

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

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of School Trustees was held December 9, 2008 at 4:30 p.m. in the District Office Boardroom.

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

Others in attendance were: Superintendent Mike Bumgartner, Asst. Superintendent Dave Jensen, Attorney John Doyle, Mary Keith-HCEA President, Heather Gula-Humboldt Sun, Leo, Donna and Tess Harrer, Bonnie Hilbish, Jean and Jillian Pfarr, Tammy Francis, Kim Forney, John and Sharon Falen, Jackie Kearns, Lloyd Sherburn, Ann Miller, Kelly Novi, Hank and Judy Kershner, Doc Welter, Bud Vetter, Boyd Betteridge, Maryjo Dufurrena, John and Deena Moddrell, Carolyn Dufurrena, Ronda Havens, Ron, Jeff, and Tyree Schrempp, Dukota O'Reilly, Jonathan and Tawnja Gibson, Nicole Maher, Dennis Verner, Mary Lynn Hill, Malinda Domire, Rose Brennan-NSEA Representative, Michele Hartley, Frankie Peterson, Dan and Debbie Watts, Josh Dufurrena, Janie Sampson, Jeanette Yturriondobeitia, other interested persons and Secretary Paula Wright.

President Pfarr opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence: None

Mr. Jensen asked that the minutes of November 25, 2008 be corrected under the agenda item "Approval to go Out to Bid for Sonoma Heights Fire Suppression System". He asked that a statement be added stating there is a partial component in the bond initiative for the fire suppression system at Sonoma Heights in the amount of \$165,000.

Mr. Seeliger moved to approve the November 25, 2008 minutes with the corrections noted. Mrs. Schrempp seconded, motion carried. Mrs. Noble abstained.

Special Recognition:

Mr. Seeliger presented Mr. Pfarr with a plaque thanking him for his two years of dedicated service to the students, staff and community of Humboldt County School District. Mr. Pfarr thanked all the people associated with Humboldt County School District. "They are wonderful, dedicated people whose main priority is the education of the kids".

Mr. Seeliger presented Mrs. Schrempp with a plaque thanking her for her 20 years of dedicated service to the students, staff and community of Humboldt County School District. In an emotional response, Mrs. Schrempp noted that she considered Humboldt County School District her family. "It's been a great honor and privilege to serve on this Board". "We are very lucky to have the teachers and principals that we do, they are here for the good of kids". Mrs. Schrempp thanked her family and employees for their support.

Ms. Tammy Francis presented Mrs. Schrempp with a framed print of the Winnemucca Grammar School, which reads "In honor of your service and dedication with gratitude from the WGS staff". Mrs. Schrempp began her career as an instructional aide at Winnemucca Grammar School.

Everyone was treated to cake at the break.

Mr. Bumgartner presented the members of the "Together We Can" Committee with a certificate of appreciation for their hard work in getting the bond passed. Committee members include: John Falen, Kent and Nicole Maher, Loren and Shelly Noble, Mike Owens, Kris Stewart, Dennis Verner, Bud Vetter, Jonathan and Tawnja Gibson, and Jackie Kearns. President Pfarr also thanked Mr. Bumgartner and Mr. Jensen for their efforts.

Public Comment: The following people spoke in support of the four day school week for the rural schools: Jeanette Yturiondobeitia, Sharon Falen, Maryjo Dufurrena, Lloyd Sherburn, and John Falen.

Discussion and Possible Action – Step III Grievance Hearing Filed by Malinda Domire – Malinda Domire, Rose Brennan, NSEA UniServe Director

Presentation on behalf of Ms. Domire: Ms. Brennan stated that Ms. Domire was involuntarily transferred from McDermitt to Winnemucca Grammar School because of declining enrollment. She holds an elementary license with a background in math. When a secondary math position became available at McDermitt Combined School, Ms. Domire expressed her interest in the position and noted that she would work to get the proper secondary math endorsement. The position was advertized and no qualified candidates were found within the District, so the position was advertized outside the District. Again, no qualified candidates were found and Mr. Moddrell filled the position with a long term sub. Because of this Ms. Brennan believes Articles 10.2-10.5 of the Negotiated Contract were violated and Ms. Domire should have rights to the position. Because of the delay of the Step I grievance, the remedy of the grievance was changed from asking for Ms. Domire's placement in the position for the 2008-09 school year to her placement in the position for the 2009-10 school year, if no qualified person was found. Mrs. Brennan asked the District to grant the grievance and allow Ms. Domire to transfer into the position for the 2009-10 school year.

Presentation on behalf of the District: Mr. Bumgartner referred to Article 10.3 Voluntary Transfer, which reads, (a) "requests for transfer shall be made on forms provided by the District. The teacher shall specify the specific position for which the transfer is requested and (b) "any teacher who requests a voluntary transfer and holds a proper license for the vacant position will be interviewed for that position".

Mr. Moddrell became aware, in late April or first of May that he would have an opening when his secondary math teacher advised him she would be leaving the McDermitt area. He contacted the District office and was allowed to advertise the position immediately. He was concerned about filling the position because the pool of math teachers in the state was limited. He received approximately six candidates, which varied in skill level and some did not meet highly qualified status for the State of Nevada. No transfer request was received by Ms. Domire during the application period.

Mr. Moddrell asked to meet with Ms. Domire to review her qualifications. He felt she was a strong math teacher for 6th and 7th grade math but, he had some concerns in her qualification to teach secondary math. A request for transfer was received from Ms. Domire on August 21st (document dated 8/20). Knowing the position was going to be a challenge to fill, Mr. Moddrell hired a long term sub and Mr. Bumgartner began the process to seek an alternative route to licensure. There was no guarantee that the alternative route to licensure would be granted. The long term sub began working on his 40 hour "pre-work" requirement for professional development on August 18th. The first day he was paid was August 25th.

Mr. Moddrell could not speculate as to why Ms. Domire's transfer request was so late. Mr. Moddrell noted that he had reviewed Ms. Domire's qualifications and discovered she needed the entire math curriculum of 24 credits; the long term sub only needs 10 math credits (3 classes). The long term sub already has classes up to the calculus level.

Mr. Moddrell's responded to an email sent from Ms. Domire regarding her interest in the position. He briefly went over the qualifications of the candidates and explained that math is not a subject a person can teach without having sufficient math knowledge in the upper level classes, such as calculus. He also explained that, as a principal, he has the responsibility to hire the most highly qualified person in terms of NCLB. He said that Ms. Domire is an excellent teacher and encouraged her to apply.

A Step I Grievance was held on August 27, 2008, which was denied. The grievance was heard at the Step II Superintendent Level on October 15, 2008. Mr. Bumgartner found the grievance to be without merit and also denied the grievance.

Ms. Brennan was given the opportunity to respond on behalf of Ms. Domire.

Mrs. Noble moved to deny the grievance. Mr. Hillyer seconded. Mrs. Noble clarified her motion by saying she was denying the grievance based on Ms. Domire not completing the required paperwork (transfer request) in a timely manner. Those in favor of denying the grievance: Mrs. Noble, Mr. Hillyer, Mr. Hill and Mr. Pfarr. Those opposed: John Seeliger and Linda Schrempp.

6:13 p.m. Break

6:30 p.m. Back to regular session

Public Comment: The following people spoke in support of the four day school week for the rural schools: Stacey Moser, Josh Dufurrena, Crystal Brennan, Frankie Peterson, and Leah Mori. Mrs. Ann Miller expressed her concern, at the elementary level, that the current structure of the four day school week, as presented, would not allow additional time to be devoted to math and language arts. She was also concerned about the effect on the youngest students, ESL students, and the slowest students; those who struggle.

Mrs. Dufurrena assured Mrs. Miller that students will be monitored.

Discussion and Possible Action – Rural Schools Four Day School Week Pilot Proposal – Carolyn Dufurrena, John Moddrell

Mrs. Dufurrena and Mr. Moddrell reviewed the process of how the request for the four day school week came about. Several town hall meetings were held to gather community input. Discussions were held with the HCEA and HCSSO; both were in support of the four day school week. Students completed an online survey; grades 4-12 at McDermitt Combined and grades 2-8 in the rurals (82% were in support, 18% were opposed). All teachers and support staff were given the opportunity to complete the survey. Those without email addresses were surveyed by phone. Parent surveys were mailed; 62% of parents responded, with 83.53% in favor and 16.47% opposed. 97.1% of school staff is in favor of the four day school week. If the Board approves the pilot program for the second semester, a follow-up survey will be conducted in late April, early May.

Expected outcomes: 1) attendance is expected to increase with students and it is hoped that 40% fewer subs will be used, 2) reduction in student discipline and 3) 70% of students will make their predicted gains as measured by RIT scores.

Mr. Moddrell and Mrs. Dufurrena asked the Board to approve a one-semester pilot four day school week schedule beginning in January 2009. If approved they will begin the state application process. A working group will return to the board with final details of the plan.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the four day school week pilot proposal, to begin the first day of the second semester. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants

Mr. Seeliger moved to approve the warrants for payment. Mrs. Noble and Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action –Update of a Syllabus for a One-Half Elective Credit –Jackie Kearns
Postponed until the January 13th meeting.

Discussion Only – Update on the Financial Status of the District Health Care Plan – Dave Jensen
Combined with next agenda item, request for funds.

Discussion and Possible Action - Request for Funds to Address the Growing Deficits of the District's Medical Plan – Dave Jensen, Insurance Committee

Members of the committee provided a brief recap of the insurance program and the funding difficulties we are being challenged with. The amount of “in the drawer” claims total approximately \$400,000. The committee requested to utilize \$500,000 of General Fund monies to provide financial relief to the plan until other options could be sought, possibly going to a fully funded plan.

Mrs. Schrempp moved to approve the request of \$500,000 to be placed in the health insurance fund, with the stipulation that all funds be used immediately to clear the “in the drawer” claims. Mr. Hillyer seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Revision of the Graduation Policy – Kelly Novi

Mr. Novi presented the Board with a revision of the graduation policy. For clarification the following statement was added: “The must enroll requirement applies to pupils who were enrolled in grade 9 for the 2007-08 school year and for each school year thereafter, which excludes current juniors and seniors”. This language will sunset after the 2010-2011 year. Mr. Seeliger asked that the statement be changed to read “The must enroll requirement applies to pupils who were enrolled in grade 9 for the 2007-08 school year and for each school year thereafter, which excludes the graduating classes of 2009 and 2010”.

Mr. Hillyer moved to amend the graduation requirements as stated with the inclusion of class years 2009 for seniors and 2010 for juniors. Mrs. Noble seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of the Lander County Tuition Agreement – Dave Jensen

Mr. Jensen asked the Board to approve the Lander County Tuition Agreement. We currently have three students living in the Valmy area who attend school in Battle Mountain. Tuition will be \$800 per student for a total of \$2400.

Mrs. Schrempp moved to approve the Lander County Tuition Agreement. Mr. Hillyer seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of the Malheur County Tuition Agreement – Dave Jensen

Mr. Jensen asked the Board to approve the Malheur County Oregon Tuition Agreement. We currently have 13 students from Oregon attending McDermitt Combined School. Tuition will be \$7,173 per student or \$93,249, to be paid in two installments.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the Malheur County Tuition Agreement. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval to Augment the FY09 Budget – Dave Jensen, Ronda Havens

Mr. Jensen introduced Ms. Ronda Havens, the new Finance Supervisor. He noted she has done a tremendous job working very closely with Sally Hall. In compliance with Nevada Revised Statute, Mr. Jensen presented a review of recommended budget augments.

Mr. Jensen went over the budget and presented the changes to the budget as follows: 1) a decrease in the General Fund of \$635,781, 2) an increase in the Debt Service Fund of \$254,226, 3) an increase in the Special Revenue Fund of \$710,243, and a decrease in the Internal Service Funds of \$428,820.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve Resolution #1, decreasing the General Fund by \$635,781. Mrs. Noble seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve Resolution #2, increasing the Debt Service by \$254,226. Mr. Seeliger and Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve Resolution #3, increasing the Special Funds by \$710,243. Mrs. Noble and Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve Resolution #4, decreasing the Internal Service Funds by \$428,820. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Discussion Only – Presentation to Review the Results of the Public Priorities Forums Held on November 18 and November 20, 2008 – Dave Jensen

Mr. Jensen provided a synopsis of the information gathered during the public forums held on November 18th and 20th. The Board was provided with a consolidated list, by priority, of the areas to reduce and areas to maintain. A comparison of information collected during the public forum held in 2000 was also provided. Mr. Jensen noted that although we had great turnout for the two public forums, the majority of those in attendance were district employees. He feels we should investigate how we might obtain a larger focus on community feedback.

A special session of the legislature was held December 8th and good news coming out of that special session is that they are not going to assess further cuts to education for the remainder of the school year. However, they are going to borrow \$160 million against the local government investment pool. The District does invest money in that pool. The state will guarantee repayment with an additional one-quarter percent interest return to the District. The Millennium Scholarship funds will also be reduced.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Meeting:

1. Curriculum and AYP items dominated the meeting:
 - a. HSPE- in 2010, will reflect 12th grade standards. In the past, some 8th and 10th grade standards have been built into the test.
2. NASB -Flyer
 - a. New Board Member 24 hour workshop- Feb 20-21, Reno, Airport Plaza Hotel.
 - b. All board members must submit a bio to be sent to NASB. New members will be asked to include a photo.
3. Mark Winebarger/Kate Marshall- State Chief Deputy Treasurer/Treasurer

- a. Local Government Investment Pool letter
 - a. The fund is safe
 - b. The fund has statutory limits on the amount it can “loan”
 - c. The loan could benefit the state as well as members of the pool.

Meeting with Governor Gibbons

1. Superintendents wanted to accomplish three things:
 - a. Present the iNVEST proposal and explain it in depth, present solutions, not just identify problems
 - b. Talk about education funding and cuts for the current year: 2008-2009
 - c. Talk about the next biennium
2. Meeting with Governor Gibbons regarding iNVEST-
 - a. Gov was very receptive to the ideas and asked a lot of questions.
 - b. Several ideas were discussed
 - i. Across the board salary freezes as opposed to losing critical positions
 - ii. His support for creating a “stabilization” fund during good financial times to support education when times are lean
 - iii. Supports giving districts more freedom in the utilization of funds allocated to the districts for education: removal of key restrictions
3. Meeting with Governor Gibbons regarding the current school year, 2008-2009
 - a. Committed to attempting to keep budget cuts away from K-12 education for the remainder of this year.
4. Meeting with Governor Gibbons regarding the next biennium-
 - a. The Governor said “the next biennium is much uglier than the one we are currently in”.
 - b. Would not attempt to project a budget number for education
 - c. Superintendents were hoping for some idea, so they could begin planning. He stated that would be difficult given the volatility of the economy.
 - d. In essence, superintendents walked away with no new ideas about the next biennium

Superintendent’s Finance Committee

1. The good news: In all likelihood, K-12 education will not need to revert funding for 2008-2009. The budget reduction figures of 4%, 7% and 11% likely will not impact local school district budgets, but probably will affect the State Dept of Ed.

Travel Report

1. Carson City-Dec 17- Bond Rating Agency/State Board of Finance
2. Carson City- Dec 17-Bond Rating Conference Meeting/Bond Issue
3. Las Vegas- January 8-10, 2009 Superintendent Cabinet Meeting
 - a. Also attending: Dave Jensen, Kelly Novi, and Kraig Lords
 - b. No expense to the district- expenses paid by the Nevada Association of School Administrators

Mr. Bumgartner thanked Mrs. Schrempp and Mr. Pfarr for everything they have done for the District.

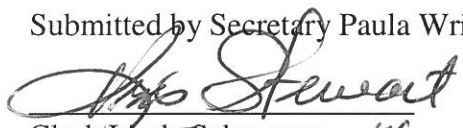
Board/Staff Comments

1. Mr. Seeliger thanked Mrs. Schrempp and Mr. Pfarr for their time and effort on the board.
2. Mrs. Schrempp asked how long Kings River Elementary students were out of school because of the recent tragedy. Mr. Bumgartner reported two days. A variance will be submitted to the State Superintendent to count the days as emergency days in session.
3. Mrs. Schrempp asked to talk to Mr. Bumgartner and Mr. Jensen regarding math at Lowry. Her request was sparked by some information Mr. Moddrell presented earlier.
4. Mrs. Schrempp thanked everyone and said it was her pleasure to serve the community.

5. Mr. Hill said "Linda, I don't know how you have sat there for 20 years. Instead of retiring your jersey like they do in sports, we should hang your chair on the wall". He also thanked Mr. Pfarr for his service to the board.
6. Mr. Hill noted that when the four day school week was first discussed, Mr. Bumgartner was not in favor of it. Mr. Hill was impressed with the fact that Mr. Bumgartner, no matter his first thoughts, kept an open mind and eventually found himself supporting the proposed pilot program. "It shows a real leader. We have the right person in that chair."
7. Mr. Hillyer said he appreciated Mrs. Schrempp's commitment, compassion and her dedication to children and staff for the past 20 years.
8. Mr. Hillyer said he appreciated Mr. Pfarr's leadership in guiding the Board through some difficult times.
9. Mr. Jensen noted that as we begin the process with the bond, we need to begin to visit with people regarding a "Clerk of the Works" who will oversee that projects are completed in a timely manner and ensure regulatory compliance. We will keep the Board updated.
10. Mr. Jensen thanked Mrs. Schrempp for the time she has devoted to the District. He also said he appreciated Mr. Pfarr's leadership.
11. Mr. Pfarr thanked everyone. He said there are challenges ahead, but said there are "great folks at the helm." He also thanked Mr. Doyle for his commitment.

Adjourned 9:21 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary Paula Wright


Clerk ~~Linda Schrempp~~ KS
Kris Stewart