

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

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of School Trustees was held January 13, 2009 at 4:34 p.m. in the District Office Boardroom.

Board members present were: Vice President- John Seeliger, Ann Miller, Shelly Noble, Boyd Betteridge, John Hill, Kris Stewart, and Andrew Hillyer. Absent:

**Others in attendance were:** Superintendent Mike Bumgartner, Asst. Superintendent Dave Jensen, Attorney John Doyle, Mary Keith-HCEA President, Heather Gula-Humboldt Sun, eight Lowry High School students, Mr. and Mrs. Owen Betteridge, Linda Betteridge, Dave and Melinda Enochson, Frankie Peterson, Kim Forney, Doc Welter, John and Deena Moddrell, Carolyn Dufurrena, Wendy Wirthlin, Marty Johnson-JNA Consulting, Leland Miller, Jackie Kearns, René Maestrejuan, Jeff Dawson, Nicole Maher, Debbie Watts, Ty Lucas, Jack Smith, other interested persons and Secretary Paula Wright.

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

**Discussion and Possible Action - Administration of Oaths of Office and Re-Organization of the Board to Include President, Vice President, Clerk, and Committee Representatives (Debt Management Commission, NASB, Insurance, Negotiations)**

Vice President Seeliger administered the oaths of office to new board members Ann Miller and Boyd Betteridge.

**Correspondence:** None

**Superintendent's Report**

1. January 8, 2009-

a. Barbara Buckley – Speaker of the Assembly

i. Reported that the Governor's State of State Address would roll out the budget for the biennium.

ii. Speculation:

1. 5% across the board pay cuts, including teachers (as of 1/13/09 we are hearing 6%);
2. 50% cut to retiree health subsidies;
3. K-12 cuts of 34%

iii. Q&A

1. Generating New Revenue- would require a veto of the Governor's proposed budget, but there seems to be support for doing so;
2. Districts need to begin dialogues with local legislators and exert influence;

2. NIAA –Antoinette Cavanaugh

- a. Superintendents have a non-voting member sitting on the NIAA board;
- b. At the last board meeting- Director Eddie Bonine expressed a willingness to re-align leagues in response to budgetary needs;

3. Rob Roberts- DSA Restrictions moratorium
  - a. Textbook Funds
  - b. Class Size Reduction Funding
  - c. 1/5 PERS Incentive
  - d. Retiree Health Subsidy
  - e. Step Increases/Lane Changes- If the state does not fund those initiatives due to budget restraints, exempt districts from doing so as well.
4. Superintendent Report
  - a. Stimulus Package Rumors:
    - i. 3 billion in aid for schools;
    - ii. Must be used to upgrade infrastructure or technology;
    - iii. Must be used within 180 days of allocation;
    - iv. Districts must prepare a list and have it available for state superintendent
  - b. Educational Bill Drafts
    - i. Superintendents were expecting fewer educational bill drafts, however, there have been 80 Bill Draft Requests submitted thus far
  - c. Critical Needs Provision
    - i. Sunsets this year
    - ii. Must be re-approved by the legislature
    - iii. No critical needs will be approved until the statute is re-approved
    - iv. Re-approval seems to have strong support
    - v. Preliminary Budget Hearing of the Legislature- January 27<sup>th</sup>- Joint Session- this will signal the beginning of budget building.

#### **Activity Report**

December 17<sup>th</sup>- State Board of Finance- Bond Guarantee

December 17<sup>th</sup>- Bond Due Diligence-Bond Rating Meeting Result:

Individual District A Rating

With Guarantee AAA Rating

December 17<sup>th</sup>- Washoe WOLF Program

December 18-January 6-Vacation

January 8<sup>th</sup>-10- Superintendent Workshop

#### **Travel Report**

January 8-10<sup>th</sup> - Superintendent Workshop

January 15<sup>th</sup> Bond Sale - Swenseid and Stern- Reno

January 15<sup>th</sup> - Superintendent Finance Committee- Carson City

January 15<sup>th</sup> - Superintendents attend the State of the State address

February 5<sup>th</sup> - Superintendent Meeting- Carson City

February 19-22<sup>nd</sup> - AASA- San Francisco – received scholarship to attend

#### **Discussion and Possible Action - Administration of Oaths of Office and Re-Organization of the Board to Include President, Vice President, Clerk, and Committee Representatives (Debt Management Commission, NASB, Insurance, Negotiations)**

Vice President Seeliger continued with the re-organization of the Board. He asked for nominations for President, Vice President, Clerk, Debt Management Representative, NASB Representative, Insurance Committee, Negotiations Committee, Legislative Representative and School Representatives.

Mr. Hillyer moved to nominate John Seeliger as President. Mrs. Stewart seconded.

Mrs. Stewart moved to nominate Shelly Noble as President. Mr. Hillyer seconded.  
Those in favor of John Seeliger: Mr. Hillyer, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Seeliger  
Those in favor of Shelly Noble: Mrs. Stewart, Mr. Betteridge, Mr. Hill and Mrs. Noble

Mr. Hillyer moved to nominate John Seeliger as Vice President. Mrs. Miller seconded.  
Mr. Hill moved to nominate Kris Stewart as Vice President. There was no seconded.  
All were in favor of making Mr. Seeliger Vice President.

Mrs. Stewart moved to nominate Mr. Hill for Clerk. Mr. Hillyer seconded.  
Mrs. Noble moved to nominate Mrs. Stewart as Clerk. Mr. Hillyer and Mr. Hill seconded.  
Those in favor of Mr. Hill for Clerk: Mrs. Stewart, Mr. Seeliger and Mr. Betteridge  
Those in favor of Mrs. Stewart for Clerk: Mrs. Noble, Mr. Hillyer, Mrs. Miller and Mr. Hill

Mr. Hillyer volunteered to serve as the Debt Management Representative. All Board members voted in favor of Mr. Hillyer serving as the Debt Management Representative.

Mr. Seeliger volunteered to continue serving as the NASB Representative. All Board members voted in favor of Mr. Seeliger serving as the NASB Representative.

Mrs. Noble volunteered to continue serving as the Insurance Committee Representative. All Board members voted in favor of Mrs. Noble serving as the Insurance Committee Representative.

Mrs. Stewart moved to nominate Mrs. Miller and Mr. Betteridge to serve on the Negotiations Committee. Mr. Hillyer and Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Hillyer moved to nominate Mrs. Stewart to serve as the Legislative Representative. Mrs. Noble seconded, motion carried.

School representatives are as follows: Lowry High School: Mrs. Noble, Winnemucca Jr. High: Mrs. Miller, French Ford: Mr. Hillyer, Grass Valley Elementary: Mr. Betteridge, Winnemucca Grammar School: Mr. Seeliger, Sonoma Heights Elementary: Mr. Hillyer, and McDermitt Combined, Denio Elementary, Kings River Elementary, Orovada Elementary and Paradise Valley Elementary: Mr. Hill and Mrs. Stewart.

Vice President Seeliger turned the meeting over to newly elected President, Shelly Noble.

Mr. Seeliger moved to approve the December 9, 2008 minutes as written. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried. Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Miller and Mr. Betteridge abstained.

**Discussion and Possible Action – 2009 School Improvement Bond Resolution Declaring the Necessity of Incurring a Bonded Indebtedness, Authorizing the Issuance of the General Obligation School Improvement Bonds – Marty Johnson, Dave Jensen**

Prior to the Christmas break the District received the state guarantee, which gives the District a AAA rating and received an A rating from Standards and Poor, which is two notches higher than the District's rating when we did refunding bonds in 2003.

An official statement has been prepared for municipal bonds sale, has been distributed and posted on the internet. The bonds will be awarded to the firm that submits the lowest overall interest rate.

Currently, there is a tremendous demand for general obligation bonds, that are highly rated and that are “bank qualified”, which means the District will be issuing less than \$10 million in the calendar year.

Upon approval of the resolution, the district is scheduled to sell bonds on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 with funds to be received February 4<sup>th</sup>. This will allow the district to begin the necessary process to establish and secure projects to be completed over the 2009 summer.

Mr. Hillyer moved to accept the 2009 School Improvement Bond Resolution declaring the necessity of incurring a bonded indebtedness, authorizing the issuance of the General Obligation School Improvement Bonds as presented by Mr. Johnson. Mrs. Stewart seconded, motion carried.

**Discussion Only – Step III Grievance Hearing in Behalf of Melinda Enochson Which Shall Be Heard in Closed Session as Pursuant to NRS 241.030**

Mrs. Stewart moved to go to closed session pursuant to NRS 241.030 for the purpose of hearing a Step III Grievance in behalf of Melinda Enochson. Mr. Hill seconded.

**6:09 p. m. Return to open session/break**

**6:13 p.m. Return to regular session**

**Discussion and Possible Action – Board Discussion and Action on Closed Grievance Hearing**

Mrs. Stewart moved to direct legal counsel to investigate the possibility of a negotiated resignation and defer action on the grievance until he has completed that process. Mr. Hillyer seconded. Those in favor: Mrs. Stewart, Mr. Hillyer, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Seeliger, and Mrs. Noble. Those opposed: Mr. Betteridge

It was asked that the item be placed on the January 27<sup>th</sup> agenda as an action item.

**Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants**

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

**Discussion and Possible Action – Update of a Syllabus for a One-Half Elective Credit – Jackie Kearns**

Ms. Kearns approached the Board for their support in approving a one-half elective credit for the GED/Adult Education program. The purpose of the one-half credit course is to provide an alternative elective for students. The course will prepare students for their future, helping them to discover educational and career options based on career choices, employment opportunities, and a progressive portfolio to include resumes, letters of reference, planning a budget, renting an apartment, purchasing a vehicle, purchasing insurance for the vehicle, etc. The course will include local guest speakers to provide information about different career and educational courses the students may select upon graduation. It is hoped to get guest speakers from law, law enforcement, medical (radiology), nursing, physician, building trades and possibly retail (management).

Mrs. Stewart asked if the Board could be given the opportunity to review the material prior to making a decision.

Mrs. Miller moved to approve the one-half elective credit as presented by Ms. Kearns. Mr. Seeliger seconded, motion carried. Mrs. Stewart abstained.

**Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of 16 and 17 Year Old Entrants Into the GED/Adult Diploma Program - Jackie Kearns**

In July of 2008, the Legislature raised the legal age to withdraw from high school to 18. Therefore, a 16 or 17 year old can study and pass the GED and work to earn credits towards an adult diploma, but will not be awarded the credits or the diploma until the date of his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

In the past, 16 and 17 year olds who requested to enter the GED/Adult Diploma program were to obtain approval by the Board. Beginning in 2007, a procedure was introduced that allowed the GED/Adult Education co-coordinator, along with Lowry Administration, the counseling department and parent to determine what was best for the student, without final approval of the Board. Ms. Kearns asked the board to consider allowing the procedure currently in place to continue, with final determination coming from that process, relieving the Board of approving each application.

Mr. Seeliger move to approve leaving the GED/Adult Education program procedure as it is, leaving the determination for the program between JOIN and Lowry High School. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

**Discussion and Possible Action – Approval for Matching Reading is Fundamental Funds (RIF) – Mary Keith**

For many years the District has partnered with the HCEA and Reading is Fundamental to supply new books to the children of Humboldt County. The HCEA is asking the District to fund half the cost of the books. The District's portion would be \$1,061.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the matching funds for Reading is Fundamental in the amount of \$1,061 as presented. Mrs. Stewart seconded, motion carried.

**Discussion and Possible Action – Approval for a Full Release Day for Grass Valley Elementary for January 30, 2009 in Support of Positive Reinforcement Professional Development – René Maestrejuan**

Ms. Maestrejuan approached the Board for approval for a full release day for January 30 for professional development training. The training will be presented by Kraig Lords and Tyler Jack and will focus on providing students with positive reinforcement for appropriate behaviors in the classroom, as well as outside the classroom.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve a full release day for Grass Valley Elementary School for January 30, 2009 as presented. Mr. Hill seconded. Those in favor: Mrs. Stewart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hillyer, Mr. Seeliger, Mr. Betteridge and Mrs. Noble. Those opposed: Mrs. Miller.

**Discussion Only – Safety Update – Jeff Dawson**

Officer Dawson reported a communication concern the District has had regarding two-way communication between the Sheriff's Office, as well as, in school communication regarding each school site and the school radios in use. The current signal going to the Sheriff's office is digital, while District radios are still analog. Officer Dawson and Mr. Jensen put together a proposal and applied for a grant, in the amount of \$13,314.61, to be used to upgrade the District's analog radios. This would allow Officer Dawson to be able to communicate with other law enforcement agencies on an encrypted channel, without interference and would extend the range of communication when traveling to areas with a weak signal.



Officer Dawson also reported that school drills are going well and the response is positive.

**Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Independent Study (IS) Policy – Doc Welter, Kelly Novi**

School counselors and administrators may refer students to the Independent Study Program (ISP) because of the inability of some students to attend a traditional educational setting, such as high school or PASS. These may be students with needs related to employment, parenting, medical or financial issues. The plan will assist them in earning their high school diploma without falling behind academically or dropping out.

The program is an at home, computer assisted, educational program called PLATO or through a traditional textbook, notes and assignments independent study program. The student will be required to meet weekly for one session with his/her assigned teacher. Assessment and demonstration of mastery of the content is critical in maintaining that the student is successful academically. Therefore, all assessments will be taken in the presence of an instructor to ensure validity.

Mr. Seeliger moved to approve the Independent Study Policy changes as presented. Mrs. Stewart seconded, motion carried.

**7:04 p.m. Break**

**7:13 p.m. Return to regular meeting**

**Discussion and Possible Action - Four Day School Week Report – Carolyn Dufurrena, John Moddrell**

Approval was received from the Nevada Department of Education for the rural four day school week on December 19, 2008. Numerous meetings have been held with staff and parents and everyone is anticipating the pilot four day school week to begin on Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.

The required number of minutes was addressed because of some concerns voiced at the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting and Mrs. Dufurrena noted some teacher transition issues that came to light as teachers prepare for a shorter work week and longer work day. Students will attend school 8:10-3:25 p.m. (with some variation). No contract hours will be lost. Teacher hours will be 7:30-4:30 Monday-Thursday and one six hour Friday per month to be used for professional development. Classified personnel will be assigned other duties to fulfill their hours and all sports will be moved to Fridays.

Student progress will continue to be monitored. Teacher feedback will be solicited and the four day school week committee will continue to be used as a sounding board for community feedback. The Board will be kept abreast of the pilot program.

**Discussion and Possible Action – Approval to Establish a Special Revenue Fund Entitled the Newmont Community Partnership Grant – Dave Jensen**

The District received a donation from Newmont Mining in the amount of \$30,000. In the past, individual schools solicited funds from Newmont. Newmont felt that by donating a set amount to the District the process could become centralized and controlled in a more efficient manner. Funds will be made available to schools and classrooms through an application process. Newmont asked that the majority of the funds be made available to non-athletic requests. A committee will review

the applications and make a recommendation to fund or not to fund the request. A report will be submitted to Newmont showing expenditure of the funds. Newmont hopes to provide this donation on an annual basis. Mr. Jensen asked the Board's approval to establish a special revenue fund.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the establishment of a special revenue fund entitled the Newmont Community Partnership Grant. Mrs. Stewart seconded, motion carried.

**Discussion and Possible Action – Approval to Establish a Special Revenue Fund Entitled the POOL/PACT Risk Management Grant – Dave Jensen**

The District received a donation from POOL/PACT in the amount of \$13,314.61. The funds will be used for supplies and equipment to aid in switching radio capability to digital to allow for effective communication with all emergency responders in times of crisis. Mr. Jensen asked the Board's approval to establish a special revenue fund.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the establishment of a special revenue fund entitled the POOL/PACT Risk Management Grant. Mr. Hillyer seconded, motion carried.

**Discussion and Possible Action – Establish a Date for a Saturday Board Retreat/Work Session – Mike Bumgartner**

Mr. Bumgartner asked that a date be established for a four hour work session to: 1) review the budget, 2) discuss the roles and responsibilities of the Board and administration, 3) and to review the process followed in regards to a grievance hearing.

A special meeting was set for Monday, February 9, 2009 from 5-9:00 p.m.

**Discussion and Possible Action – Bond Update – Mike Bumgartner, Dave Jensen**

The process to obtain the bond rating has been completed. The next step will be to sell the bond. The Bond Oversight Committee will be meeting on Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. Once the bonds are sold and the funds are in hand, contractors will be obtained and it is hoped to have the projects completed by the end of summer 2009.

An advertisement has been posted to solicit applicants for the "Clerk of the Works" position. On Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup> the Bond Oversight Committee will review two proposals. The committee will bring a name for the Clerk of the Works position to the Board at the January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting for approval. Currently, some members of the Bond Oversight Committee include; Skip Hammargren, Geno Bernardi, Walt Vetter (possibly), and Kendall Swensen. After the recommendation to the Board for the "Clerk of the Works", the Bond Oversight Committee will be expanded.

Once the bond funds are received on February 4<sup>th</sup> the "Clerk of the Works" will begin the process of securing contractors to begin the projects. Projects will begin once students are released for the summer.

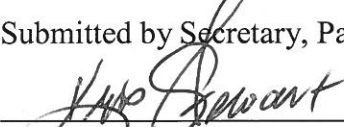
**Board/Staff Comments:**

1. Mr. Hillyer welcomed new board members, Ann Miller and Boyd Betteridge.
2. Mr. Hillyer noted that he has not heard much concern in the community regarding budget cuts. Mr. Seeliger noted that some believe the cuts will come from the ending fund balance and that nothing else will change. Communication will be key.

3. Mr. Betteridge noted he was pleased to be serving on the Board.
4. Mr. Seeliger noted that Lowry's enrollment is down 25 students year-to-date.
5. Mrs. Miller asked for clarification on the process a Board member should take when visiting schools and classrooms.
6. Mrs. Miller asked for clarification of the Open Meeting Law as it pertains to Board members discussing things one-on-one (as long as there is no polling), attending social events and what constitutes a quorum. Items may be discussed but no decisions can be made. Mr. Bumgartner also noted that serial communication amongst the Board is not allowed.
7. Mrs. Miller asked if teachers under the rural four day school week will be granted the same number of sick leave days as those who work five days. Mr. Bumgartner noted that they will be granted the same 15 days. How a day taken, other than the non-working Friday, will be calculated is still being determined.
8. Mr. Jensen asked if the Board wanted to schedule an additional community forum to gather community feedback. Mr. Betteridge suggested holding community meetings at each school. Parents may be more interested if it is held at the school that impacts them directly. Mrs. Stewart felt that after the special meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup>, the community could be presented with the basic ideas as to where the District is looking to reduce/cut spending. Once the community is provided the information, it may generate feedback. A survey will be sent home with students to gather community feedback. It was suggested that after the Governor's speech that Mr. Bumgartner give an interview to the Humboldt Sun.
9. Mr. Jensen asked Mrs. Noble and Mrs. Stewart to go to U.S. Bank and complete new signature cards for the District's checking account.
10. Mr. Hillyer reminded everyone to file their Financial Disclosure Statements prior to January 15<sup>th</sup>.
11. Mr. Hillyer asked new board members how they will handle anonymous letters.
12. Mr. Bumgartner congratulated the new board officers and new board members.
13. Secretary Wright reminded board members to submit their NASB bio's.

Adjourned 8:16 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright

  
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Clerk, Kris Stewart