is not the type of school I want my kids in, a “slippery slope”. Officers continually train and they still make mistakes, we’re asking our administrators and teachers to only train a few days a year. We cannot plan for everything. The BEST grant will secure our school and each day we fail to secure our school.

Jim Law – worked to improve this school. Commends school board for seeking improvement in school security and endorses Mr. Guiles. John Hopkins research, NY article; how would you live with yourself if you accidentally shoot off your gun and hit a child? Financial and legal ramifications, surveying parents. Absolutely opposed to this.

Duff Simbeck – two kids here in the schools, against example of arming admin. Pragmatic concern: town has made the police a priority for responding, response times, and he feels that the town has funded that third officer to have a bigger presence.

Josh Horner – no kids in school but knows several. Doesn’t believe arming staff is what we should teach our kids. Also speaks for Pete Doerfer.

Eli Shostak – totally opposed to this, on behalf our family who has a Kindergartener here. Wants to go back to the SAFE schools policies from previous years. Little concern to people who walk into our school systems freely. Killing a child in our community is your answer? Carey family sent letter and is opposed, wants doors locked and more security cameras.

Gretchen Groenke – has a 1st grader, been here since Pre-K. Not in support of guns in school. We have a Marshall in a small town and we should utilize them. We need to invest in mental health and social\emotional wellness of the kids. Be proactive instead of reactive. Parents haven’t had any communication about this issue, daily folders, newsletters, etc.

Pam Kroll – Opposed to this issue. Put focus on what’s causing this. We need to come together as a community and support mental health. Staff trainings, how to deal with emergencies, response. How scary for our kids to have their role models carrying guns around every day. Proper training is important and we can’t live in an environment where we live in fear.

Betsy Harrison – school is our community jewel. Was on Bond committee and knows the construction will greatly improve our security. Horrified that this is being talked about in light of the bond.

Craig Benally – grew up in 4 corners. As a person of color, this society lives in fear. A young child seeing an authority figure carrying a gun, they know what it's for, is that an environment we want for our children? Do we need to take a hard look at ourselves and why we're having a meeting like this? Why is it that these BOE meetings go unattended so often? We need to be here to show we care about this community and these kids. 2 year discussion, we need to know what's going on.

Ephriam McNeil – regular gun carrier. The world is a dangerous place with bad people who don't care about taking innocent lives. If we rely solely on police and locks when seconds count, we can fail. Utopian world isn't going to happen, I don't want to see violence or have to shoot someone, but if it means someone close to me dying or a slime ball, I'll take down the slime ball. Please don't dismiss it just yet.

Josh Gardner – parent and teacher. Tough topic and I go both ways on it. I feel our school does a fantastic job of not letting kids fall through the cracks and identifying needs and those who are at-risk. Having a gun would reduce response time. I don't think teachers should have guns in their classes, if I could have it my way, it would only be on the superintendent, concealed, and only after much training. Superintendent not around the students as much and an accidental discharge would probably not be around kids. I think this could help us and a quicker response time is very important. As a parent, I just want to get to my kids but I have to tend to my own students. I hope that someone on campus can respond.

Lee Hallburg – appreciates board and staff thinking about security and safety of our students. This conversation is good and we appreciate you being able to listen to us. Opposed to arming personnel, increasing risk of accidental shooting – friendly fire – trained police still make mistakes. Best effort would be to look more closely at security measure that are already in place. Feels that people come and go too freely in our buildings.

Kellie Pettyjohn – Gun owning family strongly opposed to have guns in the schools. Law enforcement trained for months and years and still make mistakes. Increasing guns on campus could result in increased violence, crime.

Amy Hartline – works with adolescents. Appreciates the reverence in this group. This is one decision in a small community but it is how we move forward that's important. Opposed to this – we need to act from a place of clarity and vision. Violence can't be the tool. Hope that we step forward and embody peace and teach our kids and communities to operate at that level so we don't just react in violence.

Theresa Oakes – long term native. Carries guns, hunts and shoots but thinks our people need to be tactfully trained. Training can help stop a bad situation. Son was bullied in Cortez and didn't want to go to school because of threat of violence. "Who's going to protect me, mama?" Police? Tactfully trained is the key.

Brian Oakes – 2 kids here and have started their own gun training at home. I am for teachers being armed if they're trained, long term intense training. The world has changed, if there's a chance my kids can be saved, I'm willing to take that chance. Would like to see police at the school whenever possible.

Sherri Grazda – 35 yrs. in education, teaches in Dolores. No one ever questioned her as she entered the school here. These buildings were built before the world got so violent. "Let us look around in awareness." People need to be aware of those coming in and out of buildings. All adults have visitor passes, even for assemblies. Learning is based on relationships. Relationships built on trust. Fear breaks and damages trust. Guns create a feeling of fear, thus make children unable to learn.

Craig Paschal – our family chooses to stay and live here because we have a great community. Personally knows about the effects of gun violence, sister shot 18 times, murdered. Mass shootings in the US, highest of any country, 98% of all mass shootings are by white men. Mental illness talk, not a lot of talk of men and masculinity. We are

teaching our youth to be a man you have to be violent. We need to step out of that vicious cycle and address the issue. They're killing innocent people. Teach our young boys what it means to be a man and that there's another way to live besides using power to kill and destroy, we can be humane. He is completely against arming staff.

Sylvia Fleitz – opposed to guns in the school. More guns generally leads to more gun deaths.

John Fleitz – opposed to this issue. Thanking the board for giving their time to serve the community. When he was in HS, his friend was called into the Principal's office. Friend got into the desk and was able to steal. It doesn't take much for something bad to happen. Probability of accident once you put guns in school only increases. "Hollywood vision" of taking out a bad guy.

Jim Martucci – points have been made.

Anna Mathews – not opposed. With proper training, done right, this could be a good thing.

Scott Linders – teaches here. Wants the community to know we have two teachers who are retired active duty medics, more than a 3 day training.

Gabriel Bermin – opposes arming staff. More guns = more people getting killed. Concern about security, steps in place and huge leap to combat this with more guns. Path people take from being regular human to shooting people. There's a process in both. Take it down a notch and look at it again.

REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATORS AND COMMITTEES

- A. Superintendent's Report – Will reach out to architects for 2/2 and 2/3 for the Board to meet with them. Video, visual aide for documents the BOE members are looking at. Appreciate everyone coming and participating. This has been coming for two+ years and it needs to come to an end. If the board says "yes" ok great. It will not change any of our security plans, or future building and security plans. If they say "no" same thing holds. He will request another special board meeting next week for the purpose of approving final budget. 10 mins, formality – looking at a morning next week. Still waiting on documents from BEST. Deadline 31st of July. 7:30 Wed, the 31st it will be.
- B. PreK-5 Principal Report – Meetings with the architects were great, thank you. Pre-K is fully independent, financially. Grace applied for 10 CPP Spots and we got them! We're full. Currently administering MAPS testing. All Pre-K staff attending a conference in March 15 - 17. Need to talk about classified staff and 40 hour week. Yay for snow and ski club starts in 2 weeks!
- C. Secondary Principal Report – 5 new students, 2 needed alternate education. State testing 3rd – 8th April 9-27. Science and Social Studies added in to different grade levels. Pre-SAT testing now an option for our high school kids, 9 and 10 grades. One four hour test fo reach class. We are still going to have our juniors take the ACT since that is Feb 27 what we have prepped and paid for. CTE teacher position, hoping to be a full-time next year. Next week is a conference with Jed.
- D. Dean of Students/Athletic Director Report – 2017 ended well with referrals going down. 2018 slow start to referrals, hopefully stays that way. One month out from starting spring sports.
- E. BOCES Report (verbal) – Mr. Hawkins met with Adria today, next meeting is Feb 14. Special Ed is the main focus of BOCES, and all the other noise (e-school, adult ed.) we will not pay for. If two

schools need to do that, they can pay for that. We are questioning where and why we're doing things instead of just being told and going with it.

- F. Accountability Committee Report - Craig Benally discussed the previous BOE meeting. Talks of re-naming the committee and developing a clearer mission and vision. Needs more participation from parents. Would like to be more active with the Board.

- G. Business Managers Report and Financial Statements – introduced new spreadsheet collaboration with Monty tracking BEST Grant spending, costs. Every month they will update progress and show updates for the project, a draw-down. This process is mirrored by the General Contractor as well, and accounts for each item. Monty will over-see billing and make sure what is being done is accurately billed, and it goes through a series of checks each month. State CCO6 document will be used by BEST in the same manner. Weekly updates posted online – collaboration with Erica and Monty.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Approve Bills

MOTION by Mr. Hawkins to approve the bills as presented.

Mr. Hunter seconds.

AYE: Ms. Coppinger, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Hunter, and Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Whritner. NO: None. Motion carried 5-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Campus Security –

Blake Mitchell – on the fence, pro's and con's no matter which way we go. There's too many risks and there could be delayed response times from the Marshall depending on what's going on that day. Teachers are here to teach and keep our kids safe. We need to increase our current security measures and tighten them up tomorrow. Doors locked, guest passes issued, it will be inconvenient but it is worth it. Sheltering in place and keeping doors locked can help prevent tragedies. Parents need to go through a process to check out their kids and we have to limit access to our schools. We need to start that right now. And even if we decide to arm our staff, we still have to lock the school down. We can't prevent everything, but we can do a better job of keeping them safer by limiting access to our buildings.

Tim Hunter – we're trying to keep our kids safe, and revising our policies. Fully recognizes the emotions of people in this room. We are voting weather or not to proceed with arming staff. We will need to put together policies, and procedures. We ought to have every available option in front of us.

Blake – spent 25 years on the Volunteer Fire Department. Compensation changes things; compared to full-time, fully trained Fire Fighter. When we arm somebody, they have to be contracted and compensated = held to a higher standard. IS the minimum standard going to be enough? Claire Davis Law – School District must provide reasonable security. If Mr. Hanson is armed and fails to act that would be worse than if he acted and failed.

Mr. Whritner – the fear\concern is real. Being a teacher is enough responsibility without having guns. Social\emotional needs are taking more resources but having the biggest impact. Arming someone would make them a bigger target. Complacency is an issue. Can't ignore the human factor. You become a different person when you have a gun, and you should. This is a giant leap considering what we're going to spend all this money on with the BEST grant.

Mrs. Coppinger – Had a speaker in class die, and he was revived, but what she took away was, "what was my reaction?" What do I do with these kids? How do I get them to a safer place so they don't see this? I took the concealed carry class, but decided that wasn't me. We don't want to arm all of our teachers, any of them really, mostly admin. When that gentleman died for a minute, it was nice to have other people help me and the fast reaction time. Trauma\medical training should be considered no matter what we vote on the guns. Not sure where she stands.

Mr. Hawkins – One thing is we haven't reached out to the community and we need to do this before we can put this to bed. I appreciate everyone's thoughts and I am on the fence also. I propose we send out a survey or in some way to reach out to parents and staff before we make a decision.

Mr. Hunter – this is just another tool in the toolbox for safety. We may decide this isn't what we want to do. I would be the first to support a school resource officer if we could afford it.

Mr. Hanson – at the BEST presentation, realizing we were awarded, the first thing Mr. Mitchell said that with the grant passing and the security upgrades upcoming, we shouldn't need armed staff. #1 way to minimize casualties is A. staff training on how to response to an event, and B. to lock the classroom doors and secure your building. Our new construction will allow for lock-downs happening within seconds.

Mrs. Coppinger – not in favor of putting guns in a classroom. Administration should be a personal decision.

Mr. Mitchell – putting our admin in that position is a hard thing. I want our teachers to teach and our admin to admin. Our doors should be locked after the bell, period.

B. Campus Renovations

OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSENT MOTION

MOTION by Mr. Hunter to consent to Action Items: A B C

Mr. Hawkins seconds.

AYE: Ms. Coppinger, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Hunter, and Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Whritner. NO: None. Motion carried 5-0.

ACTION ITEMS

- A. **Act on Recommendation** to approve the addition of Meagan Higinbotham to the 2017-2018 Substitute List

Approved by Consent

- B. **Act on Recommendation** to approve the addition of Kellie Pettyjohn to the 2017-2018 Substitute List

Approved by Consent

- C. **Act on Recommendation** to approve Substitute pay scale increase

Approved by Consent

- D. **Act on Direction of Board** as it specifically relates to having select staff(s) serve as armed campus security officers

MOTION by Mr. Hunter to pursue policies and procedures moving towards approve arming staff to serve as campus security officer.

Mr. Hawkins seconds.

AYE: Ms. Coppinger (Nay), Mr. Hawkins (Nay), Mr. Hunter (Aye), and Mr. Mitchell (Nay), Mr. Whritner (Nay). Motion denied 4-1.

CORRESPONDENCE

UPCOMING/OLD BUSINESS

- A. CASB Legislative Conference, March 1-2 Denver, CO. Pam and Brian
B. Next meeting Feb. 5 Work Session, 1/31 Special Meeting 7:30 a.m.

Minutes of the regular meeting of the
Mancos School District Re-6 Board Of Education
West Wing, Room #503
, 7:00 P.M
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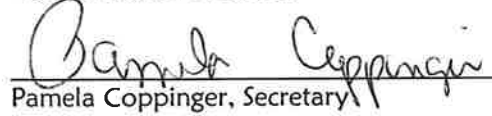
CONCLUSION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned by consensus at 9:11 p.m.



Blake Mitchell, President



Pamela Coppinger, Secretary

