

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

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of School Trustees was held February 8, 2011 at 6:05 p.m. in the Orovada Community Hall.

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

Others in attendance were: Superintendent Mike Bumgartner, Asst. Superintendent Dave Jensen, Heather Gula-Humboldt Sun, Dee Holzel-Silver Pinyon, Jennifer Robinson, Audra Young, Gina Rackley-Humboldt County Treasurer, Leah Rookstool, Jonathan Gibson, Jean Williams, Marlene Fetic, Jess Frey, Larry Renteria, Janet Johnson, Ray Parks, Janet Kennedy, Frankie Peterson, Cheryl Mitchell, LaDell Schott, Kim Forney, KC Harrison, other interested persons and Secretary Paula Wright.

President Noble opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence: None

Minutes: Mr. Hill moved to approve the January 25, 2011 minutes as written. Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried. Mr. Seeliger abstained.

Public Comment: None

Superintendent's Report: None

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 – Plan to Hold a Parent Conference at Lowry High School and Request for Minimum Days on March 23-25, 2011 – Dr. Dave Jensen

At the January 25, 2011 meeting, Mrs. Watts approached the Board with a proposal to begin parent-student-teacher conferences at Lowry High School in an attempt to gain more parent involvement at the high school level and to make parents feel more welcome. Mrs. Watts has begun a parent-student-teacher association at Lowry

Teachers will provide Mrs. Watts with the names of ten students whom they want to conference. After the initial ten conferences per teacher are established, an automated phone call will go out to remaining parents asking them to contact the school if they are interested in setting up a parent-student-teacher conference. The conferences will be held March 23rd from 1:30-3:30 and on March 24th from 1:30-3:30 and again from 4:30-7:30. March 25th will be a minimum day to compensate for teachers working the evening of the 24th to accommodate parent schedules.

Lowry administration and teachers will meet to debrief about the conferences and make suggestions to improve future conferences.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the minimum days (March 23-25, 2011) for Lowry High School to hold parent conferences. Mr. Seeliger seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Final Consideration of Postponed Early Incentive Retirement Request – Dr. Dave Jensen

The employee withdrew the request.

Discussion and Possible Action – Board Goals 2010: Review of Results of the November 16, 2010 Special Session Held in Orovada and Gathering of Further Input from Rural School Communities – Mike Bumgartner, Dr. Dave Jensen

The format for the meeting mirrored the special meeting held November 16th. During the November 16th meeting two trends that could greatly impact rural student education were discussed: 1) declining enrollment and 2) budget reductions state-wide and within the District. The greatest concern is the decline in student enrollment.

Dr. Jensen provided 1) an overall trend analysis in regards to enrollment and staffing for the period 1997-2011, 2) impacts to the Rural schools, 3) cuts that were implemented in Winnemucca, 4) a summary of district-wide reductions in dollars, 5) a simplified explanation of the Nevada Plan, 6) review of an actual real property tax bill, and 7) the ending fund balance and “days of operating expense”.

President Noble reviewed the ideas and suggestions from the November 16th meeting to confirm that the information collected was consistent with the communities’ recollection and to correct any misperceptions in the collected data.

Mr. Bumgartner and Dr. Jensen provided data in response to questions that arose from the November 16, 2010 meeting.

Mr. Hillyer noted that in the State of State address Governor Sandoval proposed to reduce the DSA by another \$270 per pupil and, on a more concerning note, he proposed that entities be allowed to use reserved bond funds for their general fund. Mr. Bumgartner, Dr. Jensen and board members are very concerned with this proposal.

The audience was then asked to break into small groups, facilitated by a board member. Below are the ideas, suggestions and concerns from the “brainstorming” session.

- Rural schools are currently K-8; consider making them K-12.
- Consolidate Kings River with Orovada.
- Bus 7th & 8th grade students to Winnemucca Jr. High.
- Close schools with five or less students.
- Provide two teachers for schools with 17 or more students.
- Close French Ford Middle School, move students back to the three elementary schools and implement looping (keeping teachers).
- Close French Ford and convert it to a performing arts center.
- No need for paid referees and a rural basketball coordinator. This can be done by the coaches as in past years.
- Have parents transport athletes to sporting events.
- Play sports only once a week.

- Cut unnecessary classes and electives district-wide.
- Eliminate Art and PE; saving on salary and vehicle expense.
- Use local talent for Music, Art, etc.
- Use computer based classes, but not to replace a live teacher.
- Re-emphasize-- no online teaching, not all students are ready.
- Keep technology updated and upgraded throughout the district.
- Consider a centrally located, 712 Vo-Ag school. How realistic is this with the current finances?
- Consider using same guidelines used by adult basic ed for some credits.
- Replace aides and translators with volunteers.
- Eliminate teacher aides, except for Title I schools.
- Re-evaluate staff at administrative levels, secretaries, accounting staff; number of employee's vs salary.
- Cut administration; vice principals and security officer.
- Eliminate janitorial duties (for rurals) on Fridays.
- Transportation, Denio: personal vehicle should be used to and from school.
- Put a smaller bus on the Denio route.
- No district vehicle use; use personal vehicles and reimburse.
- Rent out school buses.
- Rent out schools to businesses to teach Vo-tech classes.
- Implement a 4-day school week in Winnemucca--20% savings on food and transportation.
- Encourage establishment of a PTO/PTA at Lowry High and Winnemucca Jr. High School to gain more parental involvement.
- Eliminate housing for teacher.
- Allow rural schools to determine which reductions should be made at their own schools.
- Reductions should be made across the board, not rural vs town.
- Encourage more funding from mining, less from the state.

Statements:

- Rural tax dollars should support rural schools.
- Focus on the quality of education in the rurals, not the number of students.
- Property values will diminish without a community school.
- No school closures, they are the lifeline of the community.
- Do not close Denio School. Parents already relocate to provide students with a high school education; traveling to Oregon is unsafe.
- A centralized task force should be created consisting of Board members, parents, teachers and community members from each school to consider reductions and cuts.
- In the November 30-December 2 edition of the Humboldt Sun several audience members felt the article was biased and gave a rural vs town spin.

Questions:

- Provide data on declining enrollment in Winnemucca.
- How much revenue is generated by each individual tax district?
- Provide percentage of taxes by school vs in town.
- What is the total cost for sports?

Public Comment – Discussion Only

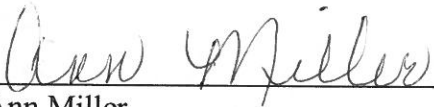
1. A community member expressed her concern regarding the suggestion to combine Kings River with Orovada. She asked if people realize it would be a 45 minute bus ride. She also said that the Kings River School is very important to the community, just as their school is to their community.
2. A community member expressed her disappointment in the Humboldt Sun article of November 30th. She said that the newspaper stated that the rural communities did not want to sustain any cuts. She said that at the November 16th rural meeting she stated she would be willing to take a 10% cut in salary, therefore, that statement was not accurate.
3. Janet Johnson asked for clarification of how the combined property taxes, Net Proceeds of Minerals and other revenues are distributed.
 - Mrs. Johnson invited administration and the Board out to visit the schools and communities.
4. A community member asked what the intentions of administration and the Board were. He asked if a priority list would be established for future cuts and if so, will there be an additional public comment period at that time.
 - Mr. Bumgartner noted that the district has no basis yet to establish a budget; however, a budget must be submitted to the state department before April 15th. We are hearing a possible 9.6% reduction, but it could be more than that. This is only the second day of the Legislature and nothing has been decided.
5. Dr. Jensen thanked everyone for attending and providing input. He noted as the process continues, it is hoped that the communities will continue to provide input. He also said that the District had previously gone through the same process in 2001 and 2010. An advisory committee was formed and an extensive process was gone through to identify priorities for the District. The information was compiled, analyzed and a lot of the suggestions were implemented.
6. A community member commented that administrators are not going to come to the Board with cuts they can make within their departments. He said that, they as community members rely on the Board to look at cuts across the board.
7. President Noble said that there may not be another meeting in the rurals because of the short timeline to have the budget submitted to the state department. She invited everyone to attend the board meetings in Winnemucca. Agendas are posted at the school, post office, the school district office and on the District's website.
8. Mr. Bumgartner said that the issue will continue to be a topic on each agenda, at least for the next several months. An analysis will be compiled of the ideas and suggestions from tonight's meeting and will be presented at the February 22nd or March 8th meeting. He commended community members for attending and sharing their thoughts. He noted that the suggestion made regarding extending the K-8 grade level at the rural schools to a K-12 may cause some issues, but it will be looked at.
9. Mr. Hillyer reported that he has been a member of the cost containment and priority committees in the past and wanted the audience to know that the school board takes all ideas and suggestions made by communities very seriously. He assured community members that, at each of the committee meetings, they discussed what cuts could be made in Winnemucca. The rural schools have never been a focus of discussion. Mr. Hillyer said the issue has become one that we can no longer just look at Winnemucca for reductions. The Board will continue to look at what is best for students.
10. Jean Williams asked the Board to consider a 4-day school week in Winnemucca. She noted the cost savings achieved in the rurals in regards to transportation and food costs. She told the

Board that she too saved money by working a four day week, rather than a five day week, when employed in Winnemucca.

11. Cheryl Mitchell stated that cuts have been made in the rural schools. When she first arrived to teach at Orovada, the school had an ESL aide, a two month long basketball program and had Art, PE and Music once every other week. They no longer have an ESL aide and the rural basketball program, Art, Music and PE programs have been reduced.
12. Mr. Hill thanked the Board and District administration for holding the meetings in Orovada and allowing community members to be involved.

Adjourned 8:19 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ann Miller", written over a horizontal line.

Clerk, Ann Miller