

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

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of School Trustees was held January 25, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in the District Office Boardroom.

Board members present were: President-Shelly Noble, Clerk-Ann Miller, Glenda Deputy, John Hill, Boyd Betteridge, and Andrew Hillyer. Absent: John Seeliger

Others in attendance were: Superintendent Mike Bumgartner, Asst. Superintendent Dave Jensen, Attorney John Doyle, Heather Gula-Humboldt Sun, Dee Holzel-Silver Pinyon, Dan and Debbie Watts, Doc Welter, Jennifer Robinson McCombs-HSSCO President, Mary Keith-HCEA President, Nicole Maher, Sandy Walth, Bob Pace, Warren Stotler, Frankie Peterson and Secretary Paula Wright.

President Noble opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence: None

Minutes: Mr. Hill moved to approve the January 11, 2011 minutes as written. Mrs. Miller seconded, motion carried. Mr. Hillyer was not present.

Public Comment: None

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bumgartner attended the State of the State address on Monday, January 24th in Carson City. Governor Sandoval addressed three key topics: budget, education and economic growth.

Budget for education: The Governor discussed a \$270, per pupil, reduction to the DSA or approximately 9%. He also talked about a "debt relief bond fund". The Governor wants to allow districts to use any bond funds they may have set aside as they would general fund dollars. The District promised voters that, as part of the process to gain voter support, they would not allow that to happen. The fear is the Legislature will reduce funding to Humboldt County School District by the \$900,000 the District currently generates from bond proceeds.

He discussed the room tax (Clark and Washoe County) that was passed by the voters to initially support teaching; under the Governor's plan it would revert to the general fund and be used at his discretion.

He proposed a 5% reduction in teacher salaries. It is not clear how he will accomplish this. Mr. Bumgartner noted that teacher salaries would probably roll forward and the District would then have to find a way to deal with the 5% loss.

The Governor said the education system in Nevada is "broken" and pointed to the fact that there is data to support that. His proposal to improve education includes; 1) reduced funding, 2) change or do away with teacher tenure, 3) allow vouchers for private schooling, 4) create and support more charter schools, 5) restructure the Department of Education, 6) "block grant funds" (Full-day kindergartner, class size reduction, CTE, etc.): lump funding for these programs and allow districts to use the funds as they see fit, 7) empower districts to get rid of ineffective teachers and administrators and 8) merit pay for outstanding teachers.

Mr. Bumgartner said there are a lot of things that will happen over the next few months before we get an understanding of where the budget is going.

Discussion Only - Strategic Plan to Improve Parental Involvement at Lowry High School – Debbie Watts, Doc Welter

Mrs. Watts told board members that the lack of parental involvement at Lowry High School concerns her and that she would like to improve it. She noted that parents are very involved in the FFA program, athletics and the music program. The school offers parent nights for back-to-school, incoming freshman, sophomores, juniors and seniors, a Hispanic open house and a financial aide night. Thus far, the best attended are the Incoming Freshman Parent Night, Financial Aide Night and Hispanic Open House.

Lowry administration would like to get more parents involved. This year the school began a Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), which meets monthly. During one of the meetings, a parent made the comment that she feels welcome at the elementary level and at the middle school, but did not know if she was welcome at the high school. Mrs. Watts said the school will begin by assuring parents they are welcome at Lowry High School. Several issues were discussed that may contribute to parents not feeling welcome at Lowry; parents may not be sure how to access the high school to the extent they want, students at the high school level are more independent and may not want parents involved, and the physical layout of the campus may be a bit intimidating for someone not familiar with the school.

The first step they would like to take in getting parents more involved is by holding parent/teacher/student conferences. After talking with several teachers, she said conferences have, either, never been done at the high school level or haven't been done in many years. She will return to the Board at their February 8th meeting with a proposal for approval for minimum days to be used for those conferences.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants

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

Discussion and Possible Action – Consideration of Early Retirement Incentive Applications – Dr. Dave Jensen

The Board was presented with three certified and two classified early retirement incentive applications totaling \$159,620.44. In years prior, early incentive funds were taken from the general fund, however, this year the Board decided to set aside a portion of the Edujob funds in support of the early retirement incentive. The total amount set aside was \$280,047.

Prior to policy changes implemented last year, an early incentive retirement request was based upon seniority. Under the direction of the Board, adjustments were made to allow any consideration of early incentive to be based upon the benefit (cost saving) to the school district; 1) if the purchase allows complete elimination of the position, 2) if a new staff member can be hired at a lower salary and 3) at the discretion of the Board.

Dr. Jensen noted that the Board will need to make a consideration relative to one of the classified employees' request. The employee originally requested a purchase of 1 ½ years of PERS purchase. In reviewing the policy the way it is currently written, the employee must participate a 50% level in the year two purchase, with the District purchasing up to a maximum of one-half year. The employee

began employment in mid year, but has made no purchase on her behalf in year two. The intent of the policy (Section 10) as it is written, states the employee must have a participation in the purchase.

Dr. Jensen met with the employee to discuss the policy. She understood the figure and also understood the District's position. Dr. Jensen informed her that the District could support a year and one-quarter purchase, she would have to assume a quarter of a year purchase. After considering it, the employee stated she could not afford to purchase one-quarter of a year. She then provided an amended request. Because she hired on mid year, she asked for a one year purchase, consistent with the policy, with an effective retirement date upon her 29th anniversary in the District. Her amended request is for a deferred incentive purchase, going into effect in December 2011. Dr. Jensen stated that the intent of the policy was not to provide for a deferred PERS purchase, however, there is no language that does not allow for it either. He said the Board would need to determine whether they supported the request or not, with the understanding that the policy will need to be "cleaned up".

There was some discussion by the Board regarding possible savings to the District and the current policy language. When asked, Dr. Jensen said he would recommend approving the three certified early incentives, approve the second classified early incentive request and deferred the first classified request to the Board for their interpretation of the policy. There was a brief discussion and it was decided to defer the request until the February 8th meeting, allowing the Board additional time to consider the request and give the applicant additional time to possibly reconsider the request.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the four remaining incentive buyouts as presented, table the first request as presented until the next meeting. Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Deputy seconded, motion carried. Mr. Betteridge opposed.

Mr. Pace thanked the Board and said it has been his privilege to have taught in Humboldt County for 27 years. Board members thanked Mr. Pace for his service. Mr. Stotler also thanked the Board.

Discussion and Possible Action – Second Reading and Possible Approval of the Final Section of the 3000 Policy Series - Dr. Dave Jensen

During the January 11th board meeting, Dr. Jensen presented the Board with a copy of the final section of the 3000 series. The Board was asked to review the policy, make any changes and then asked to approve the policy as presented.

Dr. Jensen noted that the 2000 series (Board Policy and Procedures) is being reviewed for additions and/or revisions to the Drug and Alcohol Policy, Early Incentive Policy and a policy regarding district employees running for a seat on the school board, while employed by the District. The additions and/or revisions will be brought to the Board at a later date.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the final section of the 3000 policy series as presented. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

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

Dr. Jensen informed the Board that the District was not successful in the application for \$10,000 in CTE grant funds. The District will continue to pursue options to enhance the welding certification program.

Dr. Jensen has been in contact with the Nevada Department of Education relative to a health and occupational safety career and technical education program (nursing) where we could partner with Humboldt General Hospital and other agencies locally. There will be competitive grant funds that will be released soon. He said he would keep the Board informed as applications roll forward.

Lowry CTE teachers met with members of the Nevada Department of Education to look at how we are coding courses. There are still courses identified with the Department of Ed that we do not offer or that are coded incorrectly, therefore, we are not able to get the credit for scope and sequence. Each teacher was guided through a process of going through each of their courses, making sure the components of introductory, occupational and terminal sequencing is met. After the meeting with the Department of Ed, there was an open discussion among CTE staff. It will be imperative as Career and Technical education laws change under Carl Perkins there be an end product; students leaving the District's CTE program with certification in hand.

The Mining Foundation has been an integral supporter of our CTE program. District administration meet with them on a monthly basis and are currently exploring other opportunities.

Discussion and Possible Action – Board Goals 2010-11, Rural School Strategic Plan: Review of the Results of the November 16, 2010 Special Session Held in Orovada and Date for the Next Rural Board Meeting – Mike Bumgartner

During the January 11th meeting, Mr. Bumgartner and Dr. Jensen reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that will be presented at the next rural session held in Orovada. The Board asked that some slight revisions be made to the presentation and those revisions have been made.

Mr. Bumgartner asked when the Board would like to hold the next rural meeting. It was decided to combine the rural meeting with the next regularly scheduled meeting on February 8th at 6:00 p.m. and hold the meeting in the Orovada Community Hall in Orovada.

Discussion and Possible Action – Discussion and Approval of a Response to be Submitted to the Legislative Committee on Health Care to Implement a School Breakfast Program - Dr. Dave Jensen

During the previous board meeting, Dr. Jensen brought before the Board a request from Senator Wiener requesting the Board's consideration of the implementation of breakfast programs throughout the District. The intent of the request was that the Board provide a written action plan relative to the breakfast program by March 15th. After some discussion at their previous meeting, the Board asked Dr. Jensen to craft a letter of response to the Senator's request. Dr. Jensen provided the Board with the initial first draft of the letter. The District's action plan to be submitted to Senator Wiener is as follows: 1) Seek appropriate funding levels from State leaders for K-12 education within the State of Nevada, 2) Request that every effort be made to curtail proposed budget reductions during the upcoming biennium, which will significantly impact the ability of Humboldt County School District to provide appropriate class-sizes and an enhanced academic experience for all students, 3) continue the existing breakfast programs at our lowest socio-economic status schools, 4) Continue to implement the Fruit and Vegetable Grant program to provide healthy snacks to specific Title I schools and 5) As revenue streams return to a level allowing Humboldt County School District to reintroduce lost personnel and supporting programs, reconsider the viability of introducing a district-wide breakfast program.

Dr. Jensen noted that the tone of the letter conveys that the Board and District do not disagree with the Senator that the breakfast program is important, but with consecutive years of lost revenue in support

of, even the school lunch program, it is not feasible at this time. The District is budgeting a \$260,000 general fund transfer this year to support the lunch program and are running at a deficit level in our current two breakfast programs in our Title I schools.

Mr. Betteridge asked that Dr. Jensen include the actual dollar amount of funds transferred from the general fund in support of the lunch program for the past 10 years, "to drive the point home". Board members were in agreement.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the letter to Ms. Mindy Martini, in response to Senator Weiner's directive stated in the letter, with the addition added. Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried.

Board/Staff Comments:

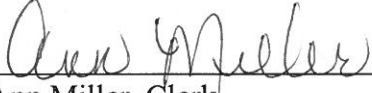
1. Mr. Betteridge appreciates Mr. Bumgartner keeping the Board updated as to the happenings in the District. He commended District administration's hard work.
2. Mr. Hillyer asked if Dr. Jensen had given any consideration to his request to provide demographics on how much the District is spending, per pupil, in the rural vs in town for the upcoming rural meeting. Dr. Jensen noted that the information was presented at the first meeting in November, but will make sure it is included with the presentation for the February 8th meeting.
3. Mr. Hillyer said he will be traveling to Reno on January 26th for NIAA meetings. He will report back at the February 8th meeting.
4. Mrs. Deputy attended the 2nd training for new school board members, hosted by the NASB, in Reno. She brought back several handouts to share with the Board.
5. Mr. Hillyer asked if the District still had access to outside board trainings. Mr. Bumgartner said if the Board had a particular subject they were interested in he could contact Dottie Merrill, NASB Director, for resources.
6. Mrs. Noble reminded Mr. Bumgartner to notify Gina Rackley, County Treasurer, of the date and time of the next rural meeting.
7. Mrs. Kennedy, Tim Storey and Dr. Jensen participated in a phone conference with the Environmental Protection Agency on January 25th. In September and October the EPA was in the McDermitt area gathering soil samples. This stemmed from an investigation of two mines, Cordero Mine and McDermitt Mine, which found the tailings from those mines were used throughout the McDermitt community, including areas of the McDermitt Combined School. The samples tested positive for arsenic and mercury. Two areas were identified at McDermitt Combined School; one in the playground area, the track and parking area around the track. Results in the playground area came in within normal limits and results on the track and parking area around the track were above normal limits, but a determination was made that it is not at a level that will require any immediate action, especially given the fact that the soil has been there for, in some cases, forty years. There has been no issue and the mercury is in a form that is non-digestible. The EPA will be partnering with the school district to hold a community discussion, where community members will be provided the same information. Some areas, other than the school district, include Fort McDermitt Reservation and a number of streets in McDermitt itself where the tailings were used.
8. A community forum will be held Friday at 2 p.m. and Saturday at the Convention Center regarding Suicide Prevention. The forum is being hosted by the Frontier Coalition, the school district, Nevada Suicide Prevention, several community churches and several other entities.
9. Mr. Bumgartner thanked the Board for their professionalism and trust throughout the last two weeks. The investigations are ongoing and, therefore, there is no new information to release. He asked the Board to contact Dr. Jensen or him if they hear any more significant rumors. If

they are aware of the rumor and have any information it will be passed on and if they have not heard the rumor they will begin investigating it immediately.

10. Mr. Betteridge, noting the incident on Friday, January 21st at Lowry High School, asked if Board members felt they should have been contacted or if it was handled in the appropriate manner. Mr. Hillyer stated that if the school had been evacuated, the Board would have been notified. Mr. Bumgartner told board members that at the administrators meeting on Wednesday, that very subject will be discussed and how to better contact parents during the day to keep them informed.

Adjourned 6:03 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright



Ann Miller, Clerk