

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

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of School Trustees was held October 12, 2010 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, Jennifer Robinson McComb-HCSSO President, Mike and Deanna Owens, Anita Rolando, Mayellen Bengochea, Tim and Debbie Connors, Marty Johnson-JNA Consulting, Kitty Norcutt, Jan Morris, Glenda Deputy, Joyce Sheen, Kelly Novi, Laura Christean, K. C. Harrison, Maria Huante, Kay Eason, Jackie Riggan, Jennifer Bergenheier, Heather Gula-Humboldt Sun, other interested persons and Secretary Paula Wright.

President Noble opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the September 28, 2010 minutes as written. Mr. Seeliger seconded, motion carried.

Special Recognition: Deanna Owens and Anita Rolando

Mrs. Noble presented Mrs. Owens and Mrs. Rolando with a certificate of excellence. They were selected by the Nevada Department of Education for Level 5-IC Facilitation Training. Only three trainers were selected statewide. Congratulations!!

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Meeting, October 7, 2010

1. State Superintendent Report
 - a. Gloria Dopf
 - i. New procedure- no new teachers may obtain a provisional license. After the Edujobs funding, this may be an issue. Mrs. Dopf is willing to go to the standards commission for exceptions. Dr. Rheault may be able to waive the regulation for a six month period if necessary.
2. Legislative Update- Joyce Haldeman, Mary Pierczynski
 - a. Interim Legislative Committees
 - i. Legislative Committee on Education- Made many Bill Draft Requests on many topics including empowerment, teacher and principal evaluations, convert all schools to empowerment schools, testing calendar, K12 public education stabilization fund, flexibility in number of instructional days, critical labor shortage, adjusted diploma, many of these ideas are tied to the Race to the Top.
 - ii. Rob Roberts- the requests from the Legislative Counsel Bureau for information during the legislative session are sometimes overwhelming. Any chance of some relief? The answer was no.
 - iii. Is INVest still in play? No, given the state of the economy, it may be an exercise in futility. Discussion: most agree that we need to pursue and reinstitute INVest. Group will readdress it in December at the workshop.
 - iv. Governance and Oversight of Public Education

1. Many new models for composition of the state board are proposed.
 2. Eliminate the Commission on Ed Tech
 3. Eliminate Council to establish Standards for Public Schools
 4. Eliminate council on Ed Excellence
3. Washoe County Superintendent, Heath Morrison- Blue Ribbon Task Force: Mr. Bumgartner provided the Board with a document called "Nevada's Promise". It is a call to action to address the education of future generations. It includes many stats related to Nevada education and a strategy for improving education in Nevada. The booklet provides the challenges facing Nevada schools and their solutions to those challenges. Some things the task force feels need to change include: 1) alternative routes to licensure for teachers and administrators, 2) adopt performance pay, 3) include student achievement in teacher and administrator evaluations, 4) replacing the existing binary evaluation system for teachers and administrators, 5) assure equitable distribution of talented teachers and administrators, 6) provide a pathway for exit for struggling teachers and administrators that fail to improve and 7) adopt a state-wide teacher evaluation system.
4. NASB-Dotty Merrill
- a. Open Meeting Law violation and opinion out of Clark County School District: A complaint was filed against the Clark County School District for violation to the open meeting law because four board members attended a meeting of the Bond Oversight Committee. The opinion rendered was that there was no violation of the Open Meeting Law because there was no substantial discussion and no decisions were made by those four members.
 - b. Local Revenue Advisory Question- Mrs. Merrill is asking that this question be placed on an October agenda for discussion by the board. The question is "Shall the consent of the governing body of the local government be required before the State Legislature can act to decrease revenues or reserves collected by, distributed to, or held by the local government, or impose fees on or mandate new or different services be performed by the local government"? Mr. Bumgartner will contact Board members to see if they want this discussion placed on an upcoming agenda. Mr. Seeliger said it was more of a public discussion to make people aware of it.

Activity Report

1. September 30th- All Principals participated in a four-hour Incident Command Training. It standardizes the procedures and terminology used across all public agencies in order to provide aid in ease of response and incident management, should one occur. The standardization was done by FEMA, which in turn provides trainers to public agencies. Mr. Chris Smith, of the Washoe County School District, provided an engaging and informative training.
2. Met with Ed Kilgore about the possibility of Sherriff's Department expansion of the Citizens Academy program to include junior and senior student course offerings. Mr. Kilgore envisions this class would be an entry level law enforcement class to be offered to students as a dual credit opportunity, possibly through Great Basin College and could interface as the beginnings of a law enforcement track for high school students.
3. Kelly Novi attended the Common Core Workshop on October 4-5, 2010. Kelly serves on the statewide committee that is currently working to establish the roll out of the national core standards in Nevada and is important the District has a voice and representative in those discussions. Kelly also serves on the Growth Model Committee, which is working to reframe the manner in which Adequate Yearly Progress is measured. The committee is working on a proposal which will make more sense and measure a school's progress not upon the results of a one shot test, but upon the growth teachers are able to make with a group of students over a one year time frame. Again, representation of the District is crucial.

Travel Update

1. Attended the Superintendent meeting in Reno, October 7, 2010. Next meeting: November 8-9 in Las Vegas.
2. Dr. Jensen will attend the Superintendent Finance Committee Meeting in Carson City on October 19, 2010.

Discussion Only – Grass Valley Elementary School Update – Tim Connors

Mr. Connors praised his staff for their commitment to the students and school. Mr. Connors has set five goals for himself; 1) help school staff maximize student academic growth, 2) help usher in a better school culture amongst all staff members, 3) help set in place an effective literacy block to improve student achievement, 4) identify and initiate a positive bullying program to help stop this pattern at an early age and 5) fully understand all of the components of the IC Team.

Grass Valley staff and administration will focus on two school goals; increase math and reading proficiency of all students including targeted subpopulations of IEP, LEP and free and reduced lunch students. Grade levels are in the process of ordering Kim Sutton math materials to improve math instruction. Their goal is to reach every student at Grass Valley Elementary. Some of the things the administration and staff is doing to reach those students who are struggling is through MAPS, PLC's a ninety minute literacy block, small group intervention with the use of their literacy specialist, meeting individual needs through the IC Team and providing intervention, remediation and enrichment through the Homework Club, which was funded by the Whitworth Foundation.

Grass Valley staff work with French Ford staff to help students transition. CRT's, DRA's and writing samples follow students to aid in placing students at French Ford.

3rd and 4th grade students trained and competed in a one mile cross country race which helped teach discipline, commitment and healthy living. The teachers participated in "McTeacher Night". Teachers worked at McDonald's to generate funds for the school's general fund. The funds can then be used for assemblies and awards. The school holds a monthly "Celebration Assembly". The celebration recognizes student growth and learning.

Mr. Connors invited the Board out to visit the school.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval for the McDermitt Combined School to Administer the American Drug and Alcohol Survey – Janet Kennedy

Postponed

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants

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

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Bond Resolution for District-wide Solar Systems Project – Dr. Dave Jensen, Marty Johnson

To recap, Nevada Energy made available rebates for solar panels for school districts. The District applied and was awarded a total of 623 kilowatts. In addition to the awarded amount, the District has applied for an additional 400 kilowatts that, upon award, will provide for 1023 kilowatts. The District has contracted with Hamilton Solar through a joiner bid process with Sparks. Under the program, the amount to rebate from Nevada Energy is \$5 per watt. An anticipated installation cost on the full 1023 kilowatts is anticipated not to exceed \$5.675 million. The rebate amount at \$5 per watt will come in at approximately \$5.1 million. The difference will be the responsibility of the District.

The District looked at options available to them to fund the project and then to repay using the incentive rebates from NV Energy. The remaining obligation will be paid through energy savings. It is anticipated that the District will see an energy savings of approximately \$200,000 annually on a 1023 kilowatt system.

Originally, when we looked at the tiered rebate, we were scheduled for Tier I to be reimbursed to the District within 30 days of competition, Tier II after July 2011 and Tier III after July 2012. Although not finalized, it is anticipated that NV Energy will issue all awards upon completion. In addition, recent information has found that a review by the attorneys for the Public Utilities Commission have recommended support for the additional 400 kilowatts requested by the District.

Work has begun with Hamilton Solar to identify the first 193 kilowatts (Tier I) of projects, and construction is projected to begin in November.

Marty Johnson with JNA Consulting noted that, after talking to several financial institutions, Zions Bank appeared to be the most interested in offering a financial package that would most meet the District's needs. Mr. Johnson provided the Board with an Issue Summary and Sources and Uses showing an average interest rate of 4.21631% on the financing. He also provided a debt service schedule showing the re-payment schedule to Zions Bank. The current plan is to close financing within the first two weeks of November. The funds will be drawn and placed in an escrow account and will be released as documentation is provided that the projects are complete and are eligible for rebate. Once the documentation is received and verified, the funds will be released. Interest will begin when the District draws the funds. Zions will allow the District to pre-pay any time on a 30 day notice, without penalty.

Dr. Jensen noted that the District is recommending a 10 year repayment plan. This will provide the District the flexibility for any unforeseen costs. If it continues to be the Board's direction to pre-pay the debt, the debt will be extinguished before the 10 year schedule, and could be extinguished within 3 years of completion. The Board was provided a copy of the bond resolution and a copy of the escrow agreement.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the 2010 medium-term bond resolution to finance District solar projects as presented. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action - Class Size Reduction Report and Approval – Mike Bumgartner

The District is required to file a Class Size Reduction report annually. The District receive just over \$1 million to finance 13.75 (14) positions. In order to finance the additional .25, the District spent an additional \$35,000. The District's student to teacher ratios will be reported as follows: Kindergarten - 15:9:1, 1st -16.6:1, 2nd -15:1 and 3rd -19.8:1. The way the numbers are reported is pre-determined by the Department of Education. Although the ratios are within the state guidelines, there are classrooms with higher student numbers. The report is based on a district average.

HCEA President, Mary Keith, told Mr. Bumgartner that she is not willing to sign the report because it is not an accurate representation of ratios. Mrs. Keith will be providing a letter to be attached to the report.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the Class Size Reduction report as presented. Mrs. Miller and Mr. Hillyer seconded, motion carried.

Discussion Only – CTE Update – Kelly Novi

At the previous meeting, the Board asked Mr. Novi to provide an update on the CTE “cluster courses” that are available at Lowry High School. The courses include Accounting, Agriculture, Ag Business and Leadership, Ag Technology, Architecture and Construction, Automotive, Computer Science, Family and Consumer Sciences, Drafting and Digital Publishing/Digital Media I/Business Communications I.

The state prefers a three year sequence of courses (example); Accounting I (introductory), Accounting II (occupational), Accounting III (terminal) and possibly a “Special Projects” course beyond that. Unfortunately, some of the courses at Lowry do not offer a three year sequence. Mrs. Stewart noted that “if the District wants students to be able to get dual credit, we need to be able to articulate three years worth of classes and they need to be linear.” The programs also need to tie to a career or college readiness program. (Mrs. Stewart) “We need to give these kids real employment skills, a real employment opportunity right now and in the future, right here.”

The District will be receiving a report from the Department of Education regarding the percentage of students completing CTE courses. With this information, the District can begin working on tracking the number of completers in any given CTE course.

Items the Board will need to consider include; 1) strengthening the District Technical Advisory Committee and increase Board and community involvement, 2) identifying specific career and college readiness paths, 3) determine if current clusters offer viable career paths for students now and in the future, 4) do we need to narrow the focus? and 5) create a 1, 3, 5 and 10 year plan.

Mrs. Noble, Mrs. Stewart and Mr. Betteridge attended a CTE Day at Great Basin College on Monday, October 11, 2010 in Elko. They were impressed with the program.

Dr. Jensen asked for Board representation as the District begins to move forward with the CTE program.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of School-wide Discipline Plans – Mike Bumgartner

School districts are required to submit progressive discipline plans for each school to the Nevada Department of Education annually. All plans have been submitted to the District office and Mr. Bumgartner asked the Board’s approval to submit them to the State.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the school-wide discipline plans. Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Discussion of Board Goals for School Year 2010-11

Mr. Bumgartner said that he believes the most urgent of the Board goals is the declining enrollment at the rural schools. He noted that if changes need to be made in the rural school structure next year, the plan must be in place by March 2011. The tentative budget is due in April.

Mrs. Stewart said she had a conversation with past board member, Donna Harrer, who has a good insight to the Orovalda community. Mrs. Harrer felt the Board should have a minimum of two meetings, Orovalda being a central location for those meetings. She felt the entire Board should attend and embraced the idea of round table discussions. The Board should not approach the meetings with any pre-conceived notion or ideas. The rural schools are very important to their communities. It was suggested the District provide facts to the communities, i.e. employment costs, building maintenance,

transportation and the amount of DSA that is generated for a particular school. Mrs. Harrer also felt that school board members and community members from Fields, Oregon should be involved in the discussion, as well as, representatives from the Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe and key members of each community. A Spanish speaking moderator should also be considered. The meetings should involve all rural communities. As a second issue, the possibility of a center school could be discussed.

It was decided to hold the first meeting on Tuesday, November 16th at Orovada at 6 p.m., with a second meeting in January.

Regarding the CTE programs, Mrs. Stewart said that, after seeing what Great Basin College in Elko has to offer, she believes that programs are in place to put our CTE program into place. She felt no need for the Board, at this time, to visit the technical schools in Las Vegas. Board members agreed to postpone the trip for now.

Board/Staff Comments:

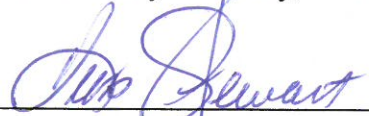
1. Mr. Hill asked Mr. Doyle if it was legal for the Board to discuss the question regarding the local revenue advisory question that will appear on the county ballots in a meeting. Mr. Bumgartner clarified that Dotty Merrill of the NASB asked boards to agendaize the item, as a discussion only, to make the public aware of the pros and cons of the initiative.
2. Mr. Hill asked Mr. Bumgartner what he meant, in his superintendent report, by the statement that the rurals are "getting the short end" regarding changes. Mr. Bumgartner said he was referring to the 15 rural school districts, not Humboldt's rural schools.
3. Mr. Betteridge congratulated the Lowry freshman volleyball team for making it to the championship game before losing to Douglas.
4. Mr. Betteridge said that some things were said at the last board meeting that he feels were not appropriate. He thanked Dr. Jensen and Mr. Bumgartner for being upfront and believes it was very unprofessional for someone to say that they are unethical. He stated things were done in a very straight forward manner.
5. At the last NIAA meeting, Dr. Jensen, Mr. Jeppsen and Mr. Hillyer were invited to Sparks to see how the concussion protocol works. Coaches have been informed that there is some mandatory training they will need to complete and they are currently working on getting all athletes tested for winter and spring sports.
6. Mr. Hillyer noted that Mr. Novi's position (Curriculum & Instruction) "gets a lot of heat" and he feels the administration and Board need to do a better job of letting people know what his position entails.
7. Mr. Seeliger noted that the site administrators are doing a better job of getting the Superintendent's evaluation back to him than the Board. The evaluations are due to him no later than Friday, October 15th.
8. Mrs. Stewart said she has taken, between email and phone calls, approximately 30 contacts since the last board meeting. Some of the contacts have been positive and some have not. She wanted to make clear what she said and what it was in reaction to. "I had an exchange with the HCEA President during last meeting's discussion of how we would direct Edu dollars from the Obama administration." "For the record, I want to say I don't have any issue with legitimate bargaining issues brought forth by either bargaining unit." "I can and do respect honest negotiators on both sides of the bargaining table because I know everyone has a job to do." "What I can not respect or abide is what happened before and during our last meeting and my perception that one set of demands was made in a private closed door meeting, before the meeting and a very different set of demands was made during the meeting." "So, just to be

very clear, what I perceived as dishonesty was at the heart of my reaction and my statement at the last meeting and not any inability to deal or hear legitimate bargain unit positions.”

9. Mrs. Noble informed the Board that Mr. Betteridge provided each of them with information packets received from Great Basin’s CTE Day.
10. Mr. Doyle noted that in Tuesday’s issue of the Humboldt Sun there was a front page article regarding the dismissal of the federal suit against the District Attorney, hospital administrator and the school district. There is also a headlined article that states there has been state action filed against DA, Russell Smith and the school district. The article states that the principal at Lowry High School and the District’s school psychologist have been sued personally for defamation of character, intentional infliction of emotional distress and presenting in a “false light”. Mr. Doyle said he was shocked to see the article. He went over to the court house, got the file and made a copy of the complaint. The article in the Humboldt Sun is completely erroneous. He talked to Attorney Dolan and Humboldt County School District, Mr. Lords and Mrs. Watts have not been sued in the state action. (Mr. Doyle) “It is a totally inaccurate story.” Mr. Doyle said he would be discussing further with Mr. Bumgartner and Dr. Jensen for an appropriate action to take. (Mr. Doyle) “In the very least, it has to be clarified with the same prominence that it was put forth in the article today.”
11. Dr. Jensen said he would be in Carson City on Monday, October 18th for a Title I Directors meeting and Tuesday, October 19th for a Superintendent’s Finance meeting. The subject of the finance meeting will be the reporting of the EduJobs funding under ARRA requirements.
12. Dr. Jensen notified the Board that there is a tree at Winnemucca Grammar School that is rotting and will need to be taken down.
13. Dr. Jensen reported that District administration has had very little feedback regarding the accidental shooting at Lowry High School. The attempts by the District to be proactive to ensure the safety of students appear to have been positive.
14. Dr. Jensen noted that we are still short one employee in the Technology Department. The District is actively working to make adjustments. We are currently doing contract work with an individual that we have worked with previously and will continue to contract with that individual during the transitional period. Some phenomenal things have been done over the past several weeks thanks to Jeanne and Joe. We hope to bring in a temporary individual to help until we can hire a permanent replacement.
15. Dr. Jensen stated that on October 6th the Nevada Department of Education was here to review and monitor our programs. They also completed an Office of Civil Rights visit. There were findings and the District is working to correct them. The Board will be provided a preliminary list of suggestions from the Department of Ed in approximately two weeks.

Adjourned 7:09 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright


Kris Stewart, Clerk