

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

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of School Trustees was held August 11, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. in the District Office Boardroom.

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

Others in attendance were: Superintendent Dr. Dave Jensen, Asst. Superintendent Dawn Hagness, Director Kelly Novi, Attorney John Doyle, Jennifer Bergenheier, DeAnna Owens, Dorene Kitras Samantha Stine-Humboldt Sun and Secretary Paula Wright.

President Braginton opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: President Braginton noted the omission of a quotation mark on page three, under the First Reading of the Modification of policy 3065.

Mrs. Bengochea moved to approve the July 28, 2015 minutes with the noted correction. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried. Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Deputy abstained.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment – Discussion Only

Superintendent's Report: None

- This has been an incredibly fast summer and we are looking forward to welcoming back students and staff to the 2015-2016 school year.
- Dr. Jensen and Mrs. Deputy were unable to attend the July 28th board meeting. They had the opportunity to attend a fully funded Safety Conference in Las Vegas. They were able to attend a number of sessions, with many of the discussions addressing social media. This topic is timely as we consider the required changes to the bullying/cyberbullying policy.
- We have been working on a number of grant applications that have been made available through the last legislative session. We have been notified of award notices for the Incentive Grant as well as the Focus grant targeting McDermitt. We have submitted the Great Teachers and Leaders Grant, and are currently working on the Victory Grant and will be starting on the Breakfast After the Bell grant shortly. There will be a variety of additional funding opportunities that will be made available and we look to pursue those.
- Thursday, August 6th was the first NASS meeting of the 2015-2016 school year. It was Dr. Jensen's first meeting to chair as the President. They discussed a number of topics including ACT scores, Pay for Performance, Read by Three, Great Teachers and Leaders and Bullying/Cyberbullying.
- One of the discussions at the State Board level is in regards to the overall performance on the ACT. Over 20,000 students participated this year. As a state, the average score was 17.4. A review of ACT scores for Humboldt found an average score of 12.7 at McDermitt with seven students tested and 17.75 with 217 students tested at Lowry High School.
- The next NASS meeting will be held September 3rd and 4th in Las Vegas. As a group, Superintendents will be attending the State Board meeting and then hold their NASS meeting on the 4th. One major topic for the 4th will be on the NEPF. Clark County has developed a model that will be shared and that will be made available to other districts.

- The Lowry single point project is moving along well. The final pour of concrete will happen on Thursday, August 13th. The arch may not be completed by the first day of school; however, crews will be doing their best to complete the project. Dr. Jensen invited board members to swing by and take a look at the project. Dr. Jensen hopes to have a ribbon cutting ceremony on August 25th. Board members are invited to attend.
- On Wednesday, August 12th, we will have training based on the Fierce Conversations training funded through NNRPDP. This will be followed by Administrative a meeting on Thursday, August 13th and extending into Friday if necessary.
- Staff officially return to work with new teacher training on August 26th and all staff returning on the 27th and 28th. Dr. Jensen asked board members to attend if their schedules allowed. “We would enjoy introducing the board members to our new staff members on the 26th.”
- In relation to the Adult Education program, we believe that we have found the ability to modify the existing PASS building, with the support of Judge Montero. This will allow the ability to house the PASS and Adult Education program. As a result, we have removed the facility purchase discussion from the agenda on the upcoming Debt Management Committee on August 25th and will work towards the PASS building modification. Dr. Jensen will provide information gathered in regards to the Winnemucca Blvd. building as part of a regular board agenda item as an FYI only.
- The NASB Conference will be held in Reno on November 20-21, 2015.

Mr. Mendiola asked if the Board could be provided a short presentation of the results of the ACT scores for Humboldt County School District and asked what is done with the information we receive.

Consent Agenda

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants

Mr. Mendiola disclosed that his father’s employer, Donnelly Sporting Goods, is included as a vendor and that he would be abstaining from voting on that particular warrant.

Mr. Hill moved to approve the warrants as presented, with the exception of Donnelly Sporting Goods. Mrs. Deputy seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Hill moved to approve the warrant for Donnelly Sporting Goods as presented. Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Deputy seconded, motion carried. Mr. Mendiola abstained.

Discussion and Possible Action – Review the Board Representative Assignment to the Truancy Board – Bruce Braginton

When the Board initially held their election of officers and committee representatives at their January 13th meeting, they discussed revisiting the Truancy Board Committee representative position prior to the new school year to see if other board members would like the opportunity to serve on the committee. Currently, Mr. Hill and Mrs. Deputy serve on the committee. After a brief discussion, Mr. Hill volunteered to continue serving on the committee and Mrs. Bengochea volunteered to serve for the 2015-16 school year.

Mrs. Miller moved to approve Mrs. Bengochea and Mr. Hill to serve as representatives on the Truancy Board for the 2015-16 school year. Mrs. Deputy seconded, motion carried.

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

Mrs. Hagness reported that the requested changes were made to the policy from the first reading at the July 28th meeting. Mr. Braginton noted a typo and asked that it be corrected.

Mr. Mendiola moved to approve amended policy 3065 as related to E-cigarette and vapor devices as submitted by staff and with the correction stated by Chairman Braginton. Mrs. Bengochea seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action - First Reading to Establish a Grade Acceleration Policy - Dawn Hagness, DeAnna Owens, Dorene Kitras

District procedure has been established for recommendations for a student to be advanced a grade level or advanced in a curricular area. This will allow for consistency across the District.

- A request for possible acceleration may be initiated by a parent, administrator, counselor, teacher or the student himself/herself.
- The site administrator shall be responsible for convening the acceleration committee. The committee will consist of the current teacher, one teacher from the proposed grade level, site level administrator, school psychologist, counselor and the parent/guardian.
- The Iowa Acceleration Scale (IAS) results will be used by the acceleration committee to discuss strengths and potential difficulties for the child being considered for acceleration.
- If acceleration is attempted, a review of progress shall be monitored.
- High school courses taken in the acceleration process may be given full credit and applied toward graduation requirements.

Mrs. Kitras explained how she has implemented the process at her school.

Mrs. Hagness said the policy will be brought back to the Board for a second reading at the August 25th meeting.

Discussion Only – Discussion of SB504 Regarding Prohibiting Bullying and Cyberbullying – Dr. Dave Jensen

Dr. Jensen said the item will also be discussed at the Administrators meeting to be held on Thursday, August 13th to gather feedback. It will be brought back before the Board for a first reading.

SB504 is requiring a significant amount of modifications and changes to our existing policy. Dr. Jensen provided the Board with a copy of current District policy with the modifications and changes noted.

The term “bullying” has been expanded to mean written, verbal or electronic expressions for physical acts or gestures, or any combination thereof, which are directed at a person or group of persons or a single severe and willful act or expression that is directed at a person or group of persons. Examples of bullying are also included in the policy. The gravity of behaviors has become significantly increased. This will require educational training for our staff and students.

Investigation procedures and student discipline have also become more rigorous. Dr. Jensen noted that a teacher may be suspended, dismissed or not re-employed for knowingly and willfully failing to comply with the provisions or for an intentional failure to report a violation. They may also be subject to loss of licensure.

Dr. Jensen said the 17 school districts are working on this policy. They are working on developing some uniform templates and methods outside of the policy. The statute went into effect July 1st.

After meeting with administration to gather feedback on the policy, it will be brought back to the Board for a first reading.

Discussion and Possible Action – Establish Board Goals for 2015-16 – Bruce Braginton

At their July 28th meeting, the Board tentatively established their 2015-16 goals. After some further discussion and minor changes the Board agreed on the following goals for themselves for the 2015-16 school year:

1. Maintain focus on graduation rate
 - a. Fiscal supports to include: math materials for curriculum support K-8, appropriate class size, Advanced Placement (AP), credit remediation/recovery programs, proficiency preparation, and support for late start Thursday's.
 - b. An emphasis on and tracking of the Superintendent's initiatives and associated measures, from Kindergarten through high school, which support and predict graduation rates.

- c. Active participation in and support of the Truancy Court with a commitment that all board members will attend at least one Truancy Board and one Truancy Court Session.
 - d. Support professional development, yet minimize impact on instructional day.
 - i. Attend at least one (1) professional development training for teachers or administrators annually.
2. Engaging our stakeholders more effectively
- a. Each Board member conducts a minimum of three (3) individual site visits per school year
 - i. Attend at least one (1) school staff meeting
 - ii. Have meaningful conversations with students/stakeholders while in a school setting
 - b. Volunteer in a classroom or school event
 - c. Community
 - i. Engage in school/district Parent Advisory Councils
 - ii. A minimum of two (2) Board meetings are scheduled in our rural communities, to include McDermitt and Paradise Valley (schedule in advance- one toward beginning of year other around Spring Break)
3. Professional Development
- a. Ensuring individual professional development which may include: personal reading, district provided readings, and attending NASB offered PD opportunities.
 - b. Providing group professional development opportunities facilitated by external facilitators. In support of these opportunities, Lander and Pershing Board of Trustees will be invited to participate as appropriate.

Mrs. Deputy moved to adopt the 2015-16 Board goals as presented with the edits made. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Review of Superintendent Goals for 2015-16 – Dr. Dave Jensen

Dr. Jensen provided the Board with his Superintendent goals for 2015-16. After a brief discussion and fine tuning, Dr. Jensen committed to the following goals.

- 1) Implement new and improve upon existing supports to increase graduation rates:
 - a. Graduation rates for the 2014 cohort were identified as 78.45%. With changes in graduation requirements, we will annually track and report progress (to include first time End of Course (EOC) pass rates and ACT performance reports) with an expectation that we will exceed 80% for the 2016 cohort, and higher for the 2017 and 2018 cohorts.
 - b. A continuation of “late start Thursdays” with an expanded focus on instruction supporting K-6 writing while providing job embedded professional development aligned with the NVACS across all grade levels.
 - i. As Superintendent, I will attend a minimum of one (1) late start training per month.
 - c. Administrative capacity will be enhanced through structured job-embedded professional development within monthly NEPF/Administrative business meetings.
 - d. Full implementation of the NEPF during the 2015-2016 school year.
 - e. Develop and seek Board approval for a Recruitment and Retention plan to strengthen our ability to identify, place and retain highly effective teachers (individuals – may be ARL) in the classroom.
- 2) Enhance Communication:
 - a. Continue monthly information meetings with leadership of both the HCEA and HCSSO in a proactive manner to ensure ongoing communication and avoid potential areas of concern.
 - b. Hold monthly informal meetings with each principal during the 2015-2016 school year to assess individual needs and necessary supports.

- c. Establish regular “alignment of resources” meetings with admin at least three (3) times annually to ensure school site needs are being effectively met. (Special Education, ELL, Maintenance, Transportation, SPP, Mentoring, etc.)
 - d. Continue to provide a monthly “Superintendent’s Musings” to the Humboldt Sun while also engaging in additional communication avenues as appropriate.
 - e. Provide weekly updates to the Board of Trustees regarding key issues and activities. This will be supplemented through immediate contact for pressing issues.
 - f. Proactively engage staff and community members on key educational issues through the district web site, Facebook, news and media outlets, public appearances, and other forms of communication.
 - i. Ensure the recently updated district website and district Facebook page are updated to provide timely and accurate information.
 - ii. Create an “Ask the Superintendent” link on the district website. Questions of interest will be included for community review and discussion.
 - g. Track the number of volunteers engaged in our school settings as defined through our recently implemented Volunteer Policy.
- 3) Fiscal Responsibility:
- a. Update and distribute the user friendly communication tool for district budgeting.
 - b. Engage the Board of Trustees throughout the negotiations process to ensure the Board is updated regarding proposals.
 - c. Work towards an amicable agreement between all bargaining groups under the direction of the Board of Trustees.
 - d. Effectively oversee and manage bond projects providing prospective projects for the summer of 2016 to the Board of Trustees within established priorities and within budget parameters.
 - e. Ensure a continuation of the newly implemented district provided “on-line charter” option working towards a fully self-sustaining program.
 - f. Provide updated curricular materials to support Eureka Math across the K-8 grade span.
 - g. Facilitate the submission and oversight of various funding opportunities available to the district as a result of the 2015 legislative session. (Contract grant writer?)
 - h. Continue to track and monitor the new food service program (Chartwell’s) increasing student participation while reducing supplemental needs from the general fund.
 - i. Ensure implementation of the Breakfast After the Bell program at McDermitt Combined School.
- 4) Enhance Visibility:
- a. Provide strong leadership and representation of Humboldt County School District through tenure as NASS President, and if appointed, on the Nevada Board of Education.
 - b. As Superintendent, ensure that a site visit to every school in the district occurs at least twice during the 2015-2016.
 - c. As Superintendent, conduct a walk through with the site administrator (as available) in every classroom at least once during the 2015-2016 school year.
 - d. Attend a staff meeting providing an unstructured Q&A opportunity for staff at a minimum of once per month.
 - e. Engage in a lunch at individual school sites once a month and invite parents to participate in a District paid meal with their child.

Mrs. Miller moved to approve the Superintendent goals for 2015-16 with the amendment to item 4e. Mr. Mendiola seconded, motion carried.

Public Comment – Discussion Only

Jennifer Bergenheier told Board members that she was the teacher overseeing the TAG program when the program was cut in 2008. She explained the history of the program and the process she used when qualifying students for the TAG program. She has kept all of the information and materials in regards to the TAG program.

She said that over the last seven years, she was never made aware of students who needed acceleration, nor was she consulted to share information. When she heard of the conversation regarding an acceleration process, she made information available to Mrs. Hagness and Mrs. Owens. She made the recommendation that students being recommended for acceleration also be required to go through the IC process, as are students being recommended for special services.

She said if anyone had any questions regarding the history of the TAG program and how students were considered for the program. She would be happy to answer any questions.

6:30 p.m. Recess

6:40 p.m. Return to session

Discussion Only - Closed Session to Discuss Negotiations Pursuant to NRS 288.220 – Dr. Dave Jensen

6:40 p.m. Mrs. Miller moved to go into a closed session to discuss negotiations pursuant to NRS 288.220. Mrs. Bengochea seconded, motion carried.

7:40 p.m. Mrs. Miller moved to return to open session. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Public Comment – Discussion Only

None

Board Reports/Requests – Information Only/No Action

1. Mrs. Bengochea thanked Mr. Parks, Mr. Connors, Mr. Walton and Mr. Christean for giving her a tour of the single point of entry and grounds at Lowry High School.
2. Mrs. Bengochea thanked Dr. Jensen for including her in the tour of the Winnemucca Blvd. building that the District was considering purchasing.
3. Mrs. Deputy provided Dr. Jensen with a copy of an article entitled “Made in America” from Consumer Reports. The article will be forwarded to all board members via email.
4. Mrs. Deputy jokingly said that she is disappointed school is not beginning on Tuesday, August 25th. School generally begins on her birthday. She will bring cake to the next board meeting.
5. Mrs. Miller asked for an update on how many teacher positions are still vacant. Dr. Jensen said that two special education positions, a preschool position and a 4th grade position is still vacant. There are currently eight long term subs (3 are student teachers) and 6-8 candidates are on “alternative route to licensure”.
6. Mr. Mendiola wanted to clarify a misnomer that he is beginning a Master’s program and is not leaving town.
7. Mr. Mendiola asked that in the future when Board members are given confidential documents they be marked confidential.
8. Mr. Mendiola noted it is great to see we are having some success with recruitment and retention.
9. Mrs. Hagness acknowledged that Jennifer Bergenheier had communicated through email with her and Mrs. Owens in regards to the acceleration policy. She shared documents and provided feedback through the process.
10. Mrs. Hagness thanked Humboldt General Hospital for the use of a conference room for three days. Humboldt General was kind enough to allow the use of a conference room on August 13th. We have approximately 50 teachers taking advantage of Eureka Math training. We will be using their conference room on August 14th and 24th as well. HGH also opened up their conference room for a Writer’s Retreat for HCSD staff on August 4th – 6th. We appreciate their support and use of their facilities.
11. Dr. Jensen invited the Board to visit the Fierce training that will be held on Wednesday, August 12th beginning at 8:30 a.m.

12. Dr. Jensen reported that an Administrative meeting will be held on Thursday, August 13th.
13. Mr. Braginton said he has heard glowing reports about the writer's retreat.
14. Mr. Braginton felt that the board meeting and closed session brought great discussion.
15. Mr. Braginton thanked everyone for their signatures on the NASB nomination awards.

Adjourned 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright

Ann Miller, Clerk