

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

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of School Trustees was held February 24, 2009 at 4:32 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, Mary Keith-HCEA President, Heather Gula-Humboldt Sun, Dick and Mary Lou Matthys, Rick Norcutt, Andy DuMond-NV Energy, Frankie Peterson, Paul Criddle, Bryon Jeppsen, Sibyl Carlton, Nicole Maher, Mike Dennis, René Maestrejuan, Ray Parks, Sean Wilson, Lynn Cunningham, and Secretary, Paula Wright.

President Noble opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence: None

Mr. Seeliger moved to approve the February 9, 2009 minutes as written. Mrs. Stewart seconded, motion carried. Mr. Hillyer was not in attendance.

Mr. Seeliger moved to approve the February 10, 2009 minutes as written. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried. Mr. Hillyer was not in attendance.

Special Recognition: Presentation of a Rebate Check from NV Energy - Andy DuMond

Mr. Andy DuMond, a representative with NV Energy, presented the District with a rebate check in the amount of \$1,116.63. The Sure Bet for Schools program helps Nevada school districts reduce energy consumption and save money by implementing energy efficiency improvements. The program helps schools identify cost-effective projects and provides financial incentives to help offset the cost of efficiency projects. The District recently replaced the old, TV type computer monitors with flat screens, saving money on energy costs.

Discussion Only – Lowry High School Update – Debbie Watts, Byron Jeppsen

All seniors have been provided with the new Millennium Scholarship requirements. Each student was asked to sign a statement that they had read and understood the requirements to qualify for the Millennium Scholarship.

Mrs. Watts provided the board with a graph showing the percentage of students with an "F", by grade, and the progress made to decrease the number of students with "F's" over a three year period. The intervention programs, Roundup and Advisory, are showing success in decreasing the numbers.

The Lowry High School wrestlers took state. Congratulations!! The boy's and girl's basketball teams are both going to state in Las Vegas the weekend of February 28th. Good luck to both!!

Communication has begun with Winnemucca Jr. High to get students registered for classes for the 2009-10 school year.

Thursday, March 5th, Lowry will host the incoming freshman parent information night. Mr. Jeppsen reported that the 12th grade Proficiency Test results have been received for those students who have failed the test several times. 14 of the 24 students taking the math portion passed and four of the five students taking the reading portion passed. The writing results have not been received. Joyce Knight provides afterschool classes for students to help prepare for the proficiency testing. Marcel Johnson helps those in in-school detention for discipline to work on assignments from their classes. Jodi Neary occasionally helps a student who has a question about math. It is a group effort. Everybody helps. Great job!!

Sibyl Carlton approached the Board to commend Rick Norcutt for his work. Mrs. Carlton noted that she has complained over the past 30 years regarding the heating system in the library at Lowry. Several weeks ago Mrs. Carlton approached Mr. Norcutt with a possible solution to the problem. The next morning Mr. Norcutt and an employee from the maintenance department found the problem and it was immediately taken care of.

Mr. Bumgartner asked everyone to stand and give a round of applause to Dave Jensen who has completed his Doctorate in Educational Leadership. Mr. Jensen will officially become Dr. Jensen when he walks on May 15th at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bumgartner again congratulated Mr. Jensen for completing his Doctorate in Educational Leadership.

1. Attended the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) Conference in San Francisco- February 19-22
 - a. Gene Glass- PHD, Arizona State University-
 - i. He declared NCLB dead
 - ii. Overview of 21st century education-how it looks and how different it is from how we currently deal with students
 - b. Linda Darling- Hammond- Stanford University and former teacher
 - i. She has been appointed to direct the Educational Transition Team
 - ii. She believes sweeping changes are needed in NCLB
 - iii. She believes that the US system of education can take cues from other countries
 1. Example: Finland
 - a. From middle of the pack in achievement to the top
 - b. They have revamped teacher education
 - c. Now, for every teaching position, they receive approximately 200 applicants
 - d. Higher Pay
 - e. Three year paid, active master teacher coached internship
 - iv. She stated that standards based education is a "mile wide and an inch deep".
 1. Compare Nevada's K-12 Math standards booklet with approximately 35 pages to Finland's 3 pages
 - c. Douglas Reeves
 - i. The Implementation Gap-many times is the cause for program failure
2. Contacts;
 - a. President of Advanced Academics- Online Systems of Education- possible candidate for our district.

Activity Report

1. Met again with principals regarding evaluations and goals.

2. Leadership Team Meetings
 - a. February 11th and February 23rd - discussed leadership team outlook for next year
 - b. Discussed a "shift of focus"
3. NNRDPD Governance Board Meeting- Discussed budget and possible PDP funding from legislature for the next biennium.
4. Met with Mr. Jensen on February 13th to begin identifying possible areas for budget reductions. A preliminary proposal was created.
5. February 14th - Attended the State Wrestling Championships. Congratulations Lowry!
6. February 17th - Met with the Administrative PLC Team and discussed the budget reduction process, the calendar for the remainder of the year, attendance, "shift of focus", and Board policy review discussion and timeline.
7. February 18th - Health Care negotiation opening session
8. February 19-22nd - Attended AASA Conference in San Francisco
9. February 23rd - Health Care Negotiations
10. Mr. Bumgartner and Mr. Jensen began individual meetings with principals regarding budget reduction impact items at each site

Discussion and Possible Action - Appeal of Sick Leave Bank Committee Decision in Behalf of Mary Lou Matthys Which Shall Be Heard in Closed Session Pursuant to NRS 241.030 – Dave Jensen

Mrs. Stewart moved to go into a closed session to hear an appeal of the Sick Leave Bank Committee's decision in behalf of Mary Lou Matthys pursuant to NRS 241.030. Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried.

5:00 p.m. To closed session

5:50 p.m. Back to open session

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of a Trip Request for the Lowry High School Band and Choir to the Heritage Music Festival in Anaheim, California – Paul Criddle

Mr. Criddle approached the Board for permission for the Band and Choir to attend the Heritage Music Festival in Anaheim, California on April 22-26, 2009. The group will cover the approximate \$6000 in costs for the trip. They have requested two travel buses and will also pay for the driver and fuel. The group will consist of approximately 61 students, 6 chaperones, 2 bus drivers and Mr. Criddle.

Mrs. Stewart asked the Board to consider providing a small payment in support of music education and the great work that Mr. Criddle and his students have done. Mr. Betteridge agreed.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the band and choir trip to Anaheim, California for the Heritage Music Festival and to provide Mr. Criddle and his group up to \$1000 (in kind contribution) toward vehicle and travel expense. Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Appeal of Sick Leave Bank Committee Decision in Behalf of Mary Lou Matthys – Dave Jensen

Mrs. Stewart moved to uphold the decision of the Sick Leave Bank Committee with regard to Mary Lou Matthys. Mrs. Miller seconded.

Mr. Hillyer moved that the question go back to the committee to assess whether it considered that the said physician's supplied excuse was relevant and applied to the reason for use of the said sick day. Mr. Seeliger seconded.

President Noble called for the vote on the motion made by Mrs. Stewart and seconded by Mrs. Miller. Those in favor: Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Hill, Mr. Betteridge and Mrs. Noble. Those opposed: Mr. Seeliger and Mr. Hillyer.

President Noble called for a vote on the motion made by Mr. Hillyer and seconded by Mr. Seeliger. Those in favor: Mr. Hillyer and Mr. Seeliger. Those opposed: Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Hill, Mr. Betteridge and Mrs. Noble.

The decision of the Sick Leave Bank Committee was upheld.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants

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

Discussion and Possible Action – Early Incentive Buyout – Dave Jensen

With additional information submitted to the board in connection with the board retreat held on February 9, 2009, the early incentive buyout request was presented to the board. The cost to approve all four individual buyouts total \$112,178.31. Currently, the District has \$70,000 budgeted for early incentive buyouts, which leaves \$42,178.30 that the District would need to find to cover the expense. The Board was provided with an analysis of the yearly savings to the District, if the requests for buyout are approved. The first year savings would be approximately \$116,000. Mr. Jensen noted that, if the Board approves the early incentive buyouts, the positions will not be refilled for the upcoming school year and would be cut through attrition. Mrs. Stewart and Mr. Hill preferred to see the recommended budget reduction plan District administration will be bringing to their March 9th meeting. This will allow them to see how the early incentive buyouts tie into the plan prior to making a decision to approve them.

Mr. Seeliger moved to approve the early incentive buyouts for the four employees, with the understanding that the administration will come back to the Board in their plan having eliminated an administrative position, two certified positions, and one classified. Mr. Hillyer seconded. Those in favor: Mr. Seeliger, Mr. Hillyer, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Betteridge, Mrs. Noble. Those opposed: Mrs. Stewart and Mr. Hill.

Discussion Only – Health Plan Status Update – Dave Jensen

The current revenues to our self-insurance plan are not meeting the expenditures. The Insurance Committee looked into moving to a fully insured plan. An insurance broker, at no cost to the district, gathered bids for a fully insured plan. Quotes were received from St. Mary's and Anthem Blue Cross. After review, the committee was most comfortable with the St. Mary's Preferred 500 plan.

A negotiations meeting was held February 23rd with the HCEA and HCSSO to address the issue of insurance. The meeting was a positive one and a recommendation will be brought before the Board at the March 10th meeting to ratify going to a fully insured plan with St. Mary's.

Mr. Jensen noted that when the District makes the transition to fully insured, we will assume the cost up to the point we make the switch to St. Mary's. This means that there will be a time frame that the District will assume double insurance premiums. This will be an expensive undertaking but, in the long term, will be a fiscal benefit to the District.

Discussion Only – Overview of iNVEST '09 – Mike Bumgartner

Mr. Bumgartner briefly went over the iNVEST '09 plan. The iNVEST '09 proposal is a joint action of the Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) and Nevada Association of School Superintendents (NASS). iNVEST '09 identifies approximately a \$1 billion dollar gap between what education receives and what is needed for education. Local school boards are disallowed from levying educational taxes at the local level. The five main ideas for iNVEST '09 include; 1) adequate funding, 2) truth in taxation, 3) develop a stable funding plan for education, 4) competitive teacher compensation (bring pay in line with other states) and 5) empower school districts.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of a Resolution in Support of iNVEST '09 – Mike Bumgartner

Mr. Seeliger read the resolution into the minutes.

Resolution of the Board of Trustees and Superintendent of Humboldt County School District in Support of iNVEST '09

- Whereas, improving student achievement is the core business of Nevada school leaders; and
- Whereas, Nevada's educational leaders are wholly committed to improving student achievement for all students; and
- Whereas, Nevada's educational leaders face significant challenges in meeting that goal, including a student population growing in both size and diversity, significantly decreasing state and federal funding for Nevada students with further reductions anticipated during the next Biennium; and
- Whereas, funding has been cut, expectations have not; and
- Whereas, Nevada's educational leaders have identified specific programs, funding levels, and accountability measures to meet those expectations and improve student achievement; and
- Whereas, what is most needed to improve student achievement in Nevada is adequate funding and the freedom to use that funding in the most effective manner, as dictated by the needs of students; and
- Whereas, this plan is known as iNVEST '09 and has been collaboratively developed by Nevada's school boards and superintendents; and
- Whereas, iNVEST '09 is based upon three fundamental principles:
 - ❖ Education can be improved when adequate basic support is provided to districts;
 - ❖ Districts must have resources to attract and retain qualified teachers; and
 - ❖ Districts must have the means to provide enhanced educational opportunities for students.
- Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Superintendent and Board of Trustees of Humboldt County School District fully endorse and support iNVEST '09 and its primary purpose of improving student achievement for all students, and urge the Governor and Nevada State Legislature to support iNVEST '09 through specific action to:
 - ❖ fully fund the base budget;
 - ❖ ensure that all of the tax revenue collected from education specific taxes is used only to fund education;
 - ❖ develop a long-term plan to systematically and incrementally increase the level of education funding;
 - ❖ pay teachers more and; and
 - ❖ empower school districts to meet the educational needs of their students.

In WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Humboldt County School District to be affixed this _____ day of _____ in the Year 2009.

Mr. Seeliger moved to approve the resolution in support of iNVEST '09. Mrs. Stewart seconded, motion carried.

Discussion Only – Overview of Budget Reduction Process – Mike Bumgartner, Dave Jensen

Mr. Jensen began by saying that initially the District was expecting a 14% budget reduction. We have now been presented with a worst case scenario that equates to an 8% budget reduction. An 8% budget reduction equates to \$1.9 million, which is reached through a combination of reduced basic support per

student, reduced class size reduction funding and reduced allocations for special education units. We have yet to see how legislative action and the stimulus package will play out.

Mr. Bumgartner noted that there are several things to take into account; 1) there is discussion that the Governor's proposed budget will be greatly revised, 2) there is great support for education on both sides of the political isle, 3) the NSEA room tax will offset some of the reductions to education, 4) the stimulus package, and 5) there is strong support for creating some new revenue streams.

Mr. Jensen noted that, although it is factored into the \$1.9 million, there is not a lot of support for the 6% budget reduction for educators. There is an increase in groups supporting education; they are actively lobbying legislators to bring the needs of education to the forefront.

A tentative budget must be submitted to the Department of Education by April 15th, based on an 8% budget reduction. A plan is in place to keep all employees informed by sending out "Money Matters", a newsletter providing information regarding where the District is fiscally and any information the District receives that may impact the District. Mr. Bumgartner and Mr. Jensen are meeting with staff at each school site. Meetings have been held with site administrators to discuss the potential for specific cuts, however, nothing is finalized. Meetings have also been held with association presidents, Mary Keith and Deena Moddrell to provide information they need.

Updates will be provided to staff twice per month and there is also a tab on the District website titled "Superintendent Budget Update" which will provide any information received from the legislature or from any other source, survey results, community forum results and the iNVEST '09 proposal.

District administration has been meeting to begin identifying potential areas to reduce. A rough draft has been compiled and at the March 9th Board retreat District administration will be asking for the Board's feedback. Then at the March 18th Board retreat specifics to the budget reduction will be proposed, with the Board voting on the budget reduction proposal at the March 24th meeting. Mr. Bumgartner, Mr. Jensen and site administrators will be meeting with employees that may be involved in the reduction prior to taking the final proposal to the board on March 24th for final approval.

Mr. Jensen noted that there is a possibility the District could receive more funding depending upon how the legislative session and the stimulus package play out.

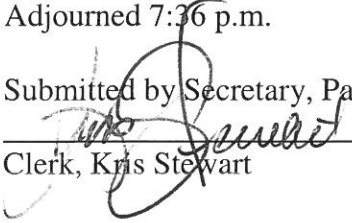
Board/Staff Comments:

1. Mr. Hill wished Secretary, Paula Wright, a happy birthday.
2. Mr. Betteridge said he attended the NASB workshop for new board members in Reno and noted how informative it was.
3. Mr. Hillyer invited everyone to the Century Club pizza party for the Lowry boys and girls' basketball teams and the wrestling team on February 25th at 7 p.m. at Spare Time Bowling Alley.
4. Mr. Hillyer asked if board members could have the opportunity to review the "Pipeline" prior to it being sent out.
5. Mrs. Stewart reported that a rural basketball tournament was held over the weekend. The McDermitt Bulldogs were the champions of, both, the lower and upper age group. A thank you to Mr. Garrison for the use of the facility at Winnemucca Jr. High and to Mrs. Dufurrena for organizing a great tournament.
6. Mrs. Miller gave a brief report on some of the speakers who presented at the NASB workshop in Reno. After talking to board members from other districts, she noted how truly appreciative we should be of our Superintendent and board.
7. Mr. Seeliger asked that we rotate school updates at future meetings.

8. Mr. Hillyer asked that we have Officer Dawson present the school safety updates every two months, rather than on a monthly basis.
9. Mr. Seeliger asked if all the MAPS testing had been completed at the rural schools. Mr. Bumgartner said yes and noted that student absences are down 70%.
10. Mr. Jensen reported that the District has had a request from a realtor, representing and unnamed interested party, to see if the Board had any desire in selling a parcel of land on Railroad Street, next to Hunewill Construction. There didn't appear to be any interest from the Board to sell.
11. Mr. Bumgartner wished, Secretary Paula Wright, a happy birthday.

Adjourned 7:36 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright


Clerk, Kris Stewart