

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 23, 2008 at 4:30 p.m. in the District Office Boardroom.

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

Others in attendance were: Superintendent Mike Bumgartner, Asst. Superintendent Dave Jensen, Kelly Novi, Heather Gula-Humboldt Sun, Jeff Dawson, Nicole Maher, Chad Peters, Ray Parks, other interested persons and Secretary Paula Wright.

Vice President Seeliger opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: None

Mr. Hill moved to approve the September 9, 2008 minutes as written. Mrs. Stewart seconded. Those in favor: Mr. Hill, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Noble, Mr. Seeliger. Mrs. Schrempp and Mr. Hillyer were not present.

Special Recognition – Sally Hall
Postponed

Superintendent's Report

Activity Report:

1. Met with principals regarding setting goals for the school year, this will be a part of their evaluation. A final goal is to be presented to Mr. Bumgartner by September 29th.
2. Bond presentations: Sonoma Heights, Lowry High School, Winnemucca Grammar open houses, (9/18) town hall meeting, (9/23) Winnemucca City Council, (9/22) Kings River,
3. Upcoming presentations: Community Breakfast, McDermitt Community Board 6:00 p.m. (10/13), Denio town hall meeting, Orovada town hall meeting (10/8), Paradise Valley Booster Club (10/6), County Commissioner meeting (10/6), Kiwanis Club (10/7), and Literary Club (10/15).
4. Met 9/23 with administrators: PLC meeting (more collaborative)

Travel Update Report

1. Superintendent Meeting on October 1st, Reno – meeting with the Governor's head of staff
2. Mountain West Superintendent Meeting on October 2nd and 3rd

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the warrants as presented. Mrs. Noble seconded. Those in favor: Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Noble, Mr. Hill and Mr. Seeliger. Mrs. Schrempp and Mr. Hillyer were not present.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval to Submit the Class Size Reduction Report – Kelly Novi

Each year, the Nevada Department of Education requires each school district to file a report on the status of class size reduction by October 15th. Mr. Novi presented a draft of the report to be submitted. "Count day" was Friday, September 19th, therefore, the numbers used in the report to the Board are preliminary

until final enrollment figures are verified. Mr. Novi asked the Board's approval of the plan for submission to the Nevada Department of Education.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the submission of the Class Size Reduction report as presented. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Discussion Only – School Safety Update – Officer Jeff Dawson

Officer Dawson presented a report of his activities since his report to the Board on September 9th. He noted that each call made and all activities he responds to are kept on a log. Some of the incidents Officer Dawson has responded to since his report on September 9th include: 1) an arrest for battery (Lowry), 2) French Ford: parents making u-turns and backing up over the crosswalk, 3) two fights at Lowry, 4) Sonoma Heights: 3rd grader that does not want to go to school, 5) report of students truant at Water Canyon, 6) parents reporting that their child is using and/or selling drugs, etc., 7) truancy at Winnemucca Jr. High, 8) loitering, 10) bus incidents, 11) responding to alarms, and 12) traffic control, three times per day. Officer Dawson said he works closely with law enforcement and Child and Family Protective Services. He also reported that the camera system is being fine tuned and he continues to work on the Crisis Response Plan.

When asked, Officer Dawson reported that he and Lowry administration make an effort to show a presence in the hallways to not allow students to "group up". When reports of intimidation are reported, they are acted upon immediately by the administration and the student is turned over to the juvenile department. Officer Dawson sees less drug activity and believes most of the drug activity has been moved off campus. He and law enforcement meet once a month to share information.

Discussion and Possible Action – Proposed Timelines and Process for the Filling of Board of School Trustees, Seat C – Dave Jensen

Mr. Jensen presented the Board with a proposal regarding the process to fill Seat C, currently being held by Mrs. Schrempp. Candidates interested in the position must be a qualified elector and live in the immediate area around the City of Winnemucca (Grass Valley, Jungo Road, above Lowry High School outside the city limits, the Sage Hills area and Lambert subdivision). Whoever is appointed to the vacancy will serve for two years and then may run for the position in the 2010 General Election.

General advertisement in the Humboldt Sun will be September 30, October 7, and October 14. Letters of interested must be submitted to the District Office no later than October 17th. The applications will be reviewed and an interview schedule will be established. Interviews will be held at the October 28th Board meeting, at which time, an appointment will be made. The timing of this process will allow the newly appointed board member to attend the NASB conference November 13-16, 2008.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the board vacancy process as presented. Mr. Hillyer seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval for Additional Authorized Signers to be Added to Lowry High School's Checking Account – Dave Jensen

In order to add an additional authorized signer onto Lowry High School's checking account, at Wells Fargo Bank, the bank is now requiring that new signers be approved by the Board and noted in the meeting minutes. Lowry requested that Vice Principal, Mr. Byron Jeppson, and the 2008-2009 student body treasurer, Jordan Sloan, be added onto the checking account as authorized signers.

Current signers on account include Vince Mendiola, Deborah Watts, Jodi Welter and Heather Corak.

Mrs. Noble moved to approve adding the additional signers to Lowry High School's checking account as presented. Mr. Hillyer seconded, motion carried.

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

At a previous board meeting, Mr. Bumgartner and Mr. Jensen were asked to develop a proposal to establishing public forums. Mr. Jensen presented the Board with a tentative proposal for review.

Two public forums will be held, November 18th and 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the West Hall of the Convention Center. Bruce Braginton is willing to serve as the facilitator once again. After a brief PowerPoint presentation on funding and anticipated fiscal impact for Fy2009 and FY2010, participants will break into small group discussions to outline educational priorities. The small groups will then be asked to share their top and bottom priorities collected with the whole group. The findings from the two forums, community feedback via mail, fax and email will be summarized and presented to the Board for discussion at the December 9th meeting.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the public forum educational priorities process as presented. Mr. Hillyer seconded, motion carried.

Discussion Only – Update on Advertising for the Financial Supervisor Position – Dave Jensen

The Finance Supervisor position is being advertised internally and in the Humboldt Sun for the next two weeks. The position will close on October 6th. As of the date of the Board meeting, we have received one application.

The District received approval of a waiver from PERS to allow Mrs. Hall to contract with the District for 30 days to work on a transition plan to cross train the person who is selected for the position. The Board was provided a job description for the Finance Supervisor. There was question as to whether the District would be able to attract the caliber of applicant the District is seeking with the current salary range for that position. It was suggested the position be advertised as salary "dependent on experience".

It was also questioned whether it was necessary to require the applicant be a CPA. Mr. Jensen noted that a continuing issue will be the District being assessed an audit exception because we do not have anyone on staff able to write a final financial statement. This resulted from government accounting services changes that have occurred over the past several years.

Discussion and Possible Action – Policy Discussion to Establish a Process for Naming of District Facilities – Mike Bumgartner

The District received a request to have an item placed on the agenda to name a facility after a certain individual. Upon finalizing the agenda with the Board president, vice president and district's attorney, there was some concern in naming a facility after an individual. This is the second request this school year. The first request was denied.

There was discussion as to whether the Board wanted to establish a policy. Mr. Bumgartner read a letter from Marie Jeanne Dawson regarding the subject. Mrs. Dawson raised concern about naming buildings after individuals. Her concern is not against naming a facility after an individual but, the process by which it is done. "How do we choose whom we will name a building for?" "What criteria will be used?" "Does the community have the opportunity to offer a nomination?" "Who has the ability to vote?" These were among several questions Mrs. Dawson raised.

Mr. Bumgartner was asked to gather policies from other districts and present the information at the October 14th meeting.

Mrs. Stewart moved to establish a policy and a process for the naming of district facilities. Mrs. Schrempp seconded.

Mrs. Stewart moved to amend her motion to add that the Board would attempt completion of a process/policy by the first meeting in December. Mrs. Schrempp seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Discussion Regarding the Development of a Work Study Policy – Mike Bumgartner, John Seeliger

There was some discussion at the previous board meeting regarding the work experience program at Lowry. Mr. Seeliger met with Mrs. Watts and came up with some thoughts to take into consideration.

Mr. Bumgartner noted that the principal must be given discretion to act in the best interest of the student given individual circumstances. He suggested there be a uniform standard of academic rigor built into the program. Mr. Bumgartner recommended forming a committee to create a work study policy. The policy draft would then be brought to the board, no later than March 1st, for adoption and implementation for the 2009-10 school year.

Mrs. Stewart moved to form a committee and move forward with a policy before March 1, 2009. Mrs. Noble seconded, motion carried.

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

Mr. Bumgartner noted that Shelly Noble has presented a number of the bond presentations and has done an excellent job.

Mr. Jensen noted that Treasurer, Gina Rackley, attended a bond committee meeting and shared information regarding the “pre-abatement amount”, “abatement/recapture amount” and “tax amount” shown on our real property tax statement. Mr. Jensen explained that the “abatement/recapture amount” is a savings to the taxpayer because of the 3% property tax cap imposed by the Legislature. For example, if the .1350 cent Bond and Interest rate for the school district were to end and the tax amount for that line item is less than the total “abatement/recapture amount”, the majority of taxpayers would see no savings on their total tax amount due. In most cases, a no vote would simply maintain the current tax rate with the .1350 cent assessment be divided amongst other entities. Based on this information, the majority of taxpayers would see little or no savings on their tax statement while the school district would not receive the .1350 from the Bond and Interest Rate. Work is being done to simplify this explanation for presentation to the public.

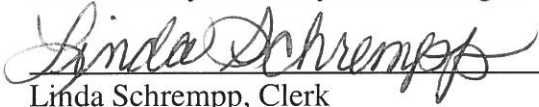
Board/Staff Comments

1. Reminder to Board members to get their superintendent evaluation to Mr. Seeliger.
2. Supply the Board with a list of capital improvement projects for FY09.
3. If any class sizes increase, it was suggested not waiting as long as we did last year to hire staff.
4. Because of the shortage of substitute teachers, it was suggested contacting PERS to see if they would allow a waiver of the 90 day waiting period for retirees and allow them to substitute. Mr. Jensen noted we struggle getting substitute bus drivers also.
5. Mr. Jensen will be attending a Title I Directors meeting in Carson City on September 26th.
6. Mr. Jensen was one of twenty scholarship recipients nationally for the Association of School Business Officers and will be attending professional development training in Denver in November and in Chicago in February. Congratulations Dave!

7. Mr. Bumgartner presented the Board with the book "Fierce Conversations". Administrators and the Leadership Team will be holding a book study group on the book. The book will help create a mindset and process to discuss difficult situations.

Adjourned 6:42 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright


Linda Schrempp, Clerk