

MINUTES

Boulder Elementary School District No. 7
Regular Meeting

February 6, 2023
Boulder Elementary School

Board members present:

Carrie Harris – Chair Matt Strozewski – Vice Chair Andrea Dolezal – Trustee
Kyle Simons - Trustee

Administrators present:

Jeff Elliott, Superintendent/Principal
Britton Mann, Business Manager

Staff: Devyn Ottman – Go Meet, Facebook Live Meeting Operator

Visitors: Sarah Elliott, Bob Warfle, Eric Rykal, Charlie Dennison

CALL The Elementary Board was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Carrie, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.
ELEMENTARY
BOARD TO ORDER

AGENDA REVIEW Nothing

APPROVAL OF Carrie asked about the claim to Carroll College. Mr. Elliott stated that this was a
CLAIMS claim for a theater program that the 3rd and 4th graders attend. There were no other
questions regarding the February 2023 claims. Matt motioned to approve claims and
warrants for February 2023 with the prior month ending with warrant #10406 and the
current warrant numbers #10407-10447 in the amount of \$57,975.00, noted that
warrant number 10418 issued to Twin Bridges was cancelled and re-issued as
warrant #10423 due to the fact that part of the invoice was already paid. Andrea
seconded, all present approved. Claims were present for review.

REVIEW OF There were no questions or comments regarding the January 2023 payroll.
PREVIOUS MONTH
PAYROLL

APPROVAL OF Andrea motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes for January 2023, Kyle
PREVIOUS MONTH
MINUTES seconded, all approved.

APPROVAL OF Carrie asked if basketball season was about done, Jeff said the girls season would be
STUDENT completed on the 15th. Wrestling starts this evening. There were no other questions.
ACTIVITIES Kyle motioned to approve the Student Activities ledger as presented. Andrea
seconded, all present approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT Carrie read the public comment. She asked if the audience had any comments. Eric
Rykal and Bob Warfle, who were both past Boulder Elementary Board members,
and also served as the board chair, stated that they had comments on a topic that was
to be covered in New Business later on during the meeting and would comment at
that time.

COMMUNICATIONS **LETTERS:** Mr. Elliott submitted a letter of resignation. This will be an action item
later in the meeting.
STUDENT ISSUES: None

COMMENDATIONS Mr. Elliott wanted the board to know that Peg Hasner along with other members of
/RECOGNITIONS our community donated money to help with negative school lunch balances for
families.

UNFINISHED None
BUSINESS

COMMITTEE **Leadership** – Chair and Vice chair: Carrie Harris & Matt Strozewski: This
REPORTS committee did not meet.
Handbook/Policy – Cheryl Hecht & Kyle Simons: This committee did not meet.

Budget/Finance and Negotiations/Personnel – Carrie Harris & Cheryl Hecht: This committee did meet. And wrapped up meetings with the BAT (Boulder Association of Teachers) on the Retirement Incentive. This is also on the agenda to be discussed later.

Facilities – Matt Strozewski & Andrea Dolezal: The committee met prior to the board meeting this evening. There might be federal grant money that could help with getting the main boiler system in the school on 1 system. Currently part of the school runs on steam and the other runs on hot water. Johnson Controls has a grant writer who will help with this process.

Transportation – Andrea Dolezal & Kyle Simons: This committee did not meet. However, Mr. Elliott wanted the board to know that Sandy Hays is back in charge as the local manager of Harlow's. Mr. Elliott has also ridden the bus due to reported behavior issues.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Mr. Elliott provided notes for the official minutes.

1. Student Centered:

- a. Teachers making sure students are getting what they need.
- b. This Thursday is our 5-8th Snowshoeing excursion.
- c. The Spelling BEE was held on Tuesday February 1st. Our top 3 spellers were: Kalea Dill – Champion, Daisy Johnson – Runner Up, and Ada Johnson.

2. Creating and Maintaining a positive school culture:

- a. Intentional focus on celebrating what our teachers are doing. They are rockstars!
- b. St Semester awards were presented on Friday

3. Improving Instruction based on best practices:

- a. Ms. Breker and Mr. Elliott will host a para-summit this summer for all of our para's.
- b. Just finished DIBELS for K-6 and MAP for 7-8. These tests determine what kids need in order to show growth.

4. Community Engagement and Communication:

- a. JHS Meals – Sorting out current issues with Jefferson High School.
- b. SRO Discussions
- c. The daycare is getting set to open. Construction is done and they are hiring and taking applications. They hope to have the Grand Opening on March 3rd and open on March 6th.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Personnel** –

1. Personnel – Mr. Brown, who is a retired teacher and a past colleague of Mr. Elliott picked up a substitute application.

2. **Non Resident Student Acceptance** – *Standing Agenda Item* – None

3. Liquidation of School Property – *Standing Agenda Item* – The old score clock will have to be approved for liquidation when the new one goes up.

4. Call for Election – Kyle is our current trustee up for election since he was appointed. Andrea motioned to call for a regular trustee election to be held on May 2, 2023. Kyle seconded, all present approved.

5. Resolution for Jefferson County to run Trustee Election – Matt motioned to approve the resolution to have Jefferson County run the BES Trustee Election. Andrea seconded, all present approved.

6. 2023-2024 Calendar 1st Reading – This is now a new committee; they have met but do not have a 1st reading at this time. Their goal is to try and keep the calendar aligned with Jefferson High School's calendar. This will be tabled until next meeting.

7. Student Council – Mrs. Ottman stated that she forgot to bring this up with the student council, but will invite them to the March meeting.

8. Superintendent Goals – Mr. Elliott stated that his process for determining his goals are always centered around what is best for staff & students.

9. Student Count – We are currently up to 212 students. The count is due tomorrow. The process has changed and Mrs. Pettis is working on what those details will look like in the AIM system.

10. Retirement Incentive – The retirement incentive that was ultimately agreed upon by the Union representatives and the Board Personnel committee, was the

board would pay one (1) teacher per year who has 25 years vested in the TRS system and 15 of the years at BES would qualify for an \$8000.00 payout along with the sick payout they receive per their Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). And will be decided each year if the general fund budget can support this incentive. From that, a discussion commenced on the pros and cons on the cost savings with a veteran teacher leaving and hiring a candidate who would follow on the matrix with a lower salary than the that veteran teacher. Eric Rykal asked to see a copy of the agreement. Britton provided a copy to him and Bob Warfle. Mr. Elliott had reached out to other schools to see what they do and discussed different options other districts provide to their staff upon retiring. Carrie also stated that this is only annually and would only be offered if the budget could support it. And that this will be added as an addendum to the contract and not actually added to the contract. Matt was uncertain of the open ended part of the incentive. That there is no end date to this. Matt also asked how much total would this cost the district when the district is also pays their sick payout according to the formula discussed in their CBA. Mr. Elliott stated that it is double what we would pay, so for example the \$8000 payout would be doubled to TRS and that would come from our Retirement Fund. Matt asked how that fund is funded. Mr. Elliott stated that this fund is a permissive levy and is based on the staff we have and comes from taxes from the community in our school district. Andrea asked if this fund was kind of like a savings account. Britton described to the board how the retirement fund works, and how that fund is used and how we receive the money from the county. Mr. Elliott went on to say that our current retirement fund is in a healthy position since we have not had many retirees in the past years. This is something that is figured and approved each August at our Budget meeting. Bob Warfle asked for clarification on the wording on the presented incentive. His asked what if 2 teachers who meet the requirements were to put in for this, how will that work. Mr. Elliott stated that it would go off how long those employees had worked for Boulder Elementary. He also stated that it would only be 1 teacher a year if someone was to retire. Carrie did say that she had been on the board with both Bob and Eric for years and the discussion of a retirement incentive has always been voted down. She said it has really taken her years to really look seriously and cautiously at these incentives to see how the District could and would benefit from an incentive that would work. Eric Rykal stated that his experience from being on the board in the past, these incentives were not favorable. What happens when the board has to tell a teacher the District cannot afford the incentive for that year, how is that “fair” and how would this affect the District if they were to ask for a levy of bond down the road. As a taxpayer, why should the community have to pay for a teacher to retire. Are you as the board creating a past practice, where you could find yourselves in a difficult situation if you cannot afford it. He said that he feels better that this is not a guarantee every year and that the board has the ability to see how this will affect our budget. His concern also was that currently Rochelle Hesford is in need of funding for her summer program and the board is discussing giving money to those who can retire instead of putting it back into the school and the students. Sarah Elliott also stated that she believes in the negotiation process and the teaches should have a voice. Carrie wants this to be cost effective and not cost punitive. Bob Warfle also asked the board to take into consideration the following. You serve a 3-year term and make sure to take that into consideration and not leave future board members with something that could affect the school in the long run. Matt is still struggling to see the positive side of this. He stated, should we put this incentive money towards something that the school can use now or in the future. Things are unpredictable and there is a lot of unknown. Matt would like to table the issue until March to have more time to think and reach out to have questions answered. He also stated it is important to have a full board vote and would like Cheryl to be involved too. Mr. Elliott suggested we have a special meeting in a week or so. Carrie also stated that she didn't want to speak for Cheryl, however they were both on the committee together and part of the negotiating process and the 2 of them as a committee were on board with what was discussed and felt the same. Matt still suggested a special meeting to clear up any language and have more time to consider the incentive. Matt motioned to table this topic until a special meeting. The board agreed on February 21, 2023 at 5:30. Andrea seconded the motion.

11. Accept Superintendent's Resignation – Carrie stated that she was sorry to have Mr. Elliott as our Superintendent for such a short time, however she appreciates

everything he has done for us and wishes him well. Matt motioned to accept the resignation letter from Mr. Elliott, Andrea seconded, all present approved. Carrie told Britton to move forward with advertising. Britton asked the board wanted to utilize MTSBA again. Andrea asked if we could add that topic to the special meeting. All members agreed.

TOPICS FOR
FUTURE AGENDAS

Student Council
Permissive Levy Resolution
Update on Principal Search

ADJOURNMENT

Carrie adjourned the meeting at 7:15.


Chair, Elementary Board


Clerk, Elementary Board