

HUMBOLDT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
310 East Fourth Street
WINNEMUCCA, NEVADA 89445

A special meeting of the Humboldt County Board of School Trustees was held August 12, 2008 at 4:34 p.m. in the District Office Boardroom.

Board members present were: President-Jerry Pfarr, Clerk-Linda Schrempp, John Seeliger (by phone), Shelly Noble, John Hill, Kris Stewart and Andrew Hillyer. Absent:

Others in attendance were: Superintendent Mike Bumgartner (by phone), Asst. Superintendent Dave Jensen, Attorney John Doyle, Kelly Novi, Mary Keith-HCEA President, Debbie and Dan Watts, Janet Kennedy, Rebecca Hill, Byron Jeppsen, Kristen Flanders, Jane Studebaker, Marcel Johnson, Daralee Milikan, Gael McGibbon, Heather Gula-Humboldt Sun, Marie Jeanne Dawson, Ann Miller, Doc Welter, Frank Gabica, Frankie Peterson, Andy Anderson, Noel Morton, Teresa Lovato, Heather Lemm, Larry Renteria, Sylvia Corvarrubias, Heidi Overdorf, Carolyn Dufurrena, Joyce and Vince Mendiola, Ray Parks and Secretary Paula Wright.

President Pfarr opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: None

Correspondence: None

Discussion and Possible Action - Approval of Budget Reductions for the FY09 School Year

A tentative budget was taken before the Board for approval in May 2008. A DSA figure of \$6832, per student allocation, was received from the Department of Education to be used to establish our budget. Shortly thereafter, we were notified that our Net Proceeds of Minerals (Mines) went from \$75 mil to \$250 mil. Under the Nevada Plan, as local revenue goes up, state requirements go down. For every \$1 mil of assessed value for Net Proceeds of Mines, our DSA dropped by \$1.03, this put our DSA per student allocation at \$6,661. Tax revenues came in very weak and a special session of the Legislature was held. During the special session that concluded on July 2nd we were notified that our DSA had been reduced again to \$6,532. After everything was factored in, our obligation to be reverted back to the state was \$238,000 for the 2007-08 school year.

Our obligation for the 2008-09 school year is \$897,000. The Board held a special meeting on Saturday, August 9th. The Board focused on what areas we could look at to meet that obligation. Reviewing some of the ideas the Board came up with on Saturday, there are some recommendations that can be implemented in the 2008-09 school year and some that simply cannot be done because of contractual obligations with employees.

Mr. Jensen was notified on Sunday by Jim Wells, State Assistant Superintendent of Finance, that the tentative budgets they have been required to create show a 14% reduction each year of the next biennium. This will directly impact Humboldt County School District. It is hoped there will be some reprieve through the legislative session. *

Some information that has been gathered for review includes: 1) clubs/organizations, 2) district vehicle assignment, 4) administrator cell phones, 5) administrative, certificated and classified salary figures, 6) fuel, 7) athletics, 8) athletic transportation, 9) district travel, 10) rural principal travel, 11) substitute teachers, 12) sub aides, and 13) after school, summer school and special education summer school programs.

Mr. Jensen presented some of the data collected from Board members at the August 9th meeting. It was an outline of some of the ideas that were given to facilitate the \$879,481 reduction in our budget. Areas were identified in three categories; 1) those available for immediate implementation, 2) those available for possible implementation in the 2008-09 school year and 3) possible areas to be considered for the 2009-10 school year or biennium.

Mr. Jensen presented a proposal for recommended cuts for the FY09 school year. Areas identified were: Staffing: 1) staffing (currently vacant positions) (\$170,781), 2) district professional development (\$60,000), textbooks (\$150,000), Impact Aide (\$165,000), cut district wide spending by 10% (\$85,000), rural travel (\$3000), rural exploratory (\$9000), after school programs (\$25,000), and the mentoring program (\$13000). Total savings \$510,000. Grant funds: 1) SB185 (elementary, \$50,000) and (secondary, \$12,000), 2) Pre-K aide/supplies (\$40,000). Total Savings for grant funds \$102,000. In the three areas mentioned we have identified \$782,781 of the required \$879,481 reduction, leaving \$96,700 to identify. Possible areas to be discussed at a later date include: 1) Early Incentive (\$170,000), 2) athletics (freshman sports and non-conference play for the next fiscal year), 3) clubs (consider minimum student participation), and student travel (field trips).

Board members were given the opportunity to express their views and concerns regarding the recommended cuts for the FY09 budget. Those included: 1) reconsider rural travel, 2) reconsider cutting rural exploratory, 3) reconsider cutting after school programs, 4) reconsider cutting the mentoring program, 5) do the least to affect students, 6) cut professional development travel and sub pay, 7) district cell phones and 8) use of district vehicles.

Public Comment: The public was given the opportunity to voice their concerns also. Concerns included: 1) reconsider cutting Freshman sports, 2) reconsider doing away with non-conference games, 3) consider pay to play, 4) consider reducing professional development costs, 5) reconsider reducing clubs and field trips, 6) consider staffing a priority over athletics, 7) consider students paying for credit remediation classes, 8) strongly consider leaving two vice principals at Lowry, and 9) consider changing the Early Incentive policy to make it more beneficial to the District.

Mrs. Noble noted that if anyone has any ideas or concerns they are welcome to contact Board members.

Mrs. Stewart moved to go with the recommended cuts with the exclusion of rural travel, rural exploratory, after school programs, and the mentoring program, with \$100,000 taken from the Early Incentive budget, leaving a remaining total of \$46,700 to cut at a later date. Mr. Hill seconded. Those in favor: Mrs. Stewart, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Noble, Mr. Seeliger. Those opposed: Mrs. Schrempp, Mr. Pfarr and Mr. Hillyer. Motion carried.

The next step will be to develop committees to consider budget reductions for the FY10 school year.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the warrants as presented. Mrs. Noble seconded. The motion passed, with Mr. Hill abstaining.

Discussion Only - District AYP Designations- Kelly Novi

Mr. Novi briefly went over the 2007-08 AYP designation results. Elementary and Middle School did not made AYP in English Language Arts. However, the District as a whole met AYP. The District was able to win appeal on designations in elementary and middle school math because of data errors.

Of 654 schools in the state of Nevada, 57 were named “high achieving”. Lowry High School was one of those schools. Mr. Welter attributed the honor to excellent teaching by Lowry High staff. Great job!!!

As a district, there was a 48% increase in student proficiency. 69% of first time 10th graders taking the HSPE passed the test. The percentage passed was 10% higher than the state on the initial exam. Across the board, the District is 10-14% higher than the state on everything, except IEP.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval to Amend the Health Grant FY08 Budget – Dave Jensen

A budget change was submitted to the Department of Education. The Department of Education did not get the request processed in a timely manner, resulting in the expiration of the timeline. We used the augmented figures (\$5000) in the District’s final budget. The purpose of this agenda item is to notify the Board of the change made after June 10, 2008.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the amendment to the Health Grant. Mrs. Noble seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action - Bond Update- Dave Jensen

The committee has been formed and officers have been elected. The committee has registered as a political action committee, “Together We Can”. The committee has begun raising funds and is holding weekly meetings downstairs at Dos Amigos Restaurant. Nicole Maher was begun construction of a website. Plans are to have committee members begin presentations to the community.

Mrs. Noble asked Board members to consider donating their board salary to “Together We Can”.

Heather Gula, Humboldt Sun, reported that Jen Anderson is currently working on an article regarding the bond issue.

The next meeting will be held at Dos Amigos on Tuesday, August 19th at 12:00 p.m.

Board/Staff Comments:

1. Mrs. Schrempp suggested the District notify the community of any special meetings being held by advertising in the Humboldt Sun.
2. Mr. Hillyer asked that the Board consider addressing the Early Incentive policy at a future meeting.

3. Mrs. Stewart thanked everyone for being so collaborative and inclusive of the items discussed at the meeting.
4. Mr. Jensen asked for clarification regarding the information the Board asked for concerning district cell phones and district vehicles. He was told the data was for information only at this time, no action is requested at this time.
5. Mr. Jensen was pleased with the number of staff members present, their feedback and noted that their input will be critical this next year.
6. Mr. Bumgartner noted there were only eleven, four year, public high schools in the entire state that made "high achieving" status, Lowry being one of them. Lowry is to be commended.

Adjourned 6:42 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright


Clerk, Linda Schrempp