

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 24, 2016 at 4:35 p.m. in the District Office Boardroom.

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

Others in attendance were: Superintendent Dr. Dave Jensen, Asst. Superintendent Dawn Hagness, Attorney John Doyle, Joyce Sheen-Humboldt Sun, Collette Hansen, Malinda Riemersma, Noel Morton, Jennifer St. Germain, Dorene Kitras, Katie Donovan, Mike Mitchell, Robert Lindsay, Joleen Nielsen, Ray Parks, Brenda Olsen, Michelle Garrison, Andrea Egger, Mr. and Mrs. Egger, Dustin Christean, Janet Kennedy, Jonathan Reynolds, Judge Montero, Jaime Peterson and Secretary Paula Wright. Absent: Director Kelly Novi

Vice President Deputy opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence: The Lowry High School Drama and Stage Craft students sent a thank you to the Board for their support of the program.

Minutes: The minutes for the May 10th and May 18th board meetings were not approved for a lack of a quorum from each meeting. They will be presented for approval at the June 14th meeting.

Public Comment – Discussion Only

None

Special Recognition:

Andrea Egger

Andrea Egger is a phenomenal senior at Lowry High. For the past four years, Andrea has been authoring articles for a local publication called Community Living, which services Humboldt County. She writes alongside other great authors and well known district colleagues, Carolyn Dufurrena and Gini Cunningham. Despite her young age, Andrea is an astounding writer and meets pen to paper with passion, wisdom, and vision. For someone so young, her writing is equal to that of many seasoned authors. Andrea will be attending the University of Nevada Reno in the fall and has received the prestigious Presidential award of \$5000 per year for a total of \$20,000. To receive such an award one must receive a 31 or higher on the American College Test. Andrea received an English composite of 35 and an overall American College Test composite of 33. One would never know this of Andrea as she is not boastful; however, it is important that we recognize such talent. Teacher, Mrs. Dawson, is grateful to have had the opportunity to have worked with such an impressive young lady.

Vice President Deputy provided Andrea with a certificate of excellence. Great job Andrea!!

Jennifer St. Germain

Jennifer St. Germain received the Issac Perez Outstanding Educator award. Mrs. Kitras read several letters of nomination from peers and parents praising Jennifer's excitement, confidence and compassion towards students.

Mrs. St. Germain said it is an honor to work for Humboldt County School District. She said she is excited to begin her new duties as the Dean of Students at Winnemucca Grammar School.

Congratulations Jennifer!!

Superintendent's Report:

- On Monday, May 16th, Dr. Jensen met with the Fiscal and Legal counsel for Clark County School District regarding the Public Employees Retirement System's (PERS) policy 1.53 requiring PERS be paid on behalf of long term substitutes. For the majority of long term substitutes, they will not draw a PERS retirement, but it will have an impact on their social security benefits. All 17 superintendents are in opposition of this requirement. A proposed language settlement was provided to PERS in January. In April, PERS provided a counter language proposal that is based on Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), which states that after 90 days as a substitute, PERS is to be retroactive from that day forward. Dr. Jensen submitted a letter to PERS on behalf of the Nevada Association of School Superintendents (NASS). NASS will begin working with the PERS board. The Clark County School District will be proposing a bill draft to provide a definition of substitute teacher in statute. All 17 school districts are unified in that they will not be providing PERS benefits to long term substitutes.
- On Tuesday, May 17th the final What's Next Nevada meeting was held, in which the results of the committee's efforts were presented to the public. From a series of meetings, five primary recommendations were released:
 1. Create and promote a meaningful career progression ladder for teachers.
 2. Align the principal talent management system: competencies, professional development, evaluations, recruitment and accountability.
 3. Assess, develop and support positive climate and high performance cultures in schools to include parental and community engagement and satisfaction.
 4. Expand the two year Peer Assistance Review (PAR) system for new teachers and teachers new to the district.
 5. Create a statewide U-Teach program for Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) education.
- The annual Staff Recognition Banquet was held on Wednesday, May 18th. Dr. Jensen congratulated the staff that were recognized and expressed his appreciation to the Mining Foundation for their ongoing support of this important staff celebration.
- On Thursday, May 19th, Dr. Jensen had the opportunity to attend "Moms and Muffins" at Sonoma Heights Elementary School. The event was extremely well attended. Dr. Jensen also spent time with the Sonoma Heights staff discussing a variety of topics and engaging in a question and answer period.
- On Monday, May 23rd, Mrs. Deputy and Dr. Jensen attended a sponsored luncheon regarding the upcoming marijuana initiative. The presentation provided a wealth of information for consideration as we discuss this topic as a state. It will be placed on the ballot in November.
- On Tuesday, May 24th, Dr. Jensen had the opportunity to present at the NASS Assistant Principal Conference in Reno. He spoke with Washoe County Superintendent, Traci Davis and Storey County Superintendent, Dr. Rob Slabey. The topic was in regards to the changes that will likely occur in education over the next ten years. The four main components of this include:
 1. Personalized learning - students will learn at a pace that matches their strengths, interests and

learning style.

2. We will teach students how to think - problem solving, decision making, critical thinking and analysis.
 3. Consideration of different types of employees, “millennial”. We must shift from the current concept of staffing.
 4. Provide more options - choices beyond attendance zones.
- Dr. Jensen provided notice to all staff and the Board regarding the opportunity for employees to secure HMO health insurance, as opposed to our current PPO, effective with the upcoming school year.
 - The Academic Assembly of Excellence will be held at Lowry High School on Wednesday, May 25th starting at 9:30 am.
 - Tuesday, May 31st, will be the final Parent Lunch at Winnemucca Grammar School.

Consent Agenda

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants

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

Discussion Only – Truancy Court Update - Judge Montero, Collette Hansen, Dustin Christean

Judge Montero began by thanking the Board for allowing them to return with a Truancy Court update. Judge Montero shared a story of a young lady at Lowry High School who was referred to Truancy Court. The young lady had been struggling in school and began coming to Truancy Court where she blossomed. He said he was prepared to graduate her from Truancy Court because she had done so well when she asked if she could continue to come. She liked having the added level of supervision.

Sixty three referrals were made to the Truancy Advisory Board for the 2015-16 school year. Twenty three students were referred to Truancy Court. There was a 75% decrease in truancy in those students referred to Truancy Court.

Some of the things that are new to the program this year include;

- Juice and breakfast bars are provided to students and their families during Truancy Court.
- The Division of Child and Family Services became a more regular participant.
- “Project Aware” provided mental health services to youth and families within the school site.
- “Celebrating Families”: This is a program through the 6th Judicial District Court celebrating the strengths within a family. They meet every Tuesday night.

Judge Montero reported another successful year.

Mr. Christean thanked Judge Montero for holding Truancy Court on a weekly basis. He also thanked Collette Hansen with Juvenile Probation for an awesome job. He thanked Jessica Eastman at Lowry High School who does a fabulous job and Tammy Gabica who is the parent representative. He thanked the Board members who serve on the Truancy Committee. “It takes a community to really make a change.”

Mrs. Hansen noted that a lot of the students referred were able to come before the Truancy Advisory Board and were not referred on to Truancy Court. Those that were referred on to Truancy Court were met with support from community agencies to help provide services. Mrs. Hansen thanked the Board for their support. She also thanked Mr. Hill and Mrs. Deputy for serving on the Truancy Advisory Board.

Dr. Jensen asked if there was a possibility of expanding the program to benefit McDermitt Combined School. Mr. Christean said he would be willing to work with Mr. Welter and the Tribal Judge to see if

they can get a program going in McDermitt. Mrs. Hansen said it is the Juvenile Services intention to provide services in McDermitt.

Discussion Only – French Ford Middle School Update – Robert Lindsay, Michelle Garrison, Katie Donovan, Joleen Nielsen, Jaime Peterson

Mr. Lindsay thanked the Board, Dr. Jensen and Mrs. Hagness for approving a vice principal position at French Ford Middle School.

Mrs. Nielsen spoke to Goal #1 and math implementation.

Goal 1: 100% of French Ford's Professional Learning Communities (PLC) groups will disaggregate and compare Math Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) data and Eureka Math mid and end of unit assessments to inform math instruction and curriculum decisions.

- ✓ Too much time was taken on reviewing Modules 1 and 2.
- ✓ End and mid modules are difficult. They are set more to mastery of the concepts. Students feel they need more practice.
- ✓ Students are much more familiar with the concept of Eureka Math. She uses Edmodo and Moby Max to supplement.
- ✓ She uses a report on MAPs (through standards as opposed to skills) to setup interventions.

Mrs. Donovan and Mrs. Peterson spoke to Goal #2 and the use of Lucy Calkins Writing.

Goal 2: 100% of French Ford Middle School PLC groups will disaggregate Lucy Calkins Writing Assessments rubric data to inform English Language Arts (ELA) writing instruction and curriculum decisions.

- ✓ Mrs. Donovan believes if you can teach a student to write they can think and articulate what they have learned.
- ✓ Teaching writing itself is the most complex thing you can do in a classroom.
- ✓ Many of the standards are built into the Lucy Calkin's Writing program; narrative, informational, argument.
- ✓ Mrs. Donovan has noticed students have the confidence to write.
- ✓ Mrs. Peterson said the Lucy Calkins program has produced students who love to write.
- ✓ The staff has seen an increase in spelling, punctuation and stamina in writing.
- ✓ The program is also aligned to the Nevada Educators Performance Framework (NEPF) standards and can be used for evidence for indicators.

Mr. Lindsay noted that 80+ students participated in the Writer's Workshop held annually at French Ford. The Writer's Workshop is based on the Lucy Calkins model. He thanked Mrs. Nielson, Mrs. Donovan and Mrs. Peterson.

Mrs. Morton has been working closely with French Ford Middle School and Winnemucca Jr. High School to submit the Turnaround Grant.

Mr. Lindsay thanked the efforts of DeAnna Owens, Letty Rodriguez and Virginia Perez for the remarkable job they have done with the English Language Learners (ELL) program. Twenty three students exited the program.

Mrs. Garrison reported that managing time with the NEPF system, bullying documentation and investigations have thrown them a bit off balance; however, they will be collaborating with staff to create their School Performance Plan for the upcoming school year.

Mr. Lindsay said that the Board could help French Ford by providing more support for technology; laptops, voice projection systems and promethean boards.

Mrs. Garrison commended the Truancy Advisory Board and Truancy Court.

Discussion Only – Denio School, Kings River School, Orovada School and Paradise Valley School Update – Noel Morton, Robert Lindsay

Mrs. Morton and Mr. Lindsay worked collaboratively with the teachers at the rural schools to establish a School Performance Plan that all schools could work on together at their monthly professional development.

School Performance Plans focused on two goals, math and literacy. Mrs. Jessie Westmoreland with the Northeastern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program (NNRPDP) provided support through Lucy Calkins. The program was modified for the rural setting. Mrs. Val Byrnes, with NNRPDP, provided support for math.

Denio School currently has one teacher, one aide and eight students. Kings River has one teacher, one and one-half aides and 24 students. Kings River will be up by five kindergarten students for the 2016-17 school year. Orovada School has two teachers, one and one-half aides and 33 students. Paradise Valley School has three teachers, one aide and 33 students. Paradise Valley School will be up by five students for the 2016-17 school year.

Mrs. Morton noted that rural teachers wear many hats and go above and beyond what is expected of them. In one instance, Mrs. Dufurrena drove all the students to school, taught school and drove all the students home. Kudos to all the rural teachers, Mrs. Acorda, Mrs. Bartell, Mrs. Dufurrena, Mrs. Echevarria, Mrs. Hogue, Mrs. Melarkey and Mrs. Thompson.

Chartwell's has continued to be a great partnership with the rurals providing fruit and milk each day and a sack lunch one-day per month for the students. If the possibility of providing a hot meal to the students in the rurals on a daily basis falls through, Mrs. Morton is working with Ian Tolotti (Chartwell's) to provide a dry pantry at each school site for the 2016-17 school year.

The rural art and PE programs have been a huge success thanks to Mrs. Lynn Lindsay.

In the fall rural school presentation, Mr. Lindsay reported there is a need for high/low water fountains at the rural schools. The project is still not complete.

Mr. Lindsay thanked the Board for their support. Mrs. Morton provided the Board with the date and times of the graduation ceremonies to be held at each rural school.

Discussion Only – Winnemucca Jr. High School Update – Janet Kennedy, Jonathan Reynolds

Goal #1: All Winnemucca Jr. High School teachers will implement rigorous authentic literacy within their classrooms.

- ✓ Professional development on Reading for Meaning was continued. Each teacher was required to provide administration with a minimum of two lessons per semester, plus student samples on how they implemented Reading for Meaning into their curriculum.
- ✓ Depth of Knowledge, in terms of lessons and common assessments, has also been a focus with professional development. Teachers are re-evaluating their common assessments and Depth of Knowledge, Level 3 into their assessments. They are also being asked to include one "worthy" question; a question that is not answerable in a few sort sentences, which requires a longer piece of writing.

Goal #2: All Winnemucca Jr. High School staff and students will implement the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) framework, Tier I by establishing school-wide processes, procedures and expectations.

- ✓ This goal was successfully met. The PBIS team meets bi-monthly and provides feedback to staff.
- ✓ Staff has implemented a school-wide process, as well as, classroom processes. Expectations for both are communicated to students, as well as, parents and are reinforced by the Warrior Pride Creed.
- ✓ The staff will meet to discuss any changes, if any, to the PBIS process.
- ✓ It has been a successful year.

The State Department and the Advanced Education team are incredibly pleased with the progress Winnemucca Jr. High has made in regards to the implementation of the PBIS system.

Administration and staff set the unwritten goal of increasing parental involvement.

- ✓ As a “smart goal” the teaching staff chose to increase parent involvement.
- ✓ Mr. Reynolds and the ELL staff took 55 ELL students and parents on a tour of the University of Nevada-Reno. The hope was to communicate to parents and students that college is a possibility.
- ✓ An ELL parent night was held.
- ✓ Four parent orientations were held at the beginning of the summer.
- ✓ A semester celebration of student successes was held. 350-400 parents attended.
- ✓ A parent newsletter (English/Spanish) was started. It is now on the school’s website.
- ✓ Parent/teacher conferences were held. They will be looking at a different format for next year.
- ✓ A parent climate survey was conducted.
- ✓ On June 8th an academic awards assembly will be held. Prizes include 3 Chromebooks, 5 Kindle Fires, bowling, movie and yogurt passes.

Mrs. Kennedy thanked Noel Morton and said she is invaluable to the District. Winnemucca Jr. High School is working closely with Mrs. Morton on the Turnaround grant. Grant preparation included; self-evaluation, stakeholder surveys (staff, family, students), and a school-wide analysis visit by the Advanced Education Team. The Advanced Education Team expressed their happiness with the school leadership, the care that faculty and staff have for students, the positive school culture, Warrior Hall, it is a clean and safe learning environment, they loved PBIS Tier I, Reading for Meaning and felt the teacher and leader academy was phenomenal.

- ✓ Plans are to continue with data driven instruction and PBIS Tier I for the upcoming school year.
- ✓ Currently, Winnemucca Jr. High has two special education positions, one music position, one ELL position, one vice principal position and possibly one elective teacher position.
- ✓ They now have a social worker on staff.
- ✓ All students at Winnemucca Jr. High have been CPR trained through a grant.
- ✓ On May 24th and May 25th a drug awareness program, “The Truth About Drugs”, will be held in conjunction with the Winnemucca Police Department.
- ✓ On June 3rd they will be participating in the “UP Cares Train Event”. A 1950’s Union Pacific train will take students for rides to discuss train safety. They should be able to facilitate approximately 300 students.
- ✓ On June 9th a year end student celebration will be held.

Mrs. Kennedy thanked Mr. Reynolds for serving as vice principal of the Winnemucca Jr. High for the past two years.

Mrs. Kennedy thanked the school district’s counseling staff for their support.

Mr. Hill congratulated Mr. Reynolds on being named the Principal at Winnemucca Grammar School.

When asked, Mr. Reynolds said that they have addressed bullying at Winnemucca Jr. High School and are working through the procedures that are mandated. He believes that implementing PBIS-Tier II will be beneficial.

Winnemucca Jr. High School is looking to engage in a program for suicide screening done through the State of Nevada. Parents will have the opportunity to allow their child to participate.

6:28 p.m. Break

6:32 p.m. Resume meeting

Discussion and Possible Action – Sonoma Heights Roofing Bid Update - Dr. Dave Jensen, Mike Mitchell (Mike Mitchell Management)

Two bids were received on the Sonoma Heights roofing replacement; Contract West Roofing with a bid of \$676,000 and MGM Construction with a bid of \$617,000.

The original budgeted cost for the project was \$546,000 with a 10% contingency, for a total of approximately \$600,000. Two necessary items that were added to the original project include an extended warranty from 30 to 50 years and added attic ventilation to qualify for the additional warranty.

Dr. Jensen recommended moving forward with the project in its entirety to begin this summer. There was some discussion regarding the extended warranty coverage.

Mr. Mendiola moved to approve the MGM Construction bid in the amount of \$617,000 for the Sonoma Heights roofing replacement, soffit, and fascia. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval to Submit the 2016-2017 Social Worker Grant (SB 515) Application – Dr. David Jensen

The Social Worker Grant is due to the Nevada Department of Education on June 6th. The District was successful in receiving the grant funds in the first round and we have placed a social worker at Winnemucca Jr. High School and McDermitt Combined School. The grant funds were for a period of one year. The submission of the Social Worker grant (second round) will be to continue with the current social workers and to add an additional two social worker positions; one will be housed at an additional elementary school in Winnemucca and one will service the rural schools.

Dr. Jensen asked the Board to approve submission of the grant; at minimum requesting a continuation of the two current positions and consideration of adding an additional two positions. These positions will not come from current classroom positions, but from outside.

Mrs. Bengochea moved to approve submission of the 2016-17 social worker grant (SB 515). Mr. Mendiola seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of a Miscellaneous Leave Request for Michele Hammersmark - Dr. Dave Jensen

Mrs. Hammersmark, a teacher at Lowry High School, has been dealing with health issues this school year. She has approached the sick leave bank committee, who granted her request for additional days. Based upon medical reports, the additional days will allow her to take every Wednesday off to recover, returning to teach on Thursday and Friday of each week.

Under Article 12-Section 12.8, the Board is authorized to grant an employee miscellaneous leave up to one year. She will receive no compensation or seniority; however, the District will provide health insurance.

Mr. Parks will move forward and fill her position for the period of one year. Once Mrs. Hammersmark receives a diagnosis and resolution she may return to work when she is ready.

Mr. Hill moved to approve the miscellaneous leave request for Michele Hammersmark for up to one year. Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried.

Public Comment – Discussion Only

Mrs. Brenda Olsen said she attended the marijuana seminar. She said it was enlightening and hoped that the school board could find a way to educate teachers, students and parents on the dangers of passing the legalization of marijuana. She said she hoped that, as one of the largest employers in Humboldt County, there is some impact the school board can have.

Board Reports/Requests – Information Only/No Action

1. Mr. Betteridge asked if the marijuana initiative is passed would students be allowed to smoke it on school grounds. Dr. Jensen said no, it is still illegal if you are under 21 years of age.
2. Mr. Mendiola said he enjoyed the Humboldt County School District's Health, Fitness and Nutrition Expo held on Saturday, May 21st. He commended Mrs. Laura Jensen and Mr. Ian Tolotti and everyone who volunteered.
 - ✓ He was surprised in the benefits structure of insurance for employees. He was glad to see additional options for health insurance.
 - ✓ The American Academy of Pediatrics released a statement that each school site should have at least one registered nurse on staff.
 - ✓ He was able to attend the senior skits on Wednesday, May 11th at Lowry High School. He thoroughly enjoyed them.
3. Mrs. Bengochea thanked the schools for their presentations
 - ✓ She asked about the dates for the elementary graduation walks. Dr. Jensen said he would send those to the Board.
 - ✓ She said she is impressed with the District's hiring of social workers. She said they have been helpful in her own personal situation. She said it is comforting to know we have the services available.
4. Mrs. Hagness said the District will be submitting three more grants by Friday, May 27th; Turnaround Grant (French Ford Middle School-\$150,000 and Winnemucca Jr. High \$150,000) to be used for professional development, PLC time for work such as building assessments and aligning curriculum and mentoring for administrators.

"Teach for Nevada Scholarship" grant will allow us to provide more scholarships to our Alternative Route to Licensure applicants for the coming school year.

 - ✓ She noted what a success it is to have gone from exiting about 18 students from the ELL program to nearly 110 in one year's time. The largest hurdle is for the students to pass the writing portion of the program. She commended teachers for making writing a passion for students.
5. Dr. Jensen said the health expo was very well done. He also thanked Humboldt General Hospital for their participation.
 - ✓ Lowry High School student, Kennedy Jeppsen, won the state title in the high jump, with a jump of 5'4". Congratulations Kennedy!!
 - ✓ The boys' swim team was recognized as the State Academic Champions. Congratulations everyone!!

6. Mrs. Deputy reminded everyone of the Academic Assembly at Lowry High School on Wednesday, May 25th at 9:30 a.m.
- ✓ June 1st - Denio's kindergarten graduation at 2 p.m.
 - ✓ June 1st - Orovada 8th grade graduation at 6 p.m.
 - ✓ June 1st - Lowry's Art and CTE showcase from 5-7 p.m.
 - ✓ June 2nd - Grass Valley's assembly at 1:30 p.m. and Spring Reading Fair from 5-8 p.m.
 - ✓ June 3rd - Winnemucca Grammar "park day" and end of year assembly.
 - ✓ June 3rd - McDermitt's end of year assembly.
 - ✓ June 8th & 9th - Winnemucca Jr. High, French Ford Middle School and Sonoma Heights' end of year assemblies.
 - ✓ She appreciated the school reports.

Mr. Mendiola moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Bengochea seconded, motion carried.

Adjourned 7:13 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright

Ann Miller, Clerk