

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

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of School Trustees was held April 9, 2009 at 6:00 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, Deena Moddrell-HCSSO President, Larry Storm, Mike Mitchell, Frankie Peterson, Rick Norcutt, Audra Young, Don Petersen, Doris Rodriguez, Cody Caumiant, Marina Lopez, Janet Kennedy, Ronda Havens, Kelly Novi, Teresa Lovato, Ray Parks, Tim Palmer, Kole Kracaw, Lindsay Tattersall, Erin Tattersall, Sophie Kristof, Mishell Alarcon, Bob Pace, Lynette Whalen, Chelsea Mendiola, Maria Huante, Tonya Hunewill, Jackie Riggan, Ladell Schott, Tim and Mayris Turner, Jaimie Wilkinson, Dustin Christean, René Maestrejuan, Carolyn Dufurrena and Secretary Paula Wright.

President Noble opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence: None

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the March 18, 2009 minutes as written. Mr. Seeliger seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Seeliger moved to approve the March 24, 2009 minutes as written. Mrs. Stewart seconded, motion carried.

Special Recognition: Mr. Parks, on behalf of the students and staff of Lowry High School and the Humboldt County School District took the opportunity to acknowledge Mr. Loren Hunewill and the employees of Hunewill Construction for their tremendous efforts at making the Lowry High School Softball field and the area surrounding it such a "top-notch" facility. Mr. Hunewill and Hunewill Construction have been and continue to be a fantastic supporter of the students of the Humboldt County School District. Mr. Hunewill was unable to attend the meeting; his wife, Tonya, accepted a jacket in his behalf.

Public Comment: None

Discussion Only – Lowry High School Recognition – Mike Bumgartner

The Lowry High School Academic Team took the state championship. Mr. Storm introduced the Lowry High School Academic Team: Tim Palmer (Captain), Kole Kracaw, Lindsay Tattersall, Erin Tattersall, Sophie Kristof, Mishell Alarcon.

In the regular season the team went 16-4 in competition. At the end of the season, in tournament play, the team went undefeated (6-0) and won the regional championship and the state championship. Great job!!

The Academic Team has been invited, as one of 192 teams in the U.S., to participate in the National Championship for High School Academic Challenge in Chicago at the end of May. The team will come before the Board at a later date for permission to attend.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Meeting- April 2, 2009- Carson City

1. Presentation by Mindy Elliot – Chief of Staff, Governor's Office regarding the Stimulus package
 - a. Stimulus package – funding is currently available from the Federal government. There are specific "silos" of funding for education. Any state that applies for the stimulus funds must fund levels back to the 2006 level for education in order to qualify. Because Nevada cannot meet that criterion, we are currently in the process of applying for a waiver. Waivers should be addressed within the next two weeks.
 - b. The Governor has stated that educational funding is his priority.
2. State Comptroller – Reporting of every stimulus dollar will be required. Accountability is key.
3. Assemblywoman Smith, visiting on behalf of Speaker Buckley
 1. Revenues statewide are down by 40%, approximately \$500 million dollars more than anticipated. An error in the Governor's budget also account for an additional \$300 million dollar shortfall.
4. There looks to be little capacity to raise revenue.
5. Economic forum projections come in on May 1st. Indications are that projections will be even lower than current figures.
6. When asked if the 6% salary reductions could be statutorily mandated, Assemblywoman Smith stated that they "cannot be involved in legal contracts" and the legislature won't mandate what school districts have to do to adjust for revenue decreases.

Activity Report

1. March 25- Mr. Bumgartner and Mr. Jensen met with HCEA members concerning clarification and agreement of Articles 8 and 10- Reduction in Force and Transfers
2. March 25th- met with senior class at Lowry concerning Senior Choice Awards.
3. March 26th- Carson City- Mr. Moddrell received the Public Education Foundation Award- Educator of the Year/Hall of Fame- one of four Nevada educators to receive that honor
4. March 30- met once again with HCEA regarding Articles 8 and 10.
5. March 31- met with Administrators regarding Reduction in Force language
6. April 1- met with Chief Davidson, Sheriff Kilgore and Jeff Dawson- plan for completing the Crisis Response Plan.
7. Week of March 30-April 1- met with staff who are due to be unemployed
8. April 2- Superintendent Meeting in Carson City regarding 2009-10 budgets
9. April 7- Lowry Accreditation
10. The past two weeks, 30-40 hours have been spent on personnel issues

Travel Report

Mr. Bumgartner and Mr. Jensen will be attending the Superintendent Meeting and Superintendent's Finance Committee Meetings-May 6 and 7-Carson City

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of the McDermitt Combined School Senior Class Trip to Las Vegas – Donald Petersen, Doris Rodriguez, Cody Caumiaunt, Marina Lopez

The McDermitt senior class approached the Board for permission to travel to Las Vegas on May 15-18, 2009. The group will include 9-10 students and two chaperones. They hope to catch some movies, visit the raceway (go-carts), Circus Circus, the Valley of Fire State Park, Hoover Dam, Lake Mead and take in a show. The group also asked for the use of a suburban for the trip.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the McDermitt Combined School senior class trip on May 15-18 as presented. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Discussion Only – Bond Update: Review of Current Process – Mike Mitchell

Mr. Mitchell reviewed the current bond projects. The Citizen Advisory Committee met on March 31st to discuss expanding the oversight committee and holding staff meetings at each school site to review the planned projects for that site. Other items discussed at the meeting were the different ways of bidding the bond projects with regard to individual contractors and general contractors, negotiating contracts with proprietary vendors, and construction management options. Bids should begin to be received in early May.

A workshop was held with local, general and sub contractors to explain the scope of the projects, how the district anticipates bidding projects, bonding requirements, insurance requirements, prevailing wage requires and licensing requirements.

Mr. Mitchell briefly went over a summary of the recommended projects at each school site. Projects will begin June 4th at 5:30 p.m. and it is hoped to have all projects done two weeks prior to the beginning of school to allow employees to return to classrooms.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants

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

Discussion and Possible Action – Review and Approval of the FY10 Tentative Budget – Dave Jensen, Ronda Havens

In accordance with NRS, a tentative budget for the 2008-2009 school year must be submitted to the Nevada Department of Education by April 15th of each year. Mr. Jensen noted that the Tentative Budget is based on the best figures we currently have. Figures for Net Proceeds of Minerals will not be available until April 24th, the Economic Forum will not meet until May 1st and the Legislature will not be recessing until June. At the Superintendent's meeting there was discussion to seek approval to postpone the April 15th deadline until districts receive a better idea of funding.

The budget contains two funds, including Debt Service, requiring property tax revenues totaling \$6,732,626, a decrease of approximately \$700,000 from the augmented budget in December. The budget contains 38 governmental fund types with estimated expenditures of \$32,938,019, a decrease from 44 governmental fund types and a reduction amount of \$2,498,631 since December's augmented budget. Also included are two proprietary funds with estimated expenses of \$265,962, a decrease of \$1.9 mil. Included in the proprietary funds is the district's self-insurance fund over previous years. \$125,000 budgeted for claims run out. \$450,000 has been reserved to meet obligations for abd Insurance Services for April, May and June. An additional \$125,000 has been placed into Unemployment Benefits.

For the upcoming school year the district's predicted unweighted enrollment figure is 3,210, with a basic support per pupil amount of \$6124 (\$19,658,040). Thirty-two Special Education units at an estimated \$36,569 (\$1,170,208), along with several other areas, bring our total basic support to \$20,828,248 or a decrease of \$1.7 million. Based on current information our opening fund balance is \$2.1 million, which is equal to approximately 29 operating days. Mr. Jensen went over the budget by fund, noting an ending fund balance of approximately \$1.2 million (approximately 18 operating days).

Mr. Jensen thanked Ronda Havens and Sally Hall for their tremendous amount of work on the budget.

Mr. Stewart moved to approve the FY10 Tentative Budget as presented. Mr. Hillyer seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Establish Date, Time and Place for a Public Hearing on the FY10 Tentative Budget – Dave Jensen

Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) requires us to establish a public hearing for the FY10 Tentative Budget. As required by the NRS, the meeting must be held the third Wednesday in May, which is May 20th.

Mr. Hillyer moved to establish the public hearing date for Wednesday, May 20, 2009 in the Lowry High School Library at 12:00 p.m. Mrs. Stewart seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action - Discussion on Needs and Procedure to Develop and Implement Tier II Reductions – Mike Bumgartner, Dave Jensen

The Board asked that Mr. Bumgartner and Mr. Jensen return to the Board on April 24th with a Tier II Reduction proposal. NRS 391.3196 is a statute requiring school districts of their obligation to notify all staff of their employment for the upcoming school year by May 1st. In order for the District to proceed with a Tier II Reduction and identify positions, an obligation or decision must be made by May 1st. Superintendents across the state asked to have the Tentative Budget submission date extended beyond the April 15th deadline. State revenues are short by approximately \$500-800 million. The Governor has made a commitment to K-12 education, but there is no relief for statutory deadlines.

Superintendent of Public Instruction, Keith Rheault, feels that the 8% budget reduction taken by the District is a good estimate and Tier II reductions may not be a productive scenario. He noted that if the budget is likely to be worse it is likely to be very, very much worst and Tier II may not go deep enough to cover. Mr. Bumgartner has been in contact with educational lobbyists who are in the trenches on a daily basis and their feeling is the 8% reduction may be sufficient.

Mr. Jensen noted that Tier II recommendations were considered in hopes of not impacting classrooms and teacher/student ratio. Some of the recommendations came from HCSD staff. Three possibilities were given, noting no community feedback has been received. 1) Closure of Orovida and Kings River Elementary and rezone to McDermitt Combined School, 2) district-wide 4 day school week and 3) absorb 7th and 8th grades from Paradise Valley Elementary between two teachers or rezone 7th and 8th grades to Winnemucca Jr. High School. Mr. Jensen provided the pros and cons of each scenario and the approximate savings to the District.

There was discussion amongst the Board.

Mrs. Stewart moved to instruct administration to construct a Tier II reduction schedule by the April 24th meeting. Mr. Hillyer seconded. Those in favor: Mrs. Stewart, Mr. Hillyer, Mrs. Miller and Mr. Hill. Those opposed: Mrs. Noble, Mr. Betteridge and Mr. Seeliger.

There was further discussion in regards to a target amount or percentage for additional reductions and some suggestions on where additional cuts could be made.

Mr. Hillyer moved to direct administration to set a goal of an additional 4% reduction to the budget. Mrs. Stewart seconded. Those in favor: Mr. Hillyer, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Miller and Mr. Hill. Those opposed: Mrs. Noble, Mr. Betteridge and Mr. Seeliger.

Public Comment:

1. Ladell Schott noted that if the Orovada Elementary School is closed and students transferred to McDermitt, many parents have voiced their consideration to home school their child.
2. Rick Norcutt asked if employees had been approached to take a voluntary pay cut.

Closed Session Pursuant to NRS 241.015(2)(b)(2) to Update the Board on a Pending Suit: Robinson vs the Humboldt County School District – John Doyle.

8:30 p.m. Mrs. Stewart made a motion to move to a closed session pursuant to NRS 241.015 for a Board update on a pending lawsuit. Mr. Hillyer seconded, motion carried.

Back to open session.

Board/Staff Comments:

1. Mr. Hillyer noted that the Board has some difficult decisions to make.
2. Mr. Seeliger asked where the investigation was regarding the vehicles that were damaged at Lowry High School. Mr. Bumgartner reported he has no updated information.
3. Mrs. Miller asked if a decision had been made to the buyout of Mr. Wilson. Mr. Bumgartner said Mr. Wilson has decided to continue teaching.
4. Mr. Bumgartner stated he would be bringing a proposal to the Board regarding a retirement incentive.

Adjourned 9:20 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright


Clerk, Kris Stewart