



Mancos School District Advisory Accountability Committee



9/15/16

In attendance: Brian Hanson, Emily Brown, Adam Priestley, Kaelan Everett, Cathy Epps, Heather Mestas, Boe Hawkins, Katie Cahill-Volpe, Craig Benally

Attendees:

Katie Volpe – Intros and handing over the reigns to Emily Brown; Katie will continue to help with the notes etc. as needed due to Emily's work travel.

Accountability Committee – Description of what it is; state of affairs moving forward; larger topic. Advisory council to the board. Bring in communications from community etc. Broad topics etc.

Topics For Discussion:

1. BOE Agenda:

- a. Discussion of the master plan on agenda – looking at a potential bond for Nov 17 to do upgrades around campus:
 - i. Prelim drawings reviewed.
 - ii. Closing on Dave Nowack's property in a couple weeks. Intention to have the house moved, not destroyed. This property will then become parking to alleviate parking in front of schools etc.
 - iii. Would like to add onto back of performance center – back stage area etc. to replace The Opera House (not ADA accesable); Adding some space to NW corner for music rooms/band practice and moving band program to that building.
 - iv. Middle school and westwing not connected now – want to add two classrooms there.
 - v. Expand the historic gym – specifically to the North area and rear, taking this to a varsity facility.
 - vi. Locker rooms in HS building would be converted to something else useful – perhaps maintenance.
 - vii. Cafeteria – would like to have a usable floor and connect this building to the Elementary facility. This would bring more classrooms; expansion of the kitchen.

- viii. Put a staging area in for busses and drop offs behind elementary. Drop offs for pre-school. Move playground to one area and turn that into parking as well.
 - ix. Potential re-do of the football field and track.
 - x. Addition of new work area to the bus barn
 - xi. Dennis Humphries working on dollar amounts for capital improvements.
- b. 5 pieces of funding needed.
- i. Nov 17 bond
 - ii. BEST grant – 47 – 53 match - (Building Excellent Schools Today) – Due Jan 17 – Claire Martinez will help write this grant, along with several others. BEST funds 53%.
 - iii. CDOT – Safe Routes to School – dollars to pay for staging/bus/park areas
 - iv. Partnering with the Town of Mancos requiring a resolution from the Board. They simply act as fiscal agent/flow through. On Town Board Agenda for 9/28 regarding getting their approval.
 - v. GoCo Grant (separate from below Schoolyard Initiative)
 - 1. Could help pay for the football field project detailed above. All weather track etc. and tie to river trail.
 - 2. Due Nov 17 – however may hold off and do this Nov 18, after knowing election results to give a better idea of funding. 300K potential if we pass a bond, knowing community is invested in the project.
2. **GOCO Schoolyard Initiative – Cathy’s Schoolyard Initiative – Cathy is taking the lead on this project and reported the following:**
- a. Purpose to move the sideyard playground at Elementary and move it to South of the Elementary School.
 - b. \$147K project limit, they will fund \$110K need \$11K in cash (fundraising) and 20K in-kind donations.
 - c. Needs to be publicly accessible – access when school not in session etc.
 - d. Kids have to be participatory in design process
 - e. Will become part of the SOLE program – tied into outdoor space with curriculum. Funded. Creating an outdoor classroom.
 - f. Could tie in access to river walk, shade structures, etc.
 - g. First Draft is due December 2016
 - h. Could involve a lot of fundraising/pta/In kind donors etc.
 - i. Katie Volpe suggested contacting Osprey for getting children in outdoor learning/education environment. Katie will get Cathy Epps a contact for this.

- j. Kaelen suggested getting Crossfire involved with some in-kind work.
- k. Community involvement discussed. Arts/Creative District potential?
- l. Architect for GoCo has to be in close contact and working with Humphries regarding overall improvements.

3. Innovative status application:

- a. Asking for waiver from a portion of Senate Bill 191 requiring every staff member evaluated annually. When in a smaller school, the principals know how their teachers are doing. Would propose that new teachers evaluated every year for 3 years, then employed past that point, goes into a 3 year cycle. Or can perform an evaluation at any time if there is a need.
- b. Reporting Requirements – sending same info to CDE 4-5 times a year. Would like to send 1x to one department. Taxing on resources etc.
- c. Teaching licensure requirements – not asking to waive out of this, simply asking for a “time-out” for a 3 year working timeline to get that person licensed. Focus on the acquisition of requirements.
- d. High Stakes Testing – study produced by CDE showing end size statistically makes the testing irrelevant. Using this to say we would like to be opted out of those without value. Many already opting out in district.
- e. Targeting submission in October, likely November – will need to submit in person and they will vote at that time with an immediate result.
- f. Will need a vote on this from Accountability and PTA
- g. Document will be sent out for review. Comments or questions/concerns should be addressed onto the document. DUE by September 30th with commentary back to Brian. Katie & Emily will coordinate these comments and return the Word document with comments appropriately and cleanly inserted.

4. Staff Updates: Jodee Maestas and Sherri Amorelli have left employment; Heather Maestas to replace Sherri A.; Kat Witlock replace Jodee M; Interviewing for Parent Community Vol Coordinator (Friday program); Interviewing for girls basketball coach

5. SRO/armed security on campus discussion:

- a. Conversation about idea of administrators being armed. Concealed Carry on campus. Extra duty contract required.
- b. Dove Creek is doing this now.
- c. If this happens, training would need to occur with Frontsite – 5 days, intensive. In addition to a psych evaluation and passing scores.
- d. Not a gun debate. Safety debate. In the event something happens, staff has been trained, there are no guarantees that nothing will happen in the future.
- e. Would be only the four administrative heads of the school district.

- f. **Katie Volpe brought up the statistics in regard to gun violence or violence statistically in school grounds and the need to review and consider these stats for an informed decision with some factual representation.**
 - g. **Would like to have this decided as soon as possible.**
- 6. **BOCES status or update**
 - a. **No status update on this at this time.**
- 7. **Emily brought up concern over the Grant @ Elementary level providing snacks which is now absent causing a shortage in the Elementary schools:**
 - a. **Fruits and Vegetables grant – may be an every other year grant?**
 - b. **It should be back on the table again**
 - c. **Janet – what was the cost to provide that food?**
 - d. **Mancos Food Share may be able to participate with the snack need. Amy Heartline is the contact for this.**
 - e. **Is there a need for Plan B here?**
- 8. **PTA – Need for Student on that committee; voting to make that a requirement.**
 - a. **Emily will reach out to Adam about this or guidance counselor in an effort to bring student involvement to the table.**

Next Scheduled Meeting will remain the Thursday prior to the Board Meeting, on Thursday, October 13th @ 5:45pm