

Yuma School District-1  
January 24, 2022 Regular Meeting  
Board of Education

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Duane Brown, President  
John Deering, Vice President  
Thomas Holtorf, Director  
Lindsey Galles, Director  
Terri Cooper, Secretary/Treasurer

Dianna Chrisman, Superintendent  
Sherry Dennis-Murphy, Business Manager  
Dani Crossland, Executive Secretary

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board President, Duane Brown called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:02 p.m. on Monday, January 24, 2022, in the Yuma School District Board Room.

**2.0 AGENDA-ADDITIONS/DELETIONS-APPROVAL**

- None

Motion by Cooper, seconded by Galles, to accept the agenda as presented.  
Voting Aye: Brown, Cooper, Deering, Galles. Motion carried.

**3.0 FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT**

- Business Manager Sherry Dennis-Murphy gave financial report for the month of December.
  - ❖ Expenditures \$733,064; Revenue \$591,649; Payroll and Benefits \$627,634.
  - ❖ Larger Bills
    - Didax, Inc. – \$7,444 Eureka Math, from Esser III
    - Go Guardian Renewal – \$12,756 for Chromebook monitoring
    - Strictly Tech – \$284,159 for Chromebooks EFC Erate reimbursement
    - Strictly Tech - \$117,000 wall mounts TV's for the project
  - ❖ Donations are listed on the agenda.
- Required to do an Esser III update before finalizing the application to send in. Esser III funding for YSD is \$1,239,000. Required to be set aside for learning loss 20% which is \$247,801. The remaining 80% is for auditorium and stage, seating, portable stage, remaining HVAC upgrade for YHS. The HVAC upgrade for YMS, MES, and partial YHS was approved for Esser II funds. Also looking at Covid allowable staff compensation. Final approval is in May 2022 and funds need to be spent by 2024.

**4.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

- 4.1 Approval of Minutes

4.1.1 December 6, 2021 – Regular Board Meeting

Superintendent Dianna Chrisman asked that the record show that Director Thomas Holtorf arrived at 7:09.

4.2 Routine Business

4.2.1 Financial Reports as of December 31, 2021

4.2.2 December 2021 Check Register

4.2.3 Donations

- ❖ Anonymous - \$540 for Sources of Strength
- ❖ Colorado Knights of Columbus - \$500 for Special Education
- ❖ Yuma Chiropractic Center - \$300 for Girls' Wrestling

4.3 Personnel

4.3.1 Recommendations

- ❖ Hayden Holtorf – YMS Wrestling Volunteer Coach
- ❖ Amanda Hugley - Cook
- ❖ Mayle Amaya – Cook
- ❖ Richard Brandon – Maintenance
- ❖ Dave Sheffield – Interim Athletic Director

4.3.2 Separations and Resignations

- ❖ Annsley Ferrari – YHS Business Teacher
- ❖ Shannon Harrington – YHS Para
- ❖ Cliff Evett – Maintenance
- ❖ Abbie Reed – YHS Counselor

4.4 Ratify School Closure

4.4.1 Ratify School Closure – Weather Cancellation January 6, 2022

Motion by Brown, seconded by Cooper, to approve Consent Agenda as presented.

Voting Aye: Brown, Cooper, Deering, Galles, Holtorf. Motion carried.

**5.0 VISITORS COMMENTS/REQUESTS**

- Jeannie Yenter expressed her thanks to the Board for the Christmas bonus and for the support the Board has shown to her department.
- Ryan Noble, representing the Conservative Christian Parents Support Committee, shared a few things about their group and presented the board members with a thank you certificate of appreciation and a token gift for National School Board Month. The Committee had also given gift cards and notes to all staff last month. The Committee organized and hosted a live forum for the school board candidates for the last election. Noble also read their mission statement and their vision:

Our mission is to support students, staff, administration, parents and community members of the Yuma School District. Our vision is to be a sounding board that gathers information from individuals and groups who need a platform to express new ideas, views, and opinions on various subjects and concerns involving the staff, students, administration, parents of the Yuma School District. We shall encourage an open and transparent line of communication, freedom to share joys, concerns, triumphs, and

losses. Our success will be measured by the ability to bring the community together in support of our school system so that every person involved has the opportunity to thrive.

- Harper Whitehead, senior at YHS. We have been told that cheer is its own activity, not a sport. Concerned that both of her coaches haven't been paid the right amount that they were promised. Coaches were told that cheer was considered its own activity, more like a club like pep band, not a sport. We are athletes and our coaches deserved to be paid.
- Leslie Whitehead speaking on behalf of the cheerleaders and their coaches. Cheer considered its own activity, its own season, similarly to pep band and is not based on the other sports seasons. Therefore our coaches received a lesser salary. Extra duty and compensation reimbursement schedule in 2018 Cheerleading was lumped in with the club category, when the schedule was revised in August 2021 cheer is clearly listed with all the other sports, this had to be physically changed, if cheer is still in the category of clubs why was the schedule changed and who signed off on it. Unrealistic to pay coaches that coach 7-8 months of the school year a school club salary and not a sport's coaches salary per season.
- Torrance Cheshire, YHS student, because of recent events, the YHS cheer program might come to an end. Cheer is not a club and is a sport according to CHSAA. Me and my teammates need to gain the respect we deserve to thrive.
- Christie Daugherty, assistant Cheerleading Coach speaking on behalf of herself and Stefanie Cheshire, Head Coach. Cheerleading/Spirit is listed on the CHSAA website as a sport, not an activity. Here, we aren't considered a sport. Cheerleading started August 9<sup>th</sup> and goes through March 12<sup>th</sup> for same pay that 3 other coaches are given, this is wage discrimination. Cheerleaders can cheer and letter for fall season, for winter season, or for both. If we can letter for 2 seasons and the cheerleaders are expected to pay for 2 seasons, we should be considered a 2 season sport. We do everything that every other sport does. Same pay for 7 months of work as other coaches get for 2-2.5 months is completely a discrimination problem.
- Victoria Chambers, past cheerleader. Cheerleading fits all criteria for a sport. Like any other sport, we must follow a set of regulations. We sign a contract just like any other sport that outlines the rules and regulations as well as the consequences for breaking them. We are disciplined in the same way that any other sport for poor grades, bad behavior, and absences. Cheer team has increased year after year and now has 19 cheerleaders. Cheerleaders support the team whether they are winning or losing. Want to be recognized as a sport, because we are one.

## 6.0 SCHEDULED AUDIENCE WITH BOARD

### 6.1 Neenan/Project-1 Update – Chad Rayl

- Chad Rayl gave a project and schedule update.
  - ❖ Project is pretty much finished, will be working on the overflow parking lot in the spring. The building is completed, but still waiting on some furniture. The project was finished a little early and under budget.
  - ❖ Neenan will be releasing around \$262,000 of the builder's contingency.
  - ❖ Owner's contingency has around \$434,000 remaining.

- ❖ Most things on the open items list can be done and still have around \$70,000 left in our own contingency.
  - Additional fencing and gate at YHS on the south side for an entry to the football field and track
  - More work on barriers at YMS for the bus loop
  - YHS renovation CTE weather allowance in budget, if it's not needed it will be credited back to our budget
  - CTE floor moisture mitigation allowance of \$7,500 will be credited back to us as we didn't have to use it
  - Install acoustic panels to help with noise mitigation in the Maker's Space
  - Upgrade gravel parking lot and add an additional entry on Ash Street
  - Exterior perimeter sealant and joint replacement on south side of existing building, sealants were deteriorating causing water issues
  - Adding signage to show where restrooms, etc. are
  - Painting the exterior of the existing building and fix gutters and downspouts, this will come out of owner's contingency
  - Salvage stone of existing school monument sign to become compliant with SB21-116, can fund through the project instead of using capital funds
  - Additional concrete sidewalk and drain pan on Ash Street
  - Fix structural concerns that were found during renovation in the Commons Area
  - Adding carpet and tile in the new group restrooms
  - Widen the north parking lot entry
  - Additional drive lane and double gate at ag shop for easier entry for bigger vehicles and trailers. Will also allow for better access for fire trucks.
  - Superintendent Chrisman stated that Chad has done a great job with Project-1 and scrutinizing additional costs and making sure that what we were paying for is actually what we should be paying for to help stay under budget. Chrisman thanked Chad for everything he has done as the project is finishing up.
  - Also will be getting new trophy cases in the Commons area
  - Last OAC (Owner Architect Contractor) meeting will be Wednesday, after that they will be cleaning up and be finished with the project. They will return in the spring (pending approval of the open items list) to complete these items and a few things that need to be completed when the weather is warmer.
  - Chrisman shared that these are items that were added on, so for the scope of the project it was finished on time and under budget.
  - Hoping to have a community open house in the coming weeks.

#### 6.2 YHS Principal Brady Nighswonger, High School Update

- Nighswonger gave a presentation on the High School schedule change.
  - ❖ Hybrid schedule at YHS wasn't able to be worked out at this time due to

- scheduling with NJC as well as some work study issues
- ❖ Will look at presenting a schedule again as we get closer to next school year
- ❖ Mr. Sheffield has taken over as interim Athletic Director at YHS and he is doing a great job
- ❖ Remote days for YHS will be January 31<sup>st</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>, students will work from home and complete assignments while staff moves back in to the building and gets their classrooms organized
- ❖ Planning a career and tech ed week with CTE programs, FBLA, FCCLA, and FFA, discussing an open house during that time
- ❖ Different student activities will be scheduled during CTE week
- ❖ State wrestling tournament at Ball Arena will have strict guidelines for spectators
  - Any spectator that is wanting to attend will need to have a vaccination card or have a negative test within 72 hours of the event
  - They will send us a list of testing sites in Denver for those days for people that need it
  - At this time, it sounds like the process will be different for participants, but still working on getting that information from CHSAA
- ❖ Nighswonger clarified some questions from President Brown on the scheduling with NJC and not being able to work out the schedule change
- ❖ Three classrooms are being utilized in the new part of the renovation project

## 7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

- President Brown shared several thank you cards and notes from staff regarding Christmas bonuses as well as Christmas cards received.

## 8.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b) for the purpose of receiving legal advice from the District's legal counsel concerning the NAGA litigation and the District's legal obligations in response thereto and with respect to SB 21-116; and pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(f) for personnel matters related to the review of the Superintendent's evaluation.

Motion by Brown, seconded by Holtorf, to move into Executive Session for the purpose of receiving legal advice from the District's legal counsel concerning the NAGA litigation and the District's legal obligations in response thereto and with respect to SB 21-116; and pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(f) for personnel matters related to the review of the Superintendent's evaluation.

Voting Aye: Brown, Cooper, Deering, Galles, Holtorf. Motion carried.

- ❖ Executive Session called at 8:17 p.m. by President Brown pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b) for the purpose of receiving legal advice from the District's legal counsel concerning the NAGA litigation and the District's legal obligations in response thereto and with respect to SB 21-116. Those present for the Executive Session are Dianna Chrisman, Duane Brown, Terri Cooper, John Deering, Lindsay Galles, and Thomas Holtorf. Also present via zoom was Melissa Barber, attorney from Caplan and Earnest.
- ❖ Executive Session adjourned at 8:34 p.m. by President Brown.

- ❖ Executive Session called at 8:35 p.m. by President Brown pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(f) for personnel matters related to the review of the Superintendent's evaluation. Those present for the Executive Session are Dianna Chrisman, Duane Brown, Terri Cooper, John Deering, Lindsay Galles, and Thomas Holtorf.
- ❖ Executive Session adjourned at 8:50 p.m. by President Brown.
- ❖ The board took a small break then reconvened with regular Session at 8:56 p.m. by President Brown with all board members present.

#### 8.1 Board of Education 2022 Strategic Plan

- Board Retreat last week at the Longmeadow Event Center in Wiggins. With two new board members, this was an opportune time to get together and focus on overall history of what we have been working on and our objectives.
  - ❖ Brett Miles, Executive Director of Colorado Association of School Executives, joined us as facilitator.
  - ❖ Went over past priorities and goals, formulated new goals that will be shared shortly.
  - ❖ Wanted to set new objectives and goals to move forward after being focused on school building and renovation project over the past few years.
    - Director Holtorf reviewed the 5 main board responsibilities.
    - Vice President Deering said it was good to learn the policies and procedures that are in place and also learn about the budget. Deering reviewed the 4 priority goals that were set by the board.
    - Secretary/Treasurer Cooper shared the district is going back to the process of having an advisory board. Wanting a diverse group for the advisory board. Cooper shared there is chain of command for communication before coming to the board. Moving forward with a District Advisory Committee, will include parents, a teacher, a business person, and an administrator. Also doing Building Advisory Groups, one for each of the three buildings. All committees and groups will meet quarterly. Building Advisory Groups will bring information to the District Advisory Committee. Cooper will be the liaison, and communicate back to the board what is discussed at the District Advisory Committee meetings.
    - Director Galles stated that something else that was discussed for strategic planning was national and statewide problem of recruiting and retaining staff. Looked at different ways to help bring teachers to the district and keep them in the district. A few things that were discussed was the calendar and pay for staff.
    - Superintendent Chrisman thanked the board for the time spent training and planning at the retreat.

#### 8.2 Approval of Building Project Open Items List

- Superintendent Chrisman stated that there is enough in the contingency budget to approve all of the items that Chad Rayl reviewed in Open Items List
- Some thresholds put in place for Chrisman's authority at the beginning of the project, the largest is the exterior paint and stucco. Chrisman recommends that we

approve the package as presented and then move forward with approval from Best to add that in and then get it scheduled.

Motion by Holtorf, seconded by Galles, to approve the building project open items list as presented.

Voting Aye: Brown, Cooper, Deering, Galles, Holtorf. Motion carried.

### 8.3 Final Review Change Budget

- Business Manager Dennis-Murphy reported that it's time to finalize the budget for the school year, once it's approved it's set. Updated all of our revenues and expenditures, everything was reviewed and updated with the Principals. This is the last opportunity for a change review budget. Any adjustments would have to happen through the audit process.

Motion by Galles, seconded by Deering, to approve the final review change budget as presented.

Voting Aye: Brown, Cooper, Deering, Galles, Holtorf. Motion carried.

### 8.4 Approval of Appropriation

Motion by Deering, seconded by Cooper, to approve the Appropriation Resolution as presented.

Voting Aye: Brown, Cooper, Deering, Galles, Holtorf. Motion carried.

### 8.5 2022-23 Preliminary School Calendar Discussion

- Chrisman reported that the calendar will need to be approved at next month's board meeting so we can begin working on contracts and notice of assignments. It was discussed at the retreat to look at a 4 day week with 150 student days and 170 staff days to help with recruitment and retaining for teachers.
- Will need to start a little earlier and end a little later to make sure we have 1,080 hours to meet the state requirement.
- Looking at calendars with a few options, one being Mondays off and the other being Fridays off.
- Will be gathering feedback from Building Advisory Groups as well as staff and the community.

### 8.6 Mascot Change Discussion

- President Brown went over the timeline of what has developed since SB 21-116 became law effective June 28, 2021 requiring replacement of our Yuma Indian Mascot.
- The January meeting of Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs took place on January 12 with the CCIA finally providing feedback and said that Tribe is too closely affiliated with Native Americans.
- March 10 is the next meeting for the Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs, we would like to have an alternative mascot suggestion to take to the next meeting. We only have 2 more opportunities to get the approval from the Colorado

Commission on Indians Affairs by the May meeting or we will remain on the list and be considered out of compliance.

- Gym floor refinishing and painting is scheduled for June 1<sup>st</sup> to remove the current imagery. Need to start ordering wall mats, wall pads, wrestling mats, etc. soon as they may have a longer lead time.
- Will start gathering input on the top 4 from prior suggestions with the option of just being Yuma with no mascot. Yetis, Aggies, Pioneers, and Bison with people choosing their top 3 options.
- Next board meeting is scheduled for February 21st, suggested to move it to the 28<sup>th</sup> to have more time to get suggestions compiled for mascot suggestions.

#### 8.7 Approval of YHS Virtual Learning Days January 31<sup>st</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>

- January 31<sup>st</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup> will be move in days for the high school. Students will have virtual learning days, have checked to make sure it is being handled appropriately so the days will count.
- Students will return on February 2<sup>nd</sup> to a completely open building.

Motion by Galles, seconded by Holtorf, to approve the YHS Virtual Learning Days January 31<sup>st</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Voting Aye: Brown, Cooper, Deering, Galles, Holtorf. Motion carried.

#### 8.8 Approval of Superintendent Evaluation Summary

Motion by Holtorf, seconded by Galles, to approve the Superintendent Evaluation Summary as presented.

Voting Aye: Brown, Cooper, Deering, Galles, Holtorf. Motion carried.

#### 8.9 Approval of Superintendent Contract

- Superintendent Chrisman's contract has been in place and amended over time, we have an amendment that will extend contract to June 30, 2025.
- If salary increase is approved across the board for professional staff, Chrisman would receive the same salary increase.
- Health insurance can be purchased for dependents with the cost being reimbursed

Motion by Deering, seconded by Cooper, to approve the Superintendent's Contract as amended to include the extension of the contract to June 30, 2025.

Voting Aye: Brown, Cooper, Deering, Galles, Holtorf. Motion carried.

### 9.0 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Superintendent Chrisman thanked the Board for their service and for the work that they have done and for the work they will be doing going forward.
- Principal Nighswonger gave an update on the high school, hoping to rotate YMS and YHS reports to get specific information.
- Upcoming work is getting the mascot information, school calendar, and structures in

place.

#### 10.0 BOARD REPORT

- President Brown acknowledged and thanked the community and students for the public participation in the meeting.

#### 11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 10:01 P.M. by President Duane Brown.

Motion by Holtorf, seconded by Galles to adjourn the meeting.

Voting Aye: Brown, Cooper, Deering, Galles, Holtorf. Motion carried.

Sincerely,



Terri Cooper, Secretary/Treasurer  
Yuma School District-1  
Board of Education



Duane Brown, President  
Yuma School District-1  
Board of Education