

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

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of School Trustees was held August 13, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. in the District Office Boardroom.

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

Others in attendance were: Superintendent Dr. Dave Jensen, Asst. Superintendent Dawn Hagness, Director Kelly Novi, Attorney John Doyle, Jessica Powell-Humboldt Sun, Janet Kennedy, Dustin Christean and Secretary Paula Wright.

Clerk Ann Miller opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence: None

Minutes: Mrs. Hagness was left off the list of people in attendance on the July 23, 2013 minutes (so sorry Dawn). Also, under the item Approval of the 2013-14 Board Goals, the second to the motion was left off the minutes.

Mr. Braginton moved to approve the amended July 23, 2013 minutes. Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Superintendent Report

1. Dale Erquiaga has been selected as the new State Superintendent of Public Instruction. He will begin his duties on August 26th.
 2. On August 1st, a Superintendent's meeting was held in Reno. A number of items were discussed including:
 - SBAC practice tests are available on the SBAC website
 - SBAC pilot testing selection has been awarded to West Ed. They are looking to have 20% of 3rd-8th and 9th-11th grade students participate. We will be notified soon which sites have been selected. Selected grade levels at sites will not be required to take the CRT's. The CRT's from the previous year will remain on "hold".
 - Kindergarten expectation is that classes will not start higher than a 21:1 ratio. After the start of the school year, the ratio will be allowed to go up to 25:1, but cannot exceed 25:1. Our calculations show we are within the expected levels.
 - AB 288 (End of Course Assessments) – Next year's incoming freshman will be the first cohort who will be required to pass End of Course assessments in math and English Language Arts.
- 2) August 5th was the official "return" for members of the Administrative team. The team started with a full day administrative meeting. Primary elements addressed:
- Establishment of administrative expectations
 - Developing team norms
 - Review of Board Goals - John Seeliger and Bruce Braginton
 - Review and feedback on Superintendent Goals
 - Discussion regarding embargoed star ratings
 - Review of Nevada School Performance Framework

- Discussion regarding late start Thursday

As part of the training, the admin team spent time reviewing the Mission and Vision statement. Though all agree it continues to capture our expectations, one suggestion would be to expand the mission to ensure we understand graduation is a K-12 activity, not just a Lowry and McDermitt High School issue.

- 3) August 6th the Administrative team left at 6 a.m. to attend the NSPF training provided by Nevada Department of Education in Elko. This provided the research behind the establishment of the evaluation system. We should be notified around August 21st if we are selected to participate in the norming session pilot program. If not, we could still elect to incorporate the model in Humboldt County. Further discussion on this topic will be held once selections are made.
- 4) August 7th was a combined training with Administrators, teacher leaders and NNRPDP to work towards the establishment of guiding practices for late start Thursdays. Groups were divided into K-6 and 7-12. Dr. Jensen thanked Mrs. Hagness for her hard work. A great deal was accomplished and a solid foundation has been established.
- 5) On Friday, August 9th, Ray Parks, Dr. Jensen, Andrew Hillyer, Greg Munroe and Chad Backus met with representatives from Humboldt General Hospital regarding the training room facilities and the introduction of a sports medicine practicum at Lowry High School. We are in line to begin this opportunity this fall and look forward to the training that will be provided to Lowry High School students.
- 6) On August 10th, Dr. Jensen met with Richard Stoltz with the Pennington Foundation regarding the establishment of a partnership with Humboldt County School District. Mr. Stoltz asked Dr. Jensen to prepare a list of needs that the foundation could possibly support. They discussed the expansion of the Lowry athletic complex, High Tech Center, and a myriad of smaller needs such as busses, infrastructure, STEM materials, technology pilot projects, etc. He was impressed by the foundation already in place.
- 7) On August 12th, training on the Curriculum Engine was conducted. The training was attended by Administrators and selected teachers. The training was well received and will provide a solid foundation for our goals for the upcoming year.
- 8) Dr. Jensen report that he was nominated and selected to be part of the Public Education Foundation Executive Leadership Academy. This program provides an intensive executive leadership experience with mentoring provided by nationally renowned educational leaders. Selection was rigorous and competitive. He said he is honored to have been selected and looks forward to applying what is learned.
- 9) Staffing and Enrollment update – As of 10 a.m. on August 13th, we have a total of 3525 students enrolled. This is up approximately 25 students from last year's count day. We expect to continue to see additional enrollments, but will not likely reach the 100 students originally anticipated. In terms of vacancies (excluding long term substitute positions) we have three open positions: Kings River, Sonoma Heights Elementary Early Childhood and Sonoma Heights Kindergarten.
- 10) One concern is the number of long term subs in the district, the majority of who are in Special Education. This will create some difficulties for us during this year to meet compliance requirements. Support services will be in place to ensure compliance with all required mandates.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants

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

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of the Gear-Up Grant – Dustin Christean

Mr. Christean thanked the Board, Dr. Jensen, Mr. Novi and everyone that has been supportive of him entering the principal position at McDermitt Combined School. He said he is looking forward to the opportunity.

Mr. Christean provided the Board with a copy of the budget/expenditure summary for the Gear Up Grant. The majority of the funds will go to salary and benefits of the Student/Parent Involvement Facilitator (SPIF). The position is currently open, with two, possibly three candidates vying for the position. Interviews will be held on Thursday, August 15th.

A trip is planned to Great Basin College in Elko for students in the Gear Up program (7th and 8th grade).

Dr. Jensen thanked Mrs. Kennedy for mentoring Mr. Christean and sharing her three years of experience at McDermitt Combined with him. In addition to Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Hagness, Mrs. Morton, Mr. Novi and Dr. Jensen will be working with Mr. Christean. Dr. Jensen stated that Mr. Christean is a hard worker, and he knows he will be successful and appreciates having him on the Administrative team.

Mr. Christean noted that Mrs. Kennedy's support has been outstanding.

Mrs. Miller said the Board appreciates what he will bring to McDermitt Combined School and what Mrs. Kennedy has done in her past three years at the school.

Mr. Braginton moved to approve the Gear Up Grant as presented. Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of the Rural School 4-Day Work Week Application– Kelly Novi

Mr. Novi came before the Board at the July 23rd Board meeting requesting approval of the 4-day work week calendar. Upon closer review, it was discovered that the 4-day work week application also required approval of the Board of School Trustees, along with the 4-day work week calendar.

Mr. Hill moved to approve the rural school 4-day work week application as presented. Mr. Betteridge seconded. Those in favor: Mr. Hill, Mr. Betteridge, Mr. Braginton. Opposed: Mrs. Miller. The motion failed for lack of a quorum.

Discussion and Possible Action – Presentation and Review of Superintendent Goals – Dr. Dave Jensen

Dr. Jensen provided the Board with a copy of his goals for the upcoming school year. They include:

1. Increase graduation rates for all student's through increased student academic achievement while closing the achievement gap for sub populations.
 - ✓ Graduation rates for the 2011-12 four year adjusted cohort were identified for Humboldt County School District as 63.49%. Over the next 3-5 years, graduation rates will increase annually by 5% to surpass an 80% graduation rate.
 - ✓ 7th through 12th grade schedules will be modified to ensure enhanced opportunities for academic remediation and enrichment are available to all students.
 - ✓ Specific intervention strategies, including SIOP, will be expanded at McDermitt Combined, Sonoma Heights and Winnemucca Grammar with a foundation created for future expansion of effective intervention strategies.
 - ✓ Intervention and enrichment opportunities including after school, summer school, tutoring, on-line programing and alternative course work will be enhanced to facilitate grade level competency and increased graduation rates at all levels.

- ✓ By the conclusion of the 2013-14 school year, have developed and vetted an on-line charter offering for students in which a traditional school setting is not viable.
 - ✓ Utilize SB504 funds to enhance Pre-K offerings in the district to support the implementation of Full Day Kindergarten.
 - ✓ Increase the number of students participating in AP/College courses, to include test participation in AP and ACT/SAT.
2. Ensure training and supports to assist both sites and staff in the roll-out of Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and College and Career Readiness (CCR).
- ✓ Late start Thursdays will provide weekly strategic professional development focusing on key aspects necessary for student academic success. Initial focus will be in the area of math.
 - ✓ Administrators will be active Instructional Leaders facilitating the implementation of CCSS and CCR as demonstrated by leading Thursday late start activities.
 - ✓ Training will be provided to key staff members on the Curriculum Engine; training provided to staff members.
 - ✓ Common Core State Standard sequencing guide will be developed, reviewed and adopted for all grade levels by the conclusion of the 2013-2014 school year.
 - Foundational expectations of Common Core will be implemented in each classroom to include a focus on literacy, numeracy and writing.
3. Enhance the capacity of District and Site Administration.
- ✓ Implement an open and robust professional development system focused on effectiveness and ongoing improvement in support of Common Core.
 - ✓ Seek training and opportunities to participate in the new Teacher and Principal evaluation system.
 - If granted by Nevada Department of Education, conduct a pilot of the new evaluation template after receiving necessary training.
 - ✓ District and Site administrators will be active participants in the NCCAT process. Each participating site will develop a plan, based on NCCAT data, to guide a strategic improvement process during the 2014-2015 school year.
 - ✓ Each administrative team member will be expected to participate in a minimum of one Professional Development training outside of the District.
 - Trainings must tie to components of the School Performance Plan
 - ✓ Administrative meetings will be grounded in the PLC framework. All meetings will be meaningful to include expectations for individual growth.
 - ✓ As an administrative team, all members will understand expectations defined for Humboldt County School District administrators and will participate in norm building activities with a commitment to adhere to established norms.
4. Ensure transparency and efficiency of district resources to support student academic success
- ✓ By November 2013, the ten year financial history document will be completed, provided to the board, staff and community members.
 - ✓ Annually, the district will develop and implement a sustainable budget strategy that maintains reserves at or above the specified board target, while minimizing the use of soft money for long term expenses.

- ✓ Facilitate and implement software to trace solar panel efficiency to include an analysis of benefits from solar panel implementation.
 - ✓ Complete collective bargaining, demonstrating respect for the staff of Humboldt County School District while maintaining the fiscal stability of the District.
5. Enhance parent and community involvement to improve educational outcomes for all Humboldt County School District students.
- ✓ Continue to enhance and expand the District website to ensure all necessary information is easily accessible.
 - With supports, site and teacher web pages will be made available and enhanced.
 - ✓ In addition to the web page, social media (Facebook) will be used as a communication tool.
 - ✓ Opportunities to expand parent communication through School Messenger with testing capabilities will be utilized to quickly disseminate and communicate with parents.
 - ✓ District administration will work to enhance connections with the parents.
 - ✓ District administration will work to enhance connections with post-secondary education and business community leaders to increase opportunities for students to meet college and career readiness expectations.
 - ✓ All schools, consistent with the expectations of the NSPF for enhanced parental involvement, will implement a parent advisory committee.
6. The Superintendent will actively engage community partners to enhance the District's connections and support system.
- ✓ The Superintendent will participate in various community based organizations.
 - ✓ Monthly editorial pieces will be submitted to various media outlets.
 - ✓ Connections with local community members and organizations will be made and enhanced to support student academic and extracurricular activities.
 - ✓ The Superintendent will be visible in all schools throughout the district.

5:38 p.m. Mr. Hillyer arrived

7. The Superintendent will demonstrate a focus on enhancing school safety through strategic efforts associated with facility updates.
- ✓ Community feedback will be sought on a re-prioritization of facility upgrade needs, to include a focus on school safety activities.
 - ✓ Single Point of Access drawings will be completed for all school sites to drive discussion on security.
 - ✓ A minimum of three single point of access updates will be concluded, to include Grass Valley Elementary, Winnemucca Grammar School and Winnemucca Jr. High School during the 2013-2014 school year.
 - ✓ A timeline for completion of remaining single point of access projects will be completed to include additional projects during the summer of 2014.

Mr. Braginton felt the presented Superintendent goals more reflected district goals, rather than purely Dr. Jensen's goals. He noted there could possibly be a subset of specific actions that Dr. Jensen would take to implement, enhance or support the seven goals. Mr. Braginton said that, although things ultimately fall on Dr. Jensen, the district and site administrators will be doing the majority of the work associated with the goals.

Dr. Jensen asked if the Board would like to see something different in the development of Superintendent goals. He noted that typically the goals have been more "global", encompassing the entire district. He asked if the Board was interested in more specific goals tied directly to the Superintendent.

It was suggested Dr. Jensen return to the Board, on occasion, and report on how the District is progressing on the goals and his role in the achievement of those goals.

Dr. Jensen was asked if he felt he had the time to commit to his newly appointed position with the Public Education Foundation Executive Leadership Academy. Dr. Jensen said he felt comfortable accepting the nomination, with the expectation that what is accomplished over the next 12-14 months will be used in Humboldt County School District to drive instructional practices. He also has the support of Mrs. Hagness, Mr. Novi and the Administrative team.

Mr. Braginton moved to approve the Superintendent goals and objectives as presented and discussed. Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Possibility of Moving to a Weighted Grading System - Kelly Novi
Most Nevada school districts' students receive .025 points for Honor Classes and .05 points for Advanced Placement or College courses over level 100 for each semester. Currently, Humboldt County has been including the points as added value for the course and not for the overall GPA, which differs from other counties. For example, a student has straight A's over seven courses, four of those classes being Honors classes. When calculating the GPA by class, the student would have a total of 28.150 points. In Humboldt County the 28.150 points are divided by "7" for the classes taken, which brings the overall GPA to 4.0214.

Clark and Washoe County use the same methodology, however, the exception is that they divide "28" by "7" for a 4.0 GPA and the .150 (Honors classes) is added on, giving the student a GPA of 4.150. The .150 remains and as the student takes more Honor, AP or college classes they are merely added on.

Elko County School District, Lyon County School District and Pershing County School District offer a 5.0 grading scale for Honors and AP courses. In the same scenario as above, the student would earn a GPA of 4.714 for the semester with straight A's. Students in other counties are able to graduate with GPA's approaching the 5.0 mark. Our students are only able to achieve a cumulative GPA of approximately 4.0163 over the course of four years by taking all available Honors, AP or college courses.

Mr. Novi noted that we do not fully know if this impacts scholarships for universities because most universities rely on an un-weighted GPA, plus ACT and SAT scores to determine scholarships and admittance, however, it could impact other scholarships.

The solution is not an easy one. We do not want to immediately make changes to the current system, because it will affect some of our current seniors. The options we currently are considering as a potential solution include; 1) review other counties and the rationale behind the change and then move, 2) do nothing and let it stand, 3) make a change now and deal with the impact on students for three years, 4) make a change for the incoming freshman, or 5) a combination of the solutions listed.

Mr. Novi recommended finding what works best for the District and returning to the Board for review and approval. He hopes to have a recommendation to the Board prior to the end of the first semester for implementation in the 2014-15 school year with incoming Freshman.

Discussion and Possible Action – District Core Belief Review – Dawn Hagness

In May, Mrs. Hagness and Mr. Novi attended a Solution Tree conference with many of the site Administrators. Also in May, a final Administrators meeting was held. Site Administrators voiced successes as well as concerns for the year and, also, discussed challenges they encountered.

In reviewing Dr. Jensen's evaluation by the Board and also using the 360 from Administrators, it was noted that a focus on the vision or mission from the district level was a key element to start. It was important to create a belief's statement that would reflect the Board's goals and the Superintendent's goals and how we hope to accomplish them. Working together the following Core Belief Statement was established:

“As a District, We Will Establish a Culture in Which....

- ❖ FAILURE is NOT an OPTION!
- ❖ Effective leadership is developed with a focus on all students and sustained long term improvements.
- ❖ High quality teaching and learning occur in all classrooms based on aligned curriculum and assessment.
- ❖ System-wide improvement is based on effective use of data, strategic use of resources, and policy coherence.
- ❖ All employees are held accountable for the success of our district.
- ❖ We are committed to continuous improvements and are resolved that “good enough is no longer good enough.”
- ❖ We are committed to being service-oriented by providing the highest degree of customer service.
- ❖ We are committed to building trust through communication, collaboration, accountability, and transparent decision-making.

A list of interventions and programs were provided to show the commitment of the Administrative Team to achieve the core beliefs and how success will be measured. The Core Belief's will be a working document.

Public Comment: None

Board/Staff Reports:

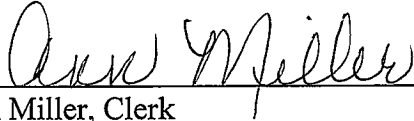
1. Mr. Hillyer invited everyone to the annual Century Club BBQ, Saturday, August 24th at 6 p.m. at Pioneer Park. This year the BBQ will be for adults only. Mr. Hillyer also had membership forms available for anyone interested. Century Club will be celebrating 40 years next year.
2. Mr. Hillyer asked if the Special Education positions have been filled at Lowry High School. Dr. Jensen noted that we are struggling to find qualified teachers to fill our “hard-to-fill” positions. We are currently looking to fill several positions at Lowry High School and Winnemucca Jr. High with long term substitutes.
3. Mr. Braginton thanked District Administration for the opportunity to speak to the Administrators regarding the Board goals.
4. Mrs. Miller reported that she did receive her Century Club application in the mail. She stated that Century Club is wonderful; however, she feels that it only benefits athletics. She noted that the

music department is always asked to pay for their own trips; therefore, she sent her donation to the music department.

5. Mr. Hillyer is excited about the partnership the school district has entered into with Humboldt General Hospital. He believes it will open up even more programs for students to get the experience to move forward into a profession.
6. Providing a bit of historical information on how the Century Club got started, Mr. Doyle reported that Mike Schellin, a teacher and coach at Lowry High School in the 1970's, would generate funds for his program by asking local businesses or individuals to donate to purchase athletic equipment, etc. He would tell a potential donor that a local businessman would pledge a certain amount of money, only if the person he was talking to would donate that same amount. He would then meet with that local businessman and give him the same pitch about the potential donor. Mr. Schellin found that it was very easy to raise money in the Winnemucca community and Century Club was formed.
7. Mrs. Hagness commended all Administrators on their dedicated time and leadership. She said they are demonstrating the instructional leaders they are prepared to be for the upcoming year.
8. Dr. Jensen reported that negotiations will begin on September 16th. Mrs. Miller and Mr. Hill will serve on the negotiations team.
9. Dr. Jensen told Board members that the board laptops have been received and that we will be moving towards an electronic agenda and board packet.
10. Dr. Jensen said he has been working with Mr. Seeliger on NASB award nominations to be submitted. He asked Board members to sign off on the nomination forms. They are due Thursday, August 15th.
11. Mr. Betteridge asked how things were at Sonoma Heights regarding the recent fire. Dr. Jensen reported that the fire department did an outstanding job. The impact was minimal. RHP's (contractors) insurance is paying all damage clean up. The system has been tested and we will be ready for the opening of school.

Adjourned 6:56 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright



Ann Miller, Clerk