

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 9, 2016 at 4:31 p.m. in the District Office Boardroom.

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

Others in attendance were: Superintendent Dr. Dave Jensen, Asst. Superintendent Dawn Hagness, Attorney John Doyle, Kelly Olsen, Gini Cunningham, Gail Janhunnen, Lisa Lloyd, Alicia Prokasky, Noel and Cael Morton, Mike Dennis, Dorene Kitras, Byron Jeppsen, Simon Pollard, Christine Begay, Shirley Evans, Tamara McCord, Jonathan Reynolds, Chelsea Borowski, Todd Hagness, Kelly Ross, John Brooks, Suzanne Schultz, Joyce Sheen-Humboldt Sun and Secretary Paula Wright.

President Braginton opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: Mr. Mendiola moved to approve the February 23, 2016 minutes as written. Mrs. Miller seconded, motion carried.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment – Discussion Only

None

Superintendent's Report:

- Dr. Jensen has been in contact with Jim Huge for possible dates of availability to facilitate a board retreat in April.
- The week of February 29th, the Calendar Committee kickoff meeting was held. Dr. Jensen appreciates all those who volunteered to serve. Following the meeting and discussion, several possible traditional calendars were distributed to the committee for consideration. The committee will meet again on March 10th at 4 pm. It is hoped that we can then schedule it as an agenda item for discussion with the Board to finalize next year's calendar. The committee will then begin work on subsequent year's calendars, considering possible alternatives to a traditional calendar.
- The issue of the potential need for rezoning continues. We are faced with some potential limitations in making a decisive decision at this time, as we are not able to determine the number of students that may desire to enroll in Sonoma Heights Elementary from other locations. As a result, we continue to evaluate the number of students in various locations for discussion purposes, as well as discussing options for variances to accommodate numbers.
- Over the next several days, Dr. Jensen will be working with administration to begin work on enrollment and staffing needs for each location. This information will drive recommendations which will be coming to the board over the next several board meetings.
- In terms of staffing, the Nevada Department of Education has sent out a request to have projected class size variance requests submitted no later than March 15th. On behalf of NASS, Dr. Jensen met with and discussed this issue with Dr. Steve Canavero, State Superintendent, regarding the difficulty in doing such with any fidelity. The National Association of School Superintendents (NASS) group has subsequently been notified that variance requests are now due by May 1, 2016.

- One consideration that the board will need to be engaged in is relative to the new Pay for Performance law. As a reminder, we must set aside up to 10% of salary costs as a pay for performance measure for no less than 5% of teachers and administrators. Very preliminary analysis indicates that we will need to set aside approximately \$100,000 and would need to ensure that our plan impacts a minimum of 12 teachers and one administrator. Future thoughts would be to tie such to the overall Star rating and award whole schools for progressing or maintaining a 4 or 5 star status. Given the lack of star ratings, we would propose using the funds to accomplish a couple of objectives as defined in AB 483 including “career leadership advancement” and professional development. Dr. Jensen will have a proposed plan to the Board prior to the tentative budget hearing.
- On Tuesday, March 8th, Dr. Jensen attended the “What’s Next Nevada” committee meeting in Las Vegas. The topic of this effort was addressing Culture. They discussed the distinct difference between Climate and Culture and the frequent mistake of addressing Climate having no impact on Culture. Climate in simplified terms is how people feel about the organization, while Culture is how people behave in the organization. As a district, it is essential that our focus on Culture ensures that a high performing educational setting is provided to all students. In an effort to reach this objective, four potential points in a framework were discussed:
 - Train and support school leaders in creating a high performance culture.
 - Assess school culture and establish outcomes related to it.
 - Differentiate compensation based on performance and achievement outcomes.
 - Define and implement levels of autonomy for schools and teachers.
- Dr. Jensen thanked Noel Morton for her work on the Turnaround Grant which we were awarded. This will allow for an intense support of Winnemucca Jr. High School and French Ford Middle School in their efforts to make academic improvements. Both Mrs. Kennedy and Mr. Lindsay are to also be commended for their willingness to participate in this intensive effort to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the school sites that will then provide an opportunity for additional funds next year for improvement activities.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants

Mrs. Deputy asked for clarification/identification on a warrant from the last meeting regarding an electrical company and services provided at McDermitt Combined School. Dr. Jensen said he would gather the information and contact her.

Mrs. Deputy asked what vehicles had been purchased. Dr. Jensen said the Board approved the purchase of some vehicles earlier this year as part of our fleet rotation. The vehicles include; 1-Ford Taurus, 2-Ford Fusion and we will be purchasing 2-Ford Transports (suburban) and 2-pick-up trucks for the maintenance department.

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

Discussion Only – Update on Implementation of the Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) Program – Dawn Hagness, K-4 Principals

Sonoma Heights’ principal, Amy Nelson, brought the Watch D.O.G.S. program to Humboldt County School District in December of 2014. The program has grown because of the efforts of Mrs. Nelson and Alicia Prokasky.

There was some discussion at a prior Board meeting to expand the program to the other elementary schools. District administration visited with Mrs. Kitras and Mr. Jeppsen and encouraged them to consider expanding the program to their schools, which they did.

Mrs. Hagness introduced Mr. Simon Pollard who has devoted many hours to the program and is known as Sonoma's "Top Dog". Mr. Pollard can be found helping students with reading and math in the regular classroom and volunteers in the Comprehensive Life Skills (CLS) classrooms reaffirming the importance of education.

Mrs. Hagness read a letter from Alicia Prokasky, Sonoma's Watch D.O.G.S. program coordinator, thanking Mr. Pollard for his time and dedication to the program. "He has played an essential role in the success of the program since its implementation at Sonoma Heights Elementary School in December of 2014."

Mrs. Hagness thanked Mr. Pollard for everything he does for Humboldt County School District students. She presented him with a gift certificate from Winnemucca Pizzeria and a copy of the letter that Mrs. Prokasky wrote to the school board.

Mr. Pollard thanked Sonoma Heights and the school district for the opportunity to be involved. He said it gives him personal satisfaction to see the positive changes the program has produced at the school and with the students.

Grass Valley Elementary: Mr. Jeppsen, Lisa Lloyd, Christine Begay

Grass Valley kicked off their program with a pizza party on January 27th. Approximately 70 dads attended the kickoff and 35 dads returned forms to be "D.O.G.S." The first "D.O.G.S." reported to the school on January 28th (the following day of the kick off) and to date they have had 20 volunteers participate in the program.

Mr. Jeppsen thanked Mrs. Lloyd and Mrs. Begay for their dedication to the program.

Winnemucca Grammar School: Dorene Kitras

Winnemucca Grammar School kicked off their program in December. Approximately 50 dads attended the kickoff and 35 dads signed up for the program that same evening.

Discussion Only – Update on WIDA Testing for 2015-2016 School Year – Noel Morton, Alicia Prokasky

Beginning this school year, WIDA testing went online. Each child that qualifies for English language services must take a four part test that includes reading, listening, writing and speaking.

Mrs. Morton thanked the following people who administered the test at their site:

At Winnemucca Grammar School: Lisa, Blanca and Maria

At Sonoma Heights: Elvia, Adrianna, Tina, Carla, Heidi, Tessa, Lisa

At Grass Valley: Annie, Jaimie, Dick

At French Ford: Letty, Virginia, Michelle, Dana

At Winnemucca Jr. High: Olivia, Melanie, Jodie

At Lowry: Pam, Dave, Gloria

Mrs. Morton introduced Alicia Prokasky who has been instrumental in assisting with the WIDA testing across the district and thanked her for her assistance.

Discussion Only – New Teacher Coaching and Mentoring – Gail Janhunen, Gini Cunningham

Mrs. Hagness noted that this school year, the District has a large number of first year teachers and ARL candidates who are stepping into the classroom for the first time. The Board approved the District's use of Title I funds to support Gail Janhunen's position and general funds were used to contract with Gini Cunningham to mentor new teachers. Mrs. Hagness said she is thankful for what these women bring to

the table. Mrs. Hagness provided the Board with feedback from several first year teachers regarding the program.

Mrs. Janhunnen provided a list of the goals that she and Mrs. Cunningham set for themselves and the program.

- Provide individual coaching support.
- Design teacher cohort groups to expand knowledge and expertise.
- Model best practices and procedures.
- Provide pedagogical training (4 half-day sessions and follow-up).
- Sift and synthesize research.
- Support teachers.
- Celebrate

Mrs. Janhunnen provided a parent night for every Title I school in Humboldt County and at Grass Valley Elementary. They reached approximately 60 families.

Goals in place to provide family engagement include;

- Provide parents with literacy education.
- Continue to work with the parent advisory panel.
- Build communication railways between schools and the community.

Mrs. Janhunnen's classroom at Winnemucca Grammar School is used for teacher and parent trainings.

Mrs. Cunningham said that the program has expanded to veteran teachers wanting to be part of the program.

Mrs. Cunningham thanked the District for the opportunity to return to employment with the District. She asked the Board to consider providing funding for classrooms for smart boards and portable science labs.

Mrs. Janhunnen thanked the administrators at each site for their support.

Mrs. Kitras spoke about the program and how the program has brought about confidence in her building. Mrs. Borowski (French Ford) said she appreciates how Mrs. Cunningham and Mrs. Janhunnen have helped and supported her in her first year of teaching.

Dr. Jensen thanked Mrs. Janhunnen and Mrs. Cunningham for their efforts and the impact they are having on new teachers.

Mr. Braginton noted it is great to see what a powerful impact the program has had and thanked them.

Discussion Only – Positive Behavior Intervention Supports Implementation Update – Winnemucca Jr. High School Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) Team

Mrs. Hagness said that she and Mrs. Bengochea serve on the District PBIS team and one of the goals of the Leadership Team is to bring in schools and celebrate the work they are doing.

Mr. Hagness said that Winnemucca Jr. High was chosen as one of the schools for the PBIS system. In April of 2015, data showed that the school was not recognizing positive behaviors and re-teaching the behaviors they would like to see. The PBIS Team introduced themselves: Todd Hagness, Suzanne Schultz, Kelly Ross, Jonathan Reynolds, John Brooks and Shirley Evans.

Brooke Wagner is an external coach, working through the University of Nevada Reno, who comes out to the school and does a “Tiered Fidelity Inventory Report”. She gathers feedback from teacher, students and administrators and compiles a report that shows the success among all staff. In a report compiled in April of last year, only 10% of students knew what expectations were expected of them. Since then, just over 70% of the students/staff have been issued Warrior Pride cards for positive recognition. The Warrior Pride cards are also included in a raffle to win a Kindle Fire.

Winnemucca Jr. High is in the first year of a PBIS 3-Tiered system. Tier 1: Full School Expectations and Recognitions: “Everyone learns the expectations, teaches and practices the expectations.” In the 2016-17 school year the school will move into Tier 2 of the system. Tier 2 deals with a specialized group system for students with at-risk behavior and prevents worsening of problem behaviors.

During a Thursday professional development, staff members were given data to show the behavior referrals for one month. The top three referrals were; disruption, defiance and other (gum/eating). The staff decided to focus on minimizing the number of referrals for defiance by bringing awareness to staff and students of what defiance actually looks like.

Mr. Reynolds thanked the team for their dedication to the program.

Discussion Only – School Data Review on Bullying– Dawn Hagness

Mrs. Hagness returned to the Board with an update on school data regarding bullying. To date the District has had 59 bullying reports, six of which were cyberbullying. The percentage of bullying reports by site to date: Winnemucca Jr. High-32%, French Ford-41%, Sonoma Heights-7%, Winnemucca Grammar School-5%, Grass Valley-2%, McDermitt-2% and Lowry-12%.

46% or 27 incidents reported were unsubstantiated, 54% or 32 incidents reported were substantiated. The number of bullying reports has inched slightly higher or remained consistent from the November report to February, except for a decrease at Winnemucca Jr. High School.

Mrs. Hagness provided a list of the types of bullying that were found substantiated.

Public Comment – Discussion Only

None

Board Reports/Requests – Information Only/No Action

1. In regards to the incentive pay for employees referring qualified teachers to the District, Mr. Hill asked Dr. Jensen if an employee refers more than one teacher to the District who is hired, do they receive \$1000 for each referral. Dr. Jensen answered that the employee will be paid the incentive (\$1000) for each referral that is hired by the District.
2. Mr. Mendiola congratulated the Lowry girls’ basketball team for their academic state championship.
 - He congratulated McDermitt High School for their second place finish at state.
 - He congratulated Paul Criddle and music department at Lowry High School for the “Dueling Pianos” fundraiser.
3. Mrs. Miller said she found the evenings meeting very useful. She enjoyed the presentations on the programs.
 - She visited Winnemucca Grammar School one day the week of February 29th.
4. Mrs. Deputy and Mrs. Bengochea visited Paradise Valley School on March 3rd and took the students and staff lunch.
 - She and Mrs. Bengochea will be visiting Kings River School on March 16th and will be taking lunch for the staff and students.
 - Denio School will be having their bingo and spaghetti feed on Friday, March 18th.

- She said that while visiting Paradise Valley School, she and Mrs. Bengochea had a discussion with students and staff regarding Eureka Math. She said she believes the Board needs to have a serious discussion regarding Eureka Math in the rural schools, with teachers teaching more than one grade level.
 - There is still no communication between the main building and the portable at the Paradise Valley School. Also, there is no restroom in the portable.
 - She suggested at the end of the school year placing an ad in the Humboldt Sun thanking all the dads participating in the D.O.G.S. program.
- 5. Mrs. Bengochea congratulated the Lowry wrestling team and the girls' basketball team for the academic state championships.
 - Congratulations to McDermitt Combined for second place at state.
 - She and Mrs. Deputy will be visiting Kings River School and providing lunch.
 - She noted how great the Watch D.O.G.S. program is and thanked all the dads who participate.
 - She asked if the Board could engage in a conversation regarding school safety and the protocol for school sites in the event of a school shooting when they meet at the upcoming board retreat.
- 6. Mrs. Hagness congratulated Lowry High School and Paul Criddle for bringing "Dueling Pianos" to the community. "It was a great experience."
 - A survey will be going out to teachers regarding Eureka Math. A committee will also be formed. Mrs. Hagness noted that the standards are rigorous and we need to insure that the students in the rural schools get the same access as the in-town schools, with the support the teachers in the rural setting need to be successful with the implementation.
 - Board members were given a preview of the brochures that will be available for potential new hires at the upcoming career fairs we will be attending.
- 7. Dr. Jensen congratulated the Lowry wrestling team and girls' basketball teams for their academic state championships and McDermitt Combined School's second place finish at state.
 - He told Board members that in Friday, March 10th's edition of the Humboldt Sun, under the article "Sensational Schools", Lowry High School's academic state championships will be highlighted. Also, there is a write up regarding Chartwell's work with the Comprehensive Life Skills (CLS) program.
 - He agreed with Mrs. Miller that it was a great Board meeting.
 - He thanked the presenters from the evening's meeting.
 - He has confirmed Dr. Draper for the opening school year kickoff on Friday, August 26th at approximately 9 a.m.
 - He reminded the Board that the March 22nd meeting will be held in McDermitt. We will be extending an invitation to the Malheur County School Board. He asked the Board to consider beginning the meeting at 3:30 p.m. We will be sending out individual invitations to the Malheur County School Board.
- 8. Mr. Braginton congratulated the Lowry wrestling team, the girls' basketball team and McDermitt's second place finish at state.
 - He noted that the evening's meeting was a good, positive meeting. He recalled a discussion from an earlier board meeting about bringing positive change to the culture of the District. He said he certainly saw that in the evening's meeting by the positive, great things going on in the District.

Adjourned 6:31 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright

Ann Miller, Clerk