

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

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of School Trustees was held March 26, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. in the District Office Boardroom.

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

Others in attendance were: Superintendent Dr. Dave Jensen, Director Kelly Novi, Attorney John Doyle, Jessica Powell-Humboldt Sun, Lynn Ludlow Andress, Debbie and Dan Watts, Janet Kennedy, Jaimi and Staheli Wilkinson, Va Draunidalo, Julia Topholm, Sandy Hammargren-Silver Pinyon Journal, Andrea Smart, Saul Lopez, Kelly Pinkston, Jessica Hallberg, Jamie Jones, Stacy Ramsey, Jessica Jensen, other interested persons and Secretary Paula Wright.

President Seeliger opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence: None

**Minutes:** Mr. Betteridge asked to clarify his statement under Board Reports #4. He said his intent in the letter to the NASB President was to voice his concern that it is important that homeschool parents be held accountable, not held accountable to teach the Common Core State Standards.

Mr. Hill moved to approve the March 12, 2013 minutes, with the correction noted. Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried. Mr. Hillyer was not in attendance.

**Public Comment – Discussion Only**

Jaimi Wilkinson just wanted to make the Board aware of the fact that McDermitt Combined School has been without a science and math teacher for the last year, making it virtually impossible for the students to pass the proficiency tests. She hopes the Board is trying to rectify the problem.

**Superintendent Report**

1. Following the last board meeting, John Seeliger and Dr. Jensen drove to Reno to attend the iNVEST hearing at the Legislative Session. The morning of March 13<sup>th</sup>, they began with a meeting with Max Hershenow and Kevin Monsey. The meeting was to review site plans regarding possible facilities expansion, should the need arise. In addition, a discussion regarding “single point of access” at sites was reviewed.
2. On March 14<sup>th</sup> they attended the Legislative Session, in which Superintendents and Board members were able to be introduced on the floor of the Senate and Assembly. This was followed by a press conference on education funding, visits with legislators and the iNVEST hearing.
3. On March 14<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Jensen attended a Northeast Superintendent meeting in Elko to discuss alignment of resources for Common Core State Standards and College and Career Readiness. The focus was on the utilization of RPDP services. Currently, there is legislative action that will change the current RPDP structure and may impact our services in the upcoming year.
4. Immediately following the meeting, an RPDP governance board meeting was held.
5. Dr. Jensen has met with all principals regarding current and projected enrollment figures. The difficulty is projecting an unknown increase based on new construction. We continue to expect growth for the upcoming year.

6. On Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, Grass Valley Elementary held an assembly recognizing reading and math excellence. It was enjoyable to watch Mr. Connors' energy and the great things happening at Grass Valley.
7. On March 19<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Jensen and Tanya Grady attended a Mining Foundation meeting. Discussion centered on the upcoming Academic Assembly of Excellence and the High Tech Center.

4:36 p.m. Mr. Hillyer arrived

8. In connection with the High Tech Center, Dr. Jensen met with Lisa Costa-Campbell (GBC) to discuss articulating an inter-local agreement on the use of the High Tech Center. We are looking to schedule further meetings with Elko's Great Basin College (GBC) administration.
9. On March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, Byron Jeppsen and Dr. Jensen attended hiring fairs at Utah State and BYU. There was a tremendous level of interest and they collected a number of resumes.
10. On March 25<sup>th</sup>, Officer Dawson facilitated a table top discussion at Lowry High School. The topic was very interesting and provided a lot of discussion as we respond to varying potential issues.
11. The next roundtable is scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup> at Grass Valley Elementary.
12. Dr. Jensen had the opportunity to attend the NED presentation at French Ford Middle School. It was very entertaining and had a great message regarding self-worth and determination.
13. Dr. Jensen met with Kevin Monsey and Max Hershenow on March 26<sup>th</sup> regarding updated "single point of entry" designs, following discussions with most administrators. Information regarding the Facility Master Plan and Secure Entries will be presented to the Board at the April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.
14. Dr. Jensen wished everyone a wonderful and relaxing Spring Break.

### **Special Recognition –**

#### **McDermitt Combined Girls Volleyball Team**

President Seeliger and Dr. Jensen presented certificates of excellence to the following players:

Nevada Division IV, All-Division Team, Volleyball Honorable Mention, Va Draunidalo  
 Nevada Division IV, All-Division Team, Volleyball First Team, Chandra Catches  
 Nevada Division IV, All-Division Team, Volleyball First Team, Sharon Sherburn  
 Nevada Division IV, All-Division Team, Volleyball First Team, Staheli Wilkinson  
 Nevada Academic All-State Academic Team, Sharon Sherburn  
 Nevada Academic All-State Academic Team, Staheli Wilkinson  
 Nevada Division IV, All-Division Team, Volleyball Player of the Year, Staheli Wilkinson

Miss Catches and Miss Sherburn were not able to attend.

Congratulations to the Girls Volleyball Team and Coach Jaimi Wilkinson. Great job!

#### **McDermitt Combined Girls Basketball Team**

Nevada Division IV, All-Division Team, Basketball First Team, Staheli Wilkinson  
 Nevada Division IV, All-Division Team, Basketball First Team, Sharon Sherburn  
 Nevada Division IV, All-Division Team, Basketball Second Team, Andrea Smart  
 Nevada Division IV, All-Division Team, Basketball, Honorable Mention, Lydia Northrup  
 Nevada Division IV, All-Division Team, Basketball, Player of the Year, Staheli Wilkinson

Miss Northrup and Miss Sherburn were not able to attend.

Congratulations to the Girls Basketball Team and Coach Jaimi Wilkinson. Great job!

## **McDermitt Combined Boys Basketball Team**

Nevada Division IV, All-Division Team, Basketball Second Team, Tyler Coble

Nevada Division IV, All-Division Team, Basketball Honorable Mention, Saul Lopez

Mr. Coble was not able to attend.

Congratulations to the Boys Basketball Team and Coach Julia Topholm. Great job!

Dr. Jensen read a letter from Governor Sandoval personally congratulating Staheli Wilkinson on her outstanding accomplishments in making the 2012-13 All Division for girls' basketball. He congratulated her on the way she has conducted herself both athletically and as a student leader.

Mr. Hill thanked Jaimi Wilkinson for being the coach at McDermitt Combined for many years and congratulated her on doing a great job her entire coaching career. Mrs. Wilkinson said her success comes from the team and their hard work and dedication.

Mr. Seeliger thanked both Mrs. Wilkinson and Ms. Topholm.

## **Discussion Only – Presentation on School Improvement Plan Progress by McDermitt Combined School, Kings River School and Orovada School – Janet Kennedy, Kelly Pinkston, Jessica Hallberg, Stacy Ramsey**

One of Mrs. Kennedy's duties as principal at McDermitt Combined School is to serve on the State Board of Indian Education. Every year the Board sponsors a conference in Reno. Mrs. Pinkston, Ms. Hallberg and Mrs. Ramsey were fortunate enough to attend the Indian Education Summit this year. They provided a PowerPoint of some of the modules they were able to attend. Miss Hallberg, 5-6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, attended modules on "Preparing Students for Success", "Student Success in Higher Education" and "American Indian Literature in the Classroom". Mrs. Pinkston, counselor, attended a module called "Essential Understandings"; seven basic principles to better help and teach Native American students. Mrs. Ramsey (Gear-Up) took advantage of the module, "Diversity in the Classroom". Mrs. Kennedy attended modules on "Emergency Graduation System", "Memos of Understanding between the State and the Tribe and the School District and the Tribe".

## **Orovada School**

Orovada School currently has 34 students, teachers Mrs. Baumeister and Mrs. Forney, and instructional aide Mrs. Smith. They currently project five incoming kindergarten students for the 2013-14 school year.

### **Highlights:**

- The Nevada Outdoor School visits monthly.
- The Bookmobile stops in regularly
- The DARE Program has been implemented.
- Teachers have been concentrating on the Scientific Method in science. Mrs. Forney provides the students with science experiments and ongoing frog and fetal pig dissections.
- Teachers/students are working with the smartboard daily to gain math proficiency.
- Word problems are used to help learn key vocabulary.
- Social studies are used to learn diversity. Each student created their own state book as a reference to different time periods.
- Students are using the smartboard to correct daily oral languages, but work together to translate the daily oral languages for the ELL learners ("kids teaching kids").
- Persuasive essay writing is stressed, along with debating.

- Mrs. Baumeister and Mrs. Forney organize incredible field trips for educational learning.
- The rural art and PE teacher visits weekly.
- PTO is providing swimming lessons to students.

Goals: 1) Close the achievement gap in math for 100% of all students, 2) close the achievement gap in reading for 100% of all students and 3) achieve full implementation of the Common Core State Standards by 2013-14.

Progress: Goal 1: In grades 1-4, 94% of students posted gains fall to winter in math and in grades 5-8, 82% of students posted gains fall to winter in math. Goal 2: In grades 1-4, 65% of all students posted gains fall to winter in reading and in grades 5-8, 73% of all students posted gains fall to winter in reading. Goal 3: Completion of the Common Core State Standards modules were provided by the District.

### **Kings River School**

Kings River School currently has 13 students, teacher Mrs. Watts and instructional aide Mrs. Bullock. They are projecting three incoming kindergarten students for the 2013-14 school year.

#### **Highlights:**

- The DARE program has been implemented
- They participate in multiple academic field trips
- The rural art and PE programs have been implemented
- The Nevada Outdoor School visits regularly
- The school has a new microwave donated by Phillips Furniture, thank you to Mrs. Deputy.
- They had a very successful Christmas program this year.
- For March Reading Week, the school had four guest readers, one guest reader was bilingual and was able to read to the students in Spanish, as well as in English.
- They are currently studying Nevada's Native American Tribes and customs.
- One 6<sup>th</sup> grade student attended the Student Council Conference in McDermitt.
- Students attended the Lowry High School children's play.
- Students had art displayed at the Humboldt County School District Student Art Show.

Goals: 1) Close the achievement gap in math for 100% of all students, 2) close the achievement gap in reading for 100% of all students and 3) achieve full implementation of the Common Core State Standards by 2013-14.

Progress: Goal 1: 100% of the students achieved growth in math. Goal 2: 70% of all students achieved growth in reading winter to fall. Goal 3: Completion of the Common Core State Standards modules were provided by the District.

### **McDermitt Combined School**

#### **Highlights:**

- The 7<sup>th</sup> grade Gear-Up Cadre was started.
- Celebration of Native American Day
- McDermitt Career Fair
- Homework Club
- All students tested in A+ Learning Links, with individual courses created in math and science.
- FFA is an active presence on campus. They recently attended the State Convention in Reno.
- Rural basketball: The upper division team won first place in tournament play.
- The junior high school volleyball team won second place in tournament play.

- Art students participated in the Humboldt County Art Show and won one Judge's Choice Award, three First Place, three Second Place and three Third Place awards.
- The DARE program has been implemented.
- The Nevada Outdoor School visits regularly.
- The Rural Art program
- Multiple athletic successes
- They hosted the Mid-level Student Council State Conference, approximately 250 junior high students.
- "Take the Court Night" raised \$250 for the LaRena Bengoa Run, Ride, and Walk Fund.
- The Student Council attended the Regional Student Council Conference at Lowry High School.
- Congressman Mark Amodei visited the school.
- Fall Homecoming initiated "He-man Volleyball" and a canned food drive.
- Four staff members attended the Indian Education Summit.
- The Student Council will attend the State Student Council in April.
- "Diversity Day" will be held May 6<sup>th</sup>.
- The Numu Club will be attending the Great Basin Language Conference at Pyramid Lake; "Sharing the Language through Generations".
- Farm Day will be held May 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Rural Field Day will be held May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Goals: 1) Close the achievement gap in math for 100% of all students, 2) close the achievement gap in English Language Arts for 100% of all students and 3) achieve full implementation of the Common Core State Standards by 2013-14.

Programs that were implemented this school year to make a change and to make a difference in the students' education include: SIOP, Evans Newton Incorporated (ENI), NCCAT-S, PLC's and baseline data collecting.

Mrs. Kennedy thanked Mr. Novi and Mrs. Owens for attending McDermitt's two State Department visitations and providing support to her and to staff. The final visitation for the year is scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Kennedy will be attending the Focus School meeting in Las Vegas at the Mega Conference on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Plans are to continue with the SIOP pilot. A re-evaluation of the Focus Plan will be conducted and staffing issues must be addressed. Accreditation is scheduled for the 2013-14 school year.

Mrs. Kennedy anticipates 13-16 kindergarteners and an approximate total enrollment of 126 students, , for the 2013-14 school year.

Mrs. Kennedy praised McDermitt Combined teachers, staff and students for their strong efforts this year. She encouraged all Board members to spend time in the rural schools.

Mrs. Kennedy invited everyone to Indian Taco Night, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. Funds will be used to purchase a drop down American Flag for the gym.

Mrs. Kennedy said she would like to see more of a connection with Lowry High School. She thanked Chad Peters for reaching out and including them in numerous athletic events. Mrs. Watts has invited 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to Rachel's Challenge and Nevada Law Day and they hope to take advantage of that.



**Discussion Only – Presentation on School Improvement Plan Progress by Lowry High School – Debbie Watts, Lynn Ludlow Andress**

The Lowry High School Leadership Team consists of Andy Anderson (Humanities), Michele Doyle (Science), Joyce Langham (Math), Vicki Meissner (English), Mrs. Watts and Doc Welter.

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

Progress:

- Advisory Class: 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens
- Freshman Parent and Student Night
- After-school homework assistance
- Students with F's are assigned to Roundup on a weekly basis.
- Students who failed Semester 1 are assigned to credit remediation
- Counselors meet with all failing students

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

Progress: The College and Career Readiness standards are being implemented by the CTE teachers. It is included in the courses they offer. Staff was provided numerous trainings in the Common Core State Standards with NNRPD and with Dr. Myhr.

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

Progress:

- Fall Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
- Freshman, Sophomore, Junior Parent Night
- Incoming Freshman Parent Night
- Financial Aid Night
- Spring Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
- Parent/Teacher/Student Organization (PTSO) monthly meetings

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

Mrs. Watts provided the results of the Fall HSPE for juniors and seniors in reading, writing, math and science. Graphs were provided the Board showing the number of F's (1-6 or more). The question was asked as to how many of the students failing the tests were students new to the District.

Progress:

- Counselors and Special Education teachers make sure students are in appropriate classes.
- Roundup on Thursday mornings
- After-school Homework help
- Counselors meet with failing students
- Truancy Advisory Board & Truancy Court
- Credit Remediation
- Reviewed math and science sessions before the March High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE)
- Reviewed writing sessions during two Advisory classes before the HSPE
- A new English Proficiency class was added this year for writing.
- A new science class will be added next year, Earth and Space Science.

Four new team members have been trained for their Instructional Consultation Team (IC Team), Mrs. Watts being one of those new members. Each team member has successfully completed one case and all team members have started a new case.

- The Lowry High School Student Council was one of 163 high schools nationwide that were awarded the 2013 National Gold Council of Excellence Award by the National Association of Student Councils.
- The Lowry High School Yearbook staff was awarded the Wallace Award for Excellence
- The Lowry Academic Challenge club won the Nevada State Championship this year.
- \$10,000 was raised by Carrie Stringham, Bill Sims and Sue Hawkins to help sophomores "Explore Their Future". Students in the program, who are eligible, will be bused for an all expense trip to UNR and Truckee Meadows College in Reno or Great Basin College in Elko.
- Mrs. Godinez's class goes several times a year to French Ford Middle School to teach the students Spanish.
- Mr. Anderson's class went to Grass Valley School and taught students watercolor.

#### **Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants**

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the warrants as presented. Mr. Braginton and Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried.

#### **Discussion Only – Projected Enrollment for the 2013-14 School Year – Dr. Dave Jensen**

Dr. Jensen provided the Board with a projected enrollment, by school, for the 2013-14 school year.

Grass Valley: 433	Sonoma Heights: 513	Winnemucca Grammar: 406
French Ford: 507	McDermitt Combined: 134	Winnemucca Jr. High: 488
Lowry High: 964	Denio: 5	Kings River: 16
Orovada: 36	Paradise Valley: 30	

#### **Current Student/Teacher Ratios**

Grass Valley: PreK-16:1, K-20.5:1, 1 <sup>st</sup> -16.8:1, 2 <sup>nd</sup> -18:1, 3 <sup>rd</sup> -23.5:1, 4 <sup>th</sup> -21.5:1
Sonoma Heights: PreK-21:1, K-19.4:1, 1 <sup>st</sup> -20.4:1, 2 <sup>nd</sup> -23.5:1, 3 <sup>rd</sup> -25.5:1, 4 <sup>th</sup> -23.5:1
Winnemucca Grammar: PreK-13:1, K-20:1, 1 <sup>st</sup> -15.4:1, 2 <sup>nd</sup> -19.5:1, 3 <sup>rd</sup> -18.25:1, 4 <sup>th</sup> -22.33:1
French Ford: 5 <sup>th</sup> -29.22:1, 6 <sup>th</sup> -27.22:1
McDermitt Combined: K:7:1, 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> : 23:1, 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> -16:1, 5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> -18:1

Dr. Jensen and Ms. Havens are currently working on the FY14 Tentative Budget. He reports that preliminary figures we are getting for the budget shows the ad valorem in Humboldt County has increased by \$400 million. Over the past several years, typically, there is a strong correlation that for every \$1 million in increased ad valorem; we lose \$1 in DSA. Currently, we receive \$5,540 in DSA. They are discussing a general 2% increase to cover COLA's. As a result of this projected increase and in light of the anticipated decrease in DSA as a result of increased ad valorem, Dr. Jensen said that he will use a figure of \$5240 as our DSA figure.

Our Net Proceeds of Minerals (NPM), which we hold for two years, is currently being reflected at just over \$5 million; last year we were given a figure of \$3.2 million. When everything pans out we are looking at the State's portion to support general education in Humboldt, excluding Special Ed, being under \$2 million.

Dr. Jensen said that he feels we need to do the right thing for students, especially with Common Core coming on board; therefore, he will be bringing a fairly aggressive staffing pattern to the Board at the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, in which he will recommend adding additional teaching positions.

Dr. Jensen reported that there are a few bill drafts currently in the Legislature that worry him greatly. If they pass, it will have significant fiscal impact on the District. One is associated with PERS, which would shift an additional 6% annual increase of PERS to the District until the unfunded liability (that they have calculated) disappears. 6% represents over \$1 million to the District.

Dr. Jensen noted that they will be building the budget on a projected increase in students over count day 2012 of 101 students. Though this figure is arbitrary in nature, it is felt that it presents a realistic expectation of new enrollment in response to the new construction occurring. As he brings the budget to the Board on April 9<sup>th</sup>, he will be proposing the possibility of creating one or two “floater” positions that do not have a placement. Once we determine exactly where our student enrollment figures are, we can add that position and be able to respond immediately.

#### **Discussion and Possible Action – Review and Approval of the Assistant Superintendent Contract – Dr. Dave Jensen**

At the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, the announcement was made that the committee had selected Dawn Hagness to be our next Asst. Superintendent. Dr. Jensen said that Mrs. Hagness will be offered the same contract that was offered to Dr. Myhr.

Dr. Jensen and Mr. Doyle had conversations regarding probationary status and, after reviewing statutes, they believe there is enough of a change from a principal position to an assistant superintendent position that it would place her into a probationary status.

Mrs. Hagness informed Dr. Jensen that they have accepted an offer on the sale of their home in Elko and will be purchasing a home in Winnemucca.

Mr. Hillyer moved to accept the Assistant Superintendent contract as presented. Mr. Braginton seconded, motion carried.

#### **Public Comment – Discussion Only**

None

#### **Board Reports/Requests - Information Only/No Action**

1. Mrs. Deputy reported that she, Mr. Betteridge and Mr. Hill visited Lowry High School on March 26<sup>th</sup>. She was impressed with the security system in place.
2. Mrs. Miller visited the new unit at Humboldt General Hospital. It is state of the art.
3. Mr. Hillyer will be attending an NIAA meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. They will be discussing the current format for state championships.
4. Mr. Betteridge said that, while the Swing Choir was visiting Crescent City on their tour, they saw two street performers singing and playing for tips. They took the idea, set up at a different location, and sang for tips. At the end of their performance, they divided the money between the two street performers and wished them well.
5. Mr. Hill reported that he and Mrs. Deputy visited Winnemucca Jr. High on March 19<sup>th</sup>.
6. Mr. Hill felt that data should be gathered and the Board should have a conversation regarding homeschool accountability. He noted there is no oversight of the program.
7. Mr. Seeliger informed the Board that at the NASB meeting on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, they voted (14-0) to address homeschooling and make it a priority for the next legislative session.
8. Mr. Novi gave cudos to the Lowry High School and McDermitt Combined administration, CTE staff and Board. We have just completed a CTE audit. They are very impressed with the changes we have made over the past several years with programs of study.



9. Mr. Novi informed the Board that there is a potential that the Carl Perkins funds we receive may be decreased up to 38% for the upcoming year. One of the recommendations made in the audit was that we need to form a stronger Technical Advisory Committee at the District level. At the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, he will propose to add one additional Board member to the committee.
10. Dr. Jensen met with Chad Peters regarding proposals on how we can address some of the athletic facilities issues we have identified. It is hoped that in April/May we can pull together meetings with multi-agencies in the community and open dialogue on how we can enhance facilities for the schools and community as a whole.
11. Dr. Jensen wished all District staff an outstanding and well deserved spring break.
12. Mr. Doyle said he made an observation that is very distressing to him. "We spent two hours and both, Janet and Debbie gave outstanding reports, but what did they give us a report on.....failure. We talked about the low end of the spectrum. What is the percentage of F's? What's the percentage we're bringing up to high school proficiency? What are all the intervention programs we have?" He said he does understand that it began with the NCLB philosophy, but he would like to hear about the students who did pass the proficiency or about the accelerated students and the programs we have in place for them. He said we have an obligation to all students.
13. Mr. Braginton noted that Mrs. Watts did provide some slides regarding some successes at Lowry and felt we should bring attention to and celebrate what is successful in the District, as well.
14. Mr. Seeliger provided everyone with an updated brochure from the NASB.
15. Mr. Seeliger reported that there will be two position vacancies on the Executive Committee (NASB). If anyone is interested, they should submit a letter of interest to Director, Dottie Merrill.
16. Mr. Seeliger noted that he and Dr. Jensen attended the iNVEST rollout and DSA hearing at the Legislature.
17. Mr. Seeliger warned members that the meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup> will be a long one. We will be discussing staffing, the budget and the rollout of the Planware program.
18. Mr. Hillyer reported that Mr. John Marvel passed away. Although retired, the state has lost a great Assemblyman and Legislator.
19. Mr. Braginton acknowledged Jessica Powell with the Humboldt Sun for staying for the entire meeting.

Adjourned 7:28 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright

  
Ann Miller, Clerk