

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

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of School Trustees was held July 9, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. in the District Office Boardroom.

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

Others in attendance were: Superintendent Dr. Dave Jensen, Assistant Superintendent Dawn Hagness, Director Kelly Novi, Attorney John Doyle, Jessica Powell-Humboldt Sun, Sandy Hammargren-Silver Pinyon Journal, Ray Parks, Sue Hawkins-Hycroft, Melanie Lawson-Barrick, Louis Mendiola-Humboldt General Hospital, Chad Peters, Robert Lindsay, Dustin Christean, and Secretary Paula Wright.

President Seeliger opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence: None

Minutes: There were a couple of typo's discovered. Page 1, 3rd to last sentence "ensure" should be "insure", page 2, 1st bullet "forward" should be "forwarded" and page 2, 2nd to last sentence "recieved" should be "received".

Mr. Braginton moved to approve the June 25, 2013 minutes as amended. Mr. Hillyer seconded, motion carried. Mrs. Deputy abstained.

Public Comment: None

Superintendent Report

1. On June 26th, Dr. Jensen had the opportunity to provide a Humboldt County School District update to the Rotary Club of Winnemucca. He discussed with them recent changes, NSPF star ratings, the High Tech Center and ongoing summer projects. Thank you to Rotary Club for their ongoing support of education!
2. On June 27th, interviews for the Sonoma Heights Principal were conducted. We had two candidates and the interviews were informative. After much consideration, the position was offered to Mrs. Amy Nelson, currently an administrator with Lander County School District. Congratulations Amy!
3. The afternoon of June 27th, Dr. Jensen met with representatives of NV Energy to look at energy savings methods to avoid peak period charges.
4. On July 2nd, Dr. Jensen, Mrs. Hagness, Mr. Novi and Mrs. Morton held a FY14 planning meeting. As part of the meeting, an administrator welcome back letter was crafted detailing activities for the next few months.
 - August 5th – full day administrative meeting to discuss core beliefs, mission, vision, goal setting, and Nevada Education Performance Framework
 - August 6th – the administrative team will travel to Elko for training on the new evaluation model provided by the Nevada Department of Education
 - August 7th – all day administrators meeting focusing on our late start Common Core State Standards (CCSS) math component
 - August 12th – all day administrators meeting and key staff training on Curriculum Engine provided by Clark County School District.
 - August 16th – all day administrators meeting and team member training on CCSS math facilitation

- August 21st – new teacher training
 - August 22nd – CCSS Math kick off training at Grass Valley Elementary and Sonoma Heights Elementary, followed by French Ford Middle School
 - August 23rd – CCSS Math kick off training at Winnemucca Grammar School
5. On July 3rd, Dr. Jensen, Dawn Hagness and Kelly Novi had a phone conference with Clark County School District regarding the curriculum engine and rolling over CCSS into the Humboldt County School District engine. Our focus will be ELA and Math.
 6. On July 8th, Ronda Havens, Margaret Ashby, Lupe Pulido and Dr. Jensen had a phone conference with American Express to discuss a new incentive program that would provide 1% cash back on purchases. This would only be of benefit if we were able to pay vendors with the American Express card. We are exploring this option.
 7. The morning of July 9th, Dr. Jensen had the opportunity to visit Lowry High School with Chad Peters, Ray Parks, Kevin Monsey, Bryon Krell and Louis Mendiola to begin efforts on the Humboldt General Hospital partnership, focusing on training rooms. The hope is to have initial work completed prior to the football season.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants

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

Discussion and Possible Action - Discussion of District Priorities and Potential Common Interests with Community Entities – John Seeliger, Andrew Hillyer, Dr. Dave Jensen

Consistent with the Boards request, Dr. Jensen extended an invitation to all staff and administrators for their input on this topic. He received an email from Nancy Swindle. She was unable to attend the meeting, but asked Dr. Jensen to share her suggestion into the record: “I’m not sure my idea is what the group is asking for, but what about a community school teacher warehouse? At one time, our district community had a virtual warehouse where teachers could access surplus items to be reused or recycled in the classroom from local businesses. At first, there was a site that listed items available, but later on we contacted a coordinator, told them what we needed and they tried to help us locate it. As an example, I use playing cards in my classroom to help teach math facts. The virtual warehouse would contact casinos in town to obtain decks of cards for the students in my classroom. Unfortunately, the virtual warehouse is no longer in service. I know in Washoe County, at one time, they had a partnership with the city/county, where business etc. would donate or send unneeded items to a warehouse. The warehouse contained furniture, paper, envelopes, binders, pens, pencils, etc.; anything businesses were not using, needing to replace, closing out, etc. I guess the selection was quite varied and extensive. Teachers could access items by going to the warehouse and showing their school ID. Once inside teachers could remove any items they were in need of for no cost. I always thought this was a great idea because it gave businesses a place to send unneeded inventory and save the school district and teacher’s money by providing another avenue for supplies. Thanks for sharing this for me.”

Chad Peters provided a list of projects that could be considered:

- Currently there is no parking on the backside of Lowry High School for sporting events – consider taking advantage of the City extending Great Basin Dr. The District could make improvements to our property at the same time. This could also allow for the student drop off area to be moved to allow for better traffic flow.
- Lack of manpower to prepare facilities for sporting events
- Construction of a 100 x 100 pole barn to be used as an additional practice area (sports training facility) – in the wasted space area along the tree line

- Consider a 10 year project plan; turf at Lowry High School
- Consider using school clubs (Key Club etc.) to clean up facilities after events for a donation to their club

Mr. Peters said that his father-in-law owns property on the east side of Great Basin Blvd. and may be interested in swapping for acreage the District owns. This would be beneficial to the District and Lowry High School.

Mr. Peters said that the City uses the District's facilities extensively. We welcome the community to use our facilities; however, our facilities are suffering from over use. He said this may be the opportune time to visit with City Manager, Steve West, and express the need for a rec center.

Dr. Jensen noted the amount of money the District has spent in maintaining our facilities; \$80,000 to redo the floors at Lowry High School and roughly the same amount to redo the floors at Winnemucca Junior High the year prior. The District will need to be very cautious as to how our facilities will be used in the upcoming year. Dr. Jensen said the unintended consequences are that we are finding significant damage, expenses that are not being shared (custodial, supplies, etc.) and we are wearing out our facilities. With the growth in our community we have come to the point where we are limited as to the number of community activities we can continue to accommodate.

Mr. Peters suggested holding a meeting with the school district, City, County, WCVA and Humboldt General Hospital to discuss a 10-15 year projection of community needs.

Other suggestions/projects discussed included: 1) math specialists for the elementary schools, 2) a cultural arts center, 3) an aquatic center, 4) a music/band center, 5) a new roof for the kindergarten classroom area at McDermitt Combined School, 6) field irrigation at McDermitt Combined School, 7) replace playground equipment at the rural schools, 8) additional counselors, and 9) partnering with Great Basin College for classes.

Dr. Jensen would like to continue the discussion with a specific focus on academic supports and will solicit input from administrators and staff of the needs for their sites to be successful with Common Core and the academic roll out.

Dr. Jensen told the Board that two of the floater positions have not been filled. It is his intent to hold off on filling those positions until enrollment figures are verified. The budget was built on an aggressive projected 100 student increase. For every student we are down from the projected 100 students means a decrease of \$5200 in revenue.

Discussion and Possible Action – Biennial OPEB Actuarial Analysis Report on GASB 45 Retiree Benefit Valuation – Dr. Dave Jensen

Every two years the District is required to prepare a report to satisfy the requirements of GASB 45. GASB 45 requires the District to analyze our unfunded liability for retirees.

The District pays an outside company to prepare a financial accounting of the potential costs of our unfunded liability. The report focuses on the liabilities arising from required monthly subsidies payable to PEB retirees and the subsidy of retiree medical and life insurance premiums. With recent changes to PEBP, the liability has been reduced.

The report finds that the District's unfunded liability is \$10,995,903. If the District chose to work towards prefunding the unfunded liabilities, our cost this year (June 30, 2013) would be \$3,380,274. The District is currently on a Pay-As-You-Go program, paying 25.75% towards the retiree's PERS. Some retirees have been removed from the program for age and new retirees cannot enter into the program (PEB).

Dr. Jensen recommended that the District continue on a Pay-As-You-Go basis, rather than a pre-funding basis.

Mr. Hillyer moved to accept the biennial OPEB Actuarial Analysis Report on GASB 45 (making a correction on the agenda to GASB 54) Retiree Benefit Valuation as presented. Mr. Braginton seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Worker's Compensation Annual Renewal – Dr. David Jensen

Dr. Jensen reported that we have completed our first year of being self-insured for Worker's Comp. At the conclusion of this year, we had approximately \$175,000 in surplus. We currently have two claims that are being contested and going through the appeals process. Our claims, other than the two being contested, have been mild this year.

Initially, our goal is to bank in excess of the amount needed for a catastrophic event. If we continue as we have this first year, we should reach that goal in approximately two years.

In an insurance renewal proposal submitted by Alpine Insurance, the District can renew the policy at a cost of \$28,423, which includes an increase in policy limit from \$350,000 to \$400,000. The District is also required to maintain a bond; cost for renewal \$3,180. Costs are paid out of the worker's comp fund and are fully available.

Dr. Jensen recommended that the District increase our liability from \$350,000 to \$400,000 for a net cash impact of \$400 vs a cost of \$18,000 to maintain the current \$350,000 level.

Mr. Hillyer moved to accept the renewal from Alpine Insurance for \$28,423 for our Worker's Compensation insurance and \$3,180 for our bond. Mr. Braginton and Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Discussion Regarding the Establishment of Board Goals – John Seeliger

President Seeliger noted that the Board goals for 2012-13 were completed. After discussion, the following goals were established for 2013-14.

- 1) Graduation rates. The Board will commit to support increased graduation.
- 2) As a Board, we will strive to be more visible throughout the District.
 - a. Each Board member will conduct a minimum of three (3) individual site visits per school year.
 - b. A minimum of two (2) Board meetings will be scheduled in our Rural Communities, to include Denio and Orovada.
- 3) As a Board, we will engage in ongoing professional development both individually and as a group.

Dr. Jensen will refine the goals and return to the Board at the July 23rd meeting for final approval.

Public Comment: None

Board/Staff Reports:

1. Mr. Hill welcomed new Asst. Superintendent, Dawn Hagness.
2. Mr. Hillyer welcomed Dawn Hagness.
3. Mr. Hillyer said Century Club would welcome Mrs. Hagness as a new booster, if she is interested.
4. Mr. Hillyer will have a synopsis of the NIAA meeting and a proposed concussion policy at a later meeting.
5. Mrs. Miller said she feels "really good" about the hiring, especially, in the administrative positions. She feels the moves we have made and the personnel we have brought in are going to be good.
6. Mrs. Miller asked if the Winnemucca Jr. High music position has been filled. Dr. Jensen said that Mr. Munk, formerly at French Ford, will be transferring to the junior high. Dr. Jensen said we had one external candidate; however, he declined based on family issues.
7. Mr. Braginton welcomed Dawn Hagness. He also agreed with Mrs. Miller on the hiring and feels the District is gaining momentum.
8. Mr. Novi reported that summer school is in session. Lowry High School has an a.m. and p.m. class. We also had 68 incoming freshman sign up for health. Depending on the number of students that complete the course, it may allow for additional electives at Lowry. Winnemucca Jr. High began summer school on July 8th and currently has 18 students.
9. Mrs. Hagness thanked everyone for the welcome and said she is excited to be here.
10. Mr. Doyle welcomed Mrs. Hagness.
11. Dr. Jensen said he is excited about the administrative team. He said they have strengths that we can capitalize on and he is excited to see the progress that will be made this year and in the years to come. He thanked the Board for their support.
12. President Seeliger noted that he forwarded to everyone an email from Rorie Fitzpatrick regarding information from the Legislative session. There is a considerable amount that is associated with school boards. The next School Board Association meeting will be held in Fallon on July 27th and they have dedicated three hours to review the information. He will provide the Board with a report at an August meeting.

Adjourned 7:16 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright



Ann Miller, Clerk