

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 27, 2009 at 4:31 p.m. in the District Office Boardroom.

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

Others in attendance were: Superintendent Mike Bumgartner, Asst. Superintendent Dave Jensen, Attorney John Doyle, Dave and Melinda Enochson, Doc Welter, Chad Peters, Nicole Maher, Nicole Willis Grimes, Debbie Watts, Frankie Peterson, Kelly Novi, Sean Wilson, René Maestrejuan, Rick Norcutt, Ray Parks, Lynn Cunningham, Mike Mitchell, Kevin Monsey, Heather Gula-Humboldt Sun and Secretary Paula Wright.

President Noble opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence: None

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the January 13, 2009 minutes as written. Mrs. Stewart seconded, motion carried.

Special Recognition: Greg Ferraro and the Ferraro Group for Recognition of Assistance for HCI Bond Project

The Ferraro group provided a tremendous amount of support as the newly formed Bond Oversight Committee began the process of preparing for the election. Mr. Ferraro and his staff were extremely helpful and informative. Assistance was provided as frequently as needed, including weekly phone and office visits. All services were provided without an expectation for compensation. We appreciate his firm's efforts and assistance. Mr. Ferraro was not able to attend because of a prior commitment; therefore, Mr. Bumgartner presented Ms. Nicole Willis-Grimes, also with the Ferraro Group, with a plaque on behalf of himself, the Board, and the community.

Public Comment: Chad Peters, on behalf of Century Club, spoke in regards to the Century Club's wish to name the Lowry High School gymnasium for Vince Mendiola. The request was first brought to the Board at their September 23, 2008 meeting. The Board voted to form a committee in charge of drafting a district-wide policy for the naming of school facilities.

The hope was to honor Mr. Mendiola at the last home game on February 6th/7th by dedicating the gymnasium to him for his dedication to the students of Lowry High School and athletics for the past 30 years. Mr. Peters provided the Board with several instances, the majority of Lowry High School, in which facilities of the school have been named after individuals without a policy being in place.

Mr. Peters asked the Board to consider doing whatever was necessary to remedy the situation and allow the dedication of the gymnasium to Vince Mendiola on February 6th/7th.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bumgartner reported that he and Mr. Jensen traveled to Reno for the District's bond sale. The \$2.95 million dollar Bonds were sold at an interest rate of 4.04%.

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

4:43 p.m. Mrs. Stewart moved to go to closed session pursuant to NRS 241.030 to discuss a Step III grievance hearing in behalf of Melinda Enochson. Mr. Seeliger seconded, motion carried.

4:56 p.m. Back to open session

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

Mrs. Stewart moved to uphold the termination and deny the Step III grievance of Melinda Enochson. Mr. Seeliger seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants

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

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

Mrs. Watts reported that Lowry experienced a problem with a natural gas valve in the science building. The building was evacuated and protocol went off without a hitch. She commended the tremendous response from her staff.

A letter was received from UNR President Glick recognizing Lowry English teacher, Corrine James, for her caring of and encouragement of students. Congratulations Mrs. James!

Mrs. Gael McGibbon received a letter and award from the University of Chicago, noting how she has impacted the life of a former student. Congratulations Mrs. McGibbon!

A letter was received from the Humboldt County Senior Citizen's Center thanking the Lowry Swing Choir, Horizon Choir and Men's Choir for their performances at their Christmas dinner.

Mr. Gibson nominated student, Marlene Martinez, for "A Kid You Should Know", sponsored by KOLO Channel 8 News. She has been interviewed and it is hoped that the spot will be air soon.

Brian Mahoney asked and received a flag that was flown over the White House. It is has been framed and is on display in the new gym.

At the time Lowry came before the Board for approval of an early release day for November 24th, Mrs. Schrempp was concerned with the number of absences that the early release day (prior to Thanksgiving) might create. Mrs. Watts noted that on the same day in 2007, there were 141 absences. The number of absences on the early release day, November 24, 2008, was 123. The attendance did not decrease because of the early release day.

Tardies: For the first semester last year the number of tardies was 4277. This year, during first semester, the number of tardies was 3042. Lowry administration and staff are working continually to bring these numbers down.

68 students failed the Science Proficiency Exam. The Science Department has begun tracking students and will begin a three week "cram" course to help those students pass the test. They will hold after school classes, three times per week.

Mrs. Morgan and Mrs. Ludlow are facilitating a class on "Smoking Cessation". They currently have 3-4 students in the program and will hold a graduation ceremony when the class is completed.

February is Language Arts Appreciation Month. The English Department is taking donations of school appropriate books to facilitate a book give away for the students.

“Winterfest”: The Leadership Class has resurrected the Letterman’s vs faculty basketball game. The game is scheduled for Wednesday, February 4th at 10:45 a.m. Everyone is invited.

Mrs. Watts provided the Board with a list of students who have withdrawn from Lowry. A request for their student records has never been received. The information provided the students age, date enrolled, number of years at Lowry High School, if they are credit deficient and the reason for their withdrawal.

In the first semester, four students graduated from PASS.

Discussion Only – Curriculum and Instruction Update – Kelly Novi

Mr. Novi provided an update on current curriculum and instruction practices as well as specific areas we continue to address. Areas that Mr. Novi went over included; Professional Learning Communities (PLC's), K-12 Writing Plan, Handwriting/Keyboarding, MAP's testing and data analysis, special education access to curriculum and professional development.

A committee, with smaller sub committees, will be formed to address numerous issues within the District. The committee will look at the potential benefits of a virtual academy, summer institutes for enrichment and remediation, work study language, Independent Study, ways to track the progress of struggling students, homebound services, dual enrollment, Credit by Exam (CBE), and software that could potentially assist in the development of many of these areas.

Discussion and Possible Action – Request to Return from Miscellaneous Leave, Roxanne Chabot – Dave Jensen

At the beginning of the school year, Mrs. Chabot requested a one year miscellaneous leave, which was granted by the Board of Trustees. She has requested to return to her full time duties, prior to the conclusion of the current school year. During her leave of absence, the District entered into a one year only contract with a new employee for 2.6 hours per day. Mr. Jensen stated the District has entered into a contractual obligation and should honor the commitment made with the new employee, regardless of the determination of the Board. The Board had three options to consider; 1) allow Mrs. Chabot to return to her duties at her full six hours per day, 2) allow a return at reduced hours for the remainder of the 2008-09 school year, with a return to full time hours for the 2009-10 school year, or 3) to deny her request and allow her return for the 2009-10 school year.

Mrs. Stewart moved to allow Mrs. Chabot to return to her former position, if available, at the beginning of the 2009-10 school year. Mr. Seeliger seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Review of Names for Consideration of Early Incentive Buyouts – Dave Jensen

The district has received four requests for early incentive buyout consideration; Scott Kinnaird (grounds), René Maestrejuan (principal), Sean Wilson (secondary math) and Lynn Cunningham (PE). The total cost to purchase the requests is \$117,631.70. The District sets aside 3/10,000ths of assessed valuation based upon two years prior to the current school year. That amount equates to approximately \$170,000, however, cuts were made after the District submitted the tentative budget to the state. As a result, one of the areas reduced was the early incentive fund. The fund was reduced to \$70,000.

Mr. Jensen presented possible scenarios of cost savings to the District over a one year period of approximately \$166,625 and a savings of approximately \$360,956 for year two. Mr. Jensen noted that the District would recommend to support the buyouts under the expectation that those positions be reduced or filled internally, allowing for a subsequent reduction in positions.

It was decided to gather more information to review at the special meeting to be held on February 9, 2009, prior to making a decision.

Mr. Seeliger moved to table the agenda item until the second meeting in February. Mr. Hillyer seconded, motion carried.

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

Mr. Jensen asked the Board to approve the Pershing County Tuition Agreement. There are currently 180 Pershing County students attending schools in Humboldt County. The tuition agreement seeks a payment of \$239 per student, with Pershing County providing their own buses and drivers. Total due the district is \$43,020, to be paid at the end of the school year.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the Pershing County Tuition Agreement. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Discussion Only – Review of District-wide Staff Survey Outlining Educational Priorities – Mike Bumgartner

As we continue the process to develop priorities in light of the upcoming budget reduction, information obtained from staff will be critical for consideration. Mr. Bumgartner provided the Board with a sample of a staff survey that the District would like to send to all staff seeking their feedback on budget and educational priorities. All surveys are done on an anonymous basis.

Discussion and Possible Action - Adoption of Building Naming Policy – Mike Bumgartner
Postponed

Discussion and Possible Action – Health Insurance Update – Dave Jensen

Upon the \$500,000 being transferred to our third party administrator, all pending claims “in the drawer” were paid. Our current balance is \$24,000. Mr. Jensen will provide a copy of our stop loss report at the next board meeting. Stop loss is when an individual incurs over \$90,000 in medical costs. Our plan is obligated to meet that \$90,000 for the employee and anything beyond the \$90,000 is reimbursed. Currently, we have some employees that have exceeded the \$90,000 stop loss. We also have some pending large claims that are just now entering the system. It appears that the changes we have made to the plan are not making a significant difference.

The Insurance Committee is currently seeking quotes to look at possibly going to a fully insured system. The Committee will meet on February 2nd at 2:00 a.m. to review two quotes; one from Anthem Blue Cross and the second from St. Mary’s. Mr. Jensen noted a concern that he does not believe the District can enter into an agreement where we assume an unfunded liability or an inability to project what that liability will be. If the District moves from a self-insured fund we would lose all control over rate increases. As an example, the state PEBP plan saw an increase in insurance rates of approximately 30% last year. Mr. Jensen noted that both bargaining units understand that this is an issue that will need to be negotiated.

Discussion and Possible Action - Presentation of Proposed Name to Act as Clerk of the Works for District Bond Initiative – Mike Bumgartner, Dave Jensen

The District released an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for a Clerk of the Works position. We received two applications of interest. A committee was formed that included: Mr. Jensen, Mrs. Noble, Rick Norcutt, Skip Hammargren, Walt Vetter, Kendall Swensen and Gino Bernardi. The qualifications were reviewed and both applicants were invited to an oral interview to give the committee the opportunity to meet with them individually. The applicants were Mike Mitchell and Project One (Don Smit). Following the interviews and a discussion, the committee recommended Mike Mitchell's name be brought to the Board for approval to serve as the District's Clerk of the Works. Mr. Mitchell comes to us highly recommended from several sources, including the past and current superintendents of the Carson City School District. He is recently retired from the Carson City School District. Mr. Mitchell has many years of experience in overseeing and implementing over \$70 million in bond projects and bond funds.

Funds for the payment of Mr. Mitchell's services are built into the bond and will be paid out of the bond proceeds. A multi-phase contract will be entered into with Mr. Mitchell and his associate, Kevin Monsey. The first contract will be a validation of the assessment made by the architectural firm of Hershenow and Klippenstein. The contract will only be entered into for the series of the bond, \$2.95 million. The remainder of the Pay-As-You-Go will be considered later, with the intent that the majority of the projects be handled internally.

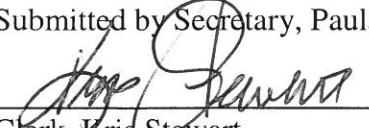
Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the presentation of the Clerk of the Works position to Mike Mitchell and Kevin Monsey. Mr. Hillyer seconded, motion carried.

Board/Staff Comments:

1. Mr. Jensen noted that upon the approval of Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Monsey, the walk through of facilities will begin tomorrow, with the rurals being done on Thursday.
2. Mr. Betteridge asked Mr. Jensen to explain how the amount that will be paid to Mr. Mitchell is figured. Mr. Jensen noted that the amount will be determined once the project cost assessment done by Hershenow and Klippenstein is reviewed. In that assessment, Hershenow and Klippenstein built in a cost for a clerk of the works position. When the amount is determined the Board will be notified.
3. Mr. Bumgartner reported that he attended the State of the State address. While there he visited with Senator, Dean Rhoads, Assemblyman, Pete Goicoechea, and Assemblyman, Don Gustavson. Mr. Bumgartner noted that Assemblyman Gustavson made no apologies for stating he did not like where public education is headed and would like to dismantle public education. He believes charter schools are doing a better job with less money.
4. Mr. Bumgartner provided the Board with a draft copy of the stimulus package that is being proposed for the funding of education. The package has not been adopted or approved. The report shows an estimated state grant for the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund. This reports shows Nevada receiving \$254,880,000.

Adjourned 7:13 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright


Clerk, Kris Stewart