

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

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of School Trustees was held July 28, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. in the District Office Boardroom.

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

Others in attendance were: Asst. Superintendent Dawn Hagness, Director Kelly Novi, Attorney John Doyle, Janet Kennedy, Jonathan Reynolds, Ray Parks, Chad Peters, Vicki Meissner, Samantha Stine-Humboldt Sun and Secretary Paula Wright. Absent: Superintendent Dr. Dave Jensen

President Braginton opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: Mr. Mendiola moved to approve the minutes for June 23, 2015 and July 17, 2015 as presented. Mr. Hill and Mrs. Bengochea seconded, motion carried. Mr. Betteridge abstained.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment – Discussion Only

Mr. Parks asked that the July 17th minutes, under Public Comment, be corrected to read that Barrick Mining donated the \$150,000 towards the Boys and Girls Club, not Newmont Mining.

Mr. Parks and Mr. Peters came before the board for an update on the Boys and Girls Club. Mr. Parks and Mr. Peters met with Mr. Whitworth on Monday, July 27th. Mr. Whitworth has agreed to provide the Boys and Girls Club with a total of \$4.1 million. The project is expected to break ground on November 1st. Mr. Whitworth has agreed to provide \$1 million on November 1st, \$500,000 when 75% of the project is complete and \$500,000 upon completion of the project. The Pennington Foundation will provide one-half of their proposed \$3.25 million in November also. \$1 million of the funds donated by Mr. Whitworth will be provided to build the aquatic center. Mr. Parks said that the Boys and Girls Club is now totally funded for the construction of the building.

Mr. Parks reported that the Lowry single point of entry is going well. Michael Clay Corporation has agreed to remove more concrete and do some additional work at no cost to the District. He invited board members to visit the school and see the progress being made.

Mr. Peters said they are excited about how things are coming together. He said that the Boys and Girls Club will be in use daily from 3-6 p.m. and are also looking to provide a before school program. Mr. Peters said the building will be free for use from 8-3 daily. He would like to bring the rural schools (Denio, Kings River, Paradise, Orovada and McDermitt) in once a week. This would provide them access to the STEM classrooms, computer labs, art department, and performing arts. They will be able to provide a school setting for all schools.

Mr. Parks and Mr. Peters said the building could provide opportunities during the day for the rural basketball program, banquets, the alternative education program, the adult education program and the PASS program.

They provided Board members with a Boys and Girls Club t-shirt.

Superintendent's Report: None

The Board was provided some information as an FYI. If anyone has questions regarding the information they are to contact Dr. Jensen.

Consent Agenda

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants

Discussion and Possible Action – Trip Request for Lowry High School Psyche Performing Arts Club to Travel to Lake Tahoe on August 1-2, 2015 – Vicki Meissner

Mr. Mendiola disclosed that his employer, Humboldt General Hospital, is named as a payee. He moved to approve the warrants, excluding the warrant for Humboldt General Hospital. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Hill moved to approve the Humboldt General Hospital warrant and approve the trip request for Lowry High School's Psyche Performing Arts Club. President Braginton asked for the vote. All were in favor, motion carried. Mr. Mendiola abstained. For the record, Mr. Mendiola is in favor of the trip request for Lowry High School's performing arts club. He abstained because it was tied to the approval of the warrant for Humboldt General Hospital.

Discussion Only – Statutory Requirements to Define a Position as Critical Needs – John Doyle

The general law in the State of Nevada is that, if you have retired as a public employee and are drawing retirement, you cannot return to work with another public employer. If a person were to return to work for a public employer they could not draw their retirement during that time period. The exception is, if there is a critical labor shortage. Under NRS 286.523, a retired employee can return to employment if that position cannot be filled in any other manner and is declared a critical labor shortage and the retirement the employee is receiving is not actuarially reduced (is not a full retirement). The board of trustees shall designate positions within the school district for which there are critical labor shortages in an open meeting. Prior to making a designation, the Board must consider all efforts made by the District to fill the position through other means before submitting a written finding to PERS. The written finding must include:

- (a) The history of the rate of turnover for the position;
- (b) The number of openings for the position and the number of qualified candidates for those openings after all other efforts of recruitment have been exhausted;
- (c) The length of time the position has been vacant;
- (d) The difficulty in filling the position due to special circumstances, including, without limitation, special education or experience requirements for the position; and
- (e) The history and success of the efforts to recruit for the position, including, without limitation, advertising, recruitment outside of this State and all other efforts made.

If the school board were to find that there is a critical labor shortage position in the District, a finding satisfying all of the criteria listed above must be submitted to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). A critical labor shortage can only be declared for two years. If there is still a critical labor shortage after the two years, the District can go through the entire process again.

Mrs. Hagness reported that she has signed three Alternate Route to Licensure (ARL) candidates. These candidates must have a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in any field and are committed to a three year process to obtain a teaching degree. This year we currently have seven long term subs. Three of those

current long term subs are in the last year of their education program with student teaching remaining before earning their diploma. Mrs. Hagness said the District is actively pursuing people who are committed to students.

President Braginton and Mr. Mendiola thanked Mr. Doyle for his time in gathering the information.

Discussion and Possible Action – First Reading of the Modification of Policy 3065 To Address the Return Policy for E-Cigarette or Vapor Devices – Dawn Hagness

In January of this year, Dr. Jensen brought a modification to our existing policy regarding smoking and use of tobacco to include vapor or e-cigarettes to the Board. The policy never addressed what would be done with the e-cigarette or vapor cigarette devices if a student was found in violation of the policy.

Mrs. Hagness reported language change to section A, changing the word “lit” to “lighted or heated tobacco” and that a section be added regarding potential disciplinary action that would be taken in response to violation of the policy. If a student is found with an e-cigarette or vapor cigarette device, their parent/guardian will be contacted and informed of the policy violation. On the first offense, the device will be released to the parent/guardian. If a second offense occurs, the device will be confiscated for the remainder of the school year, at which time the parent/guardian may pick up the device. Any unclaimed devices will be disposed of prior to the beginning of the subsequent school year.

A minor language change was suggested and the correction to a typo was made. The policy will be brought before the Board for a second reading.

Discussion and Possible Action – Consideration to Increase Credit Requirements for Promotion to High School for Winnemucca Jr. High School Students – Janet Kennedy, Jonathan Reynolds

Mrs. Kennedy and Mr. Reynolds approached the Board to consider increasing credit requirements for Winnemucca Jr. High School students. NAC 389.445 requires that the minimum a 7-8th grade student must earn is at least 1½ units (3 semesters) of English and Math with a passing grade and one unit (2 semesters) of Science and Social Studies with a passing grade.

The current school year found that student perception was that they did not need to take the additional semester of class and, therefore, told teachers that they did not need to complete a project or class in order to be promoted to high school. This causes discipline problems for Winnemucca Jr. High School administration and students are being sent to Lowry High School with educational gaps.

Mrs. Kennedy said they would like to continue with a tradition of excellence at Winnemucca Jr. High school that is rigorous and relevant to students. During the 2014-15 school year, 8th grade students spent one year in a six period day, transitioning to a seven period day for the 2015-16 school year, or 26 semester credits. Under current policy they must only pass 10 semester credits for promotion or 38.5% of all classes. They must pass 75% of Math and English and 50% of science and social studies, but currently no other class is required for promotion into high school. 7th grade students enrolled in Winnemucca Jr. High this fall are scheduled to participate in a seven period day for the next two years, which equates to 28 semester credits. Under current policy they are required to only pass 10 semester credits for promotion or 35% of their classes.

Nevada Department of Education data reveals that one in three students require remediation in high school to pass current HSPE. The junior high administration hopes to prepare students for success in high school and beyond by increasing expectations, preparing students to successfully pass courses and End of Course exams in Algebra, Geometry, English I and II. They would like physical education and some

elective courses to be mandatory as well. Increasing expectations will help them prepare for rigor and the expectation of Lowry High School and beyond.

Recommendation: Students must enroll and pass with a 60% or higher: four semester credits of English, four semester credits of math, three semester credits of science, three semester credits of social studies, two semester credits of Arts/humanities, minimum two semester credits of physical education and a minimum of one semester credit of technology.

Warrior Hall is provided for students who are behind in credits and summer school opportunities are available for all students. The staff has proven their dedication in reducing failing grades. An appeals process for students who may have extenuating circumstances will be instituted.

Mrs. Hagness credited Mrs. Kennedy, Mr. Reynolds and Mrs. Mentaberry for proposing the change and the excellent job they do in tracking students. She said Dr. Jensen is also in support of increasing the credit requirements. She asked that Junior High administration return at the end of the school year and provide a comparison on discipline rates from the 2014-15 school year to the 2015-16 school year.

Mrs. Bengochea moved to approve the proposal made by Winnemucca Jr. High School administration to increase credit requirements for promotion to high school for Winnemucca Junior High School students. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Discussion Only – Report on Current District Fleet; Age, Mileage – Kelly Novi

Mr. Novi was asked to provide the Board with a list of all District vehicles and busses, to include age and mileage. The majority of District vehicles are six to twenty eight years old, with mileage from 59-257,000 miles. A list of the current bus fleet was also provided. The bus fleet ages range from three to twenty five years old. Four trip buses have had the engine replaced or rebuilt and clutch parts for one trip bus can no longer be purchased. Mr. Novi said our mechanics do a great job in keeping our fleet operating given the age of our fleet.

When asked about the new law passed by the Legislature regarding bus speed limits, Mr. Novi said that some districts are considering allowing drivers to go the posted speed limit, but no faster than 65 mph. Mr. Novi said that the District may wait and see what Washoe County implements. When a proposed policy is drafted it will be brought before the Board for approval.

Public Comment – Discussion Only

None

Board Reports/Requests – Information Only/No Action

1. Mr. Hill said that he has a bit of “angst” about the purchase of the building on Winnemucca Blvd. seeing how much gold has dropped in the last week. When gold drops it affects the local tax, which affects our bond funds.
2. Mr. Hill said the Board should look at possibly considering housing the adult education program in the Boys and Girls Club, once the building is completed. We would need to find space for the program for the year the building is being constructed.
3. Mr. Betteridge visited Lowry High School. Great job on the single point of entry. He reported that on Friday they will be pouring a large amount of concrete. He also reported that we have already had students on the premises with skateboards marring the concrete. He asked if there was anything that could be done since cameras are not operational during the construction.
4. Mr. Betteridge said he was given a tour of the Lowry campus and noticed a lot of unfinished projects that have been sitting for 2-3 years. He said it needs to be addressed. “We can’t go to all

this expense and have people do a lot of free work in this community only for us to fall down by not doing the job that we are paying people to do. It's got to stop."

5. Mr. Mendiola had the opportunity to visit Lowry High School. He agreed with Mr. Betteridge. He said there are a lot of great assets at Lowry, but said there are areas where the "ball has been dropped". He agreed with Mr. Betteridge and asked if the item could be agendaized. He suggested looking at the entire district as a whole; consider our resources and how we prioritize.
6. Mr. Mendiola attended the ethics training at the Court House. He said he had some concerns with what he heard regarding his, President Braginton's and Mrs. Bengochea's participation in contracts and negotiations. President Braginton stated that he does not participate in the negotiations, only in the vote. Mrs. Bengochea said she understood that, in Mr. Braginton's case, it directly affects his household, where it does not in her or Mr. Mendiola's case. Mr. Doyle said the District could ask for an official opinion to alleviate any doubts.
7. Mrs. Bengochea thanked Mr. Peters and Mr. Parks for everything they have done for the Boys and Girls Club.
8. Mrs. Bengochea said that the single point of entry at Lowry looks great.
9. Mr. Hill asked to have the selection of the Truancy Court representative's agendaized in August. He said he is willing to serve on the committee for one more year, but is not sure that Mrs. Deputy is interested in serving another year.
10. Mrs. Bengochea said she will be at the August 11th meeting.
11. Mr. Novi said he was notified the morning of July 28th about the skateboarders at the high school. He noted that we will have three cameras up and running temporarily to cover the area. Winnemucca PD will be stepping up patrols in the area and Officer Jones has been made aware of the situation.
12. Mr. Novi applauded Mr. Parks and Mr. Peters for their time and energy in helping to bring the Boys and Girls Club to Winnemucca. He said it is a benefit to the community. He also applauded the people who have donated to the project.
13. Mr. Doyle updated the Board on the status of the appeal regarding the denial of coverage on the incident at Winnemucca Jr. High School. The formal appeal (brief) is due Friday, July 31st. Mr. Doyle filed it on Tuesday, July 28th. Dr. Doyle noted that this particular pollution hazard exclusion has been more widely litigated in the past 20-30 years than any other interpretation of exclusions in insurance policies. He said it is amazing the number of pollution hazard cases across the United States that have been litigated. He believes the District has a strong position. 60 days after the brief runs, Pool/Pact will need to set a hearing and, at that hearing, the District will be allowed to present evidence, witnesses and will be allowed to present legal arguments.
14. President Braginton thanked the members of the Boys and Girls Club board and Vince Mendiola for the efforts they have put forward.
15. President Braginton thanked Mr. Doyle for aggressively pursuing the District's appeal to Pool/Pact.

Adjourned 6:47 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright

Ann Miller, Clerk