

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

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of School Trustees was held June 8, 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, Kelly Novi, Rick and René Maestrejuan, Jan Morris, Stephen Romero and Ann Wiswell-Wells Fargo Insurance, Dee Holzel, Jeff and Dana Johnson, other interested persons and Secretary Paula Wright.

President Noble opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Correspondence:** None

**Minutes:** Mr. Seeliger moved to approve the May 20, 2009 minutes as written. Mrs. Stewart seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Seeliger moved to approve the May 26, 2009 minutes as written. Mrs. Stewart and Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

**Special Recognition: Grass Valley Elementary Principal, René Maestrejuan**

Mr. Bumgartner thanked Mrs. Maestrejuan for her many years of service to the students and parents of Humboldt County as an exemplary teacher and outstanding principal of Grass Valley Elementary School.

Mrs. Maestrejuan said it has been her pleasure and honor to work for Humboldt County School District and thanked everyone for their support throughout her 31 years of employment.

**Public Comment:** None

**Superintendent's Report – Mike Bumgartner**

- Will be attending a Superintendent's meeting on June 14-16

**Activity Report:**

- Met with Andrew Shaw, Assistant to Senator Ensign, regarding issues in the rural counties. Some of the items discussed were the good and bad of NCLB, the state of education in the nation and in the State of Nevada.
- Working on principal evaluations
- 5/28 - Transition Day
- 5/29 - French Ford D.A.R.E. graduation
- 6/5 - Met with Association presidents in McDermitt regarding, the budget, the 4-day school week, and the call back procedures
- Met with Gail Brinkmann, teacher at Kings River, regarding her concerns about enrollment for the upcoming school year
- Attended Denio and Lowry's graduations
- 6/4 – Met with five teachers and reinstated their positions

### **Discussion Only – Update on Bond Projects – Dave Jensen**

Mr. Mitchell was not able to attend the meeting. The Bond Oversight Committee met on Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> to go over the bids received earlier in the day for roofing and electrical. The roofing of the Winnemucca Jr. High School (1990 addition) and Sonoma Heights was awarded to the low bidder, Raymond Keller Construction, at \$210,954. The electrical bid for McDermitt, Sonoma Heights, Paradise Valley and Winnemucca Grammar was awarded to C.R. Drake at \$72,669.

Currently, bids are out for asbestos abatement at McDermitt and Paradise Valley and the Winnemucca Grammar School windows. The bids are due on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Window replacements are scheduled to begin on June 22<sup>nd</sup> in McDermitt; next will be Sonoma Heights, Winnemucca Jr. High School and will conclude with Paradise Valley. Window replacement at the Winnemucca Grammar School will be done by Big G Construction.

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

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

### **Discussion and Possible Action – Acceptance of Renewal Proposal from Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool (POOL) and Approval for Payment from Fiscal Year 2009-10 Funds – Stephen Romero, Ann Wiswell**

POOL/PACT provides the District's general liability (property) and Worker's Compensation. Mr. Romero presented information regarding plan specifics and rates for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

The District's premium has increased 8.7% over last year. This is due to property rates for the pool increasing from overall pool loss and the increase inflation value in property value. The maintenance deductible remains at \$2000 for each loss. There was a decrease of 11% in the PACT rate, but the mod went from .81 to .84. Mr. Romero provided the Board with a review of optional maintenance deductibles showing the cost savings to the district, if the deductible were raised to \$5000 and \$10,000. Mr. Romero recommended the District remain with the \$2000 deductible.

Mr. Romero also noted that last year the District applied for a Risk Management Grant through the POOL/PACT and received \$13,314.61, which allowed the District to purchase safety conference/radio equipment.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the renewal of the Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool as presented. Mr. Hillyer seconded, motion carried.

### **Discussion and Possible Action – Review and Tentative Plan Regarding Callback of Personnel – Mike Bumgartner**

Mr. Bumgartner provided the Board with a copy of the callback list. Most of the positions were recalled with the help of stimulus funding. The Board was then provided an updated callback list with seven teachers remaining on the list for recall.

Mr. Jensen reported that the District has received final DSA figures for the upcoming school year. The DSA increased to \$6402 per pupil. The District's special education allocation has also increased to \$39,000 from \$35,000 and class size reduction has increased by \$3,000. Total increase to the budget is approximately \$900,000. In a meeting with Association presidents on Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, it was discussed the need for the District to be cautious because of possible outstanding liabilities remaining as we enter negotiations. Lane changes and rollups, a negotiated item, have not been included in the tentative budget for next year. This will cost the District approximately \$600,000. Mr. Jensen noted that the District is not in a position to say we gained \$900,000, let's expend \$900,000. He feels the District has a fiscal

accountability to the community to be cautious. Mrs. Stewart agreed noting that, the past two years, the Governor has come back to districts to revert funds back to the state.

**Discussion and Possible Action – Establish Special Revenue Fund Entitled ARRA Equipment Grant – Dave Jensen**

We received a federal grant in the amount of \$25,953 to be used to replace an oven, walk-out cooler and walk-out freezer (kitchen equipment) for the McDermitt Combined School. Mr. Jensen asked the Board's permission to establish a special revenue fund.

Mr. Seeliger moved to establish a special revue fund entitled the ARRA Equipment Grant. Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried. Mrs. Stewart did not vote; she was out of the room.

**Discussion and Possible Action - Approval of Minimum Days for Grades K-6 to be Used for Staff Development – Kelly Novi**

Mr. Novi asked the Board to approve the following minimum release days for Grass Valley Elementary School, Winnemucca Grammar School and Sonoma Heights Elementary School; September 24<sup>th</sup>, October 29<sup>th</sup>, and December 10, 2009 and January 14<sup>th</sup>, February 11<sup>th</sup> and April 22, 2010. He also requested the following minimum release days for French Ford Middle School; September 24<sup>th</sup> and December 10, 2009 and February 11<sup>th</sup> and April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010. To keep minimum days consistent he also requested moving the district-wide minimum day from Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, May 20, 2010.

Each site has submitted a School Improvement Plan (SIP) and, if approved, will create a professional development plan for each day based on site needs. Topics to be addressed include; math, reading, writing and MAP training.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the request for minimum days for grades K-6 to be used for staff development. Mr. Seeliger seconded, motion carried. Mrs. Miller opposed.

**Discussion and Possible Action - Approval of the Amended FY09 Budget – Dave Jensen, Ronda Havens**

Mr. Jensen went over the budget and presented the amendments to the FY09 Budget as follows: 1) a total increase to the General Fund Budget of \$1,135,374, 2) a decrease in the Special Education Fund of \$77,470, 3) an increase in the Full Day Kindergarten Fund of \$2,500, 4) a decrease in the Class Size Reduction Fund of \$4,326, 5) an increase to the Food Service Fund of \$112,018, 6) an increase in the Self-Insurance Fund of \$1,102,652 and 7) transfer of appropriations between Special Fund functions and programs.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve Resolution #1 to approve the General Fund Budget of Humboldt County School District for FY08-09 and increasing the General Fund Budget by \$1,135,374. Mr. Hillyer seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve Resolution #2, decreasing the Special Education Fund by \$77,470. Mrs. Stewart seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Seeliger moved to approve Resolution #3, increasing the Full Day Kindergarten Fund by \$2,500. Mrs. Stewart seconded, motion carried.

Mrs. Miller moved to approve Resolution #4, decreasing the Class Size Reduction Fund by \$4,326. Mrs. Stewart seconded, motion carried.

Mrs. Noble moved to approve Resolution #5, increasing the Food Service Fund by \$112,018. Mrs. Stewart and Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Hill moved to approve Resolution #6, increasing the Self-Insurance Fund by \$1,102,652. Mrs. Stewart seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Betteridge moved to approve Resolution #7 approving the transfer of appropriations between Special Fund functions and programs. Mrs. Stewart seconded, motion carried.

**Discussion and Possible Action - Review of Board Goals – Mike Bumgartner**

Mr. Bumgartner provided the Board with a copy of the Board goals that were reviewed March 8, 2008. Site administrators are using the goals as a portion of their School Improvement Plans. Mr. Bumgartner asked the Board if they had a desire to change the goals or to add or change the action steps.

Mr. Hillyer suggested providing a way to track non-college bound students; those students who choose a vocational/technical path for the future. Mr. Jensen felt it would also be helpful to strengthen our relationship with Great Basin College.

Mr. Bumgartner noted that under Goal 1, the action step referring to the passage of a school bond needed to be deleted. The goals will be reviewed again at one of the scheduled board retreats.

**Discussion and Possible Action - Review of AB488, Critical Need and Hard to Fill Positions – Mike Bumgartner, John Doyle**

Mr. Bumgartner provided the Board with a copy of AB488 regarding the policy for critical need and hard to fill positions. Mr. Bumgartner stated that when the District knew that John Moddrell was retiring, the District went out on a search for his replacement. The process took approximately 1 ½ months. Seven applications were received in all, the majority from out of state. Site administrators screened the applications and resumes and found the majority of the applicants were not a good fit for McDermitt Combined School. Site administrators recommended interviewing one of candidates, but found that he had subsequently accepted a position in Idaho.

At that point, it was decided to declare a critical need. The proposal was taken before the Board and a letter was written to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Keith Rheault. Dr. Rheault approved the critical need, which allowed the District to hire a retired employee, within the state, without affecting that persons PERS retirement benefit. Mr. Moddrell was hired on a one year contract under the critical need/hard to fill law, which sunsets this year. Dr. Rheault told Mr. Bumgartner that the bill would be going before the Legislature and was confident that the bill would pass. Dr. Rheault stated that if the bill remained unchanged and, if the authority for approval still remained in his hands, he would consider renewing the critical need for an additional year. The bill passed the Legislature, but with several changes, some critical. One of the major changes was that the authority to declare a critical need shifted from the Superintendent of Public Instruction to local school boards. There are several items that need to be considered in order to declare a critical labor shortage; 1) the history of the rate of turnover for the position, 2) the number of openings for the position and number of qualified candidates, 3) the length of time the position has been vacant 4) the difficulty to fill the position due to special circumstances, and 5) the history and success of the efforts to recruit for the position.

Mr. Bumgartner noted that in order to declare a critical need, the District needs to prove we have a critical need. He does not believe the District has the proof to declare a critical need. It was Mr. Bumgartner's hope to get approval from the State Superintendent to renew the critical need for one more year, however, the law changed and becomes effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.



Mr. Doyle noted that the District was awaiting the outcome of AB488 in hopes of getting the critical need request reapproved. Dr. Keith Rheault made the finding that the position was a critical labor shortage and, if the law passed in its original state and based on the information provided in the initial request, would approve a second year of a critical labor shortage. The changes to the bill didn't happen that way.

Mr. Doyle stated that in order to follow the law, the Board will have to make an effort to follow all the specific determinations, which includes a form that the Board will certify and submit to PERS stating they have found the position to be a critical needs position and the basis on which the determination was founded. Mr. Doyle believes the Board will have to authorize the advertising of the McDermitt principal position and go through all the steps required. If the District receives an application from a qualified applicant then it will not be a critical need position. If we do not receive a qualified applicant, all steps of the critical need request will need to be addressed on an individual basis and the Board will need to justify their determination in an open public meeting. Mr. Doyle stated, in his opinion, the Board will need to go through each step required of the critical need law and an honest, true effort must be made to fill the position.

Mr. Bumgartner said that the McDermitt principal position is a very unique position, in that, it is in a very remote, small community. He said he will be looking for someone who wants to remain in the community for more than one-two years and has knowledge and experience with the Native American culture.

Mary Keith noted that Mr. Moddrell has completed his contract and currently the school has no administrator. She noted that, if the position is posted now and the Board isn't going to meet until late July, this leaves them without administration until August. She stated that the process to fill the McDermitt position should have been posted a long time ago and a person should have already been in place.

Mr. Doyle noted the reason it wasn't posted was that everyone fully expected that the law would pass, as is, and all the District had to do was to request a second year approval for a critical labor shortage. However, the Legislature changed the law.

#### **Discussion and Possible Action – Determination of Actions to Fill the McDermitt Principal Position – Mike Bumgartner, John Doyle**

Mr. Bumgartner stated that the McDermitt principal position will be posted June 9<sup>th</sup>, inside and outside the district, for ten business days. The advertisement will close on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. He suggested holding a special meeting the week of the 22<sup>nd</sup> to hold interviews, if applicants are received, or to hold a public meeting to determine a critical need shortage.

Mr. Seeliger asked if advertising only ten days was a sufficient number of days to establish a true effort to recruit candidates, if a critical need is requested.

Mrs. Stewart moved to initiate a search action to fill the McDermitt position and schedule a special board meeting to discuss the results on June 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. Mrs. Miller seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Hillyer, Mrs. Stewart and Mr. Seeliger will sit on the committee to screen applicants on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:01 p.m.

**Discussion and Possible Action - Approval to Cancel Board Meetings for June 23 and July 14, 2009 and Pre-approval of Warrants – Mike Bumgartner**

Mr. Seeliger moved to cancel the board meetings for June 23 and July 14, 2009 and pre-approve the necessary warrants. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

**Board/Staff Comments:**

1. Mr. Hill attended the Orovada and McDermitt graduations. He thanked Mr. Jensen, Mr. Hillyer and Mrs. Noble for also attending.
2. Mr. Hill noted what a true affection Mr. Moddrell has for the community of McDermitt and the school. He knows the students, parents and community and they like him. He asked the Board to be cautious in who is hired to fill the principal position.
3. Mr. Hill asked if the District could look into selling the old buses that are parked behind the junior high school. They are being vandalized and are an eye sore. Mr. Jensen noted that the District is looking into holding an online auction for the District's surplus items.
4. Mr. Betteridge enjoyed the opportunity to be involved in Lowry's graduation.
5. Mr. Hillyer noted that several Humboldt County School District students received gold and silver medals at the Special Olympics held at Reno High School. Congratulations to all our Special Olympians!
6. Mr. Seeliger reported that he will be sending out the Superintendent evaluation to the Board on August 1<sup>st</sup>.
7. Mr. Seeliger attended the graduations at Denio and Paradise Valley. They were outstanding. He noted that good teachers and small class sizes are critical to the District in our continued progress.
8. Mrs. Stewart reported that the Paradise community, along with the school district, Dr. Jensen, Newmont Gold, Hunewill Construction and the Paradise Valley PTO have raised over \$20,000 toward sprinklers, sod, circular benches around trees, a new school sign, gravel and in the near future a new regulation basketball, volleyball and tennis court. Mrs. Stewart asked those interested to purchase a square on their newest fundraiser, "Cow Flop".
9. Mrs. Noble attended the Art and Career Tech open house at Lowry High School. It was awesome!! She encouraged everyone to attend next year.

Adjourned 8:28 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright

  
Clerk, Kris Stewart