

**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 11, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. in the Orovada Community Center.

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

Others in attendance were: Superintendent Dr. Dave Jensen, Asst. Superintendent Dawn Hagness, Director Kelly Novi, Jaimi Wilkinson, Andrew Mayo, Dustin Christean, Michelle Garrison, Brent Riemersma, Jake Kershner, Tyler Elsner, Leo Lorenzo, Saul Lopez, Alex Rincon, TJ Smith, Tyler Coble, Brendan Wilson, Tanner Coble, Ferol Donaldson, Karen Hogue, Diana Allen, Brenda Bartell, Valerie Barr, Trixie Byron, Lydia Northrup, Deandra Dave, Andrea Smart, Krissy Long, Jacky Alcaraz, Dacey Horn, Va Draunidalo, Megan Sam several Kings River, McDermitt and Orovada community members and Secretary Paula Wright.

President Seeliger opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members and District administrators began the meeting by introducing themselves.

**Correspondence:** None

**Minutes:** Mr. Braginton moved to approve the February 25, 2014 minutes as written. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried. Mr. Betteridge abstained.

**Public Comment – Discussion Only**

None

**Superintendent's Report**

1. Both Clark County and Washoe County have moved their information system to a program called Infinite Campus. This is a dynamic program that the State is looking at moving forward throughout the State. Given this understanding, we previewed the program on February 26<sup>th</sup> to assess the program. It is promising and further information will be sought.
2. On February 27<sup>th</sup>, we began discussions with administrative staff regarding staffing for the upcoming school year. Given the feedback, further conversations will be scheduled to finalize prior to the board presentation in April.
3. On March 5<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. Hagness and Dr. Jensen had the opportunity to travel to McDermitt to conduct a visit. They appreciated the opportunity to walk through classrooms and engage with both staff and students.
4. The afternoon of March 5<sup>th</sup>, Barrick Gold Corporation provided a donation of four new ladders to the maintenance department. These will be put into good use and we appreciate the strong partnership we share with our local businesses.
5. On March 6<sup>th</sup>, Stella Maestrejuan and Dr. Jensen met with a representative from Chartwell's to explore the possibility of altering our meal service. Mrs. Maestrejuan took the representative on a tour of our facilities. We should have a proposal to review by Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.
6. Dr. Jensen took a vacation day on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> to attend Rotary training as part of the preparation for his tenure as Rotary President starting in July. He appreciates the confidence the Rotary Club has placed in him and looks forward to the experience.

7. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, we re-entered into negotiations with the Certified bargaining group. We appreciate the opportunity to interact with the representatives from the association and continue to work towards a settlement agreement.
8. A full day administrative meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 9-2 p.m. As a component of this training, staff that has volunteered to have their instruction videotaped will have their instruction used to begin to assist our team in working towards inter-rater reliability as we work to provide meaningful feedback to their instructional practice. We appreciate all the teachers that supported this training. Board members are welcome to attend.
9. Dr. Jensen will be leaving after the start of the administrative meeting to attend a Superintendent's meeting in Reno that afternoon. This meeting is tied to the Connecting the Dots Parent Involvement conference held at UNR on Thursday. We will have a number of representatives from Humboldt in attendance.
10. On March 11<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Jensen visited with Jim Huge. Mr. Huge sent Dr. Jensen several board evaluation documents. He will forward them to the Board. Once the Board completes the self-evaluation, Mr. Huge will compile the information and return it to the Board.
11. Dr. Jensen will be emailing the Board the alternative plans for the single point of entry at Lowry High School. Bids have been closed on the single point of entry proposals for McDermitt, French Ford and Sonoma Heights Elementary School.

### **Special Recognition - McDermitt Girls Basketball Team, McDermitt Boys Basketball Team and Coaches**

Mrs. Wilkinson said they lost to a very good Pyramid Lake team by two points in the Regional Tournament. She said it was probably the best game she ever witnessed. She starts four sophomores and one freshman. The only senior on the team has never played a high school sport. Mrs. Wilkinson introduced the McDermitt girls' basketball team; Jacky Alcaraz, Deandra Dave, Krissy Long, Lydia Northrup, Andrea Smart, Va Draunidalo, Megan Sam, and Dacey Horn. The team was the third leading scoring team in the State of Nevada, all divisions, all leagues.

Mr. Seeliger recognized each of the following students and Mrs. Wilkinson with a certificate of excellence for special achievements.

#### All Division Eastern 4-A Girls Basketball:

Lydia Northrup, 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Division, also runner up for Player of the Year  
Deandra Dave, 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Division  
Andrea Smart, Honorable Mention  
Krissy Long, Honorable Mention  
Jaimi Wilkinson, Coach of the Year

Mr. Mayo thanked volunteer coaches Jake Kershner, Tyler Elsner and Hyland Wilkinson. Mr. Mayo introduced the McDermitt boys' basketball team; Saul Lopez, Alex Rincon, Tanner Coble, Brendan Wilson, Tyler Coble.

Mr. Seeliger recognized each of the following students and Mr. Mayo with a certificate of excellence for special achievements.

#### All-Division Eastern 4-A League Boys Basketball:

Tyler Coble, 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Division  
Saul Lopez, 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Division  
Tanner Coble, 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Division  
Brendan Wilson, Honorable Mention

Tyler Coble, Player of the Year  
Austin May, Coach of the Year

Mrs. Wilkinson noted that the boys' basketball team, with a new coaching staff, did a great job! She congratulated their success.

Great job McDermitt girls' and boys' basketball teams!

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

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

### **Discussion Only – Rural Basketball Update – Brent Riemersma**

Mr. Riemersma began by saying that most of the young men and women of the McDermitt basketball teams made their start in the rural basketball program. He congratulated them on their success.

Mr. Riemersma thanked Janet Johnson for taking photographs and writing an article that appeared in the Humboldt Sun on March 7<sup>th</sup>. He also thanked coaches in Paradise Valley-Cheryl Hall, Keith Ferraro and Dave Buckingham. Kings River-Diana Allen and Bobby Putney from Denio. McDermitt: Cindy Sherburn, Stacey Ramsey and Jaimi Wilkinson. Orovada: Clay Smith. He also sent out a big thank you to referee Jeff Thompson.

He noted how rewarding it is to watch these students grow up from the early level to the junior high level and then on into the high school level. Mr. Riemersma believes the rural basketball program is important for the schools and provides a safe and competitive atmosphere.

In an email to coaches Mr. Riemersma asked them to address any concerns or to provide comment. No concerns were noted. Comments included 1) keeping the program alive, 2) changing the tournament venue to McDermitt Combined School for better seating, 3) holding practices as an extension of PE time, 4) there was some conflict noted with Friday vs Saturday games. He noted that moving the games to Saturdays may prove difficult in getting officials because of high school activities and City League.

Dr. Jensen thanked Mr. Riemersma for his time and efforts. He said this has been a very well-run year. He referred to a conversation between himself, Mr. Riemersma and Mr. Hill regarding a rumor that the rural basketball program was going to be cancelled. He stated that it was merely a rumor and that the District has every intention of continuing on with rural basketball. He said the program is very valuable and will continue to be supported.

### **Discussion Only – Kings River School and Orovada School Update – Michelle Garrison**

Mrs. Garrison began by stating that the 2013-14 school year began with all new teachers at the Kings River and Orovada School and herself as the new principal. New teachers at Orovada School include Ferol Donaldson and Karen Hogue. Instructional aide, Elvia Smith, works with the kindergarten students.

Lacey Thompson returned to teach at the Kings River School with the assistance of instructional aides, Ashley Miller and Julia Rodriguez.

She commended all teachers for their ability to teach in a multi-grade level (K-8), remote rural school. Their role goes beyond teacher. They act in the capacity of counselor, nurse, custodian, parent, disciplinarian, special education teacher and ESL instructor. They all have a great attitude and are optimistic. "They are doing a great job with those kids."

Chelsea Beamus is the rural Art and PE teacher. She provides Art and PE every other week to Denio, Paradise Valley, Orovada and Kings River.

Orovada currently has 36 students and Kings River currently has 20 students. The goal for both Orovada and Kings River is that “all K-8 students will demonstrate adequate growth on the MAP's assessment to be measured by mastery of personal growth goals from Fall 2013 to Spring 2014.” Professional development is provided to teachers to assist students to reach this goal. Professional development is provided to help with transition to the Common Core State Standards. Rural teachers meet one day per month (Friday) where they receive professional development provided by Jessie Westmoreland. Mrs. Westmoreland also provides them with assistance with formative writing assessment tools for ELA and the DRA Assessment tool to enhance instruction.

Kings River School and Orovada School have huge parent involvement. They both have very active PTO's who assist in fundraising projects for the schools. The Orovada PTO raised funds for playground equipment, field trips, scholarships and they hope to fund a children's library.

Both schools are Title I schools. In the fall, a parent involvement meeting was held. Some of the feedback from the meeting regarding needs for the schools included; ELL support, additional personnel, curricular materials, professional development, translators for parent conferences, Spanish speaking aides, “Kick Start” summer school program, breakfast/lunch program and playground equipment.

Kings River School's instructional aide, Ashley Miller, has completed an application for a funding request to purchase playground equipment and the Orovada School has a good start to acquiring playground equipment.

Mr. Hill reported that on visits to the rural schools, teachers have impressed upon him to keep their one day per month professional development. It provides for camaraderie and is very important to them.

Mrs. Garrison was asked if there was anything the Board or District could provide to assist with the education of students in those two schools. Mrs. Garrison said that the District has been very supportive of her as principal and of the rural schools.

The Board thanked Mrs. Garrison for her presentation.

### **Discussion Only – McDermitt Combined School Update – Dustin Christean**

The mission statement of the McDermitt Combined School is “Success in Academics, Attitude, Accountability and Action.”

According to CRT results, trends in reading and math at the elementary and junior high levels have been declining. Under their school focus plan, the goal is that all students in grades 3-6 will increase their scores by 10% in both math and language arts. Some of the interventions proposed to meet the goal include: 1) Late start Thursday professional development with the elementary staff participating in Common Core State Standards/Nevada Academic Content Standards math professional development, while the secondary staff is participating in Best Practices professional development through a book study, 2) an after school program, 3) Instructional Consultation (IC) team, 4) administrator mentoring with Kimberly Howland, 5) SIOP training, 6) analyzing data, and 7) parent/family engagement.

Mr. Christean thanked the Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe for providing snacks for the after school program and donating money for uniforms. He said the Tribe is very involved in providing support to the school. He meets with the Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe each month and thanked them for welcoming him as the new administrator at McDermitt Combined School. He personally thanked Valerie Barr, Trixie Byron, Duane Masters, Sonya Hinkey and Shirley Smart.

Mr. Christean, coming from a secondary background, thanked Mrs. Hagness for her guidance and support in his duties on the elementary side.

Mr. Christean provided the 2013-14 data highlights from grades Kindergarten thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade on the PALS, DRA, MAP Reading, and MAP Math testing. He also provided HSPE Math, Reading, Science and Writing scores for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

He reported that rapport within the building and community has improved after having difficulty filling positions in recent years. Students not only have access to teachers, but they are beginning to trust in them. Meeting the individual needs of students through the after school program has been well received. Mr. Christean thanked his teachers for putting in extra time, in addition to the transition from a 4-day to 5-day school week. The staff has commented that it is nice to be working with such dedicated people and the work on the school's goals has been very positive. Late start professional development has been well received.

McDermitt Combined School has seen their girls' and boys' basketball teams honored with Eastern 4-A League honors, and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade GEARUP Cohort launched the school's first Robotics Program.

In closing, Mr. Christen said that the McDermitt Combined School has seen successes, but also faces some significant challenges ahead. "Students and stakeholders of McDermitt Combined School will need time to make changes that impact our overall success."

Mr. Christean said he appreciated the support of the Board.

When asked his thoughts on the percentage of students that would be graduating from McDermitt Combined, Mr. Christean said he believes 75% of seniors will graduate this year. Mr. Christean, the counselor and an academic specialist hired by the Tribe have come together to provide dropout prevention for students. Mr. Christean will be attending the Indian Education Summit where they will discuss the early warning signs of potential drop outs.

Mr. Christean said that one of the nice things about being the principal at McDermitt Combined School is that you have the opportunity to know all of the students and their parents personally.

When asked if a second administrator would be helpful, Mr. Christean answered yes, but said he understands the dynamics of the school (student population).

The Board thanked Mr. Christean for what he is doing at McDermitt Combined School and said they were there to support him.

### **Discussion and Possible Action –Safe and Respectful Learning Environment Policy Review – Dr. Dave Jensen**

The Board previously reviewed the Safe and Respectful Learning Environment for Students at their January 28, 2014. The procedure is a statutory requirement. The District reviewed model language from Washoe County. Washoe County Superintendent, Dr. Pedro Martinez, granted Humboldt County the authority to use their policy and adjust it to our needs.

The Board went through the document page by page. Suggestions and corrections to the document were noted.

Dr. Jensen will make the changes to the policy and return to the Board for a second reading and possible adoption at the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Discussion and Possible Action – Approval to Allow One High School Science Credit to be Given for Agriculture Science I and II – Kelly Novi**

Mr. Novi reported that it is a formality from the Nevada Department of Education with the CTE standards for Ag Science that the state allows the District to give one science credit when a student completes Ag Science I and Ag Science II. It is an elective Science and fulfills the third requirement for Science; however, only one credit of Science through CTE may be earned.

A copy of Lowry High School’s Curriculum Framework was provided for the Board’s review.

Mr. Braginton moved to approve to allow one high school science credit to be given for Agriculture Science I and II. Mr. Hillyer and Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried.

**Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of the Application to Provide Online and Distance Education Opportunities to Humboldt County School District Students – Kelly Novi**

This application, if approved by the State of Nevada, would allow the District to provide our own online school. The program would be similar to Nevada Connections Academy or Nevada Virtual Academy. If the Board approves the submission of the application to the State and it is approved, we would move to the next step of putting together the logistics of the program. Once the logistics of the program are finalized, it will then be brought back to the Board for discussion and possible approval for funding.

The State Department has already reviewed our program and has provided feedback for completion of the application to be submitted.

The District has been discussing the implementation of a Humboldt County School District online program for quite some time. Dr. Jensen believes with the efforts of Mr. Tom Stultz and Mr. Novi the District is in a position to offer a program beginning this fall.

Dr. Jensen told Board members that they will see an initial discussion of the program when he presents the staffing proposal at an April board meeting.

After some discussion, Mr. Braginton moved to approve the application to provide online and distance education opportunities. Mrs. Deputy seconded, motion carried.

**Public Comment – Discussion Only**

Karen Houge asked about the possibility of the District allowing the Orovada School to use the vacant clinic building that the District owns for storage, which will free up the portable building near the school for use as a library.

Mr. Seeliger informed Mrs. Houge that during public comment the Board is not allowed to engage in a discussion. Dr. Jensen said he would contact Mrs. Houge regarding the matter.

Brenda Bartell reported that the Orovada community has experienced a 63% growth in students since the 2008-09 school year. The school currently has 36 students, two teachers and one instructional aide. She asked if the Board or District administration would consider adding additional personnel, possibly some upper grade level ESL aide time.

**Board Reports/Requests - Information Only/No Action**

1. Mr. Hillyer encouraged board members to take a look at the long and triple jump pits at Lowry High School. He sent a photo of the facilities to NIAA Director, Eddie Bonine. While at Lowry, he noticed an area that has been dug up and asked if additional concrete was going to be added there. Dr. Jensen

was unfamiliar with the area and said he would get together with Mr. Hillyer and they could look at the area in question together.

2. Mr. Hillyer reported that the Winnemucca Volunteer Fire Department is going to provide funding to erect a shade structure at Lowry and will coordinate with the high school administration and maintenance department as the project nears.
3. Mr. Hillyer reminded everyone that softball and baseball begin this weekend. There is a track meet in Spring Creek this week and the JV will be at Yerington.
4. Mr. Hillyer said there will be an NIAA meeting on March 30, 31 and April 1<sup>st</sup>. He will not be able to attend.
5. Mr. Hillyer asked if anyone has filed for the two open board seats. Dr. Jensen reported that no one has filed for either seat.
6. Mr. Hillyer thanked the Orovada community for having the Board to their community.
7. Mrs. Miller said she had the opportunity to visit Sonoma Heights for their early start Thursday. They were having a workshop entitled, "Box Cars and One-Eyed Jacks", a math teaching tool for elementary teachers. She felt it was well received and was happy to see that the presenter, after presenting to the teachers, went into the classroom and worked with students. That evening the school had a family night where they presented the same material to the parents and students.
8. Mr. Braginton extended his appreciation to Mr. Lindsay and Mrs. Garrison. He went to French Ford on March 5<sup>th</sup> and participated in a walk through with NNRPDP's Connie Thompson. He was very impressed with the caliber of conversation and participation. He appreciated the opportunity.
9. On March 5<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Braginton also visited Grass Valley Elementary and took a look at the "Bridge Extravaganza". Very entertaining and well done. Excellent parent participation.
10. Mr. Braginton appreciated the community attendance at the meeting.
11. Mrs. Deputy reminded everyone of Denio's spaghetti feed on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.
12. Mrs. Deputy said they have a speeding problem near the Paradise Valley School and asked if a flashing light or some signage (school zone) as to when school is in session could be installed. There is signage from one direction on the street, but not the other.
13. Mr. Hill reported, that while visiting the Paradise Valley School recently, it was noted that they still not do have any communication (phone) between buildings.
14. Mr. Hill reported that the Denio teacher, Mrs. Dufurrena, asked that they not discontinue the once a month professional development day at the rural schools.
15. Mr. Hill reported on a classroom exercise he witnessed in Mrs. Echevarria's class in Paradise Valley. It involved students wearing a glove on one hand while reading. The glove fingers were marked with wording, such as, fact, fiction, etc. so as the students are reading, they could identify which word best applies to what they are reading. He was very impressed.
16. Mr. Hill thanked the Board for holding a meeting in Orovada.
17. Mr. Novi thanked the Orovada community for having us.
18. Mr. Novi thanked the McDermitt athletes and coaches for attending the meeting and congratulated them on a successful year.
19. Mr. Novi congratulated the Lowry High School wrestling team in winning their sixth championship.
20. Mr. Novi congratulated the Lowry High School girls' basketball team in winning State.
21. Mr. Novi thanked District mechanics, Brad, Sheldon and Boyd. While the basketball teams were at State, the bus broke down just as the mechanics were leaving for the weekend. Sheldon stayed until

approximately 10:30 p.m. in communication with Mr. Novi and Washoe County School District to get our students home.

22. Mrs. Hagness thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
23. Mrs. Hagness noted that it was Mrs. Janhunen's class (Grass Valley) that held the Bridges project. It was phenomenal.
24. Mrs. Hagness noted that it was Mrs. Lampshire (Sonoma Heights) who wrote a grant and was awarded the grant to purchase the Box Cars and One-Eyed Jacks workshop for the entire school. Mrs. Lampshire also tied it to the focus on math professional development. Mrs. Hagness said that Mrs. Lampshire should be recognized for organizing the entire event.
25. Mrs. Hagness thanked the group of teachers who volunteered to be recorded as they were teaching so that it could be used for inter-rater reliability at our administrative professional development.
26. Dr. Jensen congratulated the McDermitt and Lowry High School athletes for their success. He noted that the Lowry wrestling team, girls and boys basketball teams all received academic state championships. "It is known that students who participate in sports have higher graduation rates."
27. Dr. Jensen provided the Board with a document showing the HSPE Math pass rate percentages by district for spring 2013. It showed each district's percentage with the cut score at 242 and the cut score at 300. Humboldt County School District tied for the fourth highest pass rate. The cut score has been adjusted back to 242. Several students were notified just before retaking the test that they had passed the proficiency. Although the passing percentages need to increase, Dr. Jensen extended applause to staff at Lowry High School and McDermitt Combined for their efforts.
28. Dr. Jensen said he appreciated the hospitality of both the Orovada and McDermitt communities for welcoming the Board.
29. Secretary Wright thanked the Orovada community for having us.
30. Secretary Wright reminded the Board of the NASB conference to be held in Reno on March 28-29, 2014. Registration closes on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.
31. Mr. Seeliger reminded Board members that there is several NASB state positions open if anyone is interested.
32. Mr. Seeliger thanked everyone for coming.

Adjourned 6:40 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright

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Ann Miller, Clerk