

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 10, 2016 at 4:32 p.m. in the District Office Boardroom.

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

Others in attendance were: Superintendent Dr. Dave Jensen, Asst. Superintendent Dawn Hagness, Attorney John Doyle, Joyce Sheen-Humboldt Sun, Marie Jeanne Dawson, Byron Jeppsen, Jenny Poole, DeAnna Owens, Leslie Molina, Gail Janhunnen, Lisa Scott, Julia Topholm, Lori Seidlitz, Sandy Cipra, Lisa Evatz, Makenzie Gordon, Marcos Duran, Nancy Swindle, Dorene Kitras, Lisa Weber, Ray Parks, Jonathan Reynolds, Jim Gilboy, Teresa Berish, Andrea Rose, Ty Lucas, Tanya Grady, Dustin Christean, Madeline Grady, Caitlynn Cooper, Ryan Bourland, Juliana Velasco, Jacob Hernandez, Payton Naveran, Merri Pray, Brenda Olsen, Denise Barton, Madison Mayo, Omar Guerrero, and Secretary Paula Wright. Absent: Director Kelly Novi

President Braginton opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence: The Board received a copy of “The ABC’s of School Choice” in the mail. The book looks at alternative education options throughout the United States.

Minutes: Mr. Hill asked that under board comments (#3) on the April 26th minutes, it be noted that his daughter Katie will begin a new job June 1st in Washington, **D.C.**

Mr. Hill moved to approve the April 26, 2016 minutes with the noted amendment. Mrs. Miller seconded, motion carried. Mr. Braginton abstained.

Public Comment – Jenny Poole informed the Board that Dianne Putnam has been nominated and will receive the Women of Achievement award through the Northern Nevada Women’s Fund at a banquet to be held in May.

Special Recognition:

Makenzie Gordon

Makenzie Gordon is a senior and recently competed in the District level Lions Club Speech Contest. Makenzie did a phenomenal job considering she wrote the speech two days prior to the local speech contest. Lowry had no students interested in competing in the contest. Knowing what an outstanding speaker Makenzie is, Mrs. Dawson called her in and asked her if she would be interested despite the short notice. Makenzie’s response was, “Sure that sounds like fun.” Mckenzie won the Club (local) level where she received \$75.00 advancing to the zone level where she place 1st and received \$125.00. She then advanced to the regional level where she placed 1st and received \$1,250. She recently returned from the District Level held in Vegas where she competed and where 1st place was award to another individual. However, Mckenzie was informed that it was very close. Mrs. Dawson wanted to acknowledge what a wonderful job Mckenzie did on such short notice. She is a wonderful representation of Lowry at its finest!

Makenzie said her speech was on water conservation and the importance of establishing measures to ensure we have this resource in the future.

President Braginton presented Makenzie with a certificate of excellence. Great job Makenzie!!

Marcos Duran

Marcos Duran, a senior, has been working diligently for the past four years to achieve a goal he set for himself when he was thirteen. Throughout his four years at Lowry, Marcos has achieved this goal by achieving a 4.025 GPA, a 32 on his ACT, as well as, 650 and above on several SAT subject tests of which Marcos and only several others have attempted. He also set a goal to be accepted to either Stanford or an Ivy League University. Marcos has achieved this goal and has been accepted to Cornell University, an Ivy League University ranked 11th in the nation and has received a \$3000.00 scholarship. Marcos has also been placed on the wait-list at Stanford, ranked 2nd in the nation and has the possibility of being accepted. He will receive word in May as to his consideration from said wait-list. Marcos' tenacious and dedicated work ethic is impressive. As one of Marco's educators for the past four years, Mrs. Dawson is profoundly in awe and humbled by his academic dedication.

Marcos said he hopes that his experience will open doors for other students who dream of applying to an Ivy League University. "It is not impossible." He was grateful to receive the honor and thanked the Board.

President Braginton presented Marcos with a certificate of excellence. Great job Marcos!!

Superintendent's Report:

- Our thoughts and prayers are with the Goucher and Sorenson families, as well as others that are mourning the loss of family members.
- Following the appeals time frame, the contract for the Winnemucca Grammar School HVAC project has been awarded to MGM construction. An initial meeting was held May 10th and the first day of construction is scheduled for June 13th.
- We had four companies participate in today's (May 10th) bid walk for the Sonoma Heights Elementary School roof project. Based on past concerns with cost, we have the project listed as the main building and two alternatives. The first alternative is the second building roof and the second alternative is for the fascia. Bids are due Tuesday, May 17th. Dr. Jensen will report the results to the Board when received.
- On Friday, May 6th, Mrs. Hagness, Mrs. Owens and Dr. Jensen met Nic Anguiano who we are working with on the development of our kick off and recruiting video. Nic is on site this week collecting site video as we finalize our storyboard.
- On Thursday, May 5th the Nevada Association of School Superintendents (NASS) meeting was held in Pahrump. Assemblyman Oscarson, as well as Board President Tracy Ward, provided a kick off welcome. Some key topics discussed included:
 - Discussion of Pay for Performance Plans across districts.
 - A proposal from NASS to exclude existing 9th graders from the End of Course requirement as a component of graduation.
 - The unintended consequences of the Property Tax abatement. In Humboldt, the abatement equates to \$321,000 in reduced revenue. The impact is substantially larger in Clark and Washoe. There will be a bill draft to correct.
 - Weighted funding and special education
 - The Public Employees Retirement System and Long Term Substitute classification
 - American College Test (ACT) and ACT Work Keys

- Solicitation of bills per the request of Assemblywoman Woodbury. NASS has submitted four areas for consideration: 1) Definition of PERS; 2) Reduction of student data as part of the rubric for Nevada Educators Performance Framework; 3) Consideration of removing End of Course as a requirement for graduation; and 4) Adjust the “hold harmless” provision
- On Thursday, May 12th, Trustee Mendiola and Dr. Jensen will be meeting with the District’s insurance broker to consider options to enhance the wellness portion of our plan. This meeting will be followed by a general insurance committee meeting.
- On Tuesday, May 17th, Dr. Jensen will be at the final presentation of the recommendations from the Nevada Succeeds committee. Upon arriving in Las Vegas on Monday, he will be meeting with the Superintendent of Clark County as well as their Human Resources and Legal team regarding the PERS issue and potential next steps on this issue.
- We will be holding our budget hearing next Wednesday, May 18th at noon at Lowry High School (auditorium). We anticipate no changes to the tentative budget; given an adjusted Distributive School Account (DSA) has not been released from Nevada Department of Education.
- Dr. Jensen recognized the new Winnemucca Grammar School Principal, Jonathan Reynolds, French Ford Middle School Vice Principal, Michelle Garrison, Grass Valley Elementary School Dean of Students Jim Gilboy and Winnemucca Grammar School Dean of Students Jennifer St. Germain.

Consent Agenda

- 1. Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants**
- 2. Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of a Trip Request for the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) to Attend Nationals in Atlanta, Georgia on June 27-July 3, 2016 – Lisa Scott, FBLA Members**
- 3. Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of a Trip Request for Lowry High School Skills USA to Attend Nationals in Louisville, Kentucky on June 20-25, 2016 – Andrew Meyer**

Mrs. Miller moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried.

Discussion Only – Sports Medicine Program Update – Tyrell Lucas, Ryan Bourland, Caitlynn Cooper, Madeline Grady, Jacob Hernandez, Payton Naveran, Juliana Velasco

Mr. Lucas teaches the sports medicine training program at Lowry High School. Mr. Lucas and his students wanted to take the opportunity to thank the school board for allowing them the opportunity to visit the University of Southern California (USC) and University of Nevada (UNR) facilities. Students have also been given the opportunity to visit Humboldt Physical Therapy.

The sports medicine training program provides the physical setup of practice fields and other necessities for Lowry’s athletic teams and provides basic training on taping and bracing. Through Humboldt General Hospital, students have been able to become CPR and First Aid certified. The class also provides exposure to the multitude of job opportunities under the umbrella of sports medicine.

Students provided a PowerPoint of their trip to USC and the various departments they visited; underground training facility, aquatics center, Heisman trophy room, uniform room, a room showing all the USC draft picks to the NFL and the sports medicine facility. The students were even invited to watch a practice session.

Dr. Jensen thanked Mr. Lucas for his dedication to the program. Mr. Lucas gives up his prep-time to teach the class.

Discussion Only – Lowry High School Leadership Program Update – Tanya Grady, Julia Topholm, Madison Mayo, Omar Guerrero

32 students are involved in the Leadership class this year. The Leadership class has received three awards to date;

- The Golden Nugget Award, which is given to schools in the northern region.
- The Silver Star Award, which is a statewide award given at the annual state conference.
- The National Gold Council of Excellence Award, which is on the national level for student councils.

Certain criteria must be met to be awarded any of these awards; community service projects, charitable donations, leadership training, student recognition, school service or school-wide education programs, spirit activities, and staff appreciation.

Each school in the state is paired with a sister school. This year Lowry's sister school is Las Vegas High School. In the northern region each school pairs with another northern school. This year Lowry's brother school is Eureka High School.

5:06 p.m. Mrs. Hagness arrived.

The National Gold Council of Excellence Award is an award that is applied for online. In order to receive this award the Leadership team had to submit four projects into the national student project database. All projects were accepted, which earned them the National Gold Council of Excellence award. The four projects submitted included the Academic Assembly of Excellence (student recognition), the Santa letter project (community service), Anti-bullying Week (school-wide education) and Homecoming Week (spirit activities).

Madison Mayo: The Academic Assembly of Excellence honors students for their academic achievements. The assembly is sponsored by the Mining Foundation and the Frontier Community Coalition. Typically, over 500 students are recognized each year with certificates, gifts and monetary awards.

Omar Guerrero spoke about the Santa letter project. In-town elementary school children write letters to Santa. All letters are personally answered and delivered with small gifts enclosed.

Madison Mayo: An Anti-bullying Week was held. Leadership students would greet students with high-fives and free hugs to address the issue. Lowry was fortunate enough to have guest speaker, Sam Glenn, to help spread the awareness of bullying.

Omar Guerrero spoke about Homecoming Week at Lowry High School. The Leadership team sponsored a powder puff football game, he-man volleyball game and lunch time activities. This year the homecoming parade and bonfire were resurrected. Donations were also being accepted for Omar's father who was battling cancer.

The Leadership team went Trick or Treating for the canned food drive.

A banquet is held each year for the Leadership team as a thank you for the time they put in to community service.

Mrs. Grady thanked the Lowry High School administration and Humboldt County School District for their support.

Mrs. Topholm has been named National Association of Student Councils (NASC) Executive Director for the Northern Region.

Lowry High School will be hosting the NASC State Conference in 2018.

Discussion Only – Winnemucca Grammar School Update – Dorene Kitras, Teresa Berish, Sandy Cipra, Lisa Evatz, Jenny Poole, Lori Seidlitz, Nancy Swindle, Lisa Weber

Mrs. Kitras said it has been a wonderful experience being the principal of Winnemucca Grammar School and a privilege working with a great staff.

Goal #1: 100% of all teachers will pilot Eureka Math and Goal #2: 100% of all teachers will implement Lucy Calkin's Units of Study.

- A group of teacher volunteers participated in Instructional Rounds of Eureka math implementation.
- Teachers also met with Connie Thomson with Regional Professional Development (RPD).
- Winter Measures of Academic Progress (MAPS) scores show growth in reading and math at all grade levels.

Additional assistance for students includes; After School Assistance Program, Study Island, Reading Eggs, 100 Book Challenge Program, remediation interventions at each grade level in both math and reading.

Mrs. Seidlitz and Mrs. Cipra spoke of the success they are seeing in their classroom in regards to Eureka Math. Students are proficient and are asking to be challenged. They did get "push back" from parents in the beginning. They immediately began holding "math nights". Parents are encouraged to attend, even if to just vent. The benefits of Eureka Math are explained to parents, they are provided solutions to the issues they are having, which has built a bridge of communication.

Mrs. Cipra said at her "parent nights" she even prepares a lesson for the parents. She said she has actually had parents thank her for teaching their children how to think, instead of blindly following the norm.

The Watch D.O.G.S. program has been a huge success. It has provided a safe and productive environment for students.

Mrs. Evatz oversees the Jr. Achievement program at Winnemucca Grammar.

Unlike past parent surveys, this year's parent survey was more positive in regards to feeling welcome in the school, the quality of education their child is receiving, assistance provided their child and the invitation to be involved in the school.

Ms. Poole invited everyone to visit the school and see how the PTO decorated each classroom door.

Discussion Only – Grass Valley Elementary School Update – Byron Jeppsen, Jim Gilboy

- Math Goal: Grass Valley will increase the school average percentile rank in math by 10% from spring 2015 to spring 2016. (Testing for spring 2016 has not taken place.)

Some of the challenges of obtaining this goal include:

- Numerous initiatives: Writers Workshop, Read by 3rd & Dyslexia, NEPF standards, High Five and Project Aware.
- Eureka Math
 - Much of the vocabulary and structures were new to students.
 - Parent pushback on implementation. They do not understand the concept.

- Lessons took more time than expected and most grade levels quickly fell behind.
- Winter Measures of Academic Performance (MAPS)
 - Leadership team spent ½ day to analyze data in February. They were disappointed in the scores.
 - The Leadership Team is concerned that student growth is stagnant.

Some of the successes include:

- Implementation of Eureka math
 - Uniform curriculum
 - Aligned with Nevada Academic Content Standards
- Late start math professional learning communities (PLC)
 - The first Thursday of each month.
 - Grade level teams collaborate on Eureka Math.
- Increase in school-wide performance in math

Behavior Expectation Goal

Challenges include:

- Consistency of enforcement of playground rules and school-wide expectations
- Lack of information to parents regarding “High Five Expectations”
- Need for more positive reinforcement

Successes include:

- Established and implemented “High Five Expectations”
- Established the “Refocus Center”- focus is on learning and improving behavior.
- Began a positive rewards system: High Five Café. Teachers reward students for good behavior by allowing them to eat lunch on the stage. Began the “model student mornings”. Model students (3rd-4th grade) are chosen to lead the school in the Pledge of Allegiance and read a statement from High Five Expectations (responsibility, being prepared).

To engage parental involvement in the school they began the Watch D.O.G.S. program.

The school will implement the full Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) program for the 2016-17 school year. The program will also allow for a data component that will help track behaviors. The staff looks forward to Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions for those students who struggle the most. The initial PBIS training will be held on June 13th, 14th & 15th.

Jim Gilboy was selected as the Dean of Students for Grass Valley Elementary. Mr. Gilboy led the High Five Committee meetings and will be instrumental in the implementation of PBIS. Mr. Gilboy will be an asset in working with students and staff and mentoring teachers with classroom management. Mr. Jeppsen said he will have a positive impact on Grass Valley Elementary.

Mr. Gilboy said he is looking forward to the opportunity to serve as Dean of Students.

6:12 p.m. Mr. Mendiola arrived.

Discussion Only – Instructional Consultation Learning Strategist Update – DeAnna Owens, Denise Barton, Gail Janhunnen, Leslie Molina, Merri Pray, Lisa Weber

In 2015, the Nevada State legislature established Senate Bill (SB) 391 to promote effective literacy instruction in grades K-3 and ensure students achieve proficiency in the subject area of reading. The bill requires the District to establish a plan to improve the literacy of students in grades K-3.

The District and school site level literacy plan aligns to five key essentials of Nevada’s 2015 State Literacy Plan:

- Leadership and Sustainability

- Data-driven standards-based instruction and intervention
- Literacy assessment systems
- Professional learning
- Family and Community Engagement

Assembly Bill (AB) 341 requires each school district and certain charter schools to administer an early literacy screening assessment to certain pupils; authorizing certain persons to perform additional testing for dyslexia; requiring a school district and a charter school to address the needs of a pupil who has indicators for dyslexia.

State-wide initiatives include, Read by 3rd Grade, Dyslexia bill (AB341), Victory Schools, Zoom Schools, Response to Intervention, Nevada Educators Performance Framework (NEPF) and are all aimed at increasing student achievement. Nevada has the third lowest graduation rate in the nation at 70%.

The District will approach the Read by Third Grade legislation in two phases. The 2015-16 school year will focus on implementation of Phase 1, which includes the following:

- Development of district and individual school site literacy plans aligned with the Nevada State Literacy Plan.
- Designate and train Learning Strategists for each elementary school site.
- Develop and implement necessary professional learning opportunities to support teachers with effective practices in literacy instruction and assessment.
- Develop and implement family literacy educational opportunities.

The 2016-17 school year will focus on the enhancement and full implementation of Phase II in alignment with the Nevada State Literacy Plan.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of the Humboldt County School District Read by Third Grant Application – DeAnna Owens

The Read by Grade 3 Grant (Phase II) is due to the Nevada Department of Education Friday, May 13th. Dr. Jensen will be personally delivering the grant application.

Senate Bill (SB) 391 was established to promote effective literacy instruction in grades K-3. There are two distinct phases which operate independently.

This year \$22,250,574 has been set aside for availability for public and charter schools.

Humboldt County School District did not independently apply for grant funds under Phase I. It was a very quick turnaround process and the District felt that we could comprehensively develop a literacy plan and get key components in place. The District applied under a collaborative cohort of very small districts that but were unsuccessful in receiving funds.

The State of Nevada has developed their own literacy plan and districts must shadow the state's plan. There are five components of the plan:

- Leadership and Sustainability
- Data-driven standards-based instruction and intervention
- Literacy assessment systems
- Professional learning
- Family and Community Engagement

In regards to “use of funds”, the State Department will be looking to see if the following items are covered in the grant application;

- The required components of the local literacy plan.
- Responsibility and training requirements of learning strategists and K-3 teachers.
- Notification procedures.
- Monitoring plans for students identified as deficient in reading.
- Reporting requirements.

The requirements of SB 391-Read by Grade 3 applies to all school districts, the grant application is separate. Districts will be notified June 1st if they were awarded any funding.

Mrs. Owens noted that the grant is still in rough draft form, there may be some minor changes over the course of the next few days until the grant application is hand delivered on Friday, May 13th.

Mrs. Miller moved to approve submission of the Read by Three grant application, with the understanding there may be minor changes made. Mrs. Deputy seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Braginton thanked Mrs. Owens for her time and assistance in preparing the grant application.

Discussion Only – Information Regarding the Proposed Grant Writer Position – Dr. Dave Jensen

Dr. Jensen believes the days of receiving allocation dollars from state and/or federal are going away. There is becoming a greater need for districts to complete for funding. For smaller districts it is becoming very difficult to secure funding.

At their retreat in April, the Board asked Dr. Jensen to gather information on grant writers. Nine of the seventeen school districts in the state have some form of a grant writer. Most districts are initially paying their grant writers out of their general fund. The majority of districts note that fall and spring are the busiest times for grants.

Dr. Jensen provided board members with various salary schedules and job descriptions for grant writers from across the state.

After some discussion all members were in favor of proceeding with a formal proposal to hire a grant writer.

Public Comment – Discussion Only

Brenda Olsen, a candidate running for the school board, told board members the one thing she consistently hears from parents is in regards to Eureka Math. She noted that what she heard in the two school presentations were two completely different stories. “Winnemucca Grammar School’s teachers are positive, they’re on board, they’re looking at it as a positive thing, they are involving the parents and they’re teaching the parents.” “The kids are learning, they’re teaching each other.....it’s great.” “Then I heard Grass Valley.” “They’re going through some problems with this and that, the parents aren’t happy and we just told the parents don’t worry about it we will teach your kids, we don’t want you to.” She said if she, as a parent, were told that she would homeschool her children.

She said if Eureka Math is going to succeed in the school district, we must involve parents. We must teach the parents how to help their children.

She also reported that since Gina Rackley came before the Board to address the traffic flow problem at Winnemucca Jr. High School, she has noticed a difference. She has noticed additional police presence, which she believes is helping.

Board Reports/Requests – Information Only/No Action

1. Mrs. Deputy reported that Mrs. Bengochea was involved in decorating the doors at Winnemucca Grammar School.
 - ✓ She attended Winnemucca Grammar School's Cultural Diversity Day.
 - ✓ Her daughter, Kami, has been asked to give the commencement speech at the Gifted and Talented graduation in Denver, Colorado.
 - ✓ At the May 6th National Association of School Boards (NASB) conference, Erica Hoffman-California School Boards Association, gave an amazing presentation on "Every Student Succeeds".
 - ✓ During the general meeting (NASB conference), they requested a report be submitted to Jessica Ferrato regarding the teacher shortage. This information will be presented to the legislative committee. The information is due by May 16th.
 - ✓ NASB is also requesting that a presentation be given to each school board on the school trust lands. It is a simple presentation, some talking points and a resolution they would like all 17 school boards to adopt to be taken to the legislature.
2. Mrs. Miller said she appreciated the school presentations and the special recognition of students.
 - ✓ She asked for confirmation that the Board will be meeting on Wednesday, May 18th (budget hearing) at noon at Lowry in the auditorium.
3. Mr. Hill asked about the Winnemucca Jr. High and Sonoma Heights vice principal positions. Dr. Jensen said that the positions will be closing soon and he would have additional information at the next board meeting.
4. Mr. Betteridge said he is amazed by the number of people who complain about our school system, yet we have students who come before the Board with phenomenal stories. He was impressed by the special recognitions and the student presentations.
5. Mr. Mendiola apologized to the Board and the presenters he missed for being late to the meeting. He is looking forward to the graduations. He noted this will be the last time that the High School Proficiency Test will be mandatory for graduation and he is glad that we went to a more intervention based method.
6. Mrs. Hagness reported that Tier I Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) training will be held June 13-15 at the convention center. We may have all of our K-4 schools implementing PBIS next school year. Tier II training will be June 16th & June 17th. This training will be held at the district office in our training room.
 - ✓ She had family visiting and her daughters got to bring grandpa in as a Watch DOG at Sonoma Heights on Monday, May 9th. She said he had a blast.
 - ✓ Infinite Campus training the week of May 16th. Secretaries, administrators, counselors and teachers will be involved throughout the week.
 - ✓ She said she cannot thank the Learning Strategists enough for their hard work on the Read by Three grant.
7. Secretary Wright reminded the Board of the Staff Recognition Banquet on Wednesday, May 18th at 6 p.m. in the West Hall of the Convention Center.
8. Dr. Jensen thanked the students and staff that presented at the board meeting.
9. Mr. Braginton sent his condolences to Mrs. Bengochea and family.
 - ✓ He acknowledged all the good things happening in the district.

Adjourned 8:01 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright

Ann Miller, Clerk