

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

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of School Trustees was held August 26, 2008 at 4:34 p.m. in the District Office Boardroom.

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

Others in attendance were: Superintendent Mike Bumgartner, Asst. Superintendent Dave Jensen, Mary Keith-HCEA President, Heather Gula-Humboldt Sun, Boyd Betteridge, Dan and Debbie Watts, Frankie Peterson, Nicole Maher, Jeff Dawson, Carolyn Dufurrena, John and Deena Moddrell, Cindy Sherburn, Mary Baird, Dennis Morris, other interested persons and Secretary Paula Wright.

President Pfarr opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: None

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Meeting Report:

- Superintendent meeting on August 12th : for new superintendents – mentoring session, training on the Nevada Plan and funding of education in Nevada, working with Legislators, promoting good school boardsmanship, discussion regarding the Mountain West Superintendent Association expanding into Nevada.
- Superintendent meeting on August 13th: Co-meeting with other boards throughout the state, regarding the iNVEST 2009 proposal (sponsored by superintendents and NASB) to increase funding for education in Nevada.

Activity Report:

- August 14th: evaluation workshop with all site administrators on the teacher evaluation system, with Noel Morton, principal of Sonoma Heights and Stacey Ting Senini from Washoe County
- August 15th: training on differentiated instruction for administrators, with a superintendent from Canada
- August 18th: attendance policy review with administrators
- August 19th: several presentations at open houses regarding the bond
- August 20th: attended a luncheon with the Rotary Club
- August 21st: meeting with entire District staff regarding where the District is and where we are headed for the upcoming year

Travel Update Report:

- Superintendent meeting on September 4th
- Superintendent meeting and Mountain West Superintendent meeting on October 1-3

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the warrants as presented. Mrs. Noble seconded, motion carried. Mrs. Schrempp abstained.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of a Miscellaneous Leave of Absence Request for the 2008-09 School Year for Lacey Thompson – Lacey Thompson, Dave Jensen

Mrs. Thompson is requesting a miscellaneous leave of absence for the 2008-09 school year to stay home with her young children. Mrs. Thompson is currently assigned as a certified teacher at Kings River School. Kings River School currently has 15 students. It is believed that one teacher and two aides can meet the needs of the students.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the miscellaneous leave of absence request for the 2008-09 school year for Lacey Thompson. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of a Miscellaneous Leave of Absence Request for the 2008-09 School Year for Roxanne Chabot – Roxanne Chabot, Dave Jensen

Mrs. Chabot is requesting a miscellaneous leave of absence for the 2008-09 school year, per Article 12.9 of the HCSSO Negotiated contract. Mrs. Chabot is currently an instructional assistant at the Paradise Valley School.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the miscellaneous leave of absence request for the 2008-09 school year for Roxanne Chabot. Mr. Seeliger seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action - Approval for Early Release Days for Rural School PLC Training for the 2008-09 School Year – Carolyn Dufurrena

The 2007-08 school year was the first year that PLC was fully implemented in the rural schools. Teachers who have expertise in MAPS and SIOP (Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol), will be providing PLC training in the fall to help rural teachers focus on improving the reading and language skills of students, especially ESL learners.

PLC teams will be meeting via video conference twice each month in their grade level groups. This will maximize teacher instructional time and save on traveling costs. Mrs. Dufurrena asked the Board for approval of eight early release days for rural school PLC training.

Mr. Seeliger moved to approve the early release days for rural school PLC training. Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. Noble seconded, motion carried.

Discussion Only – Proposal for a Four Day School Week for Rural Schools – Carolyn Dufurrena, John Moddrell

Mrs. Dufurrena and Mr. Moddrell outlined the latest research on four day school weeks. Some of the benefits of a four day school week include; 1) student drop out rates decline, 2) student disciplinary referrals decrease, 3) student achievement is not affected either positively or negatively, 4) student and teacher attendance improves, 5) longer class periods, increasing efficiency of instruction, 6) more time for staff development, 7) savings on utility bills, substitute teacher pay, bussing and building wear and tear. Some concerns/issues include: 1) contractual issues (staff), 2) child care, 3) how the longer school day may affect younger students, and 4) possible retention difficulties for at-risk and special needs students.

It was suggested that the District proceed cautiously to make sure all facts and figures are gathered before moving forward with implementation. A survey will be created to gather input from staff and the community.

Discussion and Possible Action - Approval for an Early Release Day on November 24, 2008 for Lowry High School – Debbie Watts

Lowry High School will be hosting the Regional Student Council Conference on November 24, 2008. Approximately 300 students will attend the conference. On that day Lowry teachers will receive differentiated professional development training, according to the department in which they teach. The Special Education Department will receive inclusion training through NNRPDP and the English Department will receive SIOP (Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol) training, provided by Jonathan Gibson. Other departments are currently deciding what they want to do on the early release day.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the early release day on November 24, 2008 for Lowry High School. Mrs. Noble seconded, motion carried.

Discussion Only – Crisis Response/School Safety Update – Jeff Dawson

Officer Dawson provided the Board with the 2007-08 report of statistics tracked during the school year. The report includes all incidents involving students that he has responded to. He also keeps a field log of his activities.

He provided the Board with a Crisis Response Plan status report indicating compliant and non-compliant categories. Visual Imagery was hired to create a crisis response plan for the District. They created floor plans, aerial photos, imagery of the inside of each site and 360° photos of every hallway; however, the plan was never officially completed.

Officer Dawson has been working closely with Washoe County who is, also, in the midst of completing their crisis response plan. This summer he completed the response protocol for different levels of crisis response, which has been given to each site administrator and teacher. He is currently working on the crisis response protocols for administrators and support staff. Beginning in November, schools will begin practice drills for “code blue” medicals to “code red” lock down.

Mr. Jensen noted that the District received federal funds for the program and that we were told by Visual Imagery that the plan was complete, but it was found that we were not provided everything we had hoped for.

Officer Dawson continues to work on the plan to bring it into compliance.

Discussion and Possible Action - Approval of a bid for French Ford Middle School Janitorial Services – Dave Jensen

The district opened bids for French Ford janitorial services on August 19th. We received one bid, Basque Janitorial, in the amount of \$77,760. The contract is a one year contract.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the French Ford Middle School janitorial services contract to Basque Janitorial as presented. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Discussion Only – The Nevada Plan and Educational Funding in Nevada – Mike Bumgartner

Mr. Bumgartner gave a short history lesson in Nevada educational funding. During the last superintendent meeting, discussion specific to the structure of the Nevada Plan was outlined and the impact of the plan on educational funding. Per pupil funding in Nevada continues to decline. Recent analysis has indicated that Nevada, since the last budget cuts, has fallen from 46th to 48th in the nation for per pupil funding. It is believed that the Nevada Plan needs to be restructured or an alternative method of determining educational funding needs to be considered.

iNVEST 2009: The current iNVEST proposal identifies a \$1 billion gap between what educational funding is currently and what is needed to approach adequacy. The proposal asks that a stable funding plan be developed for education and to allow the empowerment of school districts to identify their own challenges and to provide districts money to respond accordingly.

6:03 pm. Break

6:11 p.m. Return to meeting

Discussion and Possible Action – Review of Indian Education Policies and Procedures – Dave Jensen

As we continue to seek federal impact aide funding to support the needs of our district, we are required to develop and approve specific policy to outline our education and interaction with our Native American populations. The policy states that the intent of the District is to provide all Native American students equal access to all programs, services and activities offered by the school district. The policy also provides for three or more meetings to be held annually for purposes of gathering input from the Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe.

Mr. Jensen presented the Indian Policies and Procedures document for Board approval.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the Indian Education Policies and Procedures for Humboldt County School District as presented. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Establishment of Educational Priorities and Cost Reduction Committees – Dave Jensen

In discussions regarding the possible 14% budget cuts for the 2009-10 school year, the Board had mentioned how beneficial the format of getting input from staff and community had been in the past. The Board was provided a copy of the Cost Reduction Committee's recommendations from October of 2001 and an executive summary from the Educational Priorities Committee from February 2002. The handouts provided a review of the process that was implemented and the findings that were outlined by the committees.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Jensen was asked to compile a draft of timelines and return to the Board for approval.

Discussion and Possible Action - Consideration of Bid and Possible Purchase of a Portable Computer Lab to Facilitate MAP's Testing, Utilizing Impact Aide as the Funding Source – Dave Jensen

During the past school year, we have had a successful implementation of the MAP's program. The MAP's program is a computer based assessment tool. Feedback during the last administration of MAP's testing was received indicating that, with limited labs at individual schools, the ability to move students through the testing window effectively was a struggle.

Mr. Jensen asked the Board's approval to go out to bid and purchase a portable computer lab to facilitate MAP's testing. Approximate cost to the District is \$35,000, utilizing funds from the Impact Aide Grant. The portable lab will be facilitated through the Technology Department.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve consideration of bid and possible purchase of a portable computer lab to facilitate our MAP's testing. Mr. Seeliger seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Annual Review of State and Federal Grant Programs, Anticipated Funding and Application of Funding – Dave Jensen

On an annual basis, a review of all state and federal funding sources is to be presented to the Board. Mr. Jensen reviewed all current and anticipated funding sources, which total \$3,373,989. He gave a brief summary of what the grant funds would be used for. The District has not been given a guarantee that there will be funding available for the At-Risk Schools Retirement Grant or Hard to Fill Retirement Grant. The Signing Bonus Grant has been cut by the state, because of the fiscal impact, and the Title V Grant has been cut by the federal government.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve state and federal grant applications as presented. Mrs. Noble seconded, motion carried.

Discussion Only – Bond Update “Together We Can” – Mike Bumgartner

1. The bond question (HC-1) has been written and submitted to the Humboldt County Clerk's office.
2. The bond committee has been formed and is meeting once a week.
3. The bond plan was presented to the Humboldt County Debt Management Commission on August 25, 2008.
4. Our campaign leader is Nicole Maher.
5. Presentations will be made to the Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, Open houses, PTO's, Winnemucca City Council, County Commissioners, at the Paradise Valley Chili and Rib Cook Off, Rural School town meetings and other community groups.
6. Town hall meetings will be held on August 28th and September 18th.
7. Bond committee members will lead public tours of our schools.
8. We will need to change our November 11th (Veteran's Day) meeting to Monday, November 10th in order to certify the election results. By state law, election results must be certified within five working days of the election.


Board/Staff Comments:

1. The Nevada Association of School Boards is meeting with the superintendents and legislators regarding funding sources. One item that is currently being reviewed is, when each state becomes part of the union there are two sections of land, per area, that are given to the state for educational purposes. In Nevada, half of the property was sold (early days) to individuals and the other half, the state legislators are using as a basis for educational funding. We are one of four states in which this is being done. Last year in Utah they received approximately \$1 billion dollars for their educational fund just from the land given to the state for educational purposes. It is being investigated to determine if there is any legal recourse.
2. Should have Mr. Bumgartner's evaluation to Board members by the end of the week.
3. Agendize reviewing the policy on field trips (consistency).
4. Consider cuts beginning at the District Office level, luncheons, etc.
5. The remodel to Officer Dawson's office was questioned. Mr. Jensen noted that there was a confidentiality issue with students meeting with the counseling office and space was needed for the security surveillance system.
6. It was questioned why work was done by Snyder Plumbing rather than our own maintenance department. Mr. Jensen said corrosive pipes needed to be replaced and it was beyond the scope of our maintenance staff. The cost was taken from the capital improvement budget.
7. Consider placing a discussion and action item on an upcoming agenda regarding the use of district vehicles and cell phones.
8. We had a great opening day of school. We did have a parent rear end a school bus at French Ford, no one was hurt. The bus suffered minor damage, the car was totaled.

9. Our preliminary enrollment count is down from last year.
10. Mrs. Echevarria, a teacher at Paradise Valley School, is doing well after surgery and may be released to come home this weekend.
11. It was suggested that Mr. Pfarr and Mr. Seeliger develop a process to appoint a new board member. Consider advertising in November and appointing in December.
12. Reminder: NASB Conference, Reno – November 13-16, 2008.
13. Reminder: Bond forum, Thursday, August 28th, 7:00 p.m., West Hall Convention Center
14. We received a resignation from the ESL teacher at French Ford Middle School. We believe the needs of the students can be met by not replacing the position, providing a cost savings to the District.
15. There have been some improvements made to the Lowry parking lot. This is in response to the waiver the District received from the Winnemucca City Council last November.

Adjourned 7:17 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright


Clerk, Linda Schrempp