

Salida School District R-32-J Board of Education

February 14, 2023

The Crest Academy
627 Oak Street

WORK SESSION

The Work session began at 4:30 p.m. and those present included Directors Jodi Breckenridge Petit, Ben Hill, Joe Smith, Matt Hobbs, Carrie Mattix, Mandy Paschall and Jenn Schuchman, as well as Superintendent David Blackburn, Secretary Kim LeTourneau, Assistant Superintendent Will Wooddell, Business Manager Shiela Moore, Facilities Manager Sean Clark, SHS Principal Jesse Hull, and Athletic Director Marko Hahn. SMS Principal Michelle Saab, MTSS Coordinator Darcy Harris, LES Principal Cory Scheffel, SECC Principal Ilona Witty, and Stacia Kriebel all arrived during the work session.

The topic of the work session was the Capital Wish List. Moore began by noting the Governor's early draft budget numbers for the '23-'24 budget year, and reviewed the District's long sheet. The team reviewed the '22-'23 project list, including completed items and updates on progress and budget expenditures on remaining projects on the list.

The Board then reviewed the list of initial submitted capital requests for '23-'24. Moore noted that the highlighted projects all feature important safety components, including additional fence at LES, bathroom floors and stalls at SMS, and a rubberized gym floor at The Crest. Director Hill requested more information on any guidelines related to gym floor requirements in school setting. Replacing the turf at the stadium is a priority item with an estimated cost of \$700,000, although a final quote has not yet been received. A grant and potential partnerships are being pursued. Moore noted her recommendation of \$600,000 for capital projects, and the above items will not likely leave room for other spending this year. Other capital wish list items are on the list, but will likely not be funded for the '23-'24 budget year, although some may be absorbed by the maintenance budget.

There isn't any information yet on funding on the new Colorado free school meal program.

A work session is planned for 4:30 p.m. prior to the regular meeting of the School Board on March 14, 2023 to discuss the Operations wish list. Moore is happy to answer any questions about the budgeting process. She shared a reminder that the fund balance was spent down significantly for salaries.

The Board took a short break.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

In attendance were Directors Jodi Breckenridge Petit, Ben Hill, Matt Hobbs, Carrie Mattix, Mandy Paschall, and Jenn Schuchman. Also in attendance were Superintendent Blackburn, Secretary LeTourneau, Assistant Superintendent Wooddell, Shiela Moore, William Stokesberry, Darcy Harris, Ilona Witty, Karina Madden, Erin Johnke, Jackson (SMS Student), Epperson, Craig Schuchman, Michelle Saab, Jesse Hull, Marko Hahn, Kate Clark, Stacia Kriebel, and a full room of other SMS students and their parents in attendance for the SMS detailed report.

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Board Member Comments

Director Mattix congratulated Ilona Witty for her recognition as The Cornerstone award winner at that the Salida Chamber of Commerce Community Awards.

There were two **Written Messages to the Board** including a letter from Karen Fortier regarding the SMS Dance Attendance Policy, and a report from CDE about the FY 2021-22 Audit and Financial December Data Pipeline Submission.

Public Comments

Karina Madden, a teacher at SECC and a member of SEA, shared her thanks with the Board for the pay increases and shared photos from the day at the state capital to encourage more spending for education.

Kate Clark and Stacia Kriebel spoke about the B.S. factor and how it has affected school funding in the State of Colorado, and in turn how Salida Schools have been affected. They also shared the gratitude expressed to them by other District staff members since the pay increase passed in December.

Approval of Agenda with the following changes:

Add Guest Report – Economic Development Corporation

Add Consent Agenda Item 3I Property Management Contract with Colorado 1st Land Office

Director Mattix made a motion to approve the agenda with the above changes. Director Schuchman seconded the motion. Said motion was put to a vote 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 unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda Items

Director Breckenridge Petit made a motion to approve the following consent agenda items. Director Paschall seconded the motion.

- (1) Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting on January 10, 2023
- (2) Claims Payable – All Funds
- (3) Claims Payable – Bills over \$5,000
- (4) Personnel Items
- (5) Acknowledge and Approve Exhibits and Regulations as Recommended by the Superintendent
 - (a) GCG/GCGA-R - Part-Time and Substitute Professional Staff Employment
 - (b) GDF-R – Salary Schedule for Additional Classified (Support) Staff
- (6) Approve on 1st Reading Policies - None
- (7) Approve on 3rd Reading Policies
 - (a) DJ/DJA – Purchasing/Purchasing Authority
- (8) Approve Agreement to Provide Early Head Start Center-Based Services

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- (9) Approval of Minutes from Special Meeting of the Board, School Board Retreat on January 21, 2023
- (10) Formally Acknowledge Evaluation for Superintendent Blackburn
- (11) Approve Western Demographics Contract
- (12) Property Management Contract with Colorado 1st Land Office

Said motion was put to a vote 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 unanimously approved.

Reports

Jake Rishavy and Gwen Allen provided a **Guest Report** from the Economic Development Corporation, a local organization working to diversify economic opportunity in the Arkansas River Valley. They help support local businesses, drive public policy to tackle limiting factors in the valley, including water, housing and childcare. They have a goal of generating a talent pipeline from within the community, as it can be hard to import it from outside because of restraints in the community. They are thankful and are fully supportive of the partnership between the Salida School District and Colorado Mountain College. They appreciate the opportunities that are blossoming out of that partnership including concurrent enrollment, internships, and work-based learning. The business community, including 70+ local businesses, have hosted an intern from Salida Schools. They look forward to continued growth and partnership with the District to support the local community and business development.

SMS Principal Michelle Saab provided the **Detailed Campus Report**. She shared an overview of SMS and discussed the addition of peer observations, in addition to admin review to support staff development. Students on the Spartan Voice Committee, the student leadership team at SMS, shared updates on the projects they have selected for the year. Thank you to SMS students Clara, Sara, Zoe, Anna, Jackson, Jimmy, Makenzie, Leah, Nola, Lupita, Zev, Lillian, Ari, Maddox, Cole, Quinton and their advisor Ms. Erin Johnke for her guidance to the group. Saab shared that they are working on a revised master schedule for next year and are focused on bringing joy and fun to the often-challenging middle school experience.

The Board asked for updates on space needs at Longfellow Elementary School, and Principal Scheffel shared that they will likely need a modular in the next year or two, although it is hard to determine if the increased class sizes are a trend or a bump. The current cost of a modular is approximately \$200,000.

Superintendent Blackburn opened **District Reports** with a reminder about an anticipated increase in discipline events in February. He shared there has been progress on the master schedules at SHS, SMS, and LES and are nearly finished.

The Board then took a quick break to allow for guests to leave following the presentations.

At 7:04 the Board returned to session. Blackburn reminded everyone that Chaffee County was under a winter weather advisory. If a snow day is called in the morning it will first be posted on the Salida School District app, followed up by additional communications.

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Discussion Items

Will Wooddell provided details on the proposed addition of an Electronic Document Management system for student records management and storage. It is a two-step process – first records are sorted to what legally needs to be maintained. Then, that information will be digitized for storage purposes. Future student enrollment would also be an electronic process, saving time and supplies, as well as making the process simpler for parents and staff. Wooddell shared quotes from two preferred vendors, following research of at least 8 vendors. The data would still be the property of Salida Schools and would be encrypted. The goal would be to have the electronic registration process ready to go for the start of the '23-'24 school year, with training to start as soon as a contract is signed. This ask will be formally presented for approval on the March consent agenda.

Action Items

Director Breckenridge Petit made a motion to **Approve policy DK, and repeal policy JHA on 2nd Reading**. Director Paschall seconded the motion. Director Paschall confirmed that if repealed, policy JHA goes away, leaving only one attendance policy for the entire District. Said motion was put to a vote 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 unanimously approved.

Director Mattix made a motion to **Approve Policy IC/ICA on 3rd Reading**. Director Paschall seconded the motion. Discussion included a review of the changes to the policy because of changes during the pandemic, and how the policy influences the development of the school calendar for next school year. The Board discussed how Thanksgiving break, start of school, and the end of school all impact each other, and noted that Memorial Day comes early in the upcoming years, leaving a week of May after the holiday. Will Wooddell presented two possible calendars for the '23-'24 school year, one similar to recent years, including a short Thanksgiving Break and finishing the school year at Memorial Day; the other provided an example with a longer thanksgiving break and adjustments that would be needed to accommodate that change. The Board considered possible impacts on student learning, the economic needs of river-related summer businesses, and family holiday plans before calling a vote on the policy. Said motion was put to a vote as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, aye; Dr. Hill, no; Mr. Hobbs, aye; Mrs. Mattix, aye; Mrs. Paschall, no; Ms. Schuchman, no; and Mr. Smith, aye. The motion passed, 4-3. Mr. Wooddell will use the approved policy to polish a final proposed '23-'24 school year to present for approval at the regular March meeting.

Director Breckenridge Petit made a motion to **Approve steps and levels, as per salary schedules, for all employees who are eligible**. Director Mattix seconded the motion. Moore presented information for how the adjustment affects the budget. Approval would allow the business office to adjust contracts for the upcoming year and have them ready for staff review prior to spring break. Moore feels comfortable with this adjustment from a budgetary standpoint. Said motion was put to a vote 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 unanimously approved.

Director Hobbs made a motion to **Approve Sabbatical request for Scott McFarland**. Director Hill seconded the motion. Superintendent Blackburn noted that this is the 2nd sabbatical request in two

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decades, perhaps longer, so there isn't a strong precedent for application of the policy. There are some questions about the policy itself. Mr. McFarland shared a presentation about the premier soccer coaching program he would attend during the sabbatical, and how he would apply the information and skills he learns to the classroom. He also shared how he would prepare to help support the needs of his classroom and a long-term sub during his absence. He indicated a desire to get back to Salida and his classroom as quickly as possible. Following the presentation the Board discussed the policy, its negotiated status, and its application. After discussion and review, the estimated cost of the sabbatical would be around \$8,500 with a final cost to be determined after McFarland is able to finalize dates. The Board noted concern about the policy. They plan to review it and determine if it should be negotiated policy or board policy. Said motion was put to a vote 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 unanimously approved. The Board agreed that the policy needed review in the near future for clarity and potential revision, including the possibility of removing it from negotiated status. Mr. McFarland shared his appreciation and excitement for opportunity. He looks forward to being able to share his knowledge upon return to Salida.

Board Communications and Committee Reports

Melissa, the lawyer from Caplan and Ernest representing the District, has been working on reviewing policy related to **CBT** with the support of Director Hobbs and Superintendent Blackburn. There is discussion about which policies are appropriate and which are not to fall under the negotiated status. The Board is committed to a negotiated practice, and wants clarity on the policies that support that practice. There is also interest giving better direction to the facilitator, and in discussing the make-up and the time commitment of CBT.

There were no updates from **BOCES**.

Directors Smith and Mattix, on the **facilities committee**, reported that they met with the City to discuss plans for the South Ark property (formerly part of the Vandaveer parcel). The City noted that they are interested in a joint work session, perhaps in May. The Board will want to outline what they would like to encompass in that meeting.

The **communications** committee reported continuing work on the Annual Report with a goal of publication in the coming weeks, and updates to the website. There was a question about possible student content.

Director Schuchman shared a reminder of the upcoming **CASB** day at the State Capital on February 23. There have also been opportunities for meetings for the Rural Alliance and New Directors through CASB. Secretary LeTourneau will look into Rural Alliance dates in an effort to make sure that Salida is represented and Directors have an opportunity to participate.

Future Business

The next BOE meeting will be on March 14, 2023 and will start with a work session at 4:30 followed by the regular meeting starting at 6 p.m. The meeting will be at Longfellow Elementary School. Director

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Schuchman will help will help with Agenda Review. Negotiated policy, including a review of the sabbatical policy, will be on the agenda.

The Board will host two Winter Listening Sessions on February 22, 2023, one at 8:30 a.m. at Robin's Salida and another at 5:30 p.m. at SoulCraft.

Directors Schuchman and Breckenridge Petit plan to attend the CASB Day at the Capital on February 23, 2023 with Superintendent Blackburn.

As a reminder, there will be a Special Meeting in May 23, 2023 for Budget Approval.

Director Mattix made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 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

February 2023 Personnel Changes for Board Approval

New Hires

Paula Bertolino - SMS Paraprofessional- Start Date 1/16/2023

Sean Gary - LES Custodian- Start Date 1/13/2023

Rhonda Parker - LES Lunch Aide (2 hrs. 2 days) - Start Date 1/10/2023

Hikialani Guzman - SHS Paraprofessional- Start Date 1/23/2023

Emilie Blair - .5 Early Childhood Center- Start Date 1/23/2023

Tre Cameron - SHS Custodian- Start Date 2/9/2023

Samantha Bartholomew - .5 Nutrition Staff Salida Middle School - Start Date 2/6/2023

Luis Alberto Rodriques – SECC Full time SafeCare Provider – Start Date 3/1/2023

Retirement Notice

Vicki Matthews – SECC Part-time Paraprofessional – End of '22-'23 School Year