

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 26, 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, Heather Gula-Humboldt Sun, Glenda Deputy, Debbie and Dan Watts, Jeanne Moline, K.C. Harrison, Frankie Peterson, Doc Welter and Secretary Paula Wright.

President Noble opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence: None

Minutes: Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2010 meeting as written. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Superintendent's Report

There was no Superintendent meeting. The next meeting will be November 8-9th in Las Vegas. Mr. Bumgartner will not be at the November 9th Board meeting due to attendance at the Superintendent meeting.

Activity Report

1. October 15th- Met with Debbie Watts, Kelly Novi and Ray Garrison to discuss the details concerning an 8th grade Honor's English Class that is being offered at the Junior High that will enable high achieving students to earn a high school credit for Freshman Honor's English while in the 8th grade.
2. October 15th-Administrative Meeting-Discussed the Great Nevada Shakeout, an earthquake drill, Crisis Response Plans and the next steps in the process, Rural 4-Day Week Committee, administrator phone tree, Winnemucca Futures Project, vision and mission banners for school entryways, identification of struggling students and supports to aid those students, Edujobs funding, solar projects, Common Core Standards process, Nevada Growth Model for AYP, establish dates for K-6 administrative meetings, District Improvement Plan, and student IEP and 504 plans.
3. Ongoing-Met with Principals regarding evaluations and goals for 2010-2011.
4. October 19th- Attended a Mining Foundation meeting. Discussed the Lowry Academic Celebration and awards for students.
5. October 25th- Leadership Team Meeting- Discussed possible legislative initiatives of the 2011 legislative session, Governor's Blue Ribbon Committee proposal and vision for Nevada Education: Nevada's Promise, Board Vision and Mission and the district goals for this year. K-4 principals discussed non-negotiable skills for writing and core classes. 5-8 principals discussed a list of essential vocabulary and 9-12 principals discussed and completed a universal rubric for use in all classes 9-12 in writing.
6. Bus bone yard has been cleared out and auction and sale of all excess inventories is in progress.

7. Dr. Jensen has attended staff meetings at Sonoma, Winnemucca Grammar School, Grass Valley, Lowry High, and French Ford Middle to answer staff questions regarding Edujobs funding and other fiscal and policy questions. Mr. Bumgartner and Dr. Jensen will visit with the McDermitt staff on Wednesday October 27th.

Discussion Only – Lowry High School Presentation – Debbie Watts, Doc Welter

At the beginning of the school year, Mrs. Watts asked Lynn Ludlow and Laura Mercado to give a presentation on reading strategies and provide some quick exercises that could be done with students throughout the year to help improve students' reading skills.

There are currently 950 students at Lowry High School. Beginning this year, students were placed at the grade level they should be rather than placed according to the credits they have earned. With new statutes coming down, a student will be considered a drop out if they do not graduate after four years of high school.

There are three home school students taking classes at Lowry, 18 students enrolled in the on-line program, 27 students at PASS, 31 in work experience and eight teacher cadets. There are currently four seniors taking math through Great Basin College (GBC), 17 taking English 101 and 102 through GBC and two taking Government through GBC.

To identify struggling students advisory teachers talk to students about grade and attendance issues and assign them to Round Up, if they have an "F". Round Up teachers help students on Thursday mornings from 8-8:30 a.m. with homework, make up tests, explaining concepts, etc. If other interventions do not work a student may be referred to the Academic After-School Program. Currently, there are 12-16 students taking advantage of this program.

Mr. Jeppsen emails the math, science and English departments with the names of students who have yet to pass the High School Proficiency Exam. The teachers of failing seniors contact the counselors to help the student in any way they can. Counselors will do credit checks to make sure students are taking the needed classes for graduation. Counselors will also give students credit remediation papers for classes needed to make up credit.

Some of the programs offered for extra support for students include; 1) Advisory Class, 2) Round Up, 3) After School Intervention, 4) PLC's, 5) Inclusion in English, Math and Science, 6) Proficiency math, English and science classes for seniors who have not passed the HSPE and 7) credit remediation.

Mrs. Watts provided a graph showing the percentage of students in grades 9-12 with "F's" over the period from 2006-2010, showing a marked decline. She also provided the Board with a calendar showing topics that will be discussed during 2nd quarter Advisory for each grade level.

Mrs. Watts was asked if she had met with staff to discuss the newly adopted Board vision and mission statement and Board and school goals. She was asked if staff had any feedback regarding those discussions and asked if it was consistent with what we are trying to do as a district. Mrs. Watts said she met with her Leadership Team (department chairs) on August 18th and discussed the Board goals and that they were incorporated into their school improvement plan. She felt the board goals "dovetailed" quite well with Lowry's focus and school improvement plan.

Mrs. Watts said that Lowry administration and CTE staff want to see those students, who do not want to go onto college, graduate with job ready skills to acquire good paying jobs.

Mrs. Watts was asked what she thought Lowry administration and staff could do better and what was needed from the Board to address those problems. She felt they could do a better job of keeping students in school, lowering the drop out rate, getting students to pass the proficiency exams and to motivate students to learn more. Mr. Welter's hope is that the A+ Program can be expanded to keep students in-house rather than enrolling them in American Academy.

Freshman Parent Night will be held on Wednesday, November 3rd at 6 p.m. in the old gym.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants

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

Discussion Only – Technology Update, Review and Discussion - Jeanne Moline

Dr. Jensen noted that we have an aging infrastructure which has not been updated for the past several years. As a result, we are seeing more and more failures of equipment. The average age of the computers in the District are 5+ years, with several servers operating near 10 years of age; the typical life span being 3-5 years. Dr. Jensen said that it will be critical that the district look at a plan and the commitment to allocate funds toward technology in order to keep up with rapid changes and needs in the area of technology. Ms. Moline and her department have been under a significant amount of pressure of the past several months in response to our failed infrastructure.

We are currently in the process of working to fill a vacancy in the technology department and Dr. Jensen expressed his appreciation of the department's hard work.

Ms. Moline provided the Board with a copy of the information that was provided to the State of Nevada from the Ed Tech Committee. Over the past year, the committee has been looking at what the digital age classroom looks like and how Nevada can get there. One item that would be imperative to a "digital age" classroom would be smartboards and laptop carts. Two classrooms at the Winnemucca Jr. High are equipped with 30 handheld iPods. Some of the ways they have used the iPods are 1) creating their own lessons or they can download hundreds that are readily available for their students, 2) use in supplemental work, 3) remediation, 4) downloading of tutorials for remediation, 5) providing advancement for students who are excelling and 6) providing missed lessons for students who have been absent.

Some of the data collected by the Ed Tech Committee found that a digital age classroom should contain or be supported by: 1) one interactive white board per classroom, 2) laptop carts with one computer for every two students in each school, 3) classroom wireless hubs to support every student in the classroom, 4) one set of 30 handhelds per two classrooms, 5) "open source software", which allows teachers to download free software which saves on licensing fees, 6) provide adequate power supplies, drops, access points and management plans, 7) teachers need to receive 24 hours of professional development per year, which could include online courses, to focus on classroom technology integration, 8) teachers need to receive 10 hours of professional development per year to focus on conversion of traditional content to digital content. The goal is a statewide, one-to-one student to computer ratio. However, Nevada schools are so far from this goal that it was decided to start with the goal of one computer for every two students.

Ms. Moline provided costs associated with bringing our classrooms into the digital age. Equipment: 165 interactive whiteboards at \$693,000, 2,921 student handheld devices at \$730,250, and 1,547

classroom computers at \$1,547,000, for a total cost for equipment of \$2,970,250. To bring the District's infrastructure to this level (routers, switches, equipment, site preparation, and network monitoring) would cost approximately \$248,500. To deliver the amount of professional development suggested would require one teacher technology integration coach for every 800 students. Also, to support this number of computers, laptops and handhelds it would require an IT tech for every 300 computers. The cost to the District for four technology integration coaches, a professional development IT tech and an additional three IT techs for professional development would be an annual cost of approximately \$480,000. Dr. Jensen stated that the proposed costs would be to fund at the "ideal" scenario, realizing that the likelihood of the District getting to this point in the short term is not possible. It does, however, provide a vision to where we need to be. Dr. Jensen noted that as budgets are created that it will be necessary to allocate funds to technology. "There are options out there and there may be times that we will have to make a commitment that may be uncomfortable."

The IT Department currently services 1,750 computers, 14 LANS, 44 servers, 6 firewalls, 5 VPNs, 200+ printers, fax machines, scanners and all software. They average 299 work orders per month.

Ms. Moline invited Board members to visit a classroom equipped with smartboards or the iPods to see what great things can be done with them.

Discussion Only – Discussion Regarding the Potential Impact on Humboldt County School District of the Local Revenue Advisory Question on the November Ballot That Would Require the Governing Body of a Local Government to Consent Before the State Legislature Could Seize Funds of That Local Government Agency – Mike Bumgartner

NASB Director, Dottie Merrill, asked that this item be placed on the agenda to bring awareness to the question. The main emphasis behind the question was to send a message to the Legislature that local governing agencies need their funds and need to retain those funds. In the last legislative session the Legislature took money from building funds of a couple of counties. Clark County lost \$25 million dollars that was approved by voters for building and upgrading schools. The funds were transferred to the State's general fund to subsidize other counties or programs within the state and Clark County was issued an IOU.

Discussion and Possible Action – Discussion of Board Goals for School Year 2010-11: Special Board Meeting to be Held in Orovida on November 16, 2010 – Mike Bumgartner

Mr. Bumgartner briefly went over a proposal on how to approach the meeting. The reason for the meeting is to brainstorm for ideas on how to provide a quality education given declining enrollment and budget reductions, both statewide and within Humboldt County. The primary purpose of the meeting will be for the Board to listen to and consider the concerns, ideas and opinions of rural community members in regards to the future of education in each rural community. Mr. Bumgartner and Dr. Jensen will present background information on declining enrollment figures for the past five years, revenue reductions; operational costs vs revenue, per pupil costs and how schools are funded under the Nevada Plan. Everyone will break into groups, facilitated at each table by a board member, to brainstorm. Each group will then share the information they gathered. The public will then be allowed to provide comment.

As part of this meeting, a date will be set for a follow-up meeting in a rural community.

Along with the agenda and posters, a letter will be drafted to be sent to parents and community members. The staff of each rural school will be communicated with directly.

Discussion and Possible Action – Discussion of Board Goals for School Year 2010-11: Discussion of District CTE Programs – Dr. Dave Jensen

The Board was provided a draft copy of the Career and Technical Education Accountability evaluation that is completed by the Nevada Department of Education on an annual basis. The District has seen significant growth across the board. There is only one area that the District did not meet the goal, which was missed by only 0.5%. We are in the process of visiting data to see if an appeal of the missed goal is possible.

Board/Staff Comments:

1. Mr. Hillyer reminded everyone that the campaign finance report was due today to the state.
2. Mrs. Stewart invited everyone to Paradise Valley's Halloween Bingo Party on Thursday, October 28th at 7 p.m. Come in costume!
3. Dr. Jensen said he would not be able to attend the Paradise Valley Halloween Bingo Party, but would donate to the fundraiser. He will be attending the last night of football and volleyball at Lowry.
4. Mr. Hillyer informed the Board that there is a state statute requiring businesses that sell Lowry High School and Winnemucca Jr. High apparel to revert a percentage of those sales back to the school district. Mr. Jeppsen told Mr. Hillyer that Lowry does receive funds from businesses, but Mr. Hillyer questioned whether the amount was accurate.
5. Mr. Bumgartner provided Board members with a copy of the results of the Community Summit Survey sponsored by Great Basin College last year. Participants were asked a series of questions in a closed response format to identify ways in which the college's academic programs, career services, and corporate and professional programs could better serve local businesses and agencies.

Adjourned 7:13 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright

Clerk Ann Miller
Clerk, Kris Stewart