



Craig City School District

HOME OF THE CRAIG PANTHERS

May 22, 2024 School Board Meeting Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Hans Hjort called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL:

Board chair Hans Hjort, Patricia Conatser, Julie McDonald, and Ben Page attended in person. Josh Andrews declined to sit with the board as he has tendered his resignation. He will not vote or participate in the meeting this evening.

Also present in the meeting were Johnny Rice, Joelle Huntington, Trampus Conatser, Amber Junker, Maria Riedel, Dan Nelson, David Harris, Josh Andrews, Rachel Yenna, Tina Steffen, and Betty Hall.

Kristi Kuhnert, Karen Packer, Melissa Peavey, Melinda Bass, Don, Hollis Yenna, Bill SEibel, Christina Woodward, Sandra Marker, Isabelle Priddy, Tobias Frieb, Jackie Hanson, and Melissa Smith attended via video/audio conference.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion: Approve the agenda

By: Conatser

Second: Page

Board Vote: Yea: 4; Nay: 0

Resolved: motion passed

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Approve the regular meeting minutes from April 17, 2024

By: Conatser

Second: McDonald

Board Vote: Yea: 4; Nay: 0

Resolved: motion passed

6. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Motion: Move to approve the financial statements as submitted for 4/17/24

By: McDonald

Second: Conatser

Board Vote: Yea: 4; Nay: 0

Resolved: motion passed

7. APPROVAL OF CORRESPONDENCE

Motion: Motion to approve the correspondence as presented

By: McDonald

Second: Conatser

Board Vote: Yea: 4; Nay: 0

Resolved: motion passed

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Hans Hjort read the guidelines for public comments.

Johnny Rice - Rice would like to see discussion regarding the recent ruling regarding homeschool correspondence programs. Rice also would like to discuss the potential of renting space for homeschool families. He shared four articles that would add context to this idea.

Rachael Yenna - Yenna shared that she was not satisfied with the Board's response when they were asked to rescind Mrs. Hall's contract.

Tina Steffen: Steffen voiced her concern with the Board not rescinding Betty Hall's resignation due to the personal issues she and her family are currently working through.

Maria Riedel: Riedel was unhappy with the Board's decision to not rescind Mrs. Hall's resignation.

Betty Hall: Hall shared details about her situation and request to rescind her contract. She thanked the community

for their support and asked the Board to please allow AASB to guide them and receive further training.

Joella Huntington: Huntington was frustrated with the board decision regarding Mrs. Hall's contract.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. Board Members

Trish Conatser: Thanked Isabelle for being their student rep. Thanked the maintenance department for supporting track. Thanked the high school staff for stepping up at a difficult time and preparing for graduation. She shared heartfelt condolences for the Hall family. Conatser then shared the district's vision and mission statement. She explained that the two resignations were very different and everyone is on the same team. She said she does not have an agenda and joined the board to help her children learn. Conatser appreciated everyone coming out and supporting our staff, and lifting each other up.

Julie McDonald: Just returned home. Does not have anything to add.

Hans Hjort: Teacher appreciation week was wonderful. He said the Board has received a lot correspondence in the past couple of weeks. Most has been respectful. Others have accused the Board of having agendas. It is frustrating to be a volunteer and be accused of this. His personal agenda is to make a good place for kids. That is why he ran for the school board. When Hjort looks at decisions that need to be made, it is for what is right for the district. He thanked Isabelle Priddy for her service as the student rep on the board this year.

Isabelle Priddy: (via chat as she does not have a microphone on Zoom) NHS inductions happened this week and graduation is tomorrow.

B. Principal Reports

David Harris: Submitted a written report. The Fish and Chicks mobile food truck was a real hit with the kids.

Harris thanked Alyssa and Jill for their hard work in making it happen. Mr. Grieve will follow his class and move up to fourth grade, which means the school is fully staffed and we are moving forward. Thanked Hollis Yenna for his service to the community. He is an outstanding teacher. Troy Thain was also a godsend to the students who needed a PE teacher. We will welcome Spencer Beckman, who is from Craig, who will take Hollis' place.

Christina Woodward: Submitted a written report. Heather Mendonsa and Christina Woodward have been meeting weekly for the transition planning so it is a smooth transition. We are following the lawsuits regarding correspondence schools. There are still a lot of unknowns. Trish asked about the transition timeline. Christina explained that her last day is June 30th and Heather's first day is July 1st. Trish asked about making that a full-time position. Chris Reitan did not encourage that. Hans Hjort shared that Heather Mendonsa complimented Christina's organizational skills and the care Christina put into the training. Christina thanked everyone for her experience with PACE and wishes everyone the best.

Betty Hall: Did not submit a report this month. Chris Reitan shared that he has been starting his day at the elementary school and then moves to the high school. He plans to continue doing that through the end of the school year. Most of the planning and staffing for the high school has been covered by employees in Mrs. Hall's absence.

C. **Special Education Director:** (not present)

D. **Maintenance Director:** Daniel Nelson submitted a written report. Nothing to add.

E. **Superintendent:** Chris Reitan submitted a written report. One item that was dated on the report was that the legislature passed one-time funding of \$680 to the BSA. We are waiting for the governor to sign off. It is indicated that he will. Reitan is disappointed because it is hard to plan for and districts can't make staffing decisions based on one-time funding. With a 1.1 million dollar funding deficit some of that can be backfilled, but we will be back to the same problem next year. It will be a new legislature next year so it will be hard to predict. We are at year 8 or 9 of flat funding, amid extraordinary inflation. A new RUS grant will require a 15% match for electronics refresh by the district if the grant is awarded. The biomass project had a ten-day period for public to question the bid results. That ends tomorrow.

The winning bid was for \$1,084,469.90. Reitan estimates it will be completed in late fall. The legislature funded 62 million in major maintenance grant applications. Our project is number one for additional funding. The funding will become available July 1. Architects Alaska will oversee the design and budget of the project. The bid documents will then go out for bid in approximately February. Conaster asked about long-term subs. Reitan clarified that we need a long-term sub for the middle school for the first quarter and another long-term sub for the kindergarten the second quarter. The advertisement was for one position. At this time, there is not a sub.

10. CCSD FY 25 Budget Hearing

Discussion: Reitan explained there must be an opportunity for the public to comment on the budget for next year. No motion is needed. No comments from the public were noted.

11. OLD BUSINESS:

A. CCSD Board Policies, Administrative Regulations, and Exhibits Updates as a second and final reading

Motion: Motion to approve the correspondence as presented

By: Page

Second: Conatser

Board Vote: Yea: 4; Nay: 0

Resolved: motion passed

Discussion: None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Personnel Report

Motion: Motion to approve the personnel report as presented

By: Conatser

Second: Page

Board Vote: Yea: 4; Nay: 0

Resolved: motion passed

Discussion: None

B. Board Resignation

Motion: Motion accept Josh Andrew's board seat and declare the position vacant

By: Conaster

Second: Page

Board Vote: Yea: 4; Nay: 0

Resolved: motion passed

Discussion: Chris Reitan suggested to post this position tomorrow with a deadline of June 19th. Candidates can be interviewed at the June 26th meeting. The person will serve until the October election, then the newly elected board member would complete two years of the three-year term. Hjort thanked Josh for his service on the Board. Conatser asked if they would leave the Secretary/Treasurer position vacant for a month. It was agreed that it would be okay to do that.

C. CHS Course Catalog

Motion: Motion to approve the correspondence as presented

By: Conatser

Second: Page

Board Vote: Yea: 0; Nay: 4

Resolved: motion failed unanimously with a recommendation to send the CHS Course Catalog to the Policy Committee.

Discussion: Conatser is not ready to approve the catalog. She would like it to go to the Policy Committee. She wants more time to go through it side by side with the handbook. McDonald agreed.

D. Southeast Recreational Charters Professional Services Agreement

Motion: Motion to approve contract between the District and Southeast Recreational Charters Professional Services Agreement for the 2024/2025 school year with the total cost of \$66,950.00

By: Conatser

Second: Page

Board Roll Call Vote: Yea: 4; Nay: 0

Resolved: motion passed unanimously

Discussion: Hjort explains this is for Earl Jeffrey and the services he provides.

E. School Climate and Connectedness Survey Results

Discussion: McDonald asked how frequently we do this survey. Reitan stated it has been done for a while but is more frequent now. It is a middle school and high school survey.

F. CCSD FY 25 Budget

Motion: Motion to approve the presented CCSD FY 25 Budget with a \$119,447.69 transfer from the CCSD capital budget fund.

By: McDonald

Second: Page

Board Roll Call Vote: Yea: 4; Nay: 0

Resolved: motion passed with unanimous approval

Discussion: Reitan explained this is a placeholder as we are required to pass a balanced budget. This does not take into account the \$680/per student one-time funding as we don't know we are receiving it yet. The City will reduce their local contribution if the one-time funding is approved. If the sales-tax initiative is approved there could be additional funding. Money had to be transferred from the capital projects savings account to make payroll, then transfer it back once the monthly state funding check was received. Reitan hopes the community will pass the sales tax initiative. Reitan thanked the budget advisory committee, the City for their contribution and discussions. It now is up to the community.

G. 2024-2025 CCSD School Calendar

Motion: Motion to approve the 2024-2025 CCSD School Calendar as a first reading

By: Page

Second: Conatser

Board Vote: Yea: 4; Nay: 0

Resolved: motion passed

Discussion: Conatser pointed out that the final day of the calendar is now June, as voted upon by the staff because they wanted a later start date.

H. FY 25 CEA Certified Teacher Negotiated Agreement Approval

Motion: Motion to approve the FY 25 CEA Certified Teacher Negotiated Agreement as presented

By: Conatser

Second: Page

Board Roll Call Vote: Yea: 4; Nay: 0

Resolved: motion passed with unanimous approval

Discussion: Hjort thanked the teacher's union for being willing to negotiate. They passed an extension of the contract. He appreciated the time they put into the committee. McDonald state appreciation for Union's awareness of the understanding of the situation.

I. CCSD Superintendent Transition Plan

Motion: Motion to approve the superintendent transition plan

By: Conatser

Second: Page

Board Vote: Yea: 4; Nay: 0

Resolved: motion passed

Discussion: Conatser asked the Board if at the next meeting they could look over phase two and three and determine when there could be a meeting to make sure everything is going well. Reitan said meetings are set up with architects, everyone associated with biomass project, funding people, etc. Conatser asked to have the dates so she could attend. There is a meeting with Ross Johnson with Fine Point. There is also a meeting scheduled with Eli Barsey with DEED who manages Title grants. Budgets are completed for the Title grants, but there will be items to address. There is a meeting scheduled with Kyle Schneider who supports all of our PowerSchool operations. Title grants are a concern, and Title 1A. Since we moved to universal food service, we don't have the Free & Reduced lunch applications. We have only had 27 responses to requests. Elementary has the highest need for Title 1. Jackie and Eli will need to discuss that at a later time.

J. Next Meeting Date

June 26th, 7:00 p.m.

K. Adjournment

Motion: Motion to adjourn

By: Conatser

Second: Page

Board Vote: Yea: 4; Nay: 0

Resolved: motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.