

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

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of School Trustees was held October 23, 2012 at 4:31 p.m. in the District Office Boardroom.

Board members present were: President-Shelly Noble, John Seeliger, Glenda Deputy, John Hill, Boyd Betteridge, and Andrew Hillyer. Absent: Clerk-Ann Miller

Others in attendance were: Superintendent Dr. Dave Jensen, Asst. Superintendent Dr. Bill Myhr, Director Kelly Novi, Attorney John Doyle, Jessica Powell-Humboldt Sun, Janet Kennedy, Debbie and Dan Watts, DaraLee Millikan, Doc Welter and Secretary Paula Wright.

President Noble opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence: None

Minutes: Mr. Seeliger moved to approve the October 9, 2012 minutes as written. Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Superintendent Report –

- Over the course of the past several weeks, discussions have been held with Clark County School District regarding the use of their widely touted Curriculum Engine to support our transition to CCSS. Clark County School District has been extremely amenable and is working to grant us full access. In addition, Dr. Jensen is working with their key players to facilitate onsite training for our administration in Humboldt.
- Dr. Jensen had the opportunity to visit with Rhonda Zuraff with Newmont Mining regarding the Newmont Grant. Newmont is continuing their support of \$30,000 and will be providing the funds shortly. We will then issue the sub grant applications to staff.
- Dr. Jensen attended the Association of School Business Officers Conference in Phoenix, Arizona on October 12-14th. Dr. Jensen provided the board with a copy of a handout he received at the conference titled “The Unintended consequences of Government Decisions.”
- On October 16th, Dr. Jensen and Mr. Novi met with the Mining Foundation. They continue to be a tremendous support for the school district.
- On October 16th, Dr. Jensen and Mr. Novi met with Dr. Johnson, President of UNR, as well as members of his staff. It was a great opportunity to talk about collaborative efforts, K-16, in terms of the upcoming legislative session, as well as discussing avenues that UNR can support rural teacher education. They also discussed strategies to reduce the number of students who are required to take remediation courses upon entering college.
- On October 17th, Dr. Jensen met with the Lowry High School advisors to review the new Student Activities Fund Manual and provided training.
- Dr. Jensen met with HCSSO President, Jennifer Robinson, regarding language issues in the section of the negotiated agreement regarding bus drivers. It appears that some language agreed upon in 2003, which was added to the contract as an addendum, was never moved into the actual contract. Mr. Jensen and Ms. Robinson will work together to rectify the contract.
- On October 23rd, Dr. Jensen and Dr. Myhr had a phone conference with ENI. The District is moving forward aggressively with ENI. They are a part of the Focus School Plan at McDermitt

Combined. They will also work with the administrative team as we meet our goal and objective to enhance the capacity of administrators. The funding for the Focus School training will come from the Focus School Grant application and the administrators' portion will come from Title II, Part A.

- Dr. Jensen will be attending a Special Ed Law Conference in Las Vegas on November 2nd sponsored by the Nevada Department of Education along with special education administration. A Superintendent's conference and NASA conference will immediately follow on November 4-6th.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants

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

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of a Trip Request for Lowry High School's Key Club to Six Flags Discovery

Mrs. Millikan approached the Board requesting permission for the Lowry Key Club to travel to Six Flags in Vallejo, California on October 26-28, 2012 to attend the Fall Rally. 8-10 students and 1-2 chaperones will be making the trip. All costs will be paid by the club.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the trip request for Lowry High School's Key Club to Six Flags Discovery. Mrs. Deputy and Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried.

Discussion Only – McDermitt Combined, Kings River Elementary and Orovada Elementary Presentation – Janet Kennedy

Orovada Elementary School

Orovada Elementary currently has 34 students, two teachers and one instructional aide. The school made AYP. There was substantial growth in all subjects as shown by MAP Testing.

The school also uses DRA testing quarterly and the A+ program for remediation, acceleration and for LEP learners. Orovada Elementary has a tremendous PTO and they are incredible at raising funds for the school and students. Mrs. Kennedy thanked them publicly for their support.

The school has two highly qualified teachers. They are currently working on Common Core State Standards curriculum design and Mrs. Forney is involved in the SIOP program.

Concerns for the school include; 1) parent communication, specifically with non-English speaking parents, 2) LEP learners in all subjects, 3) grade level comprehension according to CCSS in all subjects, 4) implementation of CCSS and 5) growth for all students in core subjects.

The school's goals are to close the achievement gap in math and reading for 100% of all students and full implementation of the Common Core State Standards by 2013-14.

Kings River Elementary School

Kings River Elementary currently has 13 students, one teacher and one instructional aide. The school made AYP. There was substantial growth in all subjects as shown by MAP testing.

The school uses DRA testing quarterly and the A+ program for remediation, acceleration and for LEP learners. Kings River Elementary has strong parental support. They had 100% attendance at their open house and parent conferences.

Mrs. Watts is a highly qualified teacher. They also are currently working on Common Core State Standards curriculum design and are using the A+ program, MAP Testing and DRA Testing.

There are a lot of LEP learners in Kings River and the parent communication/language barrier is difficult.

The school's goals are to close the achievement gap in math and reading for 100% of all students and full implementation of the Common Core State Standards by 2013-14.

McDermitt Combined School

In the 2011-12 school year McDermitt Combined School's demographics were: (high school) 52% Native American, 30% Hispanic and 18% White. (Junior high) 93% Native American and 6.3% white and (elementary) 78.8% Native American, 6.1% Hispanic and 10.6% White. The school is identified as a school wide Title I School.

Mrs. Kennedy noted that some of the strengths of McDermitt Combined School include: 1) a highly qualified, caring teaching staff, 2) the SIOP pilot has been introduced in grades K-12, 3) PLC is part of the culture of the school, 4) a site based leadership team, 5) a GearUp Grant recipient, 6) MAP testing is done twice a year, 7) DRA has been implemented in elementary school, 8) a partnership with NNRDP, 9) Great Basin College course offerings, 10) a very caring support staff, 11) A+ program, learning links, 12) addition of an Alt Ed teacher and 13) an ongoing analysis of course offerings, policies and procedures.

Areas of concern: 1) McDermitt Combined is one of 14 focus schools in the State of Nevada with a one star rating, 2) learning gaps in ELA and math as identified by multiple testing measures, 3) a lack of math intervention strategies, 4) attendance/truancy as it pertains to student achievement, 5) a lack of academic vocabulary, 6) an inability to attract and keep qualified teachers (33% turn over in 2012), 7) high administrative turnover in the last five years, 8) a lack of trained substitutes, 9) a lack of training for teachers in Common Core State Standards, 10) the rural setting, as it applies to training and professional opportunities for staff, 11) a lack of effective teaching strategies as they apply to math and ELA, 12) the remote location from the main district handicaps the ability to interact with grade level colleagues, and 13) this is an accreditation year.

The school's goals are to close the achievement gap in math and English for 100% of all students and full implementation of the Common Core State Standards by 2013-14. Because McDermitt Combined is a focus school, they will focus on professional development. Math interventions and professional development will be provided by NNRDP and other outside entities. The NCAAT-S needs analysis will be done. Focused Technical Assistance will focus on building capacity for the principal and staff. The Common Core State Standards will be implemented. MAP assessment and A+ Learning Links will be used and PLC's will continue. They hope to increase parent communication by sending a monthly newsletter, hold parent nights in core subjects and parent conferences.

Interventions that will be put into place include, Nevada Comprehensive Curriculum Audit Tool for Schools (NCCAT-S), focused Technical Assistance (ENI) and focused professional development (SIOP, CCSS, NNRDP).

Discussion Only – Lowry High School Presentation – Debbie Watts

The mission statement of Lowry High School is "The faculty and staff of Albert M. Lowry High School will provide a positive and productive learning environment based upon mutual respect and responsibility from students, parents, staff, and community, preparing students to be contributing members of society".

Goal 1: Improve the transition of freshmen to the high school environment.

Goal 2: Implement Math and ELA Common Core State Standards and College and Career Readiness Standards.

Goal 3: Provide opportunities for parental involvement in their children's education.

Goal 4: Increase the graduation rates and decrease the dropout rate.

The staff has completed six Common Core State Standards trainings with NNRPDP and Dr. Myhr will hold a seventh training with NNRPDP on November 5th. After the November 5th training, an evaluation will determine what support the staff may need and future trainings will be scheduled from what is learned.

Lowry currently has 955 students, 49 teachers, one teacher at Leighton Hall and one teacher at PASS.

The Instructional Consultation Team (IC Team) is currently being trained and it is hoped to get the program in place this school year.

Along with the Career Center computer lab and English wing computer lab, a new computer lab has been added in the library. This will provide additional computer access for when the CTE tests go online and other assessments come online with the Common Core.

Mrs. Watts read a letter from the Reno Tahoe Winter Games Coalition congratulating Lowry High School for being the first high school selected to the Reno Tahoe International Sports Hall of Fame High School Achievement Award. The letter praised the student athletes for their consistent excellence on the field of play, as well as in the classroom. The school will be officially honored on Saturday, November 17th during the Reno Tahoe International Sports Hall of Fame Dinner Gala at 7:30 p.m. at the Atlantis Resort in Reno.

In tracking student achievement data for the past several years, Mr. Welter has seen a decline in the percentage of freshman students who are failing one or more classes. In a four year period, Mr. Welter has found that 67 students have moved, which is in line with Lowry's 20% transiency rate, and 43 students which have been indentified as "whereabouts unknown". Upon investigating, he has found that some students have enrolled in other districts within the state, but no official request for records has been submitted. He has been successful in locating several students, has asked the school to submit a request for records and is then able to remove that student from the dropout list. With this process he hopes to improve the graduation rate to 75%.

Mr. Welter provided the Board with the 2011-12 summary of PASS seniors. Three students received a Certificate of Completion; they passed all classes required for graduation, but failed to pass the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE). Thirteen students graduated, six students enrolled at JOIN, five students required additional time to be successful and are still attending PASS and two students dropped.

Mrs. Watts reported that they were able to fill their two math and one Special Education position.

Mr. Hillyer reported that Winnemucca will be hosting the State Wrestling Championships this year. Congratulations to Jace Billingsley for winning the National Athletic Administrators Association award and scholarship!

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Lowry High School Bell Schedule as Required by Nevada Department of Education – Debbie Watts

Mrs. Watts reported that during the attendance audit, she was notified that Lowry High School had not applied for a waiver of the number of minutes in their schedule. The minimum minutes of instruction required for grades 7-12 is 59,400 minutes of instruction per school year. Although Lowry has 60,840

minutes of instruction per year, they are short the minimum minutes on their Wednesday Advisory/PLC Day, which is a short day in session.

Mrs. Watts asked the Board to approve their bell schedule. Dr. Jensen noted that the bell schedule was initially approved; however, the Department of Education requires it be brought to the board for approval on an annual basis.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the Lowry High School bell schedule as it has been carried forth the last several years. Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of the Class Size Reduction Plan – Kelly Novi, Dr. Dave Jensen

The District is required to file a Class Size Reduction report annually based on “count day” enrollment figures. We will be reporting the following District pupil/teacher ratios to determine compliance with class size reduction: Kindergarten-16.4 to 1, 1st Grade-19.9 to 1, 2nd Grade-20.1 to 1, and 3rd Grade-21.4 to 1.

The report was reviewed by and signed off by HCEA President, Mary Keith.

Mr. Seeliger feels the class sizes are too high and hopes that the District will do a better job next year of forecasting student numbers. Dr. Jensen said he will be approaching the Board for approval to hire “floater positions”. These are positions not assigned to a specific site or grade. Once we determine where class sizes are high, we will have the ability to place that unassigned person.

There was a brief discussion regarding when and if the Board should begin the conversation of redistricting. With the new housing growth taking place, is it time to discuss redistricting or repurposing of a school? Dr. Jensen said he will place the item on an upcoming Board agenda.

Mr. Seeliger moved to approve the Class Size Reduction Plan as presented. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of the Parent Involvement Policy – DeAnna Owens
Postponed

Discussion Only - Common Core Review – Dr. Bill Myhr

Dr. Myhr attended a Common Core Committee meeting two weeks ago, which proved very productive.

Dr. Myhr is meeting with staff and finds that staff is “all over the board” regarding Common Core; some already have standards built into their curriculum and others are at “ground zero”.

The Common Core Mission Statement is “to provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers”.

The Common Core is an internationally based standard. The Common Core standards are in 45 of the 50 states. There are two consortiums; 22 states including Nevada are in the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium and 23 states are in the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career Consortium.

Dr. Myhr compared traditional public education to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) practice. Common Core Standards education is based on curriculum being driven by the standards, rather than the standards being driven by the curriculum. There has been a major shift in Lexile reading levels. He notes that the Lexile reading levels in our American textbooks has dropped dramatically. He said that education has been dominated for decades by fictional text. With the impact of technology, emphasis on informational text will become increasingly important.

He marked three major challenges; 1) what is the best platform for HCSD, 2) how best to structure and align curriculum to the CCSS, 3) how to present the CCSS to K-12 faculty and 4) first order change vs second order change.

Dr. Myhr is using four CCSS modules; 1) "What are the Common Core State Standards?" (overview), 2) Producing a Framework for Essential Learning Goals, "Unpacking" Standards, and Rubrics for Successful CCSS Implementation, 3) Instructional Practices that Support the CCSS and 4) Assessment Practices that Support the CCSS.

The District will be teaming with NNRPDP staff who will work with each school site to help them implement the standards based on their specific issues or problems.

Public Comment – None

Board/Staff Reports:

1. Mr. Seeliger asked which copy of the Parent Involvement Policy the Board will be reviewing at the next meeting. One copy was included in their board packet and a second was emailed at a later date. Dr. Jensen said the emailed version is the updated version.
2. Mrs. Deputy reminded everyone of Paradise Valley's "Spook Night" on October 25th.
3. Dr. Myhr reported that the website development is moving forward. It should be up and running soon.
4. Dr. Jensen reported that in our transition to Cigna Health Insurance, our rate was based upon the expectation that 50% of our staff would take a survey by the end of November. The last figure we received, as of October 14th, was 37%. Dr. Jensen said that once he notified everyone of the fiscal impact we would face if we failed to reach the 50%, there has been a push to complete the survey. We need to have 75% of the surveys completed in order to incur a 2% rate reduction in our renewal rate for next year.
5. Dr. Jensen reported that Chad Peters has been working very hard to get the Bighorns to Winnemucca for an exhibition game with the Idaho Stampede on November 19th at Lowry High School. Tickets are on sale for \$10. There is limited seating, so get your tickets.

Adjourned 7:13 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright



Ann Miller, Clerk