

HUMBOLDT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Tuesday, May 8, 2018) - APPROVED

Generated by Judy Kritikos on Wednesday, May 9, 2018

A. Call to Order: the meeting was called to order at 4:332 pm at the Humboldt County School district office.

Board members present were: President Bruce Braginton, Clerk Boyd Betteridge, Nicole Bengochea, Glenda Deputy, Chris Entwistle, John Hill and Dr. Carrie Stringham.

others present were: Superintendent Dr. Dave Jensen, Asst. Superintendent Dawn Hagness, John Doyle, Attorney, DeAnna Owens, Mike Dennis (District Office), Kay Eason (GVE) Pamela Bidart, Todd Milton, Dana Peters, Julia Topholm (LHS), Lisa Evatz (WGS), Josie Warn, Adaya Goldblatt (FBLA), Makayla Leveille, Shelley Leveille (FFA), Bob Dolan, Massey Mayo (Dolan Law); Cindy Paulsen, Jeanette Montero (Project Aware); Becky Coleman, Jennifer Hood, Eric Silva (FCC/FSC); Shanna Cummings (Humboldt Sun); Tom Klein (Consultant); Deanna Eastman, Martha Hesse-Dolan, and Secretary Judy Kritikos.

Procedural: 1. Pledge of Allegiance: President Braginton opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Action, Minutes: 2. Approval of Minutes

Recommended Action: Recommend approval of prior meeting Minutes. The Board Retreat Minutes will be presented at the next meeting.

Mr. Braginton noted a typo in Item 3. Approval to Submit the School Social Worker's Continuation Grant Application item. "wiht" was corrected to with. **Mr. Hill moved to approve the 4/24/18 Board meeting minutes as amended. Ms. Bengochea seconded, motion carried.**

Information: 3. Correspondence: None

B. Public Comment

Procedural: 1. Public Comment Guidelines

- Becky Coleman, Executive Director of the Family Support Center (FSC), addressed the Board. She was sorry our Board was unable to tour their office, and provided the Board with a handout about Project AWARE at FSC. Ms. Deputy stated she would like to see a presentation by FSC on how they will sustain the program.
- Bob Dolan, Dolan Law, addressed the Board. He stated that he saw a picture of students who he feels aren't showing due respect to the flag during the Pledge. His examples were hats still being worn, hands not over their hearts and talking during the Pledge.

C. Superintendent's Report

Information: 1. Activity Report

- As we enter Teacher Appreciation week, Dr. Jensen expressed his appreciation for each of our certified staff, for their dedication and service to the students of Humboldt County.
- Last week, Dr. Jensen attended a NASS meeting on 5/2/18 and spent nearly a day with Dr. Canavero, State Superintendent, discussing the upcoming legislation session and school funding. Studies are being done on weighted funding formulas, yet the group emphasized the importance of considering not just the weights, but to also consider base funding across the state. At the meeting, they also discussed an iNVEST document with potential political candidates. After the election, the document will be refined to include specifics for all 17 districts. During that meeting, the Clark County School Board selected Dr. Jesus Jara, Dept Superintendent in Orange County, FL, as their new Superintendent. As part of the meeting, next year's NASS meetings have been scheduled. We have been asked to host the NASS meeting on 8/2/18. Dr. Jensen will reach out to

Newmont and Barrick for tours of their facility that day. At the meeting, Dr. Jensen was asked, but declined to serve another year on the State Board of Education.

- On 5/3/18, Dr. Jensen attended the first 25-member School Safety task Force meeting. Dr. Jensen represents the rural districts, while Traci Davis (Washoe) represents Washoe and Clark. They made the following recommendations: (1) Funding to enhance the number of School Resource Officers, (2) Expansion opportunities to implement school-based mental health services, and (3) Funding to expand security - cameras, ID systems, perimeter fencing, etc. The next meeting will be 7/13/18.
- On 5/4/18, Dr. Jensen participated in a 2-hour video conference with the Cuningham group regarding the facility study. They will share their information in a presentation to the Board on 6/26/18.
- The annual Insurance Committee meeting will be held on 5/9/18, and a report will be provided to the Board.
- Dr. Jensen reminded the Board of the 5/16/18 Staff Recognition Banquet, to be held at the B&G Club, social begins at 5:30, and the program starts at 6:00 pm
- In closing, Dr. Jensen wished all the mothers working in the district a wonderful Mother's Day this coming Sunday, 5/13/18.

D. Celebrations: **Kay Eason.** Dr. Jensen read a letter from DeAnna Owens about Ms. Eason. Kay Eason is a speech pathologist working with Pre-K students at GVE. She has mentored new speech pathologists, and currently reviews services provided by other pathologists in our district. She has a unique way of identifying a problem, stepping in and finding a resolution to the issue. Kay intended on retiring last year; However, when a new employee needed a speech and language pathologist to oversee her internship, she delayed her retirement by a year to support that employee. It is obvious from everyone know knows and works with Kay that she loves her profession. Dr. Jensen stated that he was impressed with Kay's passion, if a student needs support, Kay is there. He finds her thoughtful, dedicated and it's been a privilege having her in our district.

E. Consent Agenda

Action (Consent): 1. Approval of Warrants

Action (Consent): 2. Approval of 3 Field Trips: FBLA, FFA and LHS Student Leadership

Recommended Action: Approve 2 field trip requests

Having no conflicts on the warrants, and all pertinent information on the field trips being provided, there was no conversation on either item. **Mr. Hill moved to approve the consent agenda as presented consisting of the warrants and the three field trips. Mr. Entwistle seconded, motion carried.**

F. Discussion and Possible Action Items

Discussion: 1. First Reading of Library General Policy

Pam Bidart, Lead Librarian working at LHS, addressed the Board on the policy. In discussions with Pam on policies, the district has never had anything specific to the libraries, and areas that Pam knows and handles. She asked to spearhead the process to develop a model policy, and is now ready to provide the policy to the Board for their first review. In creating the policy, she met with the Humboldt County public librarian and reviewed their policy and others, and set up the framework, keeping it very general. She believes in giving students a variety of reading materials so that all students can find something that interests them. Pam does want all the school librarians to be on the same page, even if each school operates a little differently. A meeting is scheduled for 5/22/18 to discuss the policies, yet she wants each school to have autonomy on how they deal with books at their site. At LHS, Pam tries to get books into the hands of kids and instilling the love of reading, which is her ideal for all of our schools.

Mr. Betteridge asked how many students actually check out books, given the internet, phones, downloading of materials. LHS has 920 students, carries about 1,600 titles and 1,852 books have been checked out this year. There are some "regulars" who come in all the time, and would hate to see books go away. English teachers have students use books from the library - encyclopedias, historical books, etc. Ms. Bengochea stated that libraries are now being turned into media centers, so books are still there, but the space is used for more collaboration, cluster areas. Ms. Bidart has also researched these changes and found our public library is making changes as well - adding video, downloading

books, etc., as well as the B&G club. Staffing is a concern as well - having English teachers asking for a lab with a full time person there to help students write papers. There are other labs, but none in this area. Having books in the hand at the elementary level is important, yet the higher grades need more modern technology, a fast, working internet, teaching library skills with more fun interactive game-based digital learning. Dr. Jensen thanked Ms. Bidart for her input and looks forward to any changes that may come from the meeting on the 22nd.

Action, Discussion: 2. Proposal to Restructure Project Aware for the 2018-2019 School Year Working Towards the Development and Implementation of a School-Based (S-B) Mental Health System.
Recommended Action: That the Board Approve the Proposal to Restructure Project Aware Establishing a School Based Mental Health System as Presented.

Dr. Jensen was excited to see our FSC partners in the audience. As a reminder, we were one of the few districts who received Project AWARE monies through a five-year grant. We are entering the fifth year/final year of funding, and looking for alternative means of funding. The District and FSC are working very hard on this as well, to serve the needs of the 3,500 students we serve, not in isolation, but in partnership with FSC. The Board has made a concerted effort to show that we want to be prepared to meet the need of every student. No other district can state that almost all of their staff are trained in Youth Mental Illness. Mental health challenges lead to student suicides and findings show a growing correlation with recent school shootings. The Parkland, FL shooting has lead to a national conversation on the issue of mental health and the role schools play in providing this service. This is why the #2 ask on the School Safety Task Force is more support for mental health services in schools. We are fortunate to have three grant-funded social workers in our district, though not fully funded. The question we now prepare to ask is - what do we do now that Project AWARE is ending, what is the sustainability model for both the district and FSC? FSC provides services that HCSD can't - such as specific family counseling. Other areas are drug/alcohol issues and suicide intervention/prevention at the Tier III level. We need to rethink how we're dealing with Project Aware in this final year of the program. Having Mike Dennis transition back to a teaching position gives us a one year opportunity to see what the District can do to focus on mental health services, expand communication, and continue the relationships we have in place.

Dr. Jensen proposed using the fifth year fund monies to consider introducing a School Based mental health program. Most children, even those with insurance, don't access community services, and many are limited to School Based services. Using School Based services reduces the stigma associated with seeking mental health services, and leads to improved behavior, learning and social outcomes in schools. Statistics indicate that 20% of American youth between the ages of 5-18 are dealing with some form of mental health issues. Looking at the roughly 3,500 students in HCSD, 20% means @700 students. We ask our counselors to carry a heavy burden, in addition to coordinating scheduling and testing, we ask them to assume some responsibility for the mental health component of our youth. If this statistic holds true, are we doing everything we can to help our students get those services? We are very fortunate to be able to refer a lot of students to FSC. We categorize students into three tier system: Tier 1, about 80% of students are in this group, and primarily served in the classroom, and PBIS works very well with this group. Tier 2, about 15% of students, require small group assistance, ie. counselors, social workers, and sometimes the school psychologists become involved. Tier 3, about 5% of students, intensive therapy needs, and where we rely heavily on FSC for assistance.

Focusing on Tier 3, under the proposal, it allows us to focus more on crisis response, re-entry planning, and addressing the question of what are we doing with our supports to help these be successful in the classroom. The plan coordinates wraparound services, and we would continue to rely on FSC and outside services for supports that district cannot provide. The proposed model would have a School Based Therapist who would oversee the final year of the project, deliver services at school sites, coordinate district-wide health services, establish and enhance community-wide partnerships with FSC and others, and work to establish/enhance Medicaid billing. As stated, the District cannot operate in isolation, and the continuation of partnerships is critical. Ms. Bengochea indicated the Medicaid billing is labor intensive and takes much time. Dr. Jensen stated that currently, our Medicaid billing is low enough that it's not a huge consideration at this time, but we are looking into it to determine feasibility of this task. We are looking at grant funding and other opportunities for sustainability of the program when the Project AWARE funds end. There may be an opportunity to reapply for the grant, but not immediately.

Dr. Jensen then reviewed the proposed structure for the School Based Mental Health Specialist - reporting and flow of communication. Ms. Bengochea asked what our legal liabilities might be with regard to having in-house services, who would have access to the records. Dr. Jensen stated there would be parental authorization to share information, noting that therapeutic interventions in isolation, without following your child back to the classroom may not be beneficial to your child, but that would be between the parent and the therapist. One of the things we're trying to put into place is readily available supports for all children from the therapeutic process back to the classroom. If we don't share that information, it's difficult for the teacher to provide the intervention. At the same time, we would honor FERPA, Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act. Between the therapist and the parent, they would be able to share certain information that would help the teacher and the student in the classroom. Over the last year, we've worked on ways to communicate back and forth, but the level of communication isn't quite at the level we would like it to be, not for a lack of trying. We ask ourselves if we are satisfied with the level of services we're providing in HCSD, and could we do better, and Dr. Jensen believes we could do better. Mr. Milton stated he felt there is very open communication with FSC. When he's called their office, they've been there within an hour's time, and has open communication with him/Dana and their students. If it goes beyond that, he speaks to the parent, and any information given to the teachers is with the permission of the parents. Working with kids in the classrooms/schools is where the funding is needed. They've been asking for another counselor at the high school, as there are 1,000 students and two counselors, and the WJHS has almost 500 students with one counselor. He doesn't understand why the district office needs to know what is happening in the counselor's office, confidentiality is key to ensuring they are helping the kids. The more trust the students have, the more forthcoming the student will be. He feels we need to be funding in the classroom and schools and trying to get more people there. With all the other duties they have, the responsibility of counseling over 500 students is daunting. Dr. Jensen stated that after four years in the program, the relationships/lines of communication are built. Under the proposal, we're shifting that from FSC to the district. It's a new person, but the structure stays the same, just a different point of contact would be an HCSD employee rather than an FSC employee. Regarding the family dynamic, Dr. Jensen was very clear in that the HCSD doesn't have the capacity. This proposal isn't designed to deal with the family dynamic piece, and the partnership with FSC will continue so these referrals will still be made. In regards to liability, Dr. Jensen stated that ultimately as an agency, we always assume a measure of liability.

Ms. Montero's position is funded by this grant and when the funding ends next year, funding for that position ends. If the District chooses to take no action on this and not bring in a Mental Health Specialist, Dr. Jensen asked FSC if they are comfortable with the sustainability model they have. What will that mean for FSC with the loss of those funds - will they be able to continue to provide the level of support they provide now. Ms. Coleman stated she has 100% confidence they will be able to do so. Dr. Jensen asked what that was based on, and Ms. Coleman stated there were several ways - internal strategic planning; becoming Medicaid providers this summer opening up billing for some students, but based on their current data, only 15% have this coverage, 29% have private insurance and 7% have no insurance. For those with no insurance, they have started fundraising and engaging with the community. There are grants available, and she has six grants on her desk due by June, and almost all could serve Project AWARE students. They have started their plan on how to absorb the positions when the project AWARE funds end, and have a relationship with Frontier Community Coalition, who currently funds Jennifer Hood's position. Ms. Coleman has no anxiety of not being able to serve the kids, either by FSC or referrals that they make. Hearing from the counselors that they are understaffed and could use additional help, Dr. Jensen posed the question - if he could bring in another body that could provide therapeutic resources to HCSD students, how is that not beneficial to the county? A question was offered in response - would it be more cost effective to hire more counselors and then absorb them, since one more counselor couldn't serve 1,000 students. Dr. Jensen stated the grant is very specific on how the grant funds are to be used, and under the proposal, the sustainability shows the District must assume some burden for grant money. We can write a grant for funds, but he's yet to find a grant for a school-based counselor, and general funds would be needed, which the Board could approve. Based on the proposal, the proposed position would handle the grant paperwork as well as being the key contact for the counselors. Mr. Milton stated that he wants to serve all the student in our district. It's not about the Level III, but Level I and Level II becoming level III. If we're doing things correctly in the

classroom, in schools, we don't have the student that's built anger and frustration so when they reach the Jr High they feel lost, and in High school they pretty much give up. We need people in the schools to handle these lower tier things, we can cut down the Level III issues. Mr. Braginton stated that everything he's heard is that early intervention and identification is the right thing to do. He clearly hears how the counselors are overloaded and a lot of demands are on them. The conundrum is the funding for Project AWARE doesn't allow us to divert funds for those counselor positions. Ms. Bengochea asked what the funds could be used for. Mike Dennis said the funds can be used for current salaries, but weren't designed for school counseling positions. His position is paid, but can't take his position and convert to two counselors unless they coordinate the grant, reporting, etc. Mike then discussed the budget and how funds were reduced last year, and what the upcoming year's budget is. The funds for the final year are 95% certain to come through, but the actual amount is not confirmed. Even with the funds being received, the issue remains what to do with Mike's soon-to-be vacant position, given the limits set forth in the grant. Mr. Doyle and Mr. Dolan addressed the Board on several legal issues raised, such as HIPAA and FERPA.

Massey Mayo addressed the Board, explaining her position as an attorney at Dolan law, representing children in Pershing/Humboldt counties. She doesn't believe that changing the structure won't have an affect on the children. Many don't trust the District, live in chaotic conditions, and don't want to go to the district for help where they haven't been sending their kids, going before the Truancy Board. They may not put education as a priority because food, transportation, getting off drugs are what occupies their time. Shifting the Tier III need to the school district will have impacts that are difficult to understand at this point. She uses project AWARE at least once a week, and there is an entire system working in the background and the Board needs to know that. The school district needs to find a way to continue and sustain the FSC. They deal with food, suicide prevention, domestic violence center, trauma assessments, and she didn't feel one position in the district will be able to create this one-stop-shop for the families. She realizes the district is here to serve the students, but there are so many more things other than education, that are needed for the families to function. There may be competing interests as the District is to serve the needs of the teachers and students and educational priorities, but may not be the agenda the therapist will have when working with a Tier III student. She challenged the idea that kids being pulled out of class for a service and returned to class will have less stigma than going to FSC outside of school. It takes a village to work on all of these issues, and the only agency in this town that can be the village leader is FSC. Dr. Jensen thanked Ms. Mayo for her passion and her articulation of the issue. He recounted two cases where students needed Tier III level services, but didn't want to do it outside of school, because of their own perceived stigma of going somewhere else. No system is perfect for all students and families, we just have to figure out whichever direction we go into, it serves every child. Every child needs something a little bit different, and how do we ensure they're all served. If we never see another suicide in this county, we'll consider this a success, and how that's accomplished is open for discussion. Ms. Mayo stated that she feels the families aren't educated, feel shame, and asking the school for help is the last thing they want to do. Ms. Bengochea asked if Ms. Montero sees students at the District, and Dr. Jensen confirmed she does, and under this model, that would continue.

Mr. Hill stated he thought given that with one year funding left, and the great need for counselors, perhaps that is the way to go, especially for elementary students. Dr. Jensen stated that we have PBIS, which addresses the Tier I issues. Ms. Bengochea stated that even with PBIS, we can do all the reports, etc., but it is not working and we really need to work a lot more on this rather than other things. Ms. Deputy expressed her concern about liability - and this new position would be responsible for grant paperwork, and responsible for 5% of the students, but she didn't feel we'd get a mental health specialist to fill this position. If we can't fill the position, does this mean no one will do the paperwork? Dr. Jensen said it's difficult to answer the question since we haven't advertised for the person. Mr. Entwistle felt offering this salary for one year was very uncertain. Dr. Stringham stated this is a proposal, there's been a lot of input and she felt we needed to step back and think more about it, and take no action at this time. Mr. Hill wanted Mr. Doyle to look into the legalities. Mr. Braginton stated he had the sense that the Board didn't feel a solution has been presented and they are not ready to take action. Mr. Entwistle feels that a Tier III Mental Health Specialist is a bad idea. We have a system that works, and pulling students out of class to meet with the Specialist will cause more stigma to the students. The money could be better spent, given the grant funds end at the end of the year, using the money for two counselors or a social worker makes more sense. Mr. Braginton stated we still have the

issue of using the funds and meeting the reporting requirements. Mr. Dennis stated they have a conference call on 5/20/18 with the Federal project officer in Washington, and he can ask if the funds can be spent elsewhere and how it can be spent. Dr. Jensen stated his proposal is based on solving two issues: get a coordinator and provide mental health services. There may be other options so the Board will not take any action at this time.

The Board took a break at 6:45 pm.

The Board returned at 6:57 pm.

Discussion: 3. Annual Superintendent Goal Review for the 2017-2018 School Year

Dr. Jensen referred to two documents Goals & Objectives, and the Goal tracking sheet. Referring to the next item #4, that document will be sent/addressed shortly. There is an on-line program where the Board can access at any time, see each goal and the progress or completion of that item. Dr. Jensen then went item by item, advising the status of each one.

Discussion: 4. Distribution and Review of the Superintendent Evaluation Matrix

Dr. Jensen reviewed the document and will send the board a copy of the document to each Board member tomorrow, requesting it be returned by 5/18/18, and will be heard at the 5/22/18 meeting.

Discussion, Procedural: 5. Distribution and Review of the Annual Board Self Evaluation Template

Dr. Jensen reviewed the template, asked them to send it to him with their name on it. He will process it and show the Board how they scored themselves this year, compared to previous years, to see how they have done, and help in planning their upcoming goals. The Board agreed to return it by 5/18/18.

Action, Discussion: 6. Board Assignments for Graduations

Recommended Action: That the board identify which members will attend the various graduation ceremonies for the close of the 2017-2018 school year.

The Board reviewed the dates/times/locations of each ceremony and provided the events they would be able to attend. The finalized document will be attached to these Minutes.

G. Public Comment: None

Procedural: 1. Public Comment Guidelines

H. Board Reports

Information: 1. Board Reports

- Mr. Hill wished everyone a Happy Mother's day this coming Sunday.
- Mr. Betteridge wished the same, and appreciated tonight's discussion on mental health, there was a lot of information presented.
- Mr. Entwistle also wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day; Congratulated Kay Eason on her celebration tonight; Congratulated Rhonda Stevenson on being appointed the new Dean at WGS; He congratulated Melanie Thurmond as Varsity girls basketball coach, and Lynnsey Johnson as the girls JV basketball team coach.
- Ms. Deputy reminded everyone of the Memorial Day breakfast at Paradise Valley on 5/27/18 and stated there would be a celebration at the cemetery at 11:00 am.
- Ms. Bengochea wished the same; thanked all the teachers during Teacher's Appreciation week; She congratulated Melanie and Lynnsey.
- Mr. Doyle wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day.
- Ms. Hagness stated she had submitted a Senate Bill 200 Science Grant for \$53,000; She thanked all the teachers during this Teacher Appreciation week.
- Dr. Jensen reminded the Board to submit their PERS paperwork. He will be talking to the PERS attorney later this week; He thanked everyone for their conversation tonight on the FSC/mental health topic.
- Mr. Braginton wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day and thanked all our teachers for all that they do.

I. Adjournment

Action: 1. Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.

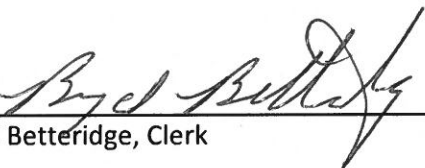
J. Notice

Information: 1. Notice to Persons with Disabilities

K. Postings

Procedural: 1. Public Posting of Agenda

Submitted by Secretary, Judy Kritikos


Boyd Betteridge, Clerk

