

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

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of School Trustees was held September 24, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. in the District Office Boardroom.

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

Others in attendance were: Superintendent Dr. Dave Jensen, Asst. Superintendent Dawn Hagness, Attorney John Doyle, Jessica Powell-Humboldt Sun, Sandy Hammargren-Silver Pinyon Journal, Jennifer Robinson-HCSSO President and Secretary Paula Wright. Absent: Director Kelly Novi

President Seeliger opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Correspondence:** None

**Minutes:** Mr. Braginton moved to approve the September 10, 2013 minutes as written. Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried. Mr. Hillyer was not present.

**Public Comment:** None

**Superintendent Report**

- On September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 an all-day administrative meeting was held. Part of this conversation was with Aaron Hansen with PDP in regards to the new evaluation system and scheduling times to provide information on the process with staff.
- Dr. Jensen had the opportunity of attending the late start training in McDermitt on September 12<sup>th</sup>. One component of their late start Thursday's is the participation of the staff book club. He appreciated the opportunity to visit with staff and observe their interactions.
- Dr. Jensen had the opportunity to visit with staff and students in Orovada while traveling back to Winnemucca and was impressed by the instruction occurring in both classrooms.
- We have been notified of a pending suit against a former employee and the District stemming from a car accident several years ago. Dr. Jensen met with Stephen Romero, our insurance agent, to provide a copy and to move the process to our insurance company.
- On September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, we entered into negotiations with the Certified bargaining unit. Dr. Jensen appreciated their time and the conversation they were able to have. Additional items remain unresolved so we will be working with Mediator, Steve Kessler, to schedule future dates to continue conversations.
- On September 18<sup>th</sup>, we entered into negotiations with the Classified bargaining unit. We were able to accomplish a great deal and were able to come to consensus at the conclusion of the first day of negotiations. The Classified bargaining group subsequently ratified the contract with their constituents on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.
- On September 19<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Jensen was able to meet with Jim Parrish of Humboldt General Hospital (HGH), as well as Bill Diest, Steve West and Mayor Putnam. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain an update on progress at HGH as well as potential future needs of the community.

- During the morning of September 20<sup>th</sup>, Ronda Havens and Dr. Jensen met with Shelly Drake and Tara Larson, with Drake, Rose and Associates, to conduct the audit exit interview. In general terms, the audit went well with no major areas of concern identified. We are on track to presenting the final audit to the Board next month.
- On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, members of the Nevada State Treasurer's office were at Sonoma Heights Elementary to introduce the College Kick Off program. This provides a \$50 college savings account for all current kindergarten students.

4:36 p.m. Mr. Hillyer arrived

- On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Mrs. Hagness and Dr. Jensen were able to attend a kick off meeting regarding the possibility of introducing a Boy's and Girl's club in Winnemucca. This is a critical need in our community and we look forward to engaging in continued efforts to make this a reality.
- We have been notified by the Mining Foundation of their support of the proposal for funds to support a feasibility study regarding the High Tech Center. The total donation is \$55,000. We will begin our kick off meeting at 10 a.m. on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Public Comment:** None

**Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants and Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Minimum Days Request for McDermitt Combined School for Parent Teacher Conferences to be Held on November 7-8, 2013 and March 27-28, 2014 – Dustin Christean**

Mr. Hill moved to approve the warrants as presented and to approve the minimum day request for McDermitt Combined School for parent teacher conferences for November 7-8, 2013 and March 27-18 2014. Mr. Hillyer and Mr. Braginton seconded, motion carried.

**Discussion Only – NASB Meeting Review and Presentation of the Clark County School District Accounting Website – John Seeliger**

At a recent NASB meeting, they discussed the new evaluation system for teachers and administrators. They also reviewed bills passed during the last Legislative session. One in particular, is the bill that addresses sex education programs in the school. If a school does not have a program in place for sex education that the Legislators approve of, they will put a program in place for that school.

President Seeliger provided members with a quick view of Clark County's website. On the website there is a subject tab entitled "Open Book". This allows the public to view their budget to see how funds are spent. The link breaks down the budget by departments and allows an overall comparison from one budget year to another.

**Discussion Only – Nevada School Performance Framework (Star Rating) Review – Dr. Dave Jensen, Dawn Hagness, Kelly Novi**

Dr. Jensen provided the Board with a copy of the School Star Ratings. McDermitt Elementary increased from a one star to a two star school. Paradise Valley Elementary was able to generate enough students in their 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades to be rated and obtained a five star status. Winnemucca Grammar School is now a two year, five star school. We will be providing some type of celebration for Winnemucca Grammar School to acknowledge their efforts. Congratulations Paradise Valley Elementary and Winnemucca Grammar School!

Denio, Orovada, Kings River and Paradise Valley Middle School continue to be non-rated based upon student population. The remainder of schools maintained their status from last year. Currently, we have

two-five star schools, zero-four star schools, three-four star schools, two-two star schools and one-one star school.

Dr. Jensen provided the School Accountability Report from the Nevada Department of Education showing the NSPF performance classifications, comparing the star ratings from 2011-12 to 2012-13. The number of five star schools dropped from 112 in 2011-12 to 82 in 2012-13.

We initiated late start Thursdays to provide professional development to prepare staff and students for the changes that are coming with SBAC, new assessments, and the new graduation requirements.

### **Discussion Only – Board Activity, Roles and Responsibilities**

At the last Board meeting, Mr. Betteridge provided information from two books he had obtained while attending an NASB conference in regards to being a better board member. The Board agreed that it would be worthwhile to review some of the activities.

In their packets, the Board was provided copies of several activities they could review: 1) a board meeting evaluation form, 2) the Board's relationship with the Superintendent, 3) degrees of authority and 4) communicating with the superintendent. They briefly discussed each activity.

Jennifer Robinson asked the Board when the appropriate time to address the Board on issues was. President Seeliger answered by saying that, traditionally, the Board allows the public to voice their opinion throughout the meeting. Mr. Hillyer added that during scheduled public comment the Board is not allowed to act on an item.

Board members agreed to complete the activities and re-agendize the item for further discussion at the October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Public Comment:** Ms. Robinson said she was pleased with the experience of this year's negotiations. "It was easy going, relaxing and I was very pleased with it". She said that new members to the negotiating team were surprised how well it went; she attributes this to the team being prepared.

### **Discussion Only - Closed Session to Discuss Certified and Classified Negotiations Pursuant to NRS 288.220 – Dr. Dave Jensen**

5:28 p.m. Mr. Hillyer moved to go into a closed session to discuss Certified and Classified negotiations pursuant to NRS 288.220. Mr. Betteridge and Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

6:39 p.m. Mr. Hillyer moved to reconvene to open session pursuant to NRS 288.220. Mr. Braginton seconded, motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None

### **Board/Staff Reports:**

1. Mr. Hill asked about the letter from NASB Director, Dotty Merrill, asking for suggestions on the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Mr. Seeliger noted that Mrs. Merrill has asked all directors to gather any input board members may have regarding CCSS. The NASB will compile a letter to Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dale Erquiaga, regarding their concerns. There was a brief discussion regarding CCSS and the lack of funding for education in the State of Nevada.
2. Mr. Betteridge asked for a solar panel cost savings review. Dr. Jensen noted that Grass Valley solar panels have been down for approximately two months because of an inverter problem.

Sonoma Heights' panels have also been down because of construction. Both, are now up and running.

3. Mr. Hillyer suggested having a conversation with other counties that benefit from Net Proceeds of Minerals to discuss how we plan to address the South's proposed attempt to attack the mining tax at the next Legislative session and their plans to grab a portion of those funds.
4. Mr. Hillyer asked if the Board was going to receive a tutorial on the use of their new laptops. Dr. Jensen said that Mr. Novi provided a brief tutorial at the August 27<sup>th</sup> meeting; however, Mr. Hillyer was not able to attend the meeting. Dr. Jensen noted that we are not quite ready to move to an all-electronic agenda. The board room needs to be upgraded for power supply.
5. Mr. Hillyer reported that Century Club has purchased a new electronic board for Lowry's athletic field. It should be in place soon.
6. Mr. Betteridge said that he appreciates the new speaker system at Lowry.
7. Mrs. Deputy reported that she has completed reading "Understanding Poverty" if anyone would like to read it.
8. Mr. Braginton noted that, worst case scenario, should gold prices decrease, the Net Proceeds of Minerals will decrease and the Legislature may grab whatever is left.
9. Mr. Braginton reported on two articles in the Gazette Journal regarding the partnership between Truckee Meadows and Washoe County School District to create the TMCC High School. He will scan the articles and email them to board members. He asked if it would be worth exploring a Humboldt County School District/Great Basin partnership.
10. Dr. Jensen reported that former Lyon County Superintendent Caroline McIntosh's husband was killed in a single car accident on Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. He sends his condolences to her family.
11. Mrs. Hagness reported that she and Dr. Jensen attended training at Grass Valley Elementary and found it exciting that teachers were sharing artifacts. They have already begun compiling information in binders. We are starting to build collaboration, not only at the site level, but district level.
12. Mrs. Hagness reported that the next facilitator training will be held on September 25<sup>th</sup> in the District conference room from 9-3:00 p.m. Board members are welcome to attend.
13. Mrs. Hagness reported that the Design Team will be meeting on Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.
14. Mrs. Hagness participated in walk throughs at Winnemucca Grammar School on September 24<sup>th</sup>. She was excited to see student lead conversations. She will participate in walk throughs at Winnemucca Grammar and French Ford on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-1:30 p.m. Board members are welcome to attend.
15. Mr. Seeliger reported that at the recent NASB meeting a representative from the teacher's association spoke regarding their support of a margins tax. They believe it will be the first broad-based business tax for Nevada and will help with funding for education. Mrs. Deputy reported being asked to participate in a phone survey regarding the margins tax.

Adjourned 7:04 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright

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Ann Miller, Clerk