



# CENTRAL CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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*A Community of Learners Dedicated to Building Lives*

## REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Newcomb Middle School, Newcomb, NM  
March 14, 2019- 2:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

#### School Board Members

Adam J. Begaye, *President*  
Sheldon Pickering, *Vice-President*  
Christina J. Aspaas, *Secretary*  
Ruthda W. Thomas, *Member* (arrived at 2:06 pm)  
Charlie T. Jones, Jr., *Member* (absent)

#### Administrators

Terrian Benn, Interim Superintendent  
Dr. Louisa Lopez-Martinez, Director of Curriculum  
Candice Thompson, Director of Operations  
Kyle Archibeque, Director of Finance  
Violet Kelley, Director of Legal Services  
Margaret Trocheck, Director of Human Resources

#### I. ROUTINE MATTERS

- A. Board President, Adam J. Begaye called the meeting to order and verified that a quorum was present through a roll call at 2:05 p.m.
- B. Christina J. Aspaas led the school board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Sheldon Pickering conducted the prayer.  
*(Ruthda W. Thomas arrived at 2:06 p.m.)*
- D. Board of Education Election of Officers

Adam J. Begaye opened the floor for nomination. Ruthda W. Thomas requested to move the Board of Election to a Special Meeting or to another meeting because there is only four of us here. Board Secretary Christina J. Aspaas commented I think we should proceed there's nothing different then the last election and there is already four people here and everybody knows it goes on in March, so I think we need to go ahead and proceed and I would like go ahead and nominate Adam J Begaye as President. Sheldon Pickering commented, he respectfully requested to wait or try to get Mr. Jones on the phone or if we can't get him on the phone, give him the courtesy of postponing the Election of Officer as he had to work and meet his boss in town, that what I was told and he had a meeting this afternoon. I would like to respectfully request to postpone the Election of Officers to the next meeting perhaps a work session. Adam J. Begaye requested Sharon Ray to make an attempt to call Charlie T. Jones, Jr. Christina J. Aspaas asked Board President Begaye does that mean you are honoring that request by making a phone call, in the board policy again if the two members would take time to read the board policy and become knowledgeable they would see the Board Elections are in March and that's all I am keeping to, and it's no different from the last time we had board election, we only had four present. Sheldon Pickering commented in that case, I would like to request to review and revise the board policy to include we have board members

absent that we try to get them and if not then wait for the work session and request all are present, I do recall the last time we did this and I was not here but we conducted via telephone. Christina Aspaas commented that's why I was asking if you are going to honor this request, I think I am getting pretty fed up with this conniving and everything else that goes on behind our backs, and as far as I see there's only two board members who are left out of the loop and the other three are committing OMA violations. Ruthda W. Thomas commented you know that, if we elect you again, the same problems will arise; therefore, I am sticking with moving it to the next one. I have not called Mr. Jones nor have I talked to Mr. Pickering and I have a job to do and I do not call anybody, I do not even talk to both of them, neither the two of you. I do not know why you are saying that we were violating OMA. Christina J. Aspaas commented the last conversation I had with another Board Member it was said that Ruthda Thomas does call him, but a lot of time it don't make sense, and that's a direct quote, and also as far as I know I am not a physic so I don't know if these are going to be the same, but all I do know at this point I am making the nomination to keep officers the same and just move forward. Ruthda W. Thomas object to that. Sheldon Pickering asked if we were able to get Mr. Jones on the phone. Sharon Ray attempted to call Charlie T. Jones, Jr. on the phone and no answer and went straight to voicemail. Christina J. Aspaas commented if we were all here for the same reasons which is to move our district forward, this would not even be a hassle and the four of us would just go on and take it and continue on. I know now what your intentions are and your priorities are. Adam J. Begaye asked Sharon Ray to explain the situation on Mr. Jones that if the call was answered or not or attempted. Ms. Ray explained I did call Mr. Jones and he did not answer. Sheldon Pickering recommended that we postpone the election of officers until the next work session if at that time not all board members can be present or choose to be then go ahead give them that opportunity, I really feel that decisions that are going to be made in the future, we need to have it fully voice on this one and this would be my recommendation and request. Christina J. Aspaas commented I disagree because if I had not shown up you guys would have proceeded and if I do not show up at the next meeting you guys will proceed, so what difference is it now, I think the intention here is that through the grapevine, I gather that they want Mr. Sheldon Pickering as President and I opposed to that deeply, I do not find any value when there's a person or President who stands there and yells vulgarly and acts like he's going to throw his laptop at me and call me a "b---", and the same way with Ruthda Thomas her tantrums walking out of the meeting and saying vulgarly again towards the Board President and this is not befitting of an officer and I want that noted and said, and this is not a onetime incidents, there's been two incidents with Sheldon Pickering, he does not have the temperament nor this is an environment needs to be agree or disagree. Ruthda W. Thomas commented point of order, President Begaye point of order. Christina J. Aspaas commented this is what I am talking about. Sheldon Pickering commented President Begaye again we are starting this personal attacks. Adam J. Begaye sounded his gavel. Christina J. Aspaas commented noting why I object to this and what is happening here, and if the three board members would again knowledgeable about board policy they wouldn't be sitting trying to do these things and get their priorities right. Violet Kelley read the board policy on elections. Sheldon Pickering commented I believed accordance to our policy we should give all members to vote in the next meeting. Christina J. Aspaas had a question, she asked Violet Kelley to read the whole policy, and it would be the only time the two board members become familiar so we have to read the whole thing. Ruthda W. Thomas commented Secretary Aspaas I have a lot of respect for you and you did tell us that the last time, things will be the same and right now you are attacking us again Sheldon and I and I don't agree with having a meeting, President Begaye I would like to

adjourn and I motion to adjourn. Christina J. Aspaas commented this has everything to do with the election, my objection the debate. Sheldon Pickering commented Mrs. Thomas if we can have a point of order and respect (Christina J. Aspaas commented you do not have respect for me), would you be willing to continue in the meeting with us, if we could agree to that? Ms. Thomas responded no, I requested to adjourn because I do not like being attack and there is a lot of disrespect issues. Sheldon Pickering commented I believe there has been accusation of conspiracy when really I believe is happening there is a desire to have a manner and respect on the board, and whoever the President be willing to help us do that, you have in some ways I believe I feel that there needs to be a different direction somehow and some way to prevent personal attacks at board meetings. We try to talk about it when we first start and somehow we get derailed into this and Secretary Aspaas I have great respect for you too (Christina Aspaas commented no you do not) you bring a lot to the table, I don't think we can have this happen and any progress. Christina J. Aspaas commented if there was respect here, first of all, don't have respect for me, have respect for our district and board policy and do that first and put the kids first before all this conniving and this conspiracy you guys dream up, do that first then we would not have this issues, and the attacks against our Board President for not answering his phone and things like that because most likely brought in OMA violations, I would not answer the phone either, with the three of you talking outside and conspiring and organizing and I would not answer the phone either, if we could have that trust and honesty on the board then I think Mr. Adam Begaye can carry on as President. Sheldon Pickering commented with all respect when communicated is limited to the board and there is no access granted to other board members to get items on the agenda, etc., there tends to occur the lack of trust which required other measures for board members to try to communicate when there is no communication and people wonder what is going on, so how we move forward I hope we can improve our communication and I hope for this meeting we could make some progress by having Dr. Prather here with the teleconference to help move the district in a positive step of evaluating and hopefully securing our Superintendent which I think is a pressing matter that we have right now as a board. The goal is to have that collaborative effort with Dr. Prather who is a great mentor and a great mediator and could be a great resource for our district as he did for others, but in order for that to occur, he required us to sign a Code of Conduct which we have not display that here and if we could possibly move on and display and complete that important part of the meeting. Christina J. Aspaas commented as far as Hugh Prather and since you brought up the topic of Superintendent Search that is another area I would think the board members would know what is on our plate and what we are dealing with, yet I hear comments we promise the public and community, that is why I don't make promises and I am not obligated to no body or no organization, nobody. I know what I am dealing with on this board as a board member, and then as far as of what you said Mr. Pickering, about Hugh Prather having us sign a Code of Conduct, I would not word it that way, it was a Pledge so we could all work together. Sheldon Pickering thanked Christina Aspaas for the correction and would like to go on. Adam J. Begaye requested to note on notation the Board Clerk and Interim Superintendent Secretary Sharon Ray did make an attempt to call Charlie Jones, and as for the other board member who is not in attendance at this board meeting and its noted and on record, and also a motion is still on the floor at the moment after the discussion, a motion made by board member Thomas to adjourn the meeting. Christina J. Aspaas commented she made a nomination before that motion. Adam J. Begaye commented there was a nomination made before the adjournment motioned. Sheldon Pickering commented in an effort to secure respectful behavior among the whole board and have peace, I recommend the tone we set if we can't turn it around

we should adjourn and I support the recommendation made by Mrs. Thomas. Christina J. Aspaas commented you want to play games like that, I am going to contact PED. The next board meeting, the election of officers should have happen today and like I said if I have not been here today you guys would have carried on and if Adam Begaye not been here you guys would have carried on, so to me this is all conniving the three of you., and with that action of PED I am going to recommend the whole board be removed, because the last board meeting there was beginning and ending OMA violations and state statues and I have evidence of directive given which is totally illegal on Mr. Sheldon Pickering part and Ruthda W. Thomas part so you guys want to play games like this, this is what going to happen and I am tired of this and I told you before that if I know I am right and I am going to stand by board policy and I am going to do that. Sheldon Pickering commented to Secretary Aspaas I appreciate much of what you bring to the board, I really do, I appreciate your dedication to your community and I appreciate if you do something it will be by the book and that is something I do admire and appreciate, and need to learn the book a little better probably in all aspects of life, but you should know something, the things you said don't cause any fear in me because I believe and there's a right and wrong and we live in a constitutional government where there are rights, and one of rights as a board member should have rights to have their voices heard, have participation and have communication and I believe there is rights to supersede those things and the PED don't scare me and others don't scare me and threats don't scare, and I hope they don't give fear to any other board members because there is no reason to have no fear within the district where there is already fear, people are worried about things on their plate, and I just don't think as a board and try to add to that element, Mr. Pickering asked the Board President do we feel we could move forward into the meeting to take care some of our business. Christina J. Aspaas commented as far as constitutional rights to be heard as a board member, yes its scheduled every month two times, work session and regular school board meetings and today it was at 2 o'clock, as far as your fears, I'm with you I don't think you follow anybody rules from what I seen from your action, even though we spend the kids money the district money to go to training, and by the way, we went to a national training, you chose to go shop for a car for your own business, so I get it now you had no fear and nothing affects you. Sheldon Pickering commented I encourage you to not have fear either because people have right to purchase a vehicle on a trip and have it paid for and pick it up, there is just common rights that everyone has and I don't live in fear of exercising those rights, and one of them is to leave this meeting due to personal attacks and tone that I hear. Mr. President you would put that on record that I am doing so at whatever time it is. Ruthda W. Thomas stated she has already made the motion and Mr. Pickering made the second motion and we are adjourning. Adam J. Begaye asked Mr. Pickering if he second the motion and Mr. Pickering responded yes and thank you and I appreciate you.

Motion by Ruthda W. Thomas, second by Sheldon Pickering to adjourn the meeting. (Ruthda W. Thomas and Sheldon Pickering voted yes and Christina J. Aspaas and Adam J. Begaye voted no) Adam J. Begaye announced we lost quorum at 2:31 p.m. Ruthda W. Thomas and Sheldon Pickering walked out of the meeting.

Christina J. Aspaas commented I am truly sorry you had to see that and I am tired of this, and I apologize and if I have known this was going to be the outcome I would have been in Albuquerque watching my niece play, but I am dedicated to this district and as I said I am following policy and I believe I have.

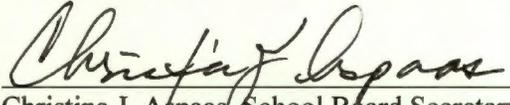
Adam J. Begaye recommended trying one more attempt to get Mr. Charlie T. Jones, Jr. on line and if not, we lost quorum.

Sharon Ray, Board Clerk for the School Board and CCSD tried to attempt to call Charlie Jones again and still no answer.

Adam J. Begaye announced on record that the motion and second failed as a 2-2 vote and motion failed, and on record we lost quorum due to two members, we lost Sheldon Pickering and Ruthda W. Thomas at the meeting this afternoon, they left at 2:32 p.m. on the record.

Adam J. Begaye announced it is 2:38 p.m. we lost quorum and had attempted to call Board Member Jones who is not present at the board meeting, at this time we will turn off the recording, anything that needs to announce on March 14, 2019 at Newcomb Middle School we will turn the recording on for announcements.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Christina J. Aspaas, School Board Secretary