

**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 13, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. in the District Office Boardroom.

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

Others in attendance were: Superintendent Dr. Dave Jensen, Asst. Superintendent Dawn Hagness, Director Kelly Novi, Attorney John Doyle, Jessica Powell-Humboldt Sun, Andrew Meyer, Bradley Schmidt, Jacob Schmidt, Ben Tyree, Michael Venzor, Calvin Connors, Tanner Lecumberry, Delane Black, Thomas Schwartz, Nathan Eldodt, Justin Albright, Christian Gray, Dustin Bryan, Garret Naveran, Austin Jenkins, Larry Storm, Lisa Scot, Dain Maher, Danielle Ricker, Rachel Sigurdson, Meg Montero, Jillian Albright, Katherine Tyree, Jasmine Marchand, Payton Naveran, Chelsea Cabatbat, Debbie Connors, Tammy Pollock, Beau Billingsley, Kevin Blanco, Eric Brooks, Blake Hillyer, Anthony Hummel, Jedediah Johnson, Tytin Johnson, Damon Miller, Nathan Nelson, Aaron Nelson, Cameron Okuma, Brandon Okuma, Paige Brooks, Jessie Westmoreland, Kitty Norcutt, Jim Gilboy, Tim Connors, Vickie Meissner, Chad Peters, Dorene Kitras, Robert Lindsay, Ann Lampshire, Dr. Sarah Negrete, Val Byrnes, Connie Thomson, other interested persons and Secretary Paula Wright.

President Seeliger opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Correspondence:** None

**Minutes:** Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2014 meeting as presented. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2014 meeting as presented. Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried. Mrs. Miller and Mr. Seeliger abstained.

**Public Comment:** None

**Special Recognition:**

**Lowry High School Skills USA Team**

President Seeliger presented a certificate of excellence to the following members of the Skills USA Team for their outstanding performance at the 2014 Nevada State Skills USA Competition: Coach, Andrew Meyer, Luis Brown, Silver-Carpentry, Philip Kienholtz, Silver-Performance Small Gas Engines, Braxton Paulsen, Bronze-Carpentry, Bradley Schmidt, Bronze-Metal Sculpture, Jacob Schmidt, Gold-Metal Sculpture, Ben Tyree, Silver-Residential Electrical, and Michael Venzor, Silver-Welding. The team will now advance to the next level of competition. Congratulations!!

**Lowry High School Academic Challenge Team**

President Seeliger presented a certificate of excellence to the following members of the Academic Challenge Team for being named the Northern Nevada Academic Challenge Champions for 2013-14: Coaches Larry Storm and Lisa Scott, Shanna Armstrong, Chris Barta, Suhani Bhakta, Josh Dunnington, Karen Esparza, Hayden Jeppsen, Dain Maher, Jacob Palmer, Ryan Rasmussen, John Slaton and Trenton Smith. Congratulations!!

### **Lowry High School Girls Basketball Team**

President Seeliger presented a certificate of excellence to the following members of the 2014 NIAA Division I-A State Basketball Champions: Coaches Chelsea Cabatbat, Debbie Connors, Tammy Pollock, Manager Courtney Boucher and players Jillian Albright, Alyssa Dendary, Alyssa Jones, Jasmine Marchand, Kyle McClellan, Shelby McKinnon, Meg Montero, Payton Naveran, Danielle Ricker, Taylor Schwartz, Rachel Sigurdson and Katherine Tyree. The team was also named 2013-14 Division I-A Academic State Champions. Congratulations!!

Coach Chelsea Cabatbat thanked the Board and community for their support throughout the season.

### **Lowry High School Boys Basketball Team**

President Seeliger presented a certificate of excellence to the following members of the 2014 NIAA Division I-A State Basketball Semi Finalists: Coaches Chad Peters, Jerod Eastman, Vince Mendiola, Dave Schwartz, Manager Austin Jenkins and players Justin Albright, Delane Black, Dustin Bryan, Calvin Connors, Sterling Dennis, Nathan Eldodt, Christian Gray, Tanner Lecumberry, Tytus Millikan, Garrett Naveran, Thomas Schwartz, Josh Shaver and Josh Watterson. The team was also named 2013 Division I-A Academic State Champions. Congratulations!!

Coach Chad Peters thanked everyone for their support. He congratulated the Lowry girls' basketball team and the Lowry wrestling team on their state championships.

### **Lowry High School Wrestling Team**

This is the sixth state championship for the Lowry wrestling team. President Seeliger presented a certificate of excellence to the following members of the 2014 NIAA Division I Northern Wrestling Champions: Coaches John Brooks, Brant Corak, Tim Grady, Manager Maddie Grady and players Trase Bell, Beau Billingsley, Kevin Blanco, Tyler Boyd, Eric Brooks, Jackson Brown, Luis Cardenas, Blake Duncan, Griffin Ellett, Blake Hillyer, Anthony Hummel, Jedediah Johnson, Tytin Johnson, Chris Karchella, Kelvin Littrell, Jonathan Madrid, Alec Mayo, Ignacio Medina, Shaun Mentaberry, Lane Mentaberry, Damon Miller, Gabriel Molina, Marcus Molina, Kyle Myers, Aaron Nelson, Nathan Nelson, Brandon Okuma, Cameron Okuma, Bryan Ramos, Seth Scott, Kameron Smith, Mikeas Somers, Constantino Starkey, Bryan Terry, Benjamin Tyree, Michael Venzor, Tristen Waller, Kyle Young. The team was also named 2013 Division I-A Academic State Champions. Congratulations!!

Coach John Brooks thanked the Board for recognizing the hard work, dedication and achievement of the wrestling team.

Mr. Hillyer noted that the school district and the community of Winnemucca recognize the hard work, dedication and success of the athletic programs. When traveling out of the community to meetings, Mr. Hillyer is often asked, what is your (Humboldt County's) secret? He responds, "We have great kids, great coaches, we believe in and respect our kids and the community supports them."

### **Superintendent's Report**

- On April 30<sup>th</sup>, the Superintendents met for an evening discussion with Jim Burgett who provided training on "Building a Board of Education that Makes a Difference." Mr. Burgett provided some good insight, and copies of his presentation were included for the Boards review. Attempts are in process to schedule a time for Mr. Burgett to return to work with both Superintendents and Boards. During the meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Jensen was notified that the Department of Taxation had made an error on the Pro Forma. As a result, combined with the application of the overpayments of Net Proceeds of Minerals, the projected Anticipated Net Proceeds of Minerals (ANPM) for this year was reduced from \$3.8 million to approximately \$500,000.
- In response to this reduction, we have implemented a hiring freeze pending discussions with administrative staff on current vacant positions. Based on these conversations, we have made some reductions to positions. Dr. Jensen will have an updated, detailed account for the Board at our public hearing on May 21, 2014.

- On Thursday May 1<sup>st</sup>, a NASS meeting was held. As part of the presentations, State Superintendent, Dale Erquiaga, presented on the NEPF rollout. He has requested that districts provide a letter indicating that they are not sufficiently prepared to implement the full roll out. Mr. Erquiaga was questioned about the readiness of the State to support districts and they were informed the state is not ready.
- Mr. Erquiaga cited statutory language that requires the implementation of certain expectations for the 2014-2015 school year, including the implementation of student academic performance. Superintendents expressed concern that this was contrary to information that has been provided all year. Ultimately, we were informed that there is no option and districts are left on their own.
- We will be working with a cohort of like districts to develop and implement a “NEPF lite” for the upcoming year. More information will be provided as it becomes available.
- In addition, the legislature is requiring the implementation of the College and Career Readiness assessments for 11<sup>th</sup> graders next year. It appears that the assessment will be either the ACT or SAT. Unfortunately, no legislative funds were allocated to support the cost. As a result, the Nevada Department of Education will be asking District’s to assist in meeting this cost.
- NASB Director, Dotty Merrill, will be retiring. She will be missed. The position will be advertised with the hope of filling the position by the fall.
- The following NASB dates were reviewed:
  - May 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 7 p.m. – Joint Teleconference. Mrs. Deputy will not be able to attend. Mr. Seeliger may take her place.
  - July 31 – August 2<sup>nd</sup> – Executive Committee Retreat to be held in Winnemucca. All members of the HCSD board are invited to attend.
  - September 12-13 – NASB Professional Development – limited to 60 participants – Hyatt Place Reno. If interested contact Secretary Wright.
  - November 20-22 – NASB Conference – Green Valley Ranch, Henderson, Nevada
- Superintendents reviewed a draft of the iNVEST document. They are working to have the document completed by the June NASA/NASS conference and will bring it before each Board of Trustees for review.
- On May 7<sup>th</sup>, Byron Krell, Kelly Novi and Dr. Jensen met with Kevin Monsey regarding summer bond projects. With the decrease in Assessed Value, funds coming in to support the bond are also reduced. The available revenue stream has been reduced by \$700,000 leaving a total of \$1.4 million for summer projects.
- We will be targeting the following projects: Grass Valley Elementary and Winnemucca Grammar School roofs, Single Point of entries at French Ford Middle School, Sonoma Heights Elementary and McDermitt Combined. Playground equipment for Kings River and Orovada, lighting retrofits, McDermitt fencing and concrete work at Sonoma Heights Elementary.
- NRS 387.335 has changed allowing the use of bond funds to purchase items such as busses. As we continue to struggle in this category, Dr. Jensen will be asking for consideration of making this a potential funding source.
- On May 8<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Jensen participated in a radio interview at Mix 102.7. The interview discussed budgeting issues as well as late starts and summer bond projects. The radio spot should air in June.
- On May 12<sup>th</sup> our Staff Recognition Banquet was held. This was a wonderful evening and Dr. Jensen expressed his appreciation to the Mining Foundation for sponsoring the event. In addition, this year the banquet was expanded to include classified staff.
- FYI: There is a request to have a multi-board meeting with the city and the county regarding the Boys and Girls club. It is tentatively scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Dr. Jensen will be asking the Board to consider moving our June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting to the 2<sup>nd</sup> so that we can adopt a final budget, once we have actual figures from the Nevada Department of Education.
- May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. is the Lowry High School Scholarship Night. Board members are invited to attend.

- The Student Academic Assembly of Excellence will be held Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to noon at Lowry High School. Dr. Jensen extended an invitation to the Board.
- Interviews for the Grass Valley Elementary School principal position were conducted May 13<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Jensen appreciated the interest in the position and the feedback from the committee. The committee recommended Mr. Byron Jeppsen. Mr. Jeppsen has accepted the position.

Mr. Hillyer asked if a letter to the Board of Education would be helpful in holding them accountable for the unfunded mandates that are handed down to the Districts. Dr. Jensen said we need to contact our legislators.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

#### **Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of a Trip Request for the Psyche Performing Arts Club to Travel to Ashland, Oregon to Attend the Shakespeare Festival, June 17-20, 2014 – Vicki Meissner**

#### **Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of a Trip Request for the Lowry High School FBLA Members to Attend the National Competition in Nashville, Tennessee on June 27-July 3, 2014 – Lisa Scott, FBLA Members**

Mr. Hill moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Braginton, Mr. Betteridge and Mr. Hillyer seconded, motion carried.

#### **Discussion and Possible Action – Late Start Proposal for 2014-15 – Dawn Hagness, Dr. Sarah Negrete, Connie Thomson, Val Byrnes, Robert Lindsay, Dorene Kitras, Chelsea Cabatbat, Jim Gilboy, Kitty Norcutt**

Mrs. Hagness introduced members of the NNRPDP; Dr. Sarah Negrete, Connie Thomson, and Val Byrnes. The Design Team members create all training sessions. They were unable to attend because they are attending a meeting in Reno. She introduced site facilitators Ann Lampshire and Tammy Pollock who is filling in for Dawn Lucas. Mrs. Hagness recognized the administrators for their time and commitment.

Mrs. Hagness: The Board placed students first by providing supports for administrators and teachers as they implemented the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). In April of 2013 the Board approved late starts. In May, the initial planning stages began. By July and August a Design Team was developed with the help of the NNRPDP. In August of 2013, the Design Team created the first module, CCSS Facilitators were hired, training began and each school site kicked off training prior to the beginning of school.

Facilitator Huddle is held every Monday for one hour. Weekly professional learning is provided within each building. Curriculum Engine is used for teacher support. Each training session, along with materials, is placed on Curriculum Engine for access whenever needed.

Jessie Westmoreland provides late start Thursday training for McDermitt Combined School. The rural school teachers meet monthly for their professional development.

Connie Thomson (NNRPDP) thanked the Board for supporting and recognizing the importance of professional development. She gave a brief summary of the process and the power of walkthroughs.

Mrs. Hagness shared some very positive feedback from Grass Valley teachers. There has been some negative feedback; however, the positive outweighs the negative.

Dr. Sarah Negrete spoke on the commitment of administrators, teachers and site facilitators. She noted that Humboldt County School District is fortunate to have a very strong district administration that is supportive and committed. She noted it has been a team effort of district and site administration, site facilitators and teachers.

Mr. Lindsay spoke on walkthroughs. When the walkthroughs first began, he said he had a bit of “angst” with the process. Seven months later he is seeing the power of walkthroughs. He said it has been powerful, it has been an incredible experience and it has been the best professional development he has attended. He applauded everyone involved.

Mrs. Kitras said it has given administrators the chance to learn side-by-side with teachers. We now have consistency across schools. It has given her more confidence to discuss the good that is happening at Winnemucca Grammar or the things they may need to focus on to improve instruction and student learning.

Mrs. Cabatbat spoke on how encouraging and passionate Mr. Connors, Mrs. Lucas and Mrs. Goddell are during Grass Valley’s late start professional development. She said teachers are actively engaged and said this has been, by far, one of the best professional developments she has been a part of. She also noted she loves the early starts, which allow her to take what she has learned that morning right into her classroom. She thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Mr. Gilboy reported what a significant impact the professional development of late start Thursday has had on students’ mathematical growth. He and Mrs. Norcutt have seen amazing learning taking place in their classroom. He said he is excited to meet with colleagues each Thursday and collaborate on what each is doing in their classroom.

Mrs. Norcutt reported how excited she is to begin each late start professional development session. She has a better understanding of mathematical practices and what the Common Core entails. She said the pacing guide has been instrumental in helping with classroom instruction. She said she truly feels her students have a better understanding of mathematical practices and have better math skills than ever before. She noted that they will partner a struggling student with a student who has a better understanding of the concept being discussed. She believes this allows for more support for that student.

Mrs. Hagness reported that, on a survey provided to teachers, there were three common responses; too much information during each session, not enough time to process the information provided and one year with the Math NVACS is not enough time.

Some of the things we hope to focus on in 2014-15 include: building on Operations and Algebraic Thinking (fractions, geometry, counting and cardinality), common assessments, strengthening understanding of the Mathematical Practices and NEPF. Things we hope to focus on in the 2015-16 school year focus on: ELA NVACS professional development, continue to support implementation of Math NVACS and continue to make connections between the NEPF and the standards.

Mrs. Hagness asked the Board to support the continuation of late start professional development. Dr. Jensen noted, from the testimony given, that the late start professional development has been one of the more meaningful professional developments the District has had. He also asked the Board to support the continuation of the late start professional development.

When asked, Mrs. Hagness reported that, if the Board approves the continuation of the late start training, we will continue with a second year of mathematics.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the late start proposal for 2014-15 as stated in the very thought out and professional presentation. Mr. Braginton and Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried.

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

During a previous board meeting, the Board gave consideration to combining Washoe County School District's Safe and Respectful Learning Environment Policy and a model policy provided by former Department of Education Attorney, Ann Alexander. Dr. Jensen provided the Board with a draft policy for their review.

The policy will be required to be included in all student activity policy handbooks. All students and staff will be provided a copy. The policy requires annual training for all staff members. John Bates with POOL/PACT provides training for all new staff members at the beginning of each school year.

Dr. Jensen will agendaize the item for a second reading on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Discussion Only – Review of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey – Dr. Dave Jensen**

Historically, the District has participated in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey every other year. In previous years, the majority of high school students would participate and we would receive survey results specific to Humboldt County School District. This has changed because of funding limitations. Humboldt County School District's results are now included with Pershing and Lander County.

Dr. Jensen touched on a few of the survey results.

**Discussion Only – Solar Panel Review – Dr. Dave Jensen**

Dr. Jensen provided the Board with an energy comparison of each district site from July 2009-March 2014.

Dr. Jensen provided the expenditures for energy by school year; 2009-10 (\$351,986.46), 2010-11 (\$326,471.), 2011-12 (\$239,420.22), 2012-13 (\$209,459.51) and as of March 2014 (\$193,109.75).

Dr. Jensen will provide a review of the solar panel expenditures again in July or August and will provide the Board with an update on an annual basis.

**Discussion Only – NIAA Update – Andrew Hillyer**

Postponed

**Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of the Board Self-Evaluation Form – Dr. Dave Jensen**

At their board meeting on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Board discussed adopting a guided or self-paced evaluation form. After some discussion at the April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the Board chose to adopt a self-assessment and liked the Michigan Leadership Institute's worksheet. Dr. Jensen was asked to slightly modify the worksheet and return to the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting for approval. Dr. Jensen provided the board with a copy of the modified worksheet.

The Board will complete the self-evaluation in June.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the board self-evaluation form entitled modified board self-assessment worksheet from the Michigan Leadership Institute in its modified version. Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried.

**Public Comment – Discussion Only**

None

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

1. Mr. Hill asked for confirmation that Denio School would be having an 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation ceremony. Mr. Parks, Mr. Hillyer and Mr. Novi will be attending. Dr. Jensen said he will be sitting down with Mrs. Hagness and Mr. Novi and determine who will be attending the graduation ceremonies. Mr. Novi said he would attend graduation ceremonies in Kings River and Orovada.
2. Mr. Hillyer reported that the State Regional Track meet will be held this Friday in Winnemucca.
3. Mr. Hillyer reported that there are some awesome junior high track students that will be moving up to Lowry High School over the next two years.
4. Mr. Hillyer reported that the jumps at Lowry High School are too short and he is working to get donations to redo the current jumps or to build two new pits.
5. Dr. Jensen thanked Mrs. Miller and Mr. Hill for serving on the interview committee for the Grass Valley principal position.
6. Mr. Seeliger said the superintendent evaluation is due to him on Friday. It will be agendized for the May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.
7. Dr. Jensen told the Board that he received notification of an expansion (housing development) in the area of Stuart Street, Great Basin and Offenhauser.
8. Dr. Jensen reminded the Board of the budget hearing on Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at noon in the Lowry High School library. Dr. Jensen will be providing a modified staffing plan.

Adjourned 7:40 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright

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Ann Miller, Clerk