

HUMBOLDT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Tuesday, April 23, 2019)-APPROVED

Generated by Judy Kritikos on Wednesday, April 24, 2019

A. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:34 pm on Tuesday, April 23, 2019, at the Humboldt County School District Office.

Board members present were: President Glenda Deputy, Vice President Nicole Bengochea (left meeting at 5:40 pm), Clerk Boyd Betteridge, Chris Entwistle, Abe Swensen and Sabrina Uhlmann.

Board members absent were: Andy Heiser.

Others present were: Lisa Scott, Ray Parks, Dustin Christean (LHS); Taylie Hoyt, Mickenzy Coleman, Sierra Fears, Alison Aitken, Brett Ferraro, LHS FFA); Crystal Nelson, Ashley Meadows, Katie Kottke, Jennifer Bergenheier (GVES); Nikki Bengochea, Larry Renteria (SHES); Robert Lindsay (FFMS/PVES); Jonathan Reynolds (WGS); Michelle Cook (H-Sun); Supt. Dave Jensen, Asst. Supt. Dawn Hagness, Attorney John Doyle and Secretary Judy Kritikos.

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

Information: 2. Correspondence President Deputy stated she had received her invite to the Staff Recognition event on Thursday, 5/16/19.

B. Public Comment

Procedural: 1. Public Comment Guidelines

Nikki Bengochea, teacher at SHE, addressed the Board regarding the previous Board meeting, comments made there and in the newspaper, regarding bullying and reporting. She wanted the Board to realize that she and the teachers understand that students, parents, teachers, etc., all want students to feel safe and be safe. She'd like to Board to know what they probably aren't hearing - the teacher's perspective. Times are very different now and teachers often deal daily with hundreds of "tattles" and conflicts. They do their best, often taking a minute or two to step outside the room and have a short conversation with the student, giving them mini-lessons. With their regular teaching duties and the numerous little events that take place between students all day every day, there isn't a lot of time to write a report when a short conversation generally takes care of the issue at the time. Her second issue was about the newspaper article she felt was misquoting information. Nikki felt teachers and Administrators need to stand together, be united, be positive, not so negative and be cautious of the words we used - be constructive, rather than destructive. She reiterated that the teachers love their jobs, love the students and do their best every day to help students not just learn, but feel safe in their classrooms.

Larry Renteria addressed student/staff safety. He prides himself on how he handles his students, the classroom environment and felt the new report requirements were too cumbersome. He believes that the requirements tell teachers not to mediate in disputes, just report it, yet they DO mediate - dozens of times every day. He's confused if he's doing something wrong, given the confusing messages. It seems all he's allowed to do is tell them to stop - so how does he handle the situation the "right" way? Principals are even reluctant to put themselves in those situations given the environment. While the training video shows a teacher placing a gentle hand on the student's shoulder to help calm him down, make eye contact and speak to the student, other teachers and Administrators indicated, they would never consider touching a student in this way, much less at all. He's to observe and write up the incident. He felt this was going in the wrong direction and will make the situation worse.

C. Superintendent's Report

Information: 1. Activity Report

- It was with great sadness that Dr. Jensen shared the passing of Dan LaRose, VP of FFMS and Principal of Orovada. Dan passed away during the morning of Friday, April 19th after a brief battle with an aggressive form of cancer. Our collective thoughts and prayers are with Dan's family, the staff and students of FFMS and Orovada, as well as others who are mourning at this time. Dan will be buried in Cody, WY on Friday. There is discussion of a possible memorial here in Winnemucca, and should such come to fruition, he will share dates and times. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations instead.
- This morning we had our monthly administrative meeting. We spent time working on a reflection of the Strategic Plan for this year and discussing needs and roll out for the upcoming school year. In addition, we spent a great deal of time discussing the topic of bullying in preparation for tonight's board agenda as a follow up on the topic.
- Dr. Jensen was pleased to report that after the hard work and dedication of the LHS ELA and Math departments, as well as LHS admin, Dawn has finalized the curriculum adoption for ELA and Math. The requisition is being processed and

we will be prepared for the upcoming school year.

- The roofing project at McDermitt Combined Schools has been completed, so we're excited for some rains to test it out.
- Negotiations have begun for the upcoming biennium. Language was completed with the certified staff members on 4/18/19, and will begin work with classified staff tomorrow evening. Dr. Jensen expressed his sincerest appreciation to our bargaining groups for their dedication and support of all staff, as well as the opportunity for open and honest conversations that will assist as we work to strengthen our district. He also expressed his appreciation for the district team, which includes Sabrina Uhlmann, Chris Entwistle, DeAnna Owens, Laura Molini, Kristen Holden and Dustin Christean.
- On 4/22/19, the insurance committee met to review the renewal proposal. HomeTown Health has provided a 0% renewal. We are excited and extremely grateful as we have had positive responses to the beneficial plan we currently have with HT. Vision was also flat, with Dental incurring a 4% increase with a commitment to lock in the rate for a 2-year period. Net impact is only a couple of dollars.
- With the last legislative report, Dr. Jensen shared that there is strong indication that the SLG's as part of the NEPF will be reduced from 40% to 20% for the upcoming school year, then drop further to 15% in subsequent years. We appreciate the support of the legislature in making these adjustments. In addition, RBG3 looks to be modified where it will not require retention of certain pupils at 3rd grade, but would allow them to move forward with academic supports.
- We continue to monitor education funding proposals. Currently, as noted, we have been provided a DSA figure of \$7,055 for the upcoming year, which is a decrease from the current year per pupil amount of \$7,324. This reduction equates to approximately \$961,000. In addition, the Governor has clearly stated that he believes a promised 3% pay increase has been built into the formula; However, NASS and other groups are challenging this position.
- We are also carefully watching the \$25 million for school safety to ensure that it is not distributed on a "proportional" basis which would benefit Clark while hurting small school districts. The majority of the superintendents are advocating for the base/per pupil funding analysis that will provide meaningful funds to accomplish projects for every school district.
- The May NASS meeting will be in Carson City on 5/2/19. Please feel free to reach out if there is any information Dr. Jensen can provide to support each of you.
- Dr. Jensen concluded by reminding everyone that tomorrow (4/24/19) is Administrative Professionals Day and how our Administrative support staff are greatly valued.

D. Celebrations: None

E. Consent Agenda

Action (Consent): 1. Approval of Warrants

Mr. Swensen disclosed he is on the Board of one of company's receiving a warrant.

Ms. Deputy disclosed she is associated with one of the company's receiving a warrant, but receives no financial benefit.

Action, Minutes: 2. Approval of Minutes

Recommended Action: Recommend approval of prior meeting Minutes.

Action (Consent): 3. Field Trip Request - LHS FFA

Recommended Action: Recommend approval of trip by LHS FAA to Indianapolis, IN, Oct 28-Nov 2, 2019

Five of the LHS FFA addressed the Board to inform them they had won the latest event, which qualified them to go to the Nationals in October 2019, held in Indianapolis, IN. They would like to return to provide a follow-up presentation to the Board after that trip.

Action (Consent): 4. Field Trip Request - LHS FBLA

Recommended Action: Recommend approval of trip by LHS FBLA to San Antonio, TX, June 26-July 3, 2019

Lisa Scott, LHS FBLA, addressed the Board stating they had taken 12 students to Vegas and 8 of the 12 placed in the top 10 in multiple events. Five are able to go to the Nationals in San Antonio this summer.

Action (Consent): 5. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Mr. Entwistle moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Betteridge seconded; motion carried.

F. Discussion and Possible Action Items

Action, Discussion: 1. 6000 Series Policies and Regulations Support Materials Second Reading

Recommended Action: That the board approve the support materials, to include the changes recommended from the March 26th, 2019 Board meeting.

Dr. Jensen stated no other changes had been made to the documents other than the change to "Audio Visual".

Ms. Bengochea moved to approve the 6000 Series as presented. Ms. Uhlmann seconded; motion carried.

Action, Discussion: 2. Consideration of Awarding the bid for the FFMS EIFS project

Recommended Action: That the board engage in a conversation regarding the second attempt at securing an EIFS bid and consider granting such award.

Dr. Jensen provided the history of this project, stating that they've gone from receiving no bidders, bids turned in late, ad placement, and receiving only one bid. The bid was significantly higher than H&K had estimated - over \$150,000. This is due mainly to there being no competition, Reno having so much work that contractors are picking projects that work the best for their company, the distance to our town, the cost to travel and work outside their area, and the market increase of approximately 10% per year which shows no signs of leveling off in the future. Mr. Betteridge asked why H&K's estimates have consistently been well below the actual bids received, stating that we pay a lot of money for them to provide more realistic estimates and don't seem to be getting what we're paying for. Dr. Jensen stated he would address this issue with H&K. Given the factors mentioned earlier, and the lengthy time where no work has been done to maintain the EIFS surfacing at the school, Dr. Jensen recommended accepting the bid and moving forward with the project. The additional cost can be absorbed through bond savings through a grant to support the Audio Enhancement project at SHES.

Mr. Swensen moved to accept the EIFS bid as submitted. Ms. Bengochea seconded; motion carried.

Discussion: 3: Mid-Year Bullying Review Updated from March 26, 2019

As a follow-up to the March Board meeting, and to help provide background to the newer Board members, Ms. Hagness reviewed the new state procedures, sharing documents presented at the 10/11/15 Board meeting. Our policies were built on a combination of our own procedures, with input from Lyon and Washoe County documents. She then went over the various forms, phone calls, procedures and reports required for each event, as well as appeal forms and processes. Ms. Hagness shared the legalities of bullying when it involves a student with a disability/on an IEP and why those are handled in a different manner. The updated report was provided showing the adjusted number of incidents - both substantiated and unsubstantiated. The POOL-PACT attorney will be at our District in August for additional training, once they have a chance to see if there is new legislation and requirements. Mr. Betteridge thought it would be nice to have a definition sheet which spells out various terms, and what actually makes up bullying.

Mr. Parks commented that he guarantees that every single report made at LHS is handled by either himself or the other two VP's, and it is handled very quickly. As Principal/Vice Principal's they want the Board to have faith in them that they handle these issues immediately. Every student needs to feel safe coming to school every day.

Mr. Entwistle said that since Board members have made reports themselves, to see the information missing on the report puts seeds of doubts in their minds on how reports are being handled.

Since the 3/26/19 meeting, the data has been updated, pamphlets have been sent home to parents with each student, and Peach Jar has them as well. The reports and numbers were reviewed and verified the state has the latest/correct information. Dr. Jensen expressed his appreciation and recognition of all that our staff are required to do and wants the Board to have confidence with the teachers and Principals. Mr. Betteridge suggested having a meeting/get together with parents to meet with school Administrators to discuss bullying.

Ms. Hagness stated Traci Carbon-Mendoza leads the District Parent Advisory Committee, and we are using this as another avenue for communication. Nikki Bengochea stated they typically talk to the parents 1 on 1 which helps prevent bigger issues later on.

The newest numbers were reviewed and discussed.

Discussion: 4. National School Boards Conference Report and Sharing of Key Takeaways

Dr. Jensen attended classes centered around technology and social media. He attended 2-3 sessions specifically on mental health. While there was no earth-shattering new information gathered; most discussed steps and actions our District is already taking. Schools have become therapeutic settings and we have an obligation to provide mental health support to students. It validated we're moving in the right direction, especially with YMHA. One takeaway confirmed that talking to a student or employee about suicide does not increase the likelihood of an individual acting out on feelings of suicide. Dr. Jensen shared several documents he received with various internet/computer shortcuts and various websites with interesting apps. Dr. Jensen reported he'd had the opportunity to learn about a new program called "Sword", a easily set up system that is used for weapon detection. The SRO would have glasses that would indicate a weapon was hidden on the person, but does not take a

picture or show any part of the body. The system works with an iPhone/iPad, and is about \$5,100 and is integrated with a phone that transmits from their vest. He is looking into additional information on the system.

Ms. Deputy enjoyed the classes on the changing classrooms and buildings, where information gathered was similar to what the Cunningham Group has shown us.

Mr. Swensen attended social media, bullying/cyber bullying and mental health. His big take away was developing a positive social climate, as a predictor to higher achievement, across all levels. The mental health class he attended discussed therapeutic assistance to students. It's important that the administrators/teachers know how to provide this type of assistance. It was eye-opening learning how to relate to individuals who might react differently to various situations. He also attended a cyber-bullying class and developing plans to ensure we're dealing with social media, on line threats, etc., partnering with law enforcement who are trained, as well as communicating effectively with parents. It is important to have clear policies and clear communication. Mr. Betteridge asked if, after Board members have attended the last two conferences, if it was worth it overall. Dr. Jensen and all the Board members who've attended confirmed it was. If not to get the newest information, then to confirm that as a District we're aligned with what professionals in this field are communicating, that we're well ahead of the curve in certain areas, and gives areas to consider as we discuss changes to our curriculum, classrooms, etc.

Action, Discussion: 5. Approval of Continuation of the Grant Writer Contract for the 2019-2020 School Year

Recommended Action: That the Board of Trustees Review the impacts of the Grant Writer Contract and Consider Renewing the Contract for the 2019-2020 School Year.

Dr. Jensen shared that our grant writer has secured \$1.1mm in FY19. A lot of the grants were competitive, which made them even more difficult to get. With Project Aware funds leaving this year, we are looking to apply for a \$1mm grant for School Violence Prevention. Dr. Jensen reiterated that even if we could get grant funds, if the grant doesn't align with our District goals/Strategic Plan, we don't apply for the grant. We compensate our grant writer \$80,000/year, and she has exceeded the required grant amount of \$250,000. A threshold of \$1.5mm was set for new money grant awards to start a conversation on potential modifications to the compensation structure of the grant writer. Dr. Jensen recommended approval of the grant writer contract.

Mr. Entwistle moved to approve the FY19-20 grand writer position as presented. Mr. Betteridge seconded; motion carried.

G. Public Comment: None

Procedural: 1. Public Comment Guidelines

Discussion: 6. Closed Session to Discuss Negotiations with the HCEA, HCSSO and Administrative Meet and Confer Pursuant to NRS 288.220

At 6:39 pm, Mr. Entwistle moved to enter Closed Session, pursuant to NRS 288.220. Ms. Uhlmann seconded; motion carried.

At 7:33 pm, the Board resumed Open Session.

H. Board Reports

Information: 1. Board Reports

- Mr. Entwistle offered his condolences to Dan LaRose's family, friends and students for their loss; He thanked the administrative secretaries for their work and are appreciated; Congratulated both the FBLA and FAA on their achievements; He also thanked all those who attended the meeting and those who addressed the Board.
- Mr. Betteridge also offered his condolences to the LaRose family for their tragic loss; He appreciated the conversation on bullying and hoped that parents/administrators would get involved in discussing the topic; He was glad the Board was able to attend the NASB conference and hoped everyone can use the information they learned while attending.
- Ms. Uhlmann echoed her condolences for the sad loss of Dan LaRose; She was also grateful for the conversation on bullying, and also feels there's a disconnect somewhere which needs to be figured out to be fixed; She was glad for the audience who attended tonight; She offered her congratulations to FFA and FBLA and wished them good luck at Nationals.
- Mr. Swensen said his thoughts and prayers are with Dan and his family, he's been a friend not just to him, but to many others who knew him. He made a great impact on students and will be missed greatly; He congratulated the FBLA on their Vegas performance and wished the FAA well on their upcoming trip; He also thanked the Administrative secretaries; He was grateful for the teachers and administrators who attended tonight and shared their thoughts and opinions. It's good to get together to listen and discuss these issues.
- Mr. Doyle offered his condolences to the LaRose family.

- Ms. Hagness offered her condolences to the LaRose family, as well as those he worked with and the students.
- Ms. Kritikos reminded everyone that the Staff Recognition event is held at the B&G club on Thursday, May 16;
- Dr. Jensen also offered his condolences to the LaRose family, friends and HCSD family. During his tenure with the District, he's dealt with several deaths, yet this one was personal and very tough; He congratulated both the FBLA and FAA on their great work, and wished them well at the State/National levels.
- Ms. Deputy also offered her condolences to the LaRose family. The Board would like to send a card to the family. In lieu of flowers, contributions would be greatly appreciated. Information was given for the GoFundMe account and contribution methods.

I. Adjournment: President Deputy adjourned the meeting at 7:42 pm

Action: 1. Meeting Adjourned

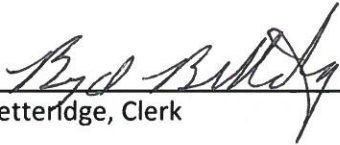
J. Notice

Information: 1. Notice to Persons with Disabilities

K. Postings

Procedural: 1. Public Posting of Agenda

Submitted by Secretary, Judy Kritikos



Boyd Betteridge, Clerk

