

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

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of School Trustees was held September 8, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. in the District Office Boardroom.

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

Others in attendance were: Superintendent Dr. Dave Jensen, Asst. Superintendent Dawn Hagness, Attorney John Doyle, Samantha Stine-Humboldt Sun, Vickie Cox, Ferol Donalson, Doc Welter, Lynne Dehner and Secretary Paula Wright. Absent: Director Kelly Novi

President Braginton opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: Mr. Hill moved to approve the August 25, 2015 minutes as written. Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried. Mrs. Miller abstained.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment – Discussion Only

None

Superintendent's Report

- On September 3rd, Dr. Jensen attended his first State Board of Education meeting. Superintendent, Dale Erquiaga, attended as his final meeting as the State Superintendent. He will be taking a position with the Governor's office. Deputy Superintendent, Steve Canavero, will serve as interim superintendent until an individual is appointed. The State Board of Education will interview potential candidates and make nominations to the Governor. The Governor will then make the selection.
- At the State Board meeting Dr. Jensen was asked to provide a presentation, on behalf of NASS, on ACT administration. It was well received.
- Following the State Board meeting, Dr. Jensen attended the NASS meeting on September 4th. Several topics were discussed. Two of importance were:
 - The NEPF: Clark County School District provided a preview of the documents they have created. Their evaluation forms are integrated and as administrators conduct an observation, the data that is entered on the form is automatically populated into the final evaluation form. This will be of significant help to administrators. Clark County School District has generously made their forms available to all school districts. We will be working to train staff on the use of the new forms for the upcoming evaluation cycle.
 - The districts discussed the new bullying/cyberbullying policy passed by the Legislature. Because of its complexity, the districts reviewed sample documents from Clark, Douglas and Lyon County. We will also review the forms and work with the administrative team to finalize the process we will be using to be consistent with the statutory requirements.
- The week of August 31st, Dr. Jensen and the Association presidents shared an email with all staff regarding step and column hold, pending a successor contract. This is in relation to SB241. Dr. Jensen said he would be working with both bargaining units to come to a meaningful settlement. Tentative dates to begin negotiations with the certified group have been postponed because of language issues that have arisen out of SB241. The District is currently working with the

association and legal counsel on those issues. The Board will be provided with dates in the closed session.

- The NASB Conference is scheduled for November 19-21, 2015 in Reno. If anyone is interested in attending please let Paula know.

Consent Agenda

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants

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

4:40 p.m. Mrs. Hagness arrived.

Discussion Only – McDermitt Combined Schools Presentation – Doc Welter, Ferol Donalson, Lynne Dehner

Mr. Welter introduced new teachers to McDermitt Combined School, Ferol Donalson and Lynne Dehner.

McDermitt Combined School had the opportunity to receive services from Jack Levine. Mr. Levine is a family advocate, working with state legislatures, cities and other entities to facilitate community building and advocates for persons who are marginalized in a community. Mr. Levine arrived in McDermitt on Saturday, September 5th and worked with staff on activities they had planned for the weekend. He presented to the entire school at an assembly. He then worked with the school, the community and the Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe to engage in conversation. Mr. Welter felt it was very productive.

Mr. Welter then discussed the School Performance Plan for the “New” McDermitt Combined School. Mr. Welter said that he is referring to the school as the “new” McDermitt Combined School because there is a renewed sense of hope on behalf of the community, staff and students.

Mr. Welter asked staff and students what were some of the things they have overheard from other students, staff and in the community about the school. The majority of the comments were negative. Staff was then asked to brainstorm for strategies that can be put into place to assist in moving from the “old terrible school” to a “high performing school”. Three goals were developed; 1) All students will demonstrate increased proficiency in reading by 5%, 2) All students will demonstrate a 5% increased proficiency in math, and 3) All students will have a zero tolerance to bullying and conduct appropriate behavior at all times. To achieve those goals Mr. Welter said several things need to be in place; 1) strong instructional leadership, 2) a safe and orderly environment and 3) a clear and focused mission.

Funding that will be used to provide and support interventions will come from the Focus Grant-\$100,000, the Victory Grant-\$97,000, Title I, Indian Education and Gear-Up Grant-\$55,000.

Mr. Welter is extremely impressed how well his staff is working together. Student academic progress will be measured frequently using Individual Learning Plans and monitored through the Advisory Program. Parents will understand and support the school and be given the opportunity to play an important role in helping the school. There will be a climate of high expectation for success. Teachers will utilize instructional strategies aligned with NEPF standards and indicators. Late start Thursdays will focus on the five NEPF standards.

Mr. Welter noted that students will be rewarded for positive behavior. Poor behavior will not be tolerated and there will be consequences.

Mrs. Donalson spoke of the PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support) program. The PBIS program is a proactive approach to establishing behavioral supports and social culture. Mrs. Donalson

said that PBIS is a critical element for the success of the school. The training team recommended the school select three key elements to focus on. They selected respect, responsibility and safety. A reward system is also being implemented for students who show respect, responsibility and safety.

Mrs. Dehner comes to McDermitt Combined School with experience in the same challenges facing the school. Mrs. Dehner has taught 25 years in schools that are being restructured or low performing. She noted that students begin school behind, struggle to catch up and many do not have the help at home they need. She said that students will learn how to be prepared for class, be on time to class, how to be respectful in class and how much she wants them in class daily. This will allow them the opportunity to see how valuable education is for them.

Dr. Jensen and Mrs. Hagness said they appreciate the passion Mr. Welter and staff has for the work that has already taken place at McDermitt Combined School.

President Braginton noted that he is excited to see the outcome of the foundation that is being set for the school. He asked Mr. Welter what the Board could do for him and the staff at McDermitt.

Mr. Welter said the Board is always supportive and that he would work with Dr. Jensen and Mrs. Hagness for any specific requirements they may need. They currently have good financial supports in place.

Discussion and Possible Action - Second Reading to Establish a Policy Prohibiting Bullying and Cyber-bullying – Dr. Dave Jensen

In response to the first reading of the policy and a recommendation made by Mr. Mendiola to define the word “abuse” noted under definitions, there were two language changes made to the policy. The word “abuse” has been clarified to read “.....require that all persons with differing beliefs be free from (abuse) physical, emotional or mental abuse.” Also, school board members were added to the list of persons requiring appropriate training.

President Braginton also noted two additional typos.

Mrs. Miller moved to approve the policy prohibiting bullying and cyber-bullying as amended. Mrs. Bengochea seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Review of NNRPDP Services to Humboldt County School District for the 2014-2015 and Approval of the RPDP Training Report Pursuant to NRS 391.556 – Dawn Hagness

Postponed

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

5:42 pm Mrs. Miller moved to go into a closed session to discuss negotiations pursuant to NRS 288.220. Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried.

6:40 pm Returned to open session

Public Comment – Discussion Only

None

Board Reports/Requests – Information Only/No Action

1. Mrs. Bengochea sent condolences to Mr. Mendiola and his family for the loss of his grandmother.
✓ Winnemucca Grammar School Open House and book fair will be September 16th.

- ✓ She was very impressed with what Mr. Welter had to say. She is excited to do a walk through in the fall to see how things are going.
- ✓ She asked if the glass hallway doors and the gate at Lowry High School have been repaired. Dr. Jensen said that a locking mechanism had to be ordered for the gate; it should have arrived today and will be installed. The glass hallway door was an electrical issue and Mr. Dudley is working on it.
- 2. Mrs. Miller also offered condolences to Mr. Mendiola.
 - ✓ She appreciates everything going on at McDermitt.
- 3. Mr. Betteridge sent condolences to Mr. Mendiola.
 - ✓ He said he appreciates the visual that Mr. Welter provided. "Changing the atmosphere of a community is pretty hard to do."
- 4. Mr. Hill also expressed condolences to Mr. Mendiola and his family.
 - ✓ Jack Levine communicated well with the community of McDermitt.
 - ✓ Saturday, September 5th, Mr. Hill attended the community get together with Jack Levine and Doc Welter.
 - ✓ Thursday, September 3rd, Mr. Hill visited Kings River's open house with Mrs. Morton.
- 5. Mrs. Hagness apologized for being late to the meeting; they held their first huddle with the ELA facilitators.
 - ✓ She was excited to visit classrooms on the first day of school.
 - ✓ She said she has physically seen the work Mr. Welter and his staff have done. She felt that the photos Mr. Welter had in his presentation to the Board showed the community wanting to come together and that there is some trust that hasn't been there previously. "There are some good things coming."
- 6. Mr. Doyle said he attended the memorial for Sherri Allen. It was very well attended; a very nice send off to a great lady.
- 7. Dr. Jensen expressed his condolences to the Mendiola and Allen families as they go through this tough time.
 - ✓ Read by Three: Dr. Jensen, Mrs. Hagness and Mrs. Owens engaged in a conversation. This legislative bill/statute is currently in effect and will require expenditure of funds on the District's part. Mrs. Owens and Mrs. Hagness will be meeting with elementary principals.
 - ✓ On the first day of school Dr. Jensen visited McDermitt Combined School, the Orovada School and Paradise Valley School.
 - ✓ He will be visiting Kings River and Denio as soon as he can.
- 8. Secretary Wright expressed condolences to the Mendiola and Allen families.
- 9. President Braginton expressed condolences to the Mendiola and Allen families.
 - ✓ He said it was refreshing to hear Mr. Welter's report and the comments from Mrs. Donalson and Mrs. Dehner. He appreciates Mr. Welter's enthusiasm, passion and excitement. He believes a good foundation has been put into place.
 - ✓ He reported that his job will have him in Colorado for the better part of October, so he will miss both board meetings in October.

Adjourned 7:48 pm

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright

Ann Miller, Clerk