

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

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of School Trustees was held March 8, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in the District Office Boardroom.

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, Attorney John Doyle, Amie Godinez, Barbara and Gus Duncan, Kelly Novi, Jim and Jace Billingsley, John, Paige and Eric Brooks, Brant Corak, KC Harrison, Nichole Maher, Michelle Pasquale, Tim Grady, Frankie Peterson, Eddie Poole, Ryan Nelson, Fernando Herrera, Daniel Pollock, Michal Arenas, Michael Billingsley, Cody Green, Aaron Nelson, Lane Mentaberry, Troy Hardy, Brandon Okuma, Tytin Johnson, Joyce Sheen-Silver Pinyon, Heather Gula-Humboldt Sun, other interested persons and Secretary Paula Wright. Absent: Asst. Superintendent Dave Jensen

President Noble opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Correspondence:** Mr. Hillyer read a letter from Governor Sandoval to Coach John Brooks, congratulating him and the Lowry High School Wrestling team for winning the State Championship. Governor Sandoval noted that he is proud of how everyone conducted themselves athletically and as student leaders.

**Minutes:** Mr. Seeliger moved to approve the February 22, 2011 minutes as written. Mr. Hillyer seconded, motion carried.

**Special Recognition: Lowry High School State Wrestling Champions**

President Noble and Superintendent Bumgartner presented certificates of outstanding performance to the Lowry High School Wrestling Team for winning their third state title. Congratulations!!

**Public Comment:** None

**Superintendent Report**

1. Legislative update

a. Attended Legislative Committee on Education on February 24, 2011, Carson City

- i. Governor's plan for education was under scrutiny by the committee
- ii. Debt Reserve Accounts plan- Governor has proposed to withdraw approx \$400 million from Debt Reserve Accounts across 12 Nevada school districts
  1. In Humboldt County, this will greatly impact bond funding. It will divert funds Humboldt County voters approved for school capital improvement projects and make those funds available for operating expenditures.
  2. The Governor's staff was rigorously questioned about the viability of the plan, its possible impact upon current school capital projects and the impact upon the ability of school districts to pass school bond measures in the future.

3. A line of questioning by Senator Horsford led to the conclusion that tapping into debt reserves (bond funds) could eventually equate to a tax increase for local county taxpayers. The reasoning: drawing away of those funds could lead to a reduction in the district bond rating. A reduction in rating could lead to a necessary restructuring (refinancing) of the debt, with a higher interest rate and hence larger payments. Along with declining property values, this could lead to a reduction in revenue, enough to not cover debt service, which would necessitate an increase in tax rates in order to cover the debt service payments.
4. It is clear by the line of questioning utilized by the legislative committee that they do understand the negative impact this could have on school districts and it seems to have strong opposition among legislators.
5. Assemblywoman, Debbie Smith has proposed a bill that would allow school districts to opt out of this scenario.

iii. Block Grant

1. Considerable scrutiny arose for the idea of a block grant, in which all current categorical funding (Class Size Reduction, Full-Day Kindergarten, CTE, etc.) would be placed into a block grant for each district, to be used at the discretion of the district.

iv. Considering ideas for school reform

1. Pay for Performance - significant discussion centered on a possible pay for performance incentive for teachers. Scrutiny for Sandoval's plan of funding the incentive was applied.
2. Restructuring of teacher evaluation system- four levels instead of the current two (Satisfactory, Unsatisfactory)
3. Restructuring of teacher tenure- perhaps consider longer periods of probation, up to four years, and consider placing teachers back on probation if they have received unsatisfactory evaluations in two consecutive years.

2. The new iNVEST proposal will be released at 3:00 pm on Wednesday. Major ideas:

- a. Keep funding for schools at 2009-2010 levels
- b. Curtail the multitude of statutory reporting requirements and program requirements that tend to impede school progress, rather than helping it
- c. Revise collective bargaining statutes to a degree that would allow and promote the use of student achievement data in administrator and teacher evaluations, allow districts to better remove ineffective teachers and administrators and remove seniority requirements during reduction in force actions.
- d. Fund and implement significant and meaningful pay for performance initiatives that truly reward the best and most skillful teachers.

3. Activity Report

- a. Attended subcommittee in Carson City on February 24, 2011
- b. Briefly attended a SPARTAN Task Force workshop concerning Crisis Response. Officer Jeff Dawson and Bev McNamara also attended.
- c. Attended staff meetings at Winnemucca Grammar School, Sonoma Heights, Lowry and French Ford and answered staff questions and concerns.
- d. Met with Lowry Seniors regarding the Senior Choice Awards
- e. Met with Nicole Maher concerning the new website and PR protocols for the school district.
- f. Met with Amie Godinez concerning a future trip of the Lowry Travel Club.

- g. Attended a Rotary Club President Elect Training in San Jose the weekend of March 4-6.
- h. Upcoming:
  - i. Principal evaluation meetings with Principals
  - ii. Administrative meeting- Friday, March 18, 2011
  - iii. Visit to McDermitt- March 14, 2011

4. Travel Report

- a. Grant committee in Reno Thursday, March 10, 2011
- b. Leadership Summit- called by the State Department of Education in Las Vegas- April 7-8
- c. Attending a District Leadership Superintendent Summit in Phoenix during spring break- March 30-April 3-by invitation only-60 Superintendent's invited from western United States. Scholarship-No expense to school district.

**Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants**

Mr. Hill moved to approve the warrants as presented. Mrs. Miller seconded, motion carried. Mrs. Noble abstained.

**Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of a European Trip by the Lowry High School Foreign Travel Club – Amie Godinez, Michelle Pasquale**

Mrs. Godinez and Mrs. Pasquale approached the Board for approval for the Lowry High School Foreign Travel Club to take a 15 day European trip in July of 2013 to England, France and Spain. The request is being made in advance to allow the group sufficient time to fundraise and/or earn the amount needed for their expenses. The travel arrangements will be made through Education First (EF) Tours and the Board was provided a copy of the itinerary. One of the sights the group hopes to include in their tour is "The Running of the Bulls" in Pamplona, Spain in July. Because the trip is planned for the summer, no educational time will be lost. All expenses will be paid by the group.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the European trip as presented, with the usual caveat that the Superintendent has final approval of the trip depending on world conditions for the safety of students and chaperones. Mr. Seeliger seconded, motion carried.

**Discussion Only – Update on CTE Programs – Kelly Novi**

Currently, Lowry High School offers a wide range of CTE classes; however, some of the classes we offer may longer be considered CTE courses. This is due to the fact that some are not taught by CTE licensed teachers and others because the skill set varies from student to student and the outcome may not be consistent.

The State Department is working on clusters to add consistency across the state. The State will determine the length of the course clusters to meet the demands of the standards and will determine the skills to be tested and the year to test.

We are currently working with the State, TMCC and Lyon County School District to explore programs and curriculum dealing with renewable energy (geothermal, solar and wind).

We also have a partnership with the Mining Foundation, who we meet with monthly. The Mining Foundation provides equipment, expertise and funds to our CTE programs. Some of the programs we are in discussion with the Mining Foundation include welding, diesel mechanics, hydraulics, electrical and circuitry.

Two key questions we need to ask is, do all current clusters lead to high demand, high wage careers or post secondary education that lead to high demand, high wage careers and do they meet the needs of current students that seek career or college readiness within the county or in a broader market?

Mr. Novi asked the Board to think about what they feel we should offer in terms of course clusters and if those courses meet the student and world needs. He said that if the Board determines changes should be made, we need to be aware of how those changes should be implemented.

#### **Discussion Only – Update on Common Core Standards – Kelly Novi**

The Common Core Steering Committee has been meeting and creating translation documents, rolling curriculum guides and professional development for all teachers and administrators to get them through the transition to the new common core standards. There will be significant changes included in the new common core standards. Information has been posted on the Department of Education website and is available to anyone who may want to view it.

In the 2011-12 school year, (ELA) K-8<sup>th</sup> grade will begin full implementation of the common core standards; math will be in full implementation in K- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 3-8<sup>th</sup> will be rolling curriculum (some common core standards added and some Nevada standards removed). Tests will be based on Nevada Standards.

In the 2012-13 school year (ELA) K-12<sup>th</sup> and Math K-2<sup>nd</sup> will begin full implementation. Grades 3-8 begin testing on items aligned to the Common Core Standards and HSPE will still align to the Nevada Standards. Grades 3-8 will add some Common Core Standards and remove some Nevada Standards. Algebra and Geometry (9<sup>th</sup>) will use Common Core Standards, which is an issue for us because Geometry includes 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

In the 2013-14 school year, there will be full implementation of the Common Core Standards in ELA and K-8<sup>th</sup> Math. The Common Core Standards will also be fully implemented in grades 9-10<sup>th</sup> in Algebra and Geometry. It is possible that AYP will be suspended this year. Students will take multiple assessments this school year.

In the 2014-15 school year, there will be full implementation of the Common Core Standards, including the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC) assessments in grades 3-8 and 11<sup>th</sup>. CRT's will be discontinued; just the SBAC Test will be assessed. The HSPE will continue to be used as the graduation exam for high school and the SBAC will be used for accountability. The class of 2018 will be the first class that must pass the SBAC to graduate.

Testing will be done online. States or districts that cannot manage testing online will have the expense of pencil/paper exams and scoring.

One to three hour professional development sessions will be offered this year for staff. An administrator component may be provided in May to all administrators to get them comfortable with the Common Core Standards. Throughout the upcoming school year there will be continued classes, workshops and trainings. The State has written 94 classes, through UNLV, available to all Nevada teachers. Work is being done to provide the same classes through UNR.

#### **Discussion and Possible Action – Discussion of Board Goals for School Year 2010-11: Discussion of District CTE Programs – Mike Bumgartner**

Mr. Novi covered this item in his update presentation.

**Discussion and Possible Action – Discussion and Possible Action – Board Goals 2010-11: Rural School Strategic Plan - Mike Bumgartner**

Mr. Bumgartner asked the Board what their thoughts were as to what the next step should be in the rural school strategic plan. He noted that the Board gathered considerable information from the two meetings held in Orovada. Board comments included 1) wait to see where we are, 2) implement some of the ideas provided by community members to improving their schools, 3) look at reductions across the board (rural and in-town), and 4) provide equal educational opportunities (through video conferencing, etc.)

Mr. Bumgartner noted that a strategic plan needs to be drafted. Currently, the only policy the district has regarding rural schools is in regards to a change in school status, enrollment guidelines, the numbers required to open a school, inactive school status and a policy for closing of a school. Board members are satisfied with the current policy.

Mr. Bumgartner will return to the next meeting with the projected enrollment for each of the rural schools.

**Public Comment:** Mr. KC Harrison addressed the Board regarding the subject of school personnel seeking public office. Mr. Harrison said he shares a lot of the Board's concerns regarding school personnel running for school board. He felt his candidacy for school board seat created some confusion as to how the Ethics Commission may address the issue and also, he was receiving superficial legal opinions from three local attorneys saying that if he were to recuse himself from any issue regarding salary negotiations he should be allowed to sit on the Board if elected. During his campaign, he with Mr. Bumgartner and Attorney, John Doyle, and was informed of some of the legal implications that could arise, citing Douglas County. He thanked them for that meeting.

Mr. Harrison stated that the District absolutely needs a policy to specify under what circumstances an employee may be able to run for a school board seat. He is in absolute agreement that if an employee runs for a school board seat and wins the election, the employee should step down from his/her employment prior to assuming their position on the board. He noted that such a statement may possibly be added to the employee contracts.

**Discussion and Possible Action – Review of Draft Policy Regarding School Personnel Seeking Public Office – Mike Bumgartner**

At the previous board meeting, the Board was asked to review possible language to address a Board policy regarding a board member conflict of interest inclusion. The policy addresses a conflict of interest when a member is presented with an issue in which the member has a personal or financial interest, while concurrently employed by the District. The proposed language includes the statement that if a current employee is elected or appointed to a position on the Board of Trustees, the employee must terminate his or her employment with the District prior to executing the oath of office and entering into service on the board.

Mr. Doyle stated he was okay with the language and suggested checking with Clark County School District, where this policy was modeled after, to see if they also include the language in individual employee contracts.

There was a brief discussion and the Board asked that the item be placed on the March 22<sup>nd</sup> agenda for a final reading and possible approval.



**Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of a Resolution Opposing the Use of Debt Reserve Funds as Proposed by Governor Sandoval – Mike Bumgartner**

In response to the debt reserve proposal by Governor Sandoval, the NASB sent out a draft of a resolution opposing the budget proposal to sweep debt service reserve funds and asked districts to adopt the resolution. The resolution was edited to make it site specific to Humboldt County School District. Mr. Bumgartner asked the Board to approve the resolution and, once signed by the Board President and Clerk, it will be sent to the NASB and the Legislature.

Mr. Seeliger read the resolution into the minutes.

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE BUDGET PROPOSAL TO SWEEP DEBT SERVICE RESERVE FUNDS**

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the State of Nevada has proposed using approximately \$425 million in debt service reserve funds from twelve Nevada school districts in order to balance the State's budget for the 2011-2013 Biennium; and

**WHEREAS**, using these funds for purposes other than debt service may result in a tax increase that would fall on Humboldt County residents for what should be a State obligation; and

**WHEREAS**, converting debt service reserve funds for operating purposes would break the Humboldt County School District's promises to Humboldt County voters that capital funds would be used only for the purposes expressed on the ballot in 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, removing these funds may jeopardize the Humboldt School District's bond ratings and reduce the Humboldt School District's future borrowing and construction capacity, postponing future bond issues, and resulting in a negative impact on the local economy due to fewer jobs being available; and

**WHEREAS**, the Humboldt County School District has already cut \$2.4 million since 2007, resulting in losses of programs, increased class sizes, and elimination of positions, putting services to students at risk; and

**WHEREAS**, this would be a one-time solution that would leave a future deficit in K-12 resources to be filled in the next Biennium, with the fundamental problems of the State's budget remaining unaddressed for future biennia;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT HEREBY:**

Strongly opposes the Governor's proposal to balance the State's budget by using school districts' debt service reserves, for any other purpose outside the bond program;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:**

The Board of School Trustees encourages the State of Nevada to balance its budget without further reducing funds for public education;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:**

The Board of School Trustees encourages the State of Nevada to make efforts to establish legislation that will adequately fund public education in Nevada.

**ADOPTED** on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2011.

Mr. Seeliger moved to approve the resolution as presented. Mr. Betteridge and Mr. Hillyer seconded, motion carried.

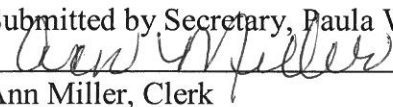
**Board/Staff Comments:**

1. Mr. Hill asked the status of the solar panels at Grass Valley Elementary. Mr. Bumgartner said that Dr. Jensen has been monitoring the progress and could give an update at the next meeting. Mr. Bumgartner believes that the project is nearing completion.
2. Mr. Hill congratulated the Lowry High School Wrestling Team.
3. Mr. Betteridge congratulated the Lowry High School Basketball Team.
4. Mr. Betteridge voiced his concern regarding what occurred during the Winterfest dance. He believes that as a Board, they need to support Mrs. Watts in what she is trying to do. He said that Mrs. Watts has taken considerable "heat" from parents and students.

5. Mr. Hillyer thanked Mr. Harrison for his input and support on a policy regarding personnel seeking public office. "He ran an excellent campaign, he's a good person and he would have made a good board member."
6. Mrs. Deputy reminded everyone of daylight saving time.
7. Mr. Betteridge asked everyone to keep Fred and Kris Stewart in their prayers.

Adjourned 7:08 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright

  
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Ann Miller, Clerk