

HUMBOLDT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Tuesday, July 24, 2018) - APPROVED

Generated by Judy Kritikos on Wednesday, July 25, 2018

A. Call to Order: the meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm at the Humboldt County School District office.

Board members present were: President Bruce Braginton, Clerk Boyd Betteridge, Nicole Bengochea, Glenda Deputy, Chris Entwistle and John Hill. Absent was: Dr. Carrie Stringham
Others present were: Superintendent Dr. Dave Jensen, Asst. Superintendent Dawn Hagness, John Doyle, Attorney, 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.

Ms. Deputy noted a typo showing "Ms. Betteridge", which should be "Mr. Betteridge" when approving the Final Amended/Augmented Budget.

Ms. Deputy moved to accept the 6/26/18 Minutes as corrected. Ms. Bengochea seconded; motion carried.

Information: 3. Correspondence

President Braginton had previously received a letter to the Board written by Pam Braginton and Gail Janhunen dated 6/7/18, which he read to the Board, and a copy has been attached.

B. Public Comment

Procedural: 1. Public Comment Guidelines

C. Superintendent's Report

Information: 1. Activity Report

- During the second week of July, Dr. Jensen attended the AASA advocacy conference in Washington DC. While there, Executive Director Dan Domenech provided an annual report to the group. One clear area of focus, as defined in goals, is Equity. Equity is when every student has what they need to succeed.
- The District will engage in an Equity Analysis of the district (at no cost) to assist us as we evaluate equity. Though we have assumptions regarding equity, the value of an outside entity conducting a review is beneficial.
- We had a presentation from an attorney regarding Transgender issues. Simply put, no simple answers. With the President removing the Obama Administration "dear colleague" letter (guidance) on this issue, the SCOTUS denied to hear a case (Gloucester County SB v G.G.) and remanded it back to 4th circuit.
- School safety was a major topic. Consistent with our discussions, focus was on Mental Health, SRO's and Infrastructure.
- Teacher Shortage issues were also discussed. 69% of teachers report being not-engaged or disengaged, while 46% report high daily stress. In addition, among professional groups, teachers are the least likely to believe that their opinions count.
- Top 5 reasons teachers report leaving the profession: 1) Career advancement opportunities (not just administrative, but teacher leadership opportunities), 2) pay and benefits, 3) Lack of fit to job, 4) principal or supervisor, 5) school district and culture. With a national shortage of 112,000 teachers, this creates a major national issue.
- On 7/4/18, Dr. Jensen spent time on Capitol Hill meeting with Nevada's legislators. Discussions centered on five primary topics: 1) Appropriations, 2) Higher Ed (Prosper Act) - would remove teacher incentives, 3) CTE, 4) Medicaid, and 5) School Safety and Infrastructure
- On 7/5/18, the governing board met to report on regional discussions on the issues of 1) student data, 2) teacher shortages, 3) school safety and 4) recommendations to support rural school superintendents.
- On 7/6/18, Dr. Jensen attended the School Safety Task Force in Carson City, where they finalized the "Initial Report", copy was provided to each board member, that outlines the work to date. Dr. Jensen also worked on

the "Infrastructure Subcommittee" and reported the group had 7 recommendations centering around funding needs for SRO's, Mental Health and Infrastructure.

- The next meeting is August 27th in Carson City, which is a conflict as HCSD students return to school on that date.
- Dr. Jensen thanked Amy Nelson and Sara Braun for their work submitting an application under a Diesel Emissions grant application that may provide up to \$80,000 each for the replacement of two of our old buses. These buses would be taken out of circulation as we accept the grant supported buses, should we opt to proceed.
- On 7/19/18, Dr. Jensen attended the State Board of Education meeting. Particular items include:
 - ACT cut scores for federal reporting were approved at 17 for ELA and 20 for Math. NSHE college readiness utilize 18 for English and 22 for Math as college readiness.
 - Tesla provided a presentation in which the first \$1.5mm of their commitment to public education was released. Dr. Jensen asked the representative why no rural districts or agencies received any funds, and asked how we engage in opportunities to support our instruction in areas that are of interest to Tesla. In response to this inquiry and the follow up e-mail, Dr. Jensen and Mr. Parks engaged in a phone conversation with Chris, the Education Contact for Tesla, and are currently exploring options to support the work that LHS will be implementing with the PLTW Engineering course for all Freshman.
- Today, Dr. Jensen met with Max Hershenow and Jon Burhans regarding current district work. As an update:
 - We are out of time to move forward on the electrical project, budgeted at \$450,000 this summer. As a result, we will be shifting this to next summer.
 - This will put the project behind as the HVAC part is @1.4 million dollars. As such, we may want to consider a new bond to address some major key projects to expedite our work. This should be a discussion point during our retreat on facilities.
 - FFMS EFFIS will also be rebid next summer, and propose splitting it into three projects: EFFIS (will go to bid as over \$100,000), Painting and CMU work (both under \$100,000). We propose going out to bid on these projects in December with the hope to award in January to expedite and better understand cost points.
 - Current projects are in progress. SHES Kindergarten Playground will most likely be completed by the start of school. However, WGS will not be completed in time. We will begin to work with Mr. Reynolds to plan alternative school entrance routes pending completion.
 - We are moving forward with the District Office Single Point. A copy of the anticipated timeline and preliminary drawings was provided to the Board, and anticipate the project will be under \$100,000.00 and completed by November 2018.
 - The playground at McDermitt has been installed and looks great! Dr. Jensen posted pictures on our Facebook Page.
 - While in McDermitt, a location was selected for the placement of the Greenhouse, and we are moving forward with the installation, thanks to partners providing up to \$40,000 in funds.
- Today, official notice was received that the E.L. Wiegand Foundation awarded \$37,000 to Paradise Valley School in support of classroom equipment and playground equipment. We appreciate their support!
- August 11th is the Boys and Girls Club Golf and Dinner event. This is one of the prime fund raisers of the Club. If the Board wishes to attend, let Dr. Jensen know and he can provide information on tickets.
- August 1st, many of the superintendents from the state will arrive in Winnemucca. That afternoon, Newmont is sponsoring a mine tour and that evening, Newmont and Barrick are sponsoring a dinner at the Martin. The following day (August 2nd) the monthly NASS meeting will be held in the board room from 9 am to 12 pm.
- All administrators are scheduled to return to work on August 6th, with a full day Admin trainings on both the 6th and 7th. The Board was invited to attend.
- New teachers report back on August 22nd, all teachers back on the 23rd, and the first day of school is August 27th.
- In terms of staffing, most positions have been filled; however, we have a number of critical positions that have not yet been filled. Both SHES and LHS have counselor vacancies, McDermitt has an English vacancy and two vacancies in the SpEd department. We also anticipate an additional retirement shortly, creating an additional vacancy.
- In closing, Dr. Jensen expressed his sincere thank you and appreciation to Bruce Braginton and Carrie Stringham for their service to the students and staff of HCSD. Their departure will be greatly missed and is compounded with the rapid closure of John Hill's tenure on the board. Their seats will be hard to fill and their impact on the district will not be forgotten.

D. Celebrations: None

E. Consent Agenda

Action (Consent): 1. Approval of Warrants

A short discussion was held about the VOIP invoice as well as the Kings River well testing.

Mr. Hill moved to accept the warrants as presented. Mr. Betteridge seconded; motion carried.

Action (Consent): 2. Approval of Consent Agenda

Recommended Action: Recommend approval of consent agenda items as presented.

F. Discussion and Possible Action Items

Action, Discussion: 1. Discussion Regarding Potential Refinancing of 2009 Bond Potentially Reducing Interest Payments

Recommended Action: That the Board Consider Exploring the Option of Refinancing the 2009 Bond Potentially Reducing Interest Payments and More Effectively Utilizing Tax Payer Revenues.

Dr. Jensen provided a handout with information on potential annual savings should the Board decide to refinance the remaining balance on the Bond. Approximately \$87,000 could be realized if the interest rates remain somewhat low. The Board discussed the savings, possibility of interest rates changing, and the Board determined they were interested in this savings. In October, the Board will revisit this issue and if the rates are low enough to realize a significant savings, they will take action at that time. Under our current agreement, the beginning of the new year is the soonest the district could consider a refinance opportunity.

Action: 2. Discussion Regarding Intercom and Safety Functions Available through AudioEnhancement and Recommendation to Implement a Pilot at WJHS

Recommended Action: That the board engage in conversation regarding addressing components of the school safety assessment and approve the implementation of a pilot system utilizing bond funds.

The District reviewed proposals from a few companies, and found none had systems that were as robust or ease of use as AudioEnhancement. The Board was provided with a handout from Audio Enhancement with options for three levels of Systems. Each higher option included more sophisticated safety features. Option #1: intercom only. Our intercom systems are failing at LHS, WJHS and SHE, and are in dire need of a working system. Option #2: incorporates the safety component where the teacher can press a buzzer/button, sending a notification to the office, police, etc., that help is needed in that room. Option #3: incorporates cameras in the rooms. If there is a situation, the teacher hits the safety button, and the camera then begins recording. The camera does not record until the teacher presses the button in a situation where recording is needed. It was acknowledged that LHS should be considered for one of the options soon. Dr. Jensen asked the Board to consider WHJS as a pilot for Option 3, which includes all of the safety measures. The work could be done in about 1.5 months. Dr Jensen recommended the Board consider Option 2 for LHS. Dr. Jensen would speak with Mr. Parks, providing the information to him as they work together on whether this would be viable at LHS. Should LHS agree and work moved forward with the installation, Dr. Jensen would have Mr. Novi and Mr. Parks back to present their assessment and opinions on how the systems have worked at the school sites. Pricing was discussed for each of the options at each of the schools. Consideration for LHS will be brought back to the board on August 14th.

Ms. Bengochea moved to approve the installation of Option 3 of the Intercom/Safety System as a Pilot at WJHS. Mr. Hill seconded; motion carried.

Action: 3. Approval of Preliminary State and Federal Grant Submissions for the 2018-2019 School Year
Recommended Action: That the Board of Trustees authorize submission of currently identified state and federal grant applications for the 2018-2019 school year.

A list of the anticipated FY18-19 grant applications was given to the Board for their review. Rather than coming to the board over the next year for one or a few requests to submit grant applications, Dr. Jensen asked the Board to consider approving all grants indicated so submission could proceed forward over this upcoming year. Should new grants come available, the District will let the Board know. At this point, the District has received approximately \$3.6mm in state grants and \$3.4mm in federal grants, for an overall total of \$7.00mm.

Mr. Entwistle moved to approve the submission of the grants indicated. Mr. Hill seconded; motion carried.

Action, Discussion: 4. Discussion Regarding Filling Board Vacancies For Currently Identified Vacancies
Recommended Action: That the board review, discuss and authorize the process to solicit, interview and select board trustee appointments.

Dr. Jensen reminded the Board that there have been two Board resignations, Mr. Braginton and Dr. Stringham, and one termed out member, Mr. Hill. Mr. Braginton's last day is 8/29/18, and Dr. Stringham's last day is 8/14/18. Mr. Hill's term continues until 12/31/18. Potential candidates have come forward expressing interest in the Braginton/Stringham seats. To date yet, no one submitted documents to run for Mr. Hill's seat, nor has anyone expressed any interest in being appointed to that seat. The Board discussed the upcoming timelines for filling these positions. Advertisements will be in the newspaper on 8/4, 8/8 and 8/11/18. Letters of interest to the District will be due 8/17/18. Review candidates and scheduling of interviews will be 8/20/18. Interviews of candidates will be 8/28/18 and the Board will make their selection the same night at the Board meeting. As the NASB meeting is in Las Vegas on 11/16-17/18, new member orientation would take place 11/15/18 so the new member(s) would be able to attend the conference. The Board agreed with the recommendation. No motion/vote was required.

G. Public Comment: None

Procedural: 1. Public Comment Guidelines

H. Board Reports

Information: 1. Board Reports

- Mr. Entwistle reiterated Dr. Jensen's best wishes to Mr. Braginton and Dr. Stringham, thanked them for their work on the Board, and wished them both well in their future endeavors.
- Mr. Betteridge noticed the last two years there were teacher appreciation days, but are no longer held. Dr. Jensen stated this was a contractual issue. There are only two paid staff work days and to take one of them away for the celebration means they would have one less prep day.
- Ms. Deputy saw a post on FB: F.A.I.L.... "First Attempt in Learning". Ms. Deputy reported that Dr. Dotty Merrill is resigning her position of Executive Director of NASB, effective 12/31/18, but has indicated she would stay a while longer to help train her replacement.
- Ms. Hagness said a portion of the teacher signing bonus will be given to newly hired certified staff just after school resumes should they attend PD sessions prior to their first contract day. A number of staff may be on summer break yet still working, attending various conferences and trainings in Seattle, Phoenix, San Diego, Las Vegas, and Keystone, Colorado.

I. Adjournment: President Braginton adjourned the meeting at 6:11 pm

Action: 1. Meeting Adjourned

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