

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

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of School Trustees was held November 10, 2008 at 4:32 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, Mary Keith-HCEA President, Heather Gula-Humboldt Sun, Marty Johnson and Jennifer Jensen with JNA Consulting Group, Bruce and Pam Braginton, Kelly Novi, Kraig Lords, Boyd Betteridge, John and Deena Moddrell, Ann Miller, Dorene Kitras, Mary Baird, Debbie Watts, Rob Lindsay, Frankie Peterson, Carolyn Dufurrena, Sabrina Novi, Debi Alexander, Jim Gilboy, Leslie Molina, Deanna Owens, Gloria Brown, Sarah Fernandez, Noel Morton, Kim Howell, Mary Lynn Hill, other interested persons and Secretary Paula Wright. Absent: Asst. Superintendent Dave Jensen.

President Pfarr opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Discussion and Possible Action – “Consideration and possible adoption of a resolution designated by the short title “2008 Humboldt County School District Canvass Resolution”; declaring the results of an election held within Humboldt County, Nevada, on the general obligation bond question submitted to the qualified electors of the district at the election held on Tuesday, November 4, 2008, authorizing the issuance by the district of its general obligation bonds; authorizing the superintendent or his designee to arrange for the sale of the bonds; and providing other matters relating thereto.” – Marty Johnson, Jennifer Jensen

The following is a timeline of steps that will need to be addressed now that the bond has passed: 1) November 10th - the Board will adopt the Canvass Resolution, 2) December -The Debt Management Commission will adopt the approval resolution, 3) December 17th - the State Board of Finance will approve the Permanent School Fund guaranty agreement (this will give the bond the state's AAA rating), 4) January 13th – the school board will adopt a bond resolution (this will allow us to move forward to sell the bonds), 5) January 14th - the bond sale and 6) February 4, 2009-the bond closing (at this time the district would have the funds to begin projects).

Mr. Johnson noted that the bonds will be issued at \$2,950,000, however, with a rollover bond there is no set limit on how much in bonds the district can issue. It is a function of how much the district can afford in meeting the financial criteria. When going before the Debt Management Commission we must demonstrate that property tax revenues will be sufficient to make the payments on the bonds. Mr. Johnson provided a table (based on the current year's estimated revenues) showing the District's ability to make the payments on the bond. The excess revenue will become available to use as a Pay As You Go or to be used to issue more bonds. The District is also required to provide to the Debt Management Commission the amount in the District's Debt Service Fund that is equal to the lesser of next years debt service or 10% of the outstanding par amount.

Mrs. Schrempp said she was under the understanding that the bonds would be established on a ten year payback schedule at a set amount. Her concern is that the District would spend more than the dollar figure associated with the proposed project list of approximately \$8.5 million.

Mr. Johnson noted that the ten years referred to is the authorization to utilize the revenues on a pay as you go basis or to issue bonds. The voters approved and authorized the District to utilize the revenues generated by the 13 ½ cent tax rate for a period of ten years. Within those ten years the District can issue bonds or can use the funds on a pay as you go basis. The limitation is on what the District can afford within the tax rate and the amount the district holds in a one year reserve requirement. The \$2,950,000 was the initial amount to get the project started and the rest of the projects will be done on a pay as you go basis. He noted that the payment schedule is for 20 years. The bonds will not go more than 20 years, depending upon the life of the assets that are being financed.

Mr. Bumgartner noted that one reason for not limiting the amount of funds to be generated is, if our tax base were to go up, the District would be able to pull in more funds on an annual basis. The funds will be all revenues generated by the 13 ½ cent tax rate, without going over the 13 ½ cents tax rate. This figure could be more or less than the \$8.5 million.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the 2008 Humboldt County School District canvass resolution as presented. Mrs. Noble and Mr. Hill seconded. Those in favor: Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Noble, Mr. Hill, Mr. Seeliger, Mr. Hillyer and Mr. Pfarr. Opposed: Mrs. Schrempp.

Correspondence: None

Secretary, Paula Wright, noted a correction to the October 28, 2008 minutes. Under agenda item "Public Comment", "Mr. Bumgartner stated that there will be more discussion regarding items and a bond Oversight Committee will handle the prioritization, with input from the Board...." It should read ".....that the Board will handle the prioritization of the project lists, with input from principals and the Bond Oversight Committee."

Mr. Seeliger moved to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2008 meeting with the noted corrections. Mrs. Noble seconded, motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the warrants as presented. Mrs. Noble and Mr. Hill seconded.

Discussion and Possible Action – Role of Public Forums Facilitators Training and Discussion – Bruce Braginton

The District will host two public forums, November 18th and November 20th, to gather input from the community regarding educational priorities. Facilitators will be used to gather input, guide discussions and assure that all input from the community is captured accurately.

The forums will open with a general opening statement and welcome to those attending. Mr. Bumgartner and Mr. Jensen will then give a brief presentation to set the stage for public input and general overall instructions. Those attending will then break into small groups of 8-10 people, with board members acting as facilitators. The groups will present their ideas and thoughts, prioritize those ideas and a spokesperson for each group will present the prioritized list, which will be transferred to a master list.

The first forum will be held November 18th at 6:00 p.m. (for board members to establish basic ground rules), 7:00 p.m. for the public in the West Hall of the Convention Center and the second will be held November 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the West Hall of the Convention Center.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval for a Full Release Day for Winnemucca Grammar School on November 14, 2008 – Dorene Kitras

Mrs. Kitras requested approval for an early release day for Ruby Payne training. Ruby Payne training provides teachers with strategies to help with low socioeconomic students. Winnemucca Grammar is a Title I school which serves a large low socioeconomic population. According to Grammar's CRT results, these are students who are most at risk of not meeting the standards. This training will provide staff the tools to effectively work with these students and their families.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the full release day for Winnemucca Grammar School as presented. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Discussion Only – Lowry High School Update – Debbie Watts

Mrs. Watts gave a brief summary of intervention programs at Lowry. The PASS program currently serves 30 students. There are 14 students currently participating in the Intensive Academic Intervention Program. The average weekly attendance at Roundup is 97.3%. On September 11th the number of freshman with one or more F's was 124; this number has dropped to 84 students. These students will continue to be monitored. There are currently 25 students enrolled in credit remediation, 15 active students and an average daily attendance of 7-8 students.

Two students have been suspended for excessive tardies.

The cross country team won state. Congratulations!!!

PASS will be hosting an open house on Thursday, November 13th at 5:00 p.m., at 6:00 p.m. there will be a sophomore parent meeting and at 7:00 p.m. the band/choir concert.

Mr. Lords gave a big "cudos" to Lowry for their support of a full inclusion program and for how successful the program has become at such an early stage.

Discussion Only – Discussion of Rural School Four Day School Week – Carolyn Dufurrena, John Moddrell

Mr. Moddrell researched how a four day school week would impact McDermitt Combined School. He took into consideration hall passings, athletic Fridays, etc. When all was totaled he would gain, what would be equal to, 12 days of instruction.

Mrs. Dufurrena briefly went over how the four day school week affected student achievement in those schools currently on a four day school week. There are approximately 100 schools in 16 states that have moved to the four day school week. Most of the districts are rural. Here are some of the findings; 1) student/teacher attendance increases, 2) discipline referrals tend to decrease, 3) teachers/students report that morale increases, 4) the extended day allows time for discussion, 5) teachers report getting more done in four longer days than in five regular days, and 6) community support is strong in those communities who have made the move. She has yet to find anyone who believes the four day school week is not appropriate for primary age students.

She focused on reviewing student achievement in four states; Clackamas County Oregon, Webster County Kentucky, Capitan-New Mexico, and Harney County Oregon-Crane Elementary and Crane High School. It appears that high schools benefit more in gains to achievement scores.

Of the 43 schools in New Mexico who are on a four day school week, 38 of those schools made AYP in 2007-08. Test scores have gone up, but not by a great deal. The 43 New Mexico schools have been on a four day school week since the 1980's. The percentage of Capitan, New Mexico students that were proficient in math and reading were higher at the high school and elementary level.

Mrs. Dufurrena briefly went over some areas the Board will need to review thoroughly prior to making a decision to go to a four day school week; 1) teacher contracts (planning time), 2) professional development, 3) the school calendar, and 4) inclusion of a student achievement component. Mrs. Dufurrena noted that she believes that the change to a four day school week can have a positive impact on student achievement, but not by itself.

Mrs. Dufurrena and Mr. Moddrell will return to the next meeting to provide additional information.

5:49 p.m. Break

5:58 p.m. Back to regular session

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Comprehensive Life Skills (CLS) Program – Noel Morton, Kraig Lords, CLS Committee

The Comprehensive Life Skills (CLS) committee proposed implementing, for the 2009-10 school year, a K-4 self-contained special education program that would involve a functional curriculum for students who are eligible. The program will be housed at Sonoma Heights.

Currently, students with severe disabilities at the elementary level are expected to function in a general education setting with the most restrictive placement provided, which consists of a one-on-one instructional aide. With this type of placement the aide becomes a “shadow” for the student, thus taking away the students’ problem solving abilities and creating concerns that these students are not receiving life skills and independence skills as they develop.

The classroom would need to have the ability to function as a working kitchen, have bathroom facilities for hygiene, have a laundry area, have an area for functional academics and transportation will need to be provided for eligible students based on IEP Team decisions. The cost for a remodel, including all of the needed appliances and equipment will be approximately \$120,000.

The CLS program could reduce the number of special education aides needed. Mr. Lords believes these positions could be redistributed. Currently, the majority of special education aides also assist with recess, lunch, and before and after school duties. Thus, the Special Education Local Plan would be able to fund most special education needs saving the General Fund an estimated \$250,000 per year. Taking into consideration the approximate \$120,000 cost for the classroom remodel, appliances and equipment, the General Fund could see a savings of approximately \$130,000 the first year of implementation.

President Pfarr commented that the CLS Team’s commitment, passion and willingness to come before the Board for the education of students in Humboldt County is very admirable and complimented them on a very professional presentation.

Mrs. Stewart approved moving forward with remodeling the facility and purchasing the supplies and equipment needed to meet the needs of the Comprehensive Life Skills program. Mrs. Noble seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Update and Approval of the Graduation Policy – Kelly Novi, Mike Bumgartner

The District was presented with some unique issues by the legislature in regards to graduation requirements for an advanced diploma. Also, new requirements were received for the Millennium Scholarship tied to graduation requirements. A committee was formed at Lowry and McDermitt, with representation from many areas of education and the community, to review the policy. Using the current policy, NRS and NAC statutes, a revised policy was decided upon.

The regular diploma will remain the same at 23 ½ credits required. However, in Mathematics, Science and Economics/Social Studies, the state now requires that a student must enroll in a minimum of four units of math, three units of science and three units of social studies. “Must enroll” requires a student to be in the class for an entire semester for ½ credit for enrollment and an entire year for one credit for enrollment. The regular diploma also requires a 3.25 GPA to be eligible for the Millennium Scholarship. Four years of math is required (one credit must be Algebra II) and one credit of Economics/Social Studies.

The advanced diploma remains at 24 credits but now requires a 3.25 GPA to be Millennium eligible and must include four years of math, one credit being Algebra II.

The honors diploma remains the same at 25 credits but now requires a 3.25 GPA with three honors or a 3.5 GPA with no honors to be Millennium eligible and also requires four years of math, one credit being Algebra II. Also, the foreign language requirement must now be two years at the same language.

The changes are retro active for the 2008-09 school year, so Lowry administration is working to identify those students who will be affected by these changes and getting a plan in place for them to be eligible for the Millennium Scholarship.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the update of the graduation and Millennium qualification policy as presented by Mr. Novi. Mr. Hillyer seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of School Improvement Plans – Kelly Novi, Mike Bumgartner

Each year the District is required to submit school improvement plans to the Department of Education by December 15th.

Each school will select a committee to gather, analyze and compile the data for the report. McDermitt Elementary, McDermitt High School and Winnemucca Grammar School participated in a pilot project and completed their plans online. Next year all schools will submit their plan online.

Each plan must include the following: 1) District/school mission statement, 2) District/school vision statement, 3) school highlights, 4) areas of strength/weakness, 5) inquiry process, 6) goals, 7) action plan, 8) measureable objectives, 9) professional development calendar and 9) data tables.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the submission of the school improvement plans as presented. Mrs. Noble seconded, motion carried.

Discussion Only – Self-insurance Fund Status and Update – Mike Bumgartner

Mr. Bumgartner gave a brief recap of our self-insurance fund. Our cash on hand as of October is approximately \$98,150, with pending claims of \$372,419. Included in the \$372,419 pending claims are five large claims totaling \$179,202.

Dr. Jensen has asked abd Insurance Services to pay claims on a first in, first out basis, rather than a first in, last out. The first in, last out payment is causing claims to sit and our employees are being denied services.

Increases made to the premiums are now beginning to show so it is hoped that within the next five months we will be able to pay the pending claims and boost the cash on hand in our self-insurance plan. No recommendation to increase premiums is being considered at this time.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of the Superintendent's Evaluation

The Board was provided Mr. Bumgartner's evaluation at the October 28th meeting and given time to review it.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the superintendent's evaluation. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Superintendent's Report

Activity Report:

1. Met with each Principal regarding evaluation goals (three meetings thus far)
2. Bond Passage was successful
3. Certification of Bond Results, met with County Commission for Adoption of the Bond Resolution
4. Met with Elementary Principals regarding unification of effort for curriculum and instruction: MAP's, PLC's, Data Teams, Standards Based Report Cards, Safety Net Standards
5. Met with Rob Lindsay and Dave Jensen regarding playground/nature trail project at French Ford
6. Worked on Building Name Policy Committee
7. Crisis Response - several schools have had "code red" drills: Sonoma, Winnemucca Junior High, and Lowry.
8. Deadline for all schools: all drills must be completed by December 1st
9. Communication with state superintendents regarding budget issues
10. Newmont Grant Partnership- Newmont has proposed a lump sum of money to be given to the District and allow the District to manage the money, with a report to Newmont as to where the funds are distributed.
11. Planning for town hall meetings on Nov 18th and 20th

Travel Report:

1. Superintendent Meeting and Conference- Las Vegas- November 12-15
2. NASB Conference and Banquet- Nov. 15th- Reno
3. State Finance Committee Meeting December 3rd
4. Superintendent Meeting/Meeting with Governor Gibbons- December 4th
5. State Board of Finance Meeting-Approval of Guaranty Agreement- December 17th- Carson City
6. Received the final version of the iNVEST plan and will be sharing that with the Board at a later date.

Board/Staff Comments

1. Mr. Seeliger noted it was nice to see that the District's enrollment has increased 18 students since count day.
2. Mr. Seeliger stated, looking at the Comprehensive Life Skills program, it is hoped that the district take advantage of the use of instructional aides to benefit students.
3. Mrs. Schrempp again asked the board to consider deleting the disclaimer on the agenda regarding the public comment section. She believes it is redundant and suppressing the public.
4. Mrs. Schrempp attended French Ford Middle School's Veteran's Day program and noted how nice it was and that Mr. Bumgartner did an excellent job playing the trumpet.
5. Mr. Hill reported that McDermitt Combined has a new scoreboard on the football field.
6. Mrs. Stewart noted that Mrs. Dufurrena participated in the parent/teacher conferences at Paradise Valley and other rural schools and was able to explain MAPS testing to numerous parents. Mrs. Stewart received numerous calls from parents stating how excited they were with MAPS testing and Mrs. Dufurrena's involvement in the process.
7. Mr. Hillyer asked if the Board could recognize the cross country team at an upcoming board meeting.
8. Mr. Bumgartner congratulated Mrs. Noble on her re-election to the Board and welcomed Ann Miller and Boyd Betteridge. The three will be administered the oath of office at the first meeting in January.
9. Mr. Bumgartner said that he, Mr. Pfarr, and Mr. Seeliger would be meeting after the meeting to review the building naming survey and to select the committee. Mr. Hillyer, Mrs. Stewart, Mr. Seeliger and Mrs. Schrempp all indicated their interest in serving on the committee.
10. We will be recognizing the "Together We Can" committee at our December 9th meeting.
11. Mr. Pfarr stated he appreciated Mrs. Schrempp's comments regarding the public comment section of the agenda, but feels it provides structure to the meetings.
12. Our next meeting will be held November 18th at 6:00 p.m. at the West Hall of the Convention Center.

Adjourned 7:46 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright


Linda Schrempp, Clerk