

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

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of School Trustees was held February 9, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. in the District Office Boardroom.

Board members present were: President Bruce Braginton, V. President Glenda Deputy, Clerk Ann Miller Nicole Bengochea, Boyd Betteridge, John Hill and Louis Mendiola.

Others in attendance were: Asst. Superintendent Dawn Hagness, Director Kelly Novi, Attorney John Doyle, Dr. Tom Stultz, Bailey Beringer, Eric Beringer, Caleb Brumbaugh, Robert Brumbaugh, Mrs. and Mrs. Brumbaugh, Veronica Jones, Gabbie Lopez, Ethan Wadsworth, Sara Wadsworth, Ali Wirthlin, Donna Wirthlin, Dustin Christean, Judge Montero, Officer Collette Hansen, Court Master Irma Aboytes, Ellie Sandoval, Kathy Brumm, DeAnna Owens, Millie Galvan, Holly Meyer, Malinda Riemersma-HCEA President, Lisa Loyd-HCCSO President, other interested persons and Secretary Paula Wright. Absent: Superintendent Dr. Dave Jensen

President Braginton opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes:** Mr. Hill moved to approve the January 26, 2016 minutes as written. Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried. Mr. Mendiola abstained.

**Correspondence:** None

**Public Comment** – None

**Superintendent's Report:**

Mrs. Hagness reported that Dr. Jensen asked that the Board accept the weekly update provided them on Friday, February 5, 2016 as his superintendent's report.

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

Mr. Mendiola disclosed that he would be abstaining from voting on the warrants because his father is employed by Donnelly Sporting Goods and he is employed by Humboldt General Hospital, both are included as payees in the warrants.

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

**Discussion Only – Distance Education Presentation – Kelly Novi, Dr. Tom Stultz, Students**

Dr. Stultz introduced Bailey Beringer, Caleb and Robert Brumbaugh, Veronica Jones, Gabbie Lopez, Ethan and Sara Wadsworth and Ali Wirthlin. Each provided their perspective of why they chose the Distance Ed program and why it benefits them.

Pros of program:

- ✓ Program is flexible.
- ✓ Able to work at one's individual pace (self-directed).
- ✓ Able to work at an accelerated pace.
- ✓ Able to complete one course at a time, instead of being overwhelmed with multiple courses at one time.

- ✓ Able to complete a course within three weeks or less.
- ✓ Able to maintain a job during the day and do classwork in the evenings.
- ✓ Able to volunteer in the community.
- ✓ Allows a student to become more self-reliant and trustworthy.
- ✓ Assistance is available very quickly and 24/7 by phone, text or email.
- ✓ Allows a student to graduate early by taking extra classes.
- ✓ Do not have to deal with the drama found in a regular school setting.

Areas of Concern:

- ✓ More parental involvement.
- ✓ Provide more at-home electives.
- ✓ Provide a more quiet area for test taking.

Dr. Stultz introduced his staff, Millie Galvan and Holly Meyer. They currently serve 32-35 Distance Ed students. They have 75 Adult Ed students enrolled, of which 50-55 are actively doing work each week.

Mrs. Hagness thanked the students and parents for attending the meeting and showing support for the program. She also thanked Dr. Stultz. She said the reason the program is successful is because of his commitment to the students.

Mr. Braginton noted what a tremendous asset Dr. Stultz and his staff are to the program.

**Discussion Only – Truancy Court Update – Judge Montero, Colette Hansen, Dustin Christean,** Judge Montero said they were interested in providing the Board with a mid-year update on the Truancy Court program because some changes have been made to the program. He began by introducing Officer Hansen, Dustin Christean, Irma Aboytes (Juvenile Court Master), Ellie Sandoval, and Kathy Brumm.

Truancy Court meets every Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m. He invited Board members to attend the proceedings. One of the changes made to the program this year is that students who are struggling with truancy and are on probation are no longer being referred to Truancy Court. They are being handled through Juvenile Court. One benefit to this change is that it may allow for more access to resources for the student through Juvenile Court than District Court can provide. It also allows for the probation officers to become more actively involved in the communications and appearances at school. When a student is referred to Truancy Court, Judge Montero makes the student sign a contract and a consent to drug and alcohol test.

Judge Montero noted that, as of the end of the first semester, only students from Lowry High School were referred to Truancy Court. He said this puzzled him a bit because they normally have students from Winnemucca Jr. High and French Ford.

Mr. Christean said that as he took over the program he found it requires a tremendous amount of work and it is essential to keep things organized. He developed a form to be used to communicate to parents when they are to report to Truancy Advisory Board. To date there have been 40 referrals to the program, 23 from Lowry High School. A back log of 14 referrals from Winnemucca Jr. High, French Ford and other schools was presented at the last Truancy Advisory Board, which made for a very lengthy wait and meeting for those involved. This has prompted the Truancy Advisory Board to cap at five new cases, allowing for some flexibility.

Mr. Christean thanked the Board members who have attended Truancy Court; Mrs. Bengochea, Mrs. Deputy and Mr. Hill. He also thanked Mrs. Miller for attending and providing several recommendations to the program that were very helpful.

Officer Hansen also thanked the Board for attending Truancy Court. She reported there have been 40 referrals to the Advisory Board; 23-Lowry High School, 10-Winnemucca Jr. High, 7-French Ford. 15 of the 40 students referred were referred on to Truancy Court where they appear weekly before Judge Montero. 16 of the 40 students were provided a plan of remediation, two were enrolled in a homeschool program, two were enrolled in the adult education program, three students moved and two were referred back to Lowry High School for investigation and paperwork to the District Attorney's office for possible issuance of a citation.

Officer Hansen said that the communication between the school district and probation office has bettered over the past year. Judge Montero noted that Child and Family Protective Service has also been more active in the process.

Mrs. Deputy provided Judge Montero, Officer Hansen and Mr. Christean with some materials that they may find interesting reading and may be of use to the program.

Mr. Hill thanked Officer Hansen for the work she does in interviewing the students. Mr. Hill also asked Judge Montero if he would contact the Winnemucca Police Department, Humboldt County Sheriff's Office and District Attorney's office and ask that they have a representative present at Truancy Court on a regular basis.

Mrs. Bengochea and Mr. Christean thanked Officer Hansen for the information she provides to the court and the time involved.

Judge Montero introduced Court Master Irma Aboytes, her assistant Ellie Sandoval and his secretary Kathy Brumm and thanked them for their commitment to the program.

Mr. Braginton thanked Judge Montero and his staff and Mr. Christean for what they do for the Truancy Court program.

### **Discussion and Possible Action – First Reading, English Language Learner (ELL) Policy Review and Update – DeAnna Owens**

Per NRS statute, the board of trustees of each school district must develop and implement a policy of the instruction of English Learners (EL). The policy is due to the Nevada Department of Education no later than March 1, 2016.

In 2013 the English Mastery Council was formed by the State Legislature to develop a plan to improve achievement outcomes for English Learners. They had three areas to work on; 1) Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) endorsement, 2) district policy and plan and 3) standards and curriculum. The intent was to create a document that could be used as a self-monitoring tool and to help support the development of the plan and policy.

The District's committee in the development of the plan included district administration, principals, parents and para-professionals. The State dictates what is required in the policy. There are numerous headers that must be included in the plan:

- Policy/Plan Development Criteria: The committee used World-class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) for English Learners who provided research and the plan was developed from that information.
- Vision/Purpose/Philosophy: All students will be provided equal access to the curriculum
- Desired Outcomes: 1) English Learners will graduate from high school both college and career ready, 2) English Learners will acquire full proficiency in English (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) as rapidly and effectively as possible, 3) English Learners will meet state standards for academic and language achievement.
- Definitions and Acronyms
- Identification of EL Students: a) ensure the proper identification, placement and exit/reclassification of EL students, b) the EL program will comply with state policy and guidance for EL student identification, placement, and exit/reclassification (using the Home Language Survey, the state designated English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) screening/placement tests).
- Periodic Reassessment: Students who have been identified as English Learners will be reassessed annually.
- Use of Data: (main points) 1) the program will be designed to eliminate any gaps, 2) data will be properly collected and reported in accordance with state and Federal guidelines, 3) teachers will use data to drive instruction, employ best teaching practices, use available resources and continually evaluate programs, 4) EL students will have equal access to advance placement classes, gifted and talented programs, special education programs and any other program offered by the District and 5) EL students will be provided instruction that enables them to attain proficiency in the English language.
- Leadership/Staffing: 1) training will be provided annually and 2) The EL program will provide professional development at all levels.
- Curriculum: 1) the EL Program curriculum will be aligned to the state designated English Language Development Curriculum Standards and 2) the program will promote the simultaneous delivery of language and literacy development and academic content instruction.
- Professional Development: The program will provide professional development at all levels.
- Models of Instruction: All EL students will be provided instruction that enables them to attain proficiency in the English language as soon as possible.
- Opportunities for Parents: 1) the District will provide for parents/legal guardians of EL students to participate in the program, 2) parents will receive notification as required by federal law and state policy/guidance, 3) communications will be provided in a language the parent can understand, and 4) the District will provide for meaningful community and parent engagement in our schools.
- Enrollment in other programs: The District will provide parents of EL students with information regarding other programs that are designed to improve the language acquisition and academic achievement and proficiency of pupils.

Mrs. Miller voiced a concern regarding the cap placed on the number of students who can enroll in an early childhood program. Her concern is with a child who may move into the area mid-year that is in need of services. She asked if a student entering the District mid-year, who is in greater need of services, could be given the opportunity to enter the program replacing a student with lesser needs.

Mrs. Owens noted that two schools are “ZOOM” funded; funds set aside by Governor Sandoval to meet the needs of EL students. The grant parameters are that 75% of the students have to be EL students and 25% other students with needs. Mrs. Owens said she believes that a discussion with elementary principals regarding this issue would be beneficial and asked if Mrs. Miller would attend that discussion. She hopes to have a plan in place prior to the end of the school year.

Mr. Braginton asked Board members to review the policy and have language changes to the policy, if any, ready for the second reading at the February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Mrs. Hagness commended Mrs. Owens for her work on the policy.

**Discussion and Possible Action – Second Reading, Policies to be Added in Response to Certified Negotiations to Include: 1) Building Access and Security, 2) Video Surveillance and Recording/Audio Enhancement, 3) Certified Staff Providing Lunch/Recess Coverage, and 4) Classroom Relocation – Dawn Hagness**

The Board reviewed the policies to be added in response to certified negotiations at their meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>. At that time, several minor grammatical changes were recommended.

There was discussion on each item and some additional language changes were recommended.

Mr. Mendiola moved to adopt the proposed policies for Building Access and Security, Video Surveillance and Recording/Audio Enhancement, Certified Staff Providing Lunch/Recess Coverage, and Classroom Relocation, as discussed prior and asked that the policies be provided in writing to all staff as part of the handbook or policy manual, with the amendments proposed during the current meetings discussion. Mrs. Bengochea seconded, motion carried.

**Discussion and Possible Action – Reschedule April 12, 2016 Board Meeting – Dawn Hagness**

Dr. Jensen is a member of the “What’s Next Nevada” committee and attends monthly meetings in Las Vegas on the same date as our first board meeting of the month. Dr. Jensen is asking the Board to consider moving the April 12<sup>th</sup> board meeting to April 13<sup>th</sup> or another date that would be convenient for board members.

Mrs. Bengochea moved to reschedule the April 12, 2016 board meeting to Wednesday, April 13, 2016. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

**Public Comment – Discussion Only**

None

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

1. Mr. Hill plans on attending Truancy Court on Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> and asked if any board members were interested in visiting a school at 9 a.m. Mrs. Bengochea and Mr. Betteridge said they would try and be available to visit a school with him.
  2. Mr. Hill reported that he, Mrs. Bengochea and Mrs. Deputy visited French Ford on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. During that visit, Mr. Lindsay informed them that a new floor was scheduled to be laid in the gymnasium. He mentioned that he would rather have a room built on top of the library section to be used for storage.
  3. Mr. Betteridge asked if a second Board retreat could be scheduled.
  4. Mr. Betteridge appreciated the presentation on the Distance Ed program.
- 6:51 p.m. Mrs. Bengochea left the meeting.
5. Mr. Mendiola had the privilege and honor to serve as a judge at the Lowry High School Talent Show on February 4<sup>th</sup>.
    - ✓ Mr. Mendiola congratulated Tanya Grady and Julia Topholm on a great Winterfest.
    - ✓ Mr. Mendiola congratulated all the athletic teams that did well.
    - ✓ Mr. Mendiola congratulated his mother, Joyce Mendiola, for celebrating 34 years with the District on January 1<sup>st</sup>. He thanked her for her service and all other long term employees.

6. Mrs. Bengochea asked Mrs. Deputy to report that she and Mrs. Deputy visited Denio School on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> and took lunch for the kids. Fields School was at Denio School also taking part in the Lucy Calkin's Writing project. Mrs. Deputy said that as they visit the other rural schools they plan on providing a lunch for the kids as well.
7. Mrs. Deputy reminded everyone that February 20<sup>th</sup> from 9-3 p.m. is the rural basketball tournament in McDermitt.
  - ✓ While visiting French Ford, it was mentioned that snow removal on the playground was a problem. Mrs. Deputy said she was also concerned about the amount of snow on the solar panels.
  - ✓ She noted how resourceful the teachers are at French Ford. They have received Chrome books and other classroom supplies through a program called "Donor's Choose".
  - ✓ While visiting French Ford, it was noticed that every classroom visited the whiteboard was "bubbled". Teachers voiced how hard it is to write on them. It has been brought to the maintenance department's attention. Mr. Novi asked that a list be provided and they will replace or fix them.
  - ✓ She too felt that it is more important to close off the library (French Ford) to be used for storage rather than new flooring in the gym.
  - ✓ Mrs. Deputy visited Winnemucca Jr. High on February 9<sup>th</sup> and visited with Mr. Reynolds regarding re-districting.
  - ✓ She attended the Eureka Math training on February 9<sup>th</sup> with the Jr. High .
  - ✓ She reported that her mother received her counseling degree at 53 years of age. In her personal belongings, Mrs. Deputy found several articles. Copies were shared with the Board.
8. Mr. Novi reported that the reason the snow built up on the solar panels at French Ford was that the DC connector went bad. A gentleman out of Reno will be out to correct the problem the week of the 16<sup>th</sup>. He was also able to repair a solar panel at Winnemucca Jr. High.
  - ✓ He thanked Newmont and Barrick Mines for hosting the superintendents across the state the week of February 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - ✓ He thanked Dr. Stultz, Millie Galvan, Holly Meyer and the students and parents of the Distance Ed program. He said that Dr. Stultz, Millie and Holly have done a phenomenal job.
  - ✓ He thanked Judge Montero, Judge Aboytes, Officer Hansen, Mr. Christean and the staff at Truancy Court for their commitment to the program.
  - ✓ WIDA Testing went online approximately two weeks ago.
9. Mrs. Hagness provided the Board a sports update of the games being played that evening: Elko freshmen girls lost, Elko JV girls won in double overtime by 2 points. Currently, Lowry varsity girls are up 30/18.
10. Secretary Wright welcomed Mr. Mendiola back.
11. Mr. Braginton welcomed Mr. Mendiola back.
  - ✓ He thanked all the presenters of the evening. "Obviously, we have some good things going on in the district." He also thanked the Board for all that they are doing for the district.
  - ✓ He had the opportunity to drop in on a meeting with parents of autistic children. He introduced himself to the group and thanked them for their interest in their child's education.
  - ✓ He appreciated the opportunity to be part of the school superintendents meeting. He had the opportunity to present some information regarding the mining industry's partnership with education.
  - ✓ He noted that one of the challenges of public education is the struggle to find qualified teachers. One of the challenges when trying to recruit people to come to the area is that they are not familiar with the high desert setting of Nevada. Mr. Hagness has been putting together a video of some of the aspects of the school district and community. Mr. Braginton has received approval from Newmont Mining to provide a copy of the video that they have put together to recruit employees to the area.

Mr. Mendiola noted that the Convention and Visitors Authority has recently funded some promotional materials, as well as, Humboldt General Hospital.

12. Mr. Betteridge asked if everyone received the invitation from NV Energy and asked if anyone was planning to attend the meeting. Mr. Braginton said he attended a meeting approximately two years ago, in which NV Energy discussed their future plans. He did make note that there is talk that users of solar energy, such as the school district, will be grandfathered in and will continue to see a similar rate.

Adjourned 7:18 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright

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Ann Miller, Clerk