

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

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of School Trustees was held May 24, 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, Asst. Superintendent Dave Jensen, Attorney John Doyle, Noel Morton, Sabrina Novi, Ed Partee, Terry Norcutt, Deanna Owens, Lori Seidlitz, Frankie Peterson, Carolyn Dufurrena, Kim Forney, Anita Rolando, Dustin Christean, Quinn Norcutt, Tim Billingsley, Shaun Murgel, Chelsea Mendiola, Ron Beck, Greg Scott, Dawn Lucas, Dee Holzel-Silver Pinyon, Kristen Flanders, Tim Conners, Jan Morris, Lisa Weber, Kraig Lords, Robert Lindsay, Mike Michaelson, Millie Custer, other interested persons and Secretary Paula Wright.

President Noble opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence: None

Minutes: Mr. Seeliger moved to approve the May 10, 2011 minutes as written. Mr. Betteridge and Mr. Hillyer seconded, motion carried.

Mrs. Miller moved to approve the May 18, 2011 minutes as written. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried. Mr. Seeliger, Mr. Hillyer and Mr. Betteridge abstained.

Public Comment: Millie Custer, Vice President of the FFA Alumni, asked the Board to place them on an upcoming agenda to discuss the filling of Corey Coles' position. Mrs. Custer says approximately 25 students will be negatively affected by filling the position as a welding only. She noted that Mrs. Hill is close to receiving her welding endorsement, but needs help teaching the other Ag classes that will be dropped if the District hires just a welding instructor.

Terry Norcutt agreed with Mrs. Custer and noted that the more instructors the District has for programs, the better the education for the student. , Mr. Norcutt fears that, if the position is hired as a welding only instructor, Mrs. Hill will be "overloaded" and students will suffer.

Quinn Norcutt said it would be beneficial to the students to have an Ag instructor that has welding certification. If the instructor just teaches welding he and other students will not be able to compete in FFA. He said that there is little he can do with welding, but with Ag mechanics he can expand his employability.

Ed Partee, Treasurer of the FFA Alumni, thanked the Board for allowing them to speak. He said that Dr. Jensen attended a recent meeting of the alumni and explained the welding program and the focus that was taken. The FFA Alumni and their supporters are concerned that a welding only instructor will prevent students' involvement in FFA. An Ag Mechanics teacher, that holds a welding endorsement, will allow for that instructor to teach welding and other Ag classes.

Superintendent's Report

- There was no superintendent meeting.
- Website unveiling at Winnemucca Grammar School. The Board will be able to view the website at the end of June. The website will be up and running the end of August or early September.
- May 13th-All day administrative planning meeting for the upcoming school year: calendar, "Truancy Court" with Judge Mike Montero, common core breakout, walk-through evaluation system, negotiations and budget, board goals
- May 6th and May 13th- Four day school week committee meetings
- May 23rd-Leadsip Team meeting: revamp the teacher recognition system
- June 19-21 Superintendent conference at Lake Tahoe

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants

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

Discussion Only – IC Presentation – Kraig Lords, Deanna Owens, Carolyn Dufurrena, Noel Morton, Dustin Christean, Dawn Lucas, Jan Morris, Anita Rolando, Lori Seidlitz, Lisa Weber
Instructional Consultation Teams (IC) provide academic and behavioral support to all students who are struggling in the general education classroom.

The IC Team's objectives are to 1) develop a systematic support network within each school site K-6, including a trained IC team, 2) enhance teachers' skills in and application of best practices, 3) develop school-wide norms of collaboration and problem solving and 4) utilize data for classroom and school decisions.

Strategies in the classroom allow for teacher flexibility. The strategies can be used with individual students, small groups or the class as a whole. All strategies are researched based and can enhance learning for all students.

In Mrs. Morton's opinion, administrative support at the school and district level is critical. She also feels that administrators should be an active team member, acting as a case manger. She believes that IC Team goals and objectives should be included in School Improvement Plans.

Mrs. Owens thanked all IC Teams for going above and beyond for the benefit of students and the program.

Discussion and Possible Action – Rural School Four Day Week Committee Recommendation – Mike Bumgartner

The 4-day Rural School Week Committee was formed in 2008 to study the feasibility of utilizing a four day week in the four rural schools and McDermitt. In December 2008, the rural schools and McDermitt initiated a pilot 4-day week for the 2009 spring semester. The pilot was continued for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years.

The purpose of the committee meetings on May 6th and May 13th was to review data and formulate a recommendation to the Board concerning either continuing or discontinuing the 4-day school week. Data from the last full year of the five day school week was compared with the last full year of the 4-day school week. Qualitative data was the most reliable source for the comparison.

The comparison found that most data inferred student achievement and teacher attendance was “flat” and student attendance slightly decreased. On MAPS testing, the percentage of students attaining goals in math and reading were “flat”. Pre-post gains showed gains and some slight losses in math and slight losses in reading. On the CRT’s, most schools showed gains in reading and in math two schools showed large gains and three schools showed slight decreases.

CRT quartile results in “Exceeds Standards”: more gains than losses in reading and more losses than gains in math. “Meets Standards”: more gains (some significant) than losses in reading and more gains (some significant) than losses in math. “Approaches Standards”: more losses (some significant) than gains in reading and more losses than gains in math. “Emergent/Developing”: all schools showed decreases in reading and most schools showed decreases in math.

On the student surveys, 85.3% prefer the 4-day school week to 14.7% who prefer the five day school week. Comments of those that prefer the 4-day school week included; 1) allows time to work on the ranch/farm, 2) allows time with family, 3) more time for homework/less time for homework, 4) no missed school for Dr. appointments and 5) practical application of learning.

On the staff surveys, 90.9% were in favor of the 4-day school week, compared to 9.1% who preferred the five day school week. Comments in favor of the 4-day school week included; 1) time to cover a concept, 2) more time to teach the core curriculum, 3) saves the District money, 4) longer time to focus on each period and complete project work, 5) prep and cleanup time is cut, 6) class time is not disrupted for athletic travel, 7) more time to focus on PLC and professional development and 8) more contact time with students. Disadvantages to the 4-day school week included; 1) students need core subject instruction in a controlled environment five days a week, 2) special needs children (IEP’s and ESL) may need more school time, 3) students get out of the school routine over a three day weekend, 4) make up work for absences can be an issue and 5) days are longer and some teachers complain about being tired.

Of the 83 parent surveys, 92.7% supported the 4-day school week, to the 7.3% who preferred the five day school week. The vast majority of parents did not feel the 4-day school week impacted their children in a negative way. Some did comment that the days were long for their younger children, but that the benefits outweighed the concern.

Of the parents who have special education or ESL students, most felt that one day less instruction was a disadvantage. For the majority of parents, child care on Fridays was not an issue. Representatives from the Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Reservation felt that some Native American students would be better served by a five day school week.

The committee recommended continuing with the rural 4-day school week, with the following caveats: 1) continue to gather and review data each year and report to the Board, 2) make adjustments as indicated by the data, 3) a minimum of three years of data is needed and 4) don’t rule out changes necessary to aid students, including reversion to the five day school week, if the data supports it.

Mrs. Miller stated that she has been in education for thirty years and feels it is the District’s responsibility to provide the very best education possible for students and does not believe the 4-day school week is the best education possible. “You can accomplish more in five days than four.” “The youngest, weakest, slowest kids will suffer the most.”

Mr. Seeliger noted that several comments were made that the 4-day school week saves the District money. The District does not save as much as people perceive. Mr. Bumgartner said that during the committee meeting on May 6th it was mentioned that the District initiated the 4-day school week to save money. People were surprised to find that the proposal for the 4-day school week came from the rural communities, not the District.

Mr. Hillyer moved to support continuation of the rural 4-day school week. Mrs. Deputy seconded, motion carried. Those in favor: Mr. Hillyer, Mrs. Deputy, Mr. Hill, Mr. Betteridge and Mrs. Noble. Those opposed: Mrs. Miller and Mr. Seeliger.

Discussion Only – Review of Insurance Premium Renewal Rates for 2011-2012 – Dr. Dave Jensen

Dr. Jensen reminded Board members that two years ago the District bargained with both bargaining units that the District would build a 6% annual increase for insurance premiums into the budget and any cost above the 6% would become the employees' responsibility. This includes the employee's premium and family premiums.

Dr. Jensen gave a brief summary of medical and prescription claims against our current policy. Premiums for the last year totaled \$2,023,238 vs claims of \$1.6 million or 81%. In the previous year the District's claims were higher than the premiums generated. Premiums for prescriptions totaled \$447,000 to claims of \$311,000 or 69.5%.

St. Mary's Preferred came to the table with a 19% raise in insurance premiums. After some negotiations between St. Mary's and Maggie Loyan, the District's insurance broker, they dropped the premium to 17% and further negotiations brought it down to 12%. Anthem provided a quote 6% above our current insurance premium. She then returned to St. Mary's Preferred and they matched the 6% increase. There will be no impact to employees' health insurance and coverage will remain the same.

Discussion and Possible Action – Title I Parent Involvement Policy – Dr. Dave Jensen

This item was postponed at the May 10th board meeting. The District must, for all Title 1 schools, 1) incorporate a district wide parental involvement policy into its School Improvement Plan (SIP), 2) provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, 3) submit any parent comments with the SIP to the Department of Education, 4) involve parents in decisions about how the 1% of Title I, Part A funds is spent and 5) follow the statutory definition of parental involvement.

Dr. Jensen briefly went over the actions the District will implement on the required components of the Parent Involvement Policy. 1) The District will work in consultation with the Parent Involvement Council to appoint parent representatives to serve on the committee for the District Improvement Plan (DIP), 2) the District will require parental participation on all SIP, 3) the District's Title I Office will work with the District's Parent Involvement Office and the Nevada State Parent Involvement Resource Center to provide professional development to the Title V funded Parent Involvement Coordinator, 4) A parent involvement committee will be formed, under the coordination of the Parent Involvement Coordinator, to coordinate strategies for the Pre-K, Gifted and Talented and Early Childhood programs, 5) the District's Parent Involvement Committee will collect school site data on parent involvement annually through a comprehensive district-wide needs assessment, 6) the District will work with the Parent Involvement Council, District Title I Office, Parent/Community Coordinator, Nevada Department of Education and the Nevada State Parent Involvement Resource Center to

provide professional development on parent involvement to its administrators, teachers and support staff, 7) the District will seek every opportunity to work with community programs, and 8) the District uses a variety of media methods to communicate the availability of the programs to parents.

Mr. Hillyer moved to adopt the Title I Parental Involvement Policy as presented. Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried.

Discussion Only – Closed Session for Grievance Hearing Regarding Extra Duty Compensation Pursuant to the HCEA Negotiated Agreement (Step III-Board of Trustees) - Mike Bumgartner
This item was postponed by Mary Keith, HCEA President.

Discussion and Possible Action – Determination Regarding Grievance Hearing Regarding Extra Duty Compensation Pursuant to the HCEA Negotiated Agreement (Step III-Board of Trustees)
Postponed

Board/Staff Comments:

1. Mr. Betteridge commended Mr. Bumgartner's performance of the Star Spangled Banner at the Lowry Awards Assembly.
2. Mr. Betteridge asked about the progress of the solar panels. Dr. Jensen said that Grass Valley Elementary, Paradise Valley Elementary and Lowry High School (athletics) solar panels are complete and in operation. We have no figures of savings to the District yet.
3. Mr. Hillyer asked if there was any other way the solar panels at Winnemucca Jr. High could have been placed in regards to the athletic field. Dr. Jensen stated that the scope of the project did not allow for any other scenario, however, when the project is complete the field will be complete with irrigation, a DG track, a long jump pit and will be completely fenced.
4. Mr. Hillyer questioned why the solar panels at Lowry High School face east rather than south. Dr. Jensen noted that there is a slight south tilt to the panels, which provides 85% efficiency. There was no other way to adjust them. Also, none of the panels were placed on rooftops because none of the roofs are structured to withstand the winds we get here.
5. Mr. Seeliger reported on the Legislative bills. AB113: Delays the testing of CRT's by 30 days, unfortunately, it also delays AYP designations and teacher evaluations. AB117: Revises provisions governing the required minimum number of school days in public schools by up to 10 days. The 10 days cannot be instruction time. District's wishing to take advantage of this must submit a Board approved schedule to the Senate Finance Committee for approval. This also must be approved by the Associations. AB222: Creates the Teachers and Leaders Council of Nevada. AB 225: Requires an additional probationary period for certain teachers and administrators. AB 229: Revises provisions governing the accountability and performance of public schools and educational personnel. This will require additional reporting for student/teacher ratios. It also adds the definition of "gross misconduct" to just cause for termination of a district employee. AB318: Places the burden of proof and the burden of production on a school district in a due process hearing held pursuant to IDEA. Mr. Bumgartner said this will be extremely detrimental to school districts. AB393: Requires criminal background investigations of educational personnel upon renewal of a license. AB456: Allows a student, who has taken the proficiency test numerous times and has failed one section, to take all test averages and, if above the average score for passing, the student can receive a high school diploma, as long as the student is not credit deficient, has a 2.75 GPA and meets minimum attendance. AB493: Provides a temporary waiver from certain minimum expenditure requirements for textbooks, as long as the funds are put toward technology. AB551: Requires school districts to assess the feasibility of consolidation of services with other

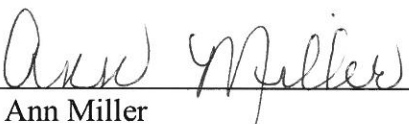
districts. SB 98: Revises provisions relating to collective bargaining between local governments and employee organizations. May lead to open negotiations (prior to arbitration, both sides must be heard in open meeting). SB197: Reorganization of K-12 schools. An advisory committee will be established. SB212: Does not allow a district for charter schools, but will allow them to apply for federal grants. SB359: Is in regards to school districts employing personnel on a contract basis to fill positions. SJR4: Urges Congress to enact legislation to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey ownership of certain land to the State of Nevada to help fund education.

Mr. Seeliger gave a brief update on Section 501(c), which states that an organization exempt under the section will lose its tax-exempt status and its qualification to receive deductive charitable contributions if a substantial part of its activities are carried on to influence legislation. NASB director, Dotty Merrill, must register as a lobbyist; however, because she is employed as an executive director and takes direction from school districts she does not meet the lobbyist criteria under the IRS. Also, 35% of NASB funds are spent during the legislative year and 10% on non-legislative years. Organizations are not permitted to spend more than 50% over a 4-year period.

6. Mr. Seeliger said that the Ways and Means Finance Committee meeting scheduled for the morning of May 24th was postponed.
7. Mrs. Miller said she would not be able to attend the Paradise Valley Elementary School graduation on Wednesday, June 1st because of the arrival of unexpected guests. She asked if someone would be willing to attend in her place.
8. Dr. Jensen reported the completion of four grants for the CTE program in the amount of \$160,000.
9. Dr. Jensen will be attending King Rivers' graduation, Mr. Bumgartner will be attending Denio's graduation and both will be attending McDermitt's graduation. Dr. Jensen said Board members were welcome to ride with them.
10. Mr. Bumgartner said that Mary Keith, HCEA President, asked that the grievance scheduled for this meeting be postponed.
11. Mr. Bumgartner noted that the June 14th board meeting will be cancelled for lack of agenda items. The grievance will be moved to the June 28th meeting, unless the Association prefers a different date.
12. Mr. Bumgartner reported that Frankie Peterson will be retiring this year. He thanked her for thirty three years of service to the school district.

Adjourned 7:03 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright


Clerk, Ann Miller