

MINUTES

Boulder Elementary School District No. 7
Regular Meeting

September 13, 2021
Boulder Elementary School

Board members present:

Matt Strozewski – Vice Chair Niki Conroy – Trustee Cheryl Hecht - Trustee

Administrators present:

Jeff Elliott, Superintendent/Principal

Staff: Devyn Ottman – Zoom Meeting Operator

Visitors: Rochelle Hesford, Rusty Giulio, Drew Dawson, Rachel Heaton, Erin Ritchie, Brent & Andrea Sarchet –
via Zoom, Megan Dawson via zoom

CALL The Elementary Board was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Matt, who led the Pledge
ELEMENTARY of Allegiance.
BOARD TO ORDER

AGENDA REVIEW None

APPROVAL OF Niki motioned to approve the September 2021 claims and warrants with the prior
CLAIMS month ending with warrant # 9487 and the current numbers 9488-9530 in the amount
of \$78,583.21. Cheryl seconded all board members approved. Claims were present
for review.

REVIEW OF There were no questions or comments regarding August 2021 payroll.
PREVIOUS MONTH
PAYROLL

APPROVAL OF Niki motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes for August 2021. Cheryl
PREVIOUS MONTH seconded, all approved.
MINUTES

APPROVAL OF There was no Activities to approve.
STUDENT
ACTIVITIES

PUBLIC COMMENT Matt read the Public Comment. Megan Dawson voiced concern regarding what it
will look like if the students have to go into quarantine.

COMMUNICATIONS **LETTERS:** None
STUDENT ISSUES: None

COMMENDATIONS Mr. Elliott said nothing at this time.
/RECOGNITIONS

UNFINISHED None
BUSINESS

COMMITTEE **Leadership** – Chair and Vice chair: Carrie Harris & Matt Strozewski: Matt asked
REPORTS Jeff if he met with Carrie, he stated that he did not. This committee did not meet.
Handbook/Policy – Niki Conroy & Cheryl Hecht: This committee did not meet and
feel they are good right now.
Budget/Finance and Negotiations/Personnel – Niki Conroy & Cheryl Hecht: This
committee did not meet.
Facilities – Matt Strozewski & Andrea Dolezal: The committee did not meet.
Transportation – Andrea Dolezal & Cheryl Hecht: This committee did not meet.
There was a comment regarding the bus routes and the time it is taking. Mr. Elliott
stated that if there are ever any changes, Harlows would need to go through Mr.
Elliott and the board for approval of any changes.

ADMINISTRATORS Mr. Elliott provided notes for the official minutes.

REPORT

One of the items he wanted to discuss is that the school takes the safety of the student and staff very seriously. After talking with other school district officials and hearing that they are also to some extent, able to make week-to-week decisions based on how things are going. Mr. Elliott wants people to understand that the safety of the students is a very major concern as well as getting them back in front of the teachers. We want the kids to be back in school in front of their teachers learning. The other thing the school is trying to do is create that positive culture within our school. He's had numerous calls from parents and is very appreciative of those calls. It is always good to talk with parents about things and get their side of the story as well. There is just a lot of sickness going around, not just COVID. He stated that he wants to make sure there are strategies in place to deal with going from completely open to completely shutting down. This will be an ongoing discussion of putting in layers to protect the kids as we continue to improve instruction

1. Personnel –

NEW BUSINESS

1. Personnel –

- a. Antonia Hobza – After School Program: Niki motioned to approve Antonia Hobza, Cheryl seconded, all approved.

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

Liquidation of School Property – *Standing Agenda Item* – Currently Mr. Elliott would like to hang on to the devices we have and older curriculum.

Boulder Child Care Working Group – Mr. Elliott sent the lease agreement to MTSBA – Montana School Boards Association – the school's legal counsel, and our Insurance Company, PayneWest. Both groups looked at the agreement and gave the go ahead. So the school is in a position to approve the agreement. Mr. Elliott's recommendation would be to approve the agreement. Mr. Elliott turned the discussion over to Drew Dawson. He stated that there was only a slight variation when it was initially reviewed. The non-profit group will cover all of the utilities. Niki asked what Rochelle is doing for a room right now. She is currently using rooms throughout the school and has her cabinets placed throughout the different hallways. Rochelle stated that she will have to see how it goes but she is flexible. Matt stated that after going over the lease agreement, he feels comfortable and this will be a good thing for the community. Matt did ask if there are any legal parameters that we have to display to the public on the website or anything. Mr. Elliott stated that we will in the future. Niki motioned to approve the lease agreement between the City of Boulder and Boulder Elementary School. Mr. Elliott stated that this is the last year for Head Start and we will need to have discussion later this year for some sort of preschool or what is now called First Kindergarten. Mr. Giulio gave a quick rundown of what is currently happening on the property.

Recommendation to go back to masks inside BES Building – Mr. Elliott has been working a lot with Erin Ritchie at the Health Department and his recommendation at this time is to go back to masks inside the building. Mr. Elliott's top concerns are the safety and well-being of the kids and secondly he wants the kids in school. The goal needs to be we have to have kids in front of teachers. Andrea Sarchet stated that her and her husband Brent are in support of Mr. Elliott's plan for masking in the building, and that it is so important to have the children in school. Everyone suffered with remote learning last year especially the kids, and doing what is necessary to keep the kids in school is supported. This can be a week by week discussion on where we are. Mr. Elliott knows this is a divisive topic and this is something that is discussed a lot. There was discussion with Erin Ritchie regarding testing, being symptomatic and waiting periods for the tests. Cheryl stated that as a retired teacher she agrees that being in school is important, however it is not her constitutional duty to protect everyone else, it is her duty to protect herself. She feels masking is about personal responsibility. She stated that she supports Mr. Elliott but does not want to feel pressured to wear a mask, that is her choice. Niki asked if a mask mandate is issued in the school, will you refuse to wear a mask? Cheryl stated that she would remote in to the meetings. Mr. Elliott state that he is not an expert in the medical field, however feels he is an expert in the education field and know that students learn better when they are in front of a teacher, so he will follow guidelines that will keep students in school. Niki stated that she has a very different viewpoint than Cheryl, and that it is a duty of the school board to protect the students, and the staff. A debate continued on opinion of wearing masks between Niki and Cheryl. Cheryl did state that we can agree to disagree and that is the great thing about America.


Niki stated that she felt it wasn't about Cheryl's personal opinion. Cheryl did state that she felt attacked by Niki and her comments and that she did not agree with Erin's advice, she has lost confidence in the CDC and the medical profession. Mr. Elliott did state that overall we have to do what is best for keeping kids in class and his recommendation is to go back to masks. The students would not wear them all day, there will be times when the masks are off. Matt asked if we could go to a vote, but first clarification from Mr. Elliott. The school would go back to masks, we would re-evaluate every week, and continue to practice social distancing at specific times. Matt asked if there was any other comment on the subject, he wanted to make sure everyone had their say, knowing what an important issue this is. Cheryl did say she feels she brings a different point of view and opinion to the board as a Constitutionalist. Matt said this is what it's all about. Devyn went through the public comment on line and stated that nothing was said in regards to wearing masks. Matt asked for a motion to approve masks based on a weekly basis, Niki motioned to approve giving the Superintendent the ability to reinstate the mask mandate. Cheryl said on a weekly basis, Matt said yes. She seconded the motion, which passed.


TOPICS FOR
FUTURE AGENDAS

Non Resident Student Acceptance
Budget/TFS
Contingency Plan / 1900 Policy Series
Handbooks / Staff & Student
Policies
Superintendent Goals & Objectives

ADJOURNMENT

Matt adjourned the meeting at 7:05.


Chair, Elementary Board


Clerk, Elementary Board