

MINUTES

Boulder Elementary School District No. 7  
Regular Meeting

January 10, 2022  
Boulder Elementary School

Board members present:

Carrie Harris – Chair      Matt Strozewski – Vice Chair      Andrea Dolezal – Trustee  
Niki Conroy – Trustee      Cheryl Hecht – Trustee

Administrators present:

Jeff Elliott, Superintendent/Principal  
Britton Mann, District Clerk

Staff: Devyn Ottman – Zoom Meeting Operator

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Visitors: None

CALL      The Elementary Board was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Carrie, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.  
ELEMENTARY  
BOARD TO ORDER

AGENDA REVIEW      Nothing.

APPROVAL OF      There were no questions on the claims. Niki motioned to approve the December 2021 claims and warrants with the prior month ending with warrant # 9680 and the current numbers 9681-9728 in the amount of \$129,430.44. Andrea seconded, all present approved. Niki motioned to approve the claims and warrant for January 2022 with the prior month ending with warrant # 9728 and the current warrant numbers 9729-9773 in the amount of \$89,078.38. Andrea seconded, all present approved. Claims were present for review.  
CLAIMS

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

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

APPROVAL OF      The Activities ledger was in the packet for approval and discussion. Carrie asked if the boys season had ended and if girls had started. Mr. Elliott and Mrs. Ottman gave a brief recap of the boy's season. There was no other question on student activities. Niki motioned to approved the Student Activities ledger to date. Andrea seconded, all present approved.  
STUDENT  
ACTIVITIES

PUBLIC COMMENT      Carrie read the Public Comment.

COMMUNICATIONS      **LETTERS:** The Classified Union sent a letter to the board requesting to open negotiations. Carrie asked if the teachers union had sent anything. Britton stated that she had not received anything to date.  
**STUDENT ISSUES:** None

COMMENDATIONS      None  
/RECOGNITIONS

UNFINISHED      None  
BUSINESS

COMMITTEE      **Leadership** – Chair and Vice chair: Carrie Harris & Matt Strozewski: This committee did meet. They discussed the Literacy and ESSER grants. Mr. Elliott discussed the literacy program at Boulder; the pros and cons with the funding of the grant. Niki asked what year we are in, Mr. Elliott said we are halfway through a 5-year grant. Rachel Andergerg from OPI thinks there might be other funding sources after the 5-year period.  
REPORTS

**Handbook/Policy** – Niki Conroy & Cheryl Hecht: This committee did not meet,

however they will need to meet soon. Mr. Elliott stated that he wants to take a closer look at the Attendance Policy to make sure we are doing everything possible getting kids to school. Niki asked if the staff wants a stricter policy. Mr. Elliott simply stated that he wants do whatever we can to get kids to school.

**Budget/Finance and Negotiations/Personnel** – Niki Conroy & Cheryl Hecht: This committee did not meet. Negotiations between the unions and the board are coming up.

**Facilities** – Matt Strozewski & Andrea Dolezal: The committee did not meet. Mr. Elliott had handouts for the bidding process. There will be a pre-bid meeting on January 19, 2022. At this meeting there will be a walkthrough with Kip Weeda and Dave with the potential bidders.

**Transportation** – Andrea Dolezal & Cheryl Hecht: This committee did not meet. However, there are new federal guidelines regarding bus routes and mileage. The guidelines went from 2 to 3 miles, so the proposed new route no longer qualifies.

## ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Mr. Elliott provided notes for the official minutes.

1. There will be an assembly on January 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:30 for attendance, academics and citizenship awards.
2. Head Start: Bob Mullens, one of the County Commissioners, contacted Mr. Elliott and was under the impression that Boulder Elementary wanted Head Start to leave the school. Mr. Elliott told him this was not the case and would want them to stay if they could. Rocky Mountain Development Council told Mr. Elliott that the 5-year contract was up and it is not financially sound to remain in Boulder. Currently Helena has more of a need for Head Start than Boulder. Mr. Elliott did state that the school is looking into a Kinder 1<sup>st</sup> Program. This program does include 4 year olds and would have to follow a kinder curriculum and day in order to receive the ANB funding for the program.
3. Day Treatment Transition: The transition with the two students from Intermountain Day Treatment has gone really well. Both students scored well CSCT with Intermountain will remain.
4. Spelling Bee: The County wide spelling bee will be February 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm for grades 4-8. Ten students from BES will attend.
5. CSCT: Legislature voted to defund the CSCT program. In the past, 65% of the funding came from Medicaid and the rest was covered by the State. The state voted to no longer fund this program so that additional 35% will now have to be paid for by the school. Mr. Elliott stated that 35% is a huge hit to our general fund.
6. Improving Instruction: MAP testing and Dibels will happen this week. We currently have 9 paras. Andrea asked about the 1<sup>st</sup> grade class since they were the kindergarten class that was only half day during COVID and how it was going. Mr. Elliott stated that there is extra help in there when needed. Mr. Elliott also stated that we are trying not to use other staff members to cover staff when they are out.
7. ESSER Funding: Mr. Elliott stated that he and Britton will really hit the ESSER budgets hard over the next couple of months. He also wanted to let the board know that using different funding sources such as Intercomp loans, metal mines, etc for the air handler instead of using ESSER.
8. Masks: Mr. Elliott wanted to put off the option of wearing masks for another 2 weeks. His number one goal is to keep kids in school, and will keep masks on until the end of the semester. There are times in the classroom and lunchroom and different classes when the kids can remove their masks.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Personnel –

1. Personnel –
  - a. Jeremias Auch – Mr. Auch did his student teaching with Mrs. Peterson in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Mr. Elliott recommends to hire him as a substitute teacher. Niki motioned to approved Jeremias Auch as a substitute teacher, Andrea seconded, all present approved.
  - b. Denise Brito – Ms. Brito comes from Montana City. She worked there as a paraprofessional. Mr. Elliott recommended hiring



Denise Brito as a paraprofessional. Cheryl motioned to approved Mr. Elliott's recommendation, Niki seconded all present approved.

**Non Resident Student Acceptance – Standing Agenda Item – None**  
**Liquidation of School Property – Standing Agenda Item – None**

**Boulder Child Care Working Group** – The group is still moving forward with everything. Mrs. Ottman added that the goal is to lease the building for 2 years that includes paying all of the utilities. If in the future this is not viable then the building will go back to the school.

**Recommendation to approve MTSBA School Board Policies – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** – This topic was left on the agenda in error, this was already taken care of.

**Open Negotiations with Certified and Classified Staff:** Mr. Bowman was on Facebook Live and Niki asked him if the certified union was planning on negotiation with the board and will send a letter. Mr. Bowman stated that he will get a letter to the board tomorrow. Niki motioned to approve opening negotiations with the certified and classified unions. Matt seconded, all present approved.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of 2022-2023 Calendar** – The calendar is not ready at the moment. The committee will meet this week.

**Superintendent Evaluation – Possible Executive Session** – Carrie stated that we could go into executive session if Mr. Elliott wanted to. Mr. Elliott stated that when he received this job, he believes in transparency and does not need to go into executive session. Niki stated that she feels the comments that were received from the staff evaluation on Mr. Elliott, align with what is heard out in the community. Carrie stated that the last comment, “Staff feels safe to speak up, make suggestions, disagree without fear of retaliation and are treated with respect and care” shows a lot for the short time Mr. Elliott has been here.

**Renew / Non Renew Superintendent Contract** – Matt motioned to renew the contract with Jeff Elliott has Superintendent and Principal for three years. Niki seconded, all present approved.


Carrie asked if there were any questions or comments from the public. Mrs. Ottman stated that there was nothing at this time.

TOPICS FOR  
FUTURE AGENDAS

- Election
- Audit
- Calendar 1<sup>st</sup> Reading
- Discussion on Spring Concert
- Policies
- Scheduling – Jr High
- Supt Goals
- Spring Count

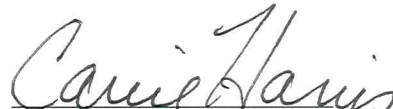
Carrie adjourned the meeting at 7:00.

ADJOURNMENT



Chair, Elementary Board

Clerk *YBfm*



Clerk, Elementary Board

Chair *YBfm*