

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

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of School Trustees was held September 14, 2010 at 4:30 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, Jennifer Robinson McCombs, -HCSSO President, Glenda Deputy, Nicole Maher, Michelle Garrison, Rob Lindsay, JoEtta Barto, MaryJo Dufurrena, Katie Donovan, Frankie Peterson, Kelly Novi, Lila Wilkin, Brooke Cassinelli and Secretary Paula Wright.

President Noble opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence: None

Minutes: Mr. Hillyer noted two typo's in the minutes. Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the August 24, 2010 minutes with corrections. Mrs. Miller seconded, motion carried.

Public Comment – Mrs. Brooke Cassinelli voiced her concern that the classrooms at Winnemucca Grammar School were unbearably hot the first two weeks of school and asked the Board to consider starting school after Labor Day.

Superintendent's Report

Activity Report:

1. Superintendent Committee Meeting in Lovelock, August 28th, to determine professional development for the Nevada Association of School Administrators for 2010-2011 and also discussed ways to minimize costs while providing a quality program.
2. Met with Heather Gula- Humboldt Sun to discuss cyber bullying, sexting, and potential legal issues for HCSD employees who have accounts on websites such as Facebook or My Space.
3. Preparing for "Count Day"- September 17th.
4. Preparing for our annual attendance audit by the state Department of Education September 21-23. Schools being audited this year will include McDermitt Combined, Grass Valley Elementary, and Winnemucca Junior High.
5. The District is reviewing award winning school district websites. Jeanne Moline (IT Dept. Head), Dr. Jensen, Nicole Maher and Mr. Bumgartner met to discuss the websites and begin a preliminary layout for the District's new website. Primary concerns: making the opening page user friendly, clean looking and putting it into a format that allows clear and easy access to all the information on the website, especially for parents or for someone who may be visiting the site for the very first time. Another strong concern that will need to be addressed is regular and scheduled upkeep and maintenance of the site.
6. Interview with KWN's Rodd Stowell on September 13th at 8:00.
7. MAP's testing window opened for Fall Testing on September 13th. Mr. Novi has done a great job in assisting staff to make testing quicker and easier this year.

8. Schools will report to the Board at every board meeting between now and December.
September: French Ford and the Winnemucca Junior High; October: Grass Valley and Lowry High; November: Sonoma Heights and Winnemucca Grammar School, December: McDermitt and Rural Schools. Schools will present the great things happening and each school will need to answer the following questions in the course of the presentation:
 - a. At your school, what processes are in place to identify students who need more help in order to succeed?
 - b. Once they are identified, what specifically is being done to help each struggling student?

Upcoming:

1. Mining Foundation Meeting, September 21st
2. NNRDPD Governance Board Meeting- September 22nd
3. Community Breakfast, September 24th
4. 1st Leadership Team meeting of the year- September 27th. Items to be discussed: Board and District Goals, leadership goals and agenda for the year, how are we identifying and assisting struggling students?
5. School Improvement Plans are due September 24th for review and in preparation for submittal to the state.
6. Dr. Jensen and Mr. Bumgartner will visit all Rural school sites within the next two weeks.

Travel Update:

Superintendent Meeting- Reno, Thursday October 7th.

September 2nd Superintendent Meeting Update – Dr. Dave Jensen

Rory Reid – Priority is Education

- Budget is a statement of priorities
- Must make education the priority

Superintendents asked him Mr. Reid to read the ACR 2 reports. This was followed by a series of questions asked of Mr. Reid.

If elected, he will be given the current governors recommended budget and is willing to meet with Superintendent's to discuss it

- Stated that presented budgets were more political than reality
- Expressed interest and commitment in seeking input

Charter Schools – accountability for charters

- Charters must be an option
- Have been championed but not managed. Need to do so

Willingness to have Nevada K-12 as the lowest funded in the Nation, but blame education as "harming students". Don't criticize us – find ways to properly fund education.

- Agrees – believe education is underfunded
- "I don't have a sensitivity problem. Tell me what I need to know."

Concern with private schools funded with public money – vouchers

- Want schools to be the focal point of community. Vouchers undercut that.
- People have the right to private schools, but not through vouchers

Clark County conducted a study and found that 40% of administrators were in their positions less than three years. Of the 17 Superintendents, 50% have less than three years experience. These folks get blamed for legislative issues, need to change that:

- Mr. Reid will be a cheerleader for education

Education has absorbed 26% cuts in 3 years – must stop

- Asked how often Superintendents met with the current governor – three times
- Commitment to meet on a periodic basis – integral

There is increasing discussions on teacher tenure, ability to remove bad teachers/administrators, the negotiations process, and restructuring evaluations. Is this a reality, given current perceptions regarding the association between the Democratic Party and Education Associations?

- Only way it will happen is with a Democratic governor.
- His opponent says he will abolish NRS 288 – how?

Mr. Reid closed by stating he would make education proud and will be open to input by Superintendents

Assemblywoman, Debbie Smith –

- The State will be trying to build a two year budget with one year worth of money
- Polling continues to show education is a top priority
- Looking long term, it is anticipated it will be 2015-2017 before Nevada is back in good shape
- No way we will not be cutting budgets, even with revenue increases
- Consolidation is something that must be considered. “Not necessarily districts, but services and staff.”

State Superintendent, Dr. Keith Rheault asked if the legislature has a game plan or if they will be looking at the Governors budget plan

- Assemblywomen Smith said they don't have the ability or staff to create their own
- Fiscal staff have been depleted, will be looking to Nevada Department of Ed and District's for assistance
 - o Districts will be seeing Bill Drafts beginning in February
- Districts need to be ready to work harder

Asked about cuts to education –She said she has no idea at this time. As a positive, revenues are beginning to increase, so they don't expect a hole to fill for the current year.

One Superintendent stated that further cuts will cause his district to go bankrupt

ACR 2 and redundancy please use it and look at it. Admin ratios, too much misperception

- Maybe addition to Nevada Report Card
- Adequacy study showed lower administrative levels than surrounding states, even before cuts.

Common Core Standards

- A video from State Superintendent, Dr. Keith Rheault, is being asked to be presented to all staff by September 30th.

Education Alliance Task Force

- Fact based, non-political, independent study
- What is the relation between the economy and education
- What is the vision of the state for economy and education

EduJobs bill

- Based on DSA formula- a copy was provided to the Board
- The District's portion is \$767,048
- Funds are based on a reimbursement basis. As the District expends the money towards salaries and benefits, we submit a request to the Department of Ed and in turn receive reimbursement
- Concern is that, if the money is there during the Legislative session, it will be viewed as an available revenue source, thus, further reducing our DSA allocation.

There are 35 Bill Drafts relative to Education to date

- Washoe County has submitted two
 - o Shift "probationary status" from 1 to 3 years. This would put Nevada in line with 44 other states
 - o Include gross misconduct for termination
 - What determines gross misconduct? The answer was "you know it when you see it".

Discussion Only – French Ford Middle School Update – Rob Lindsay, Michelle Garrison, MaryJo Dufurrena, JoEtta Barto, Katie Donovan, Lila Wilkin

Mr. Lindsay said the school is excited about the great results they have had over the past two years and they have a good understanding of why they have been successful. What works at French Ford: 1) the "whole child" approach to teaching children, 2) transitioning students-from K-4 to French Ford promotes confidence in students and parents, 3) assessment of student data from both substantive and formative assessment, 4) PLC, 5) IC Team, 6) Special Education department's use of progression, 7) ELL-focus awareness through shared resources of classroom teacher and trained aides, 8) outstanding classroom teachers focus on the learner and instructional strategies, 9) literacy block, 10) vocabulary focus, 11) math teaching, 12) science instruction, 13) ongoing professional development, 14) scheduling-remediation and intervention time, 15) technology, 16) high interest reading books, 17) parent/teacher/school/communication, 18) eye on attendance, 19) student focus, 20) exceptional counselor and 21) dedicated exploratory teaching.

The Board was provided a graph of 5th and 6th grade scores. Mr. Lindsay will ask the Humboldt Sun to retract a statement made in an April issue stating the school was in the lowest 5% continually in the state, when in fact; French Ford has exceeded state scores in 5th grade math, science, reading and writing and 6th grade math and reading.

Mr. Lindsay invited everyone to join them for a school-wide "Insanity" workout from 10:10-10:40 a.m. each day led by Jereme Cappellan, PLC's on Wednesday from 2:30-3:30 p.m. and to see the progress of the greenhouse project.

Mrs. Stewart noted that the French Ford staff deserves a "huge" congratulation! Mr. Hill also thanked Mr. Bumgartner, Dr. Jensen and Mr. Novi.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants

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

Discussion Only- Introduction of Common Core Standards- Kelly Novi

Mr. Novi presented a video from State Superintendent, Keith Rheault, regarding the adoption and implementation of new core standards. All employees will be required to view the video prior to September 30th. A plan for full implementation of the core standards will come out later this year. Students will begin taking tests on the Common Core Standards in Math and ELA in the 2014-15 school year; until then districts will continue to use the current core standards.

In the fall of 2010, the Department of Education will be doing a "gap analysis and bridge document". This instrument will analyze and help illuminate the difference between the current standards and the new core standards. Curriculum and instruction design tools, that encompass both sets of standards, will be available spring 2011. This will be followed up with professional development tools and

resources in the FY2011-12 school year. It is believed that the adoption of the common core standards will greatly enhance the educational system in Nevada, preparing students for college and/or career.

The Professional Development Committee is working on mapping out how every teacher in the state will be trained and how the standards will be implemented. Currently, the concern is there is a "gap" that will affect either 6th or 7th graders (depending on where the test is placed). These students will continue to be instructed under the old assessment and when they reach high school they will be expected to pass the new assessment, which includes the new standards, in order to graduate. The committee is working to correct this and to be ready to implement the new standards in the near future.

Discussion and Possible Action – Request to Change the Minimum Day Previously Approved for Lowry High School to Host the Northern Regional Student Council Conference from November 15, 2010 to November 22, 2010 – Dr. Dave Jensen

Mrs. Dawson and Mrs. Grady approached the Board at the August 24th meeting for approval for a minimum day for Lowry High School on Monday, November 15th. Lowry will be hosting the Northern Regional Student Council Conference. Mrs. Dawson and Mrs. Grady have recently discovered that Lowry will be testing the week of November 15th and have asked the Board for approval to move the minimum day to November 22nd.

Mr. Seeliger moved to approve changing the minimum day from November 15th to November 22nd. Mr. Hillyer seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of a Maternity Leave Request for Toni Fretwell – Dr. Dave Jensen

Mrs. Fretwell originally applied for FMLA leave; however, under FMLA the employee must have worked at least 1250 hours in the subsequent year to be eligible. Mrs. Fretwell's hours as a bus driver do not meet the 1250 hours, therefore, her request could not be granted under FMLA. She does, however, meet the requirements under the negotiated agreement.

Mrs. Fretwell began her leave on September 9th. When all of her personal and sick leave is exhausted, the remaining leave will be taken as leave without pay. The District will continue to pay her insurance benefits.

Mr. Seeliger moved to approve the maternity leave request for Toni Fretwell. Mr. Hillyer seconded, motion carried.

Discussion Only – Solar System Progress Update – Dr. David Jensen

Dr. Jensen provided a progress update on the solar system project. The Board was provided information showing the schools and the awarded kilowatts they will receive under Tier 1, 2 and 3. Total kilowatts equal 623 and the District has requested an additional 350 kilowatt hours. Originally, the District planned on 1023 kilowatts, but after running an analysis it was determined that we do not want to put in more of a system at any given location than we would actually use. Board members questioned why the District would not want to acquire the 50 additional kilowatts for possible future use. Dr. Jensen said he would pose the question to Hamilton Solar.

An information packet has been sent to the Department of Taxation and tentative approval has been given. JNA Consulting Group is expected to receive financing bids on October 12th. At the October 12th meeting the Board will be provided with a recommendation as to which financial bid is best for the

District. The Board will then be asked to adopt the bond resolution and upon adoption of the resolution, we will secure the funds (October 26th) and the Tier 1 construction phase can begin.

The District will be seeking a maximum of \$5,675,000 for 1023 kilowatts at \$5.55 per watt, with a rebate of \$5 per watt. JNA Consulting Group provided a scenario for a 5 and 10 year repayment schedule. The District will negotiate with the purchaser the ability to prepay the financing using the rebates from NV Energy as payment.

Discussion and Possible Action - Discussion of Board Goals for School Year 2010-2011

The Board established District and Board goals at their meeting on August 10, 2010.

District Goals: 1) Increase student achievement for struggling and underachieving students; 2) make the HCSD website an effective communication tool.

Board Goals: 1) Create a vision and plan for Career and Technical education programs; 2) Create a vision and plan for rural and outlying schools.

Board Goal 1: Create a vision and plan for Career and Technical education programs

A discussion brought the following ideas: 1) identify and focus on a couple of areas to begin with; (example) welding, diesel mechanic, pre-med, 2) travel to Las Vegas and tour technical schools to gather a vision and direction for a program 3) contact Clark County School District and Great Basin College (Elko and Winnemucca) to come before the Board with a presentation of their programs 4) Explore public/private partnerships and 5) contact Great Basin College for the results of a community report on the needs of the community in regards to needed workforce.

Mr. Seeliger noted that the NASB Conference is being held in Las Vegas on November 18-20th and suggested the Board take advantage of the timing and plan the trip at that time.

Board Goal 2: Create a vision and plan for rural and outlying schools

Enrollment at the rural schools continues to decline. The Board and communities need to collaborate to come up with creative ways to education students. It is not the intent of the Board and District to close the rural schools. "How do we best serve students in the rural schools given declining enrollment and fiscal challenges?" It was suggested that Board members split into small groups and facilitate several small round table discussions in each rural community, gather input from the community and return to the Board with ideas and concerns from each.

The item will be placed on the August 28th agenda to be discussed further.

Discussion Only – Closed Session to Discuss Robinson Lawsuit Pursuant to NRS 241.015 (2)(b)(2)

7:13 p.m. Mrs. Stewart moved to go into closed session to discuss the Robinson lawsuit pursuant to NRS 241.015 (2)(b)(2). Mr. Hillyer seconded, motion carried.

7:29 p.m. Back to the regular session

Board/Staff Comments:

1. Mr. Hill congratulated French Ford Middle School for their success in making AYP. He also thanked Mr. Bumgartner, Dr. Jensen and Mr. Novi for their input in French Ford's success.
2. Mr. Betteridge noted that the signage around Lowry High School needs to be changed, i.e. the speed limit sign is not in conjunction with the beginning and ending times of the school day.

3. Mr. Betteridge thanked Mr. Doyle for his work on the lawsuit.
4. Mr. Hillyer asked if the same comprehensive educational plans for struggling students used at French Ford Middle School is being used at Lowry High School. Mr. Bumgartner noted that it is being used in several departments. The data teams' process is being used by the science department and in a different manner in the math and English department.
5. Mr. Hillyer thanked Mrs. Stewart and Mr. Hill for the information they provided regarding rural schools. It will be helpful when meeting with the rural communities.
6. Mr. Hillyer brought Century Club handouts for those Board members who have not joined yet.
7. Mr. Hillyer has been working with Mr. Jeppsen in defining, IMPACT, the new concussion protocol policy will have on districts. There will be a financial impact as well. In Washoe County, each athlete is assessed a \$5 fee, once per school year, to cover the cost of the interpretation of the concussion tests. There is also a \$400 sign up fee for the District. Mr. Hillyer said that Mr. Jeppsen is doing a good job.
8. Mr. Hillyer said that the District may need to look at increasing the \$25 pay-to-play amount to \$75 for next school year to cover the added cost of the new concussion protocol policy.
9. Mrs. Stewart invited everyone to the Costume Bingo Party at Paradise Valley School on October 28th.
10. Mrs. Noble asked where the Board was with the Superintendent's evaluation. Mr. Seeliger said it would be out this week.

Adjourned 7:39 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright


Clerk, Kris Stewart