

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

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of School Trustees was held September 9, 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 and Andrew Hillyer. Absent:

Others in attendance were: Superintendent Mike Bumgartner, Asst. Superintendent Dave Jensen, Heather Gula-Humboldt Sun, Boyd Betteridge, Debbie Watts, Patrice Stewart, Skip Hammargren, Doc Welter, Nicole Maher, Sally Hall, Frankie Peterson, Dee Hotzel and Secretary Paula Wright.

President Pfarr opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence: None

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the July 22, 2008 minutes as written. Mrs. Stewart seconded, motion carried. Mrs. Schrempp was not present.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the August 9, 2008 minutes as written. Mrs. Stewart seconded, motion carried. Mrs. Schrempp was not present.

Mr. Seeliger moved to approve the August 12, 2008 minutes as written. Mrs. Noble seconded, motion carried. Mrs. Schrempp was not present.

Mrs. Noble moved to approve the August 26, 2008 minutes as written. Mrs. Stewart and Mr. Seeliger seconded. Mrs. Schrempp was not present and Mr. Hillyer abstained.

Public Comment: None

Superintendent's Report

Supt. Meeting Report:

1. State Superintendent, Keith Rheault, reported that the Department of Education had completed its mandated budget cut report to the Governor, reflecting a 14% decrease in spending. Districts will follow suit later this school year.
2. There is talk of formation of an 18th school district, all charter schools in the state would fall into this district.
3. NIAA Director's Report: Eddie Bonine - Temporary guardianship of students has risen dramatically this year. Most requests for participation under temporary guardianship are denied, however, in some circumstances they are approved through the appeals process.
3. NASB- Dotty Merrill: NASB Conference: Nov 13-16 at the Airport Plaza Hotel-Reno.
4. iNVEST Proposal (draft)- Initiatives include: 1) fully fund the base, 2) truth in taxation, 3) develop a funding plan, 4) fund a statewide teacher compensation plan, and 5) empower school districts.

Other:

1. Superintendent's will be meeting with Mendy Elliot, Governor's Chief of Staff, in preparation for a meeting with Governor Gibbons regarding school funding for the next biennium (iNVEST).

2. Discussions will be taking place regarding changing the PERS structure: Defined Benefit vs. Defined Contribution.

Activity Report:

1. Rotary Luncheons 8/27 and 9/3
2. Bond Committee Presentations:
 - a. Rotary Club
 - b. McDermitt Open House
 - c. Town Hall Meeting- 8/28
 - d. Grass Valley Open House 9/4
 - e. Chamber of Commerce 9/9
3. Meeting with Ann Miller (new board member in January) regarding NASB Conference
4. Leadership Team Meeting- PLC's, Interventions, site plans and direction for the year
5. Writing Workshop with certified staff on 9/8 – prioritizing writing traits and teaching of writing in grades 3, 4 and 5.

Travel Report

1. Oct 1-3rd - Nevada Superintendent's Meeting/Mountain Superintendent's Meeting-Reno
2. Nov 13-14th - Nevada Superintendent's Meeting and Conference

Upcoming:

1. Vertical Alignment Meetings-Wednesday and Thursday: Math, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies

Bond Presentations

2. Sonoma Open House - 9/9
3. Paradise Valley Rib and Chili Cook Off on 9/13
4. Lowry Open House- 9/16
5. Grammar School Open House- 9/17
6. Town Hall Meeting- 9/18
7. City Council-9/23

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants

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

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of a Miscellaneous Leave of Absence Request for Ryan Smart – Dave Jensen

Ryan Smart, a route bus driver, has requested an unpaid leave of absence to complete the necessary evaluations needed for a medical release to return to work. The District currently has a substitute driver filling in for Mr. Smart.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the miscellaneous leave of absence request for Ryan Smart. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Discussion Only – Lowry High School Update – Debbie Watts, Doc Welter

The start to the new school year went fairly smoothly. Mrs. Watts noted that because of the retirement of Mr. Blattman, Lowry is unable to offer an AP Physics class, however, Michelle Hammersmark has indicated an interest in receiving the AP training.

James Balagna and Shayla Kranovich have been accepted, out of the 126 high achieving incoming, first year students, to the University of Nevada, to participate in the universities highly selected honors program.

A Lowry High School student has also been named as a semi-finalist for the 2009 National Merit Scholarship competition. The person's name cannot be release until September 10th.

Mrs. Watts invited the Board to visit Lowry High School to see some of the intervention programs that have been put into place this year. Tuesday, September 16th at 6:00 p.m. Lowry will hold their Open House. Everyone is invited.

Attendance is a serious concern for the administration at Lowry, therefore, it was decided that one administrator would oversee all attendance issues. Mr. Welter reported that he will take on the task of attendance issues and gave a summary of the procedure that will be used to insure that students attend Lowry, PASS or are enrolled in some form of educational program. Mr. Welter has a call into the Department of Education for clarification on the District's obligation/requirement to provide educational services to students.

The work for credit program was briefly discussed, as was the credit remediation program, Saturday school, independent study course through the PASS program and the procedures used for absences, truancy, habitual truancy and tardiness.

Mr. Hillyer congratulated Lowry High School on their AYP scores.

Discussion Only – Information Regarding the Status of Our Insurance Plan – Dave Jensen

Changes to our health plan went into effect on September 1st for certified and 12 month classified staff and will go into effect on October 1st for 9 month classified. The doctor co-pay has gone from \$25 to \$50, with a \$25 reimbursement through our GAP program. There is a \$50 annual deductible on prescriptions. abd Insurance Services is currently working to update the insurance plan and provide a link on our website.

Financial plan documentation, submitted by abd Insurance Services, will be provided to committee members on a monthly basis. The committee will meet a minimum of once per quarter, with a meeting scheduled for September 18th at 3:30 p.m. at the District Office. Trinity Steelman, with abd Services, will attend the meeting.

The Board was provided with a copy of the July 2008 summary of partially self-funded plan showing a beginning balance of \$29,143. The District is dealing with issues of concern regarding abd Insurance Service's level of services provided, payment of claims and the timeliness of those payments.

The recent change to the plan hopes to generate a \$500,000+ difference to the good. There is the possibility of an additional premium increase next year to help keep the plan solvent.

Discussion and Possible Action – Proposed Timelines and Process for Priorities Committee Public Forum – Dave Jensen

Postponed until the September 23rd meeting.

Discussion Only – Bond Update "Together We Can" – Mike Bumgartner

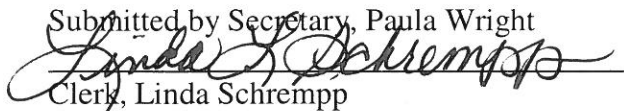
Mr. Bumgartner and Mr. Jensen have approximately 18-20 bond presentations scheduled over the next three weeks. A checking account has been established and donations are being accepted. It is imperative that we get the word out and that voters understand the bond question when they go to vote.

Comments:

1. Reminder: NASB Conference November 13-16, Reno at the Airport Plaza. New members are encouraged to attend. Contact Ann Miller to see if she is interested in attending. The principal of each school in the state who received "high achieving" status will be invited to attend the conference to receive an award for their school.
2. Preferred Meal Systems, a new lunch program vendor, was not flawless in its implementation but, is now up and running. Most issues have been resolved.
3. A Pre-K teacher, from Missouri, has been hired and is currently relocating to Winnemucca. Currently, that position is being filled with a long term sub and the instructional aide who has been with the program since its inception.
4. Jackie Kingston with the Tech Department oversees the application process for state and federal technology grants. Unfortunately, most of the state grants have been absorbed with the budget cuts.
5. The question was asked if the Public Relations Liaison position could also be used as an instructional aide. Mr. Jensen noted that the position is funded through the Title V Grant and was specifically written for the involvement component of the grant.
6. The question was asked if the District absorbs the cost or portion of the cost for the electricity of the Denio Community Hall and also supplies the hall with floor wax for maintenance of the floor. Mr. Jensen noted that the District, does in fact, share the cost of the electricity for use of the building for rural basketball, P.E., etc, but is not aware that the District is purchasing wax for the floor.
7. There were questions regarding several of the warrants that were approved earlier in the evening. Mr. Jensen went through the warrants in question giving a detailed account of each.
8. The question was asked if the Board had the desire to advertise and appoint a new board member to fill Mrs. Schrempp's seat in time for that new member to attend the Nevada Association of School Board's Conference in Reno on November 13-16.
9. On ~~the~~ September 16th everyone is invited to attend a flag dedication in memory of Jim Phillips, a 40 year veteran of the Winnemucca Volunteer Fire Department.
10. Discussions have been held with members of the Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Bureau regarding their support in supplanting the athletic director position at Lowry High School. Mr. Hillyer will keep the Board updated.
11. The Board may be approached for permission to dedicate the Lowry High School gymnasium in honor of an individual.
12. The Board was presented with a copy of some information that was requested by a Board member. The request was for information regarding expenditure costs, administrative and certified salary costs back to the 2000-01 school year.
13. Sally Hall formally announced her retirement from the District. She noted that she was grateful to have worked for the District for 23 years. She thanked the Board for their support and apologized for the timing. She and her husband Doyle will be moving to take advantage of a business opportunity. Everyone thanked her for her years of service and dedication to the District and wished her well in her new venture. Good luck Sally!!
14. We will begin the process to replace Mrs. Hall.
15. The Superintendent evaluation has been emailed to Board members and principals. Information is due back to Mr. Seeliger and Mr. Pfarr by September 19th.

Adjourned 6:17 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright


Clerk, Linda Schrempp