

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

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of School Trustees was held May 14, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. in the Paradise Valley School.

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, Marty Echevarria, Kim Acorda, Janet Kennedy, Laurie McErquiaga, Liz Chabot, Roxanne Chabot, Valerie Barr, Lavonne Barr, Kevin and Lesa Pasquale and Secretary Paula Wright.

President Seeliger opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence: None

Minutes: Corrections to the April 23, 2013 meeting: Page 3 under "Approval of a Trip Request for McDermitt High School", 1st paragraph, last sentence, should read "Eleven students and two chaperones.... Also, Page 4, 4th paragraph, last sentence, should read "Legislature has made it difficult to do."

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the April 23, 2013 minutes with the noted corrections. Mr. Braginton seconded, motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Superintendent Report

1. On April 24th, Mr. Novi and Dr. Jensen had the opportunity to attend the Solution Tree NOW conference. Funding was provided by NNRPDP. This was an outstanding conference with a focus on Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the change process. Information will be utilized to steer upcoming conversations on the roll out.
2. At the end of the NOW conference, Dr. Jensen was able to attend a session from the Mega Conference. This was geared to District level staff and addressed upcoming requirements for School Performance Plans. Of most critical importance is the requirement that all schools identified as three stars or less will be required to participate in the NCCAT-S. In addition, this will require the District to participate in the NCCAT-D. This is a very comprehensive process that will be overwhelming. The Board was provided a copy of Nevada's Star Rating System and the supports and interventions required for each star rating.
3. On Tuesday, April 30th, Dr. Jensen was able to attend the Honor Society Banquet. He said it was a pleasure to interact with such outstanding students.
4. On May 2nd, Dr. Jensen attended a Superintendent's meeting. Requirements for schools under each star rating were discussed.
5. On May 6th, we held Edline web training. We are making good progress and will make the switch effective June, 2013.
6. On May 6th, Mrs. Maestrejuan and Dr. Jensen hosted the Senior Center to tour Lowry High School and Grass Valley kitchens. The Senior Center will be remodeling their kitchen next summer and have asked to utilize one of our kitchens. Every effort will be made to support our seniors.

7. On May 8th, Mr. Novi and Dr. Jensen visited with Lowry regarding the current schedule and staffing patterns. Conversation was held regarding making adjustments to provide a stronger support system for students with academic struggles.
 8. The annual Academic Assembly of Excellence was held on May 8th in the Lowry High School gym. Over 500 students were recognized for their academic success. The program was well attended and provided a clear focus on academics as we close out the year.
 9. On Thursday, May 9th, interviews for the Winnemucca Junior High School principal vacancy were conducted. We had three outstanding internal candidates. A strong committee was developed and careful consideration of all applicants was conducted. After a long and detailed discussion, a determination was made to extend the position to Janet Kennedy. We extend our sincerest congratulations to Mrs. Kennedy and wish her the best.
 10. That evening, the Teacher Recognition Banquet was held. This provided an opportunity to recognize the great instructional practices occurring in our schools. Recipients were:
 - Lowry High School - Ron Beck and Amie Godinez
 - Grass Valley - Dawn Lucas
 - Sonoma Heights - Ann Lampshire
 - Winnemucca Grammar - Lori Seidlitz
 - French Ford - Mary Jo Duffurena
 - Winnemucca Junior High - Larry Renteria
 - McDermitt - Jennifer Montero
 - Rurals - Marty Echeverria
 - District Teacher of the Year – Ron Beck
- Congratulations to all!
11. On May 13th, Lowry hosted Rachel's Challenge for current 9th graders, as well as 8th graders from Winnemucca Jr. High School, McDermitt Combined and Orovada. Great response was shown with most students pledging to accept Rachel's Challenge.
 12. Our district "super user" group training was held with site personnel that will oversee the school websites. This places us in good position for the website roll out and to allow sites to create their respective pages.
 13. On May 14th, students from Winnemucca Grammar School came to the District Office to participate in a "flash mob" reading project. Mr. Novi, Bruce Braginton and Dr. Jensen had the privilege of participating.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants

Mr. Hill moved to approve the warrants as presented. Mrs. Miller and Mr. Braginton seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Action – Approval of a Trip Request for the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Lowry High School to Attend the FBLA National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, CA in June 2013 – Dr. Dave Jensen

Five FBLA students who qualified to compete at the national conference have requested permission to participate in the conference to be held in Anaheim June 24-July 1, 2013. Mrs. Scott was also named the Regional Advisor of the Year. Students will be competing against students from across the nation and participating in various leadership workshops and activities.

They asked the Board's permission to travel to Anaheim. No district transportation was requested and all costs will be paid by the club.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the trip request for the Lowry Future Business Leaders of America to attend the FBLA National Leadership Conference in Anaheim June 24-July 1, 2013. Mrs. Miller and Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Action – Review and Approval of Indian Policies and Procedures – Dr. Dave Jensen

Dr. Jensen recognized Valerie Barr in attendance at the board meeting and noted that she has been a long standing and valuable member of the Indian Education Committee.

The Indian Policies and Procedures is a requirement of Title VII (Impact Aid) to develop, in collaboration with the Tribe, that all Native American children of school age be afforded equal access to all programs, services and activities offered by the district. The application is submitted on an annual basis. Impact Aide is a federal program that provides funding to the school district because of the amount of federal lands that are owned that do not provide tax revenue to the school district.

The Humboldt County School District Superintendent, McDermitt School Principal, appropriate staff and the Title VII Indian Education Parent Committee shall meet at least two or three times annually with the Fort McDermitt Indian Education Committee, Tribal officials and parents of Indian children. In recent years, the meetings have not taken place because there has not been an Indian Education Committee. Mrs. Barr noted that a new committee has been established and they are moving forward and look forward to a working relationship with the school district for the upcoming school year.

Discussion Only –District Property Location Review – Dr. Dave Jensen

Several weeks ago, Dr. Jensen was approached and asked if the District was willing to sell property the District owns on Railroad Street and possibly property adjacent to French Ford Middle School. The Board determined that they were not interested in selling the property, but asked to see a list of properties the District owns. A property list was provided which included land use parcels identified as vacant single family and general commercial school. The information also listed an appraised value; however, they are values that were accessed in 1995 & 2005.

Most of the properties are acreage under the needed 10-15 acres for a school site.

Discussion and Possible Action – Proposal to Move McDermitt Combined School From a Four Day to a Five Day School Week – Dr. Dave Jensen, Kelly Novi, Janet Kennedy

Currently, the McDermitt Combined School is struggling with overall academic performance. In addition, McDermitt has been identified as a focus school. We are also having significant difficulties in hiring qualified staff that are willing to go to McDermitt. Mrs. Kennedy is currently conducting interviews with potential candidates; however, additional staff members are looking to transfer into Winnemucca.

There was some discussion of providing classes to McDermitt via teleconference from Lowry, if necessary. However, with the current 4-day school week at McDermitt and 5-day at Lowry, it makes it difficult to correlate courses to support McDermitt.

Mr. Novi provided trend data for reading and math from 2008-09, when McDermitt first piloted the 4-day school day, to the 2011-12 school year in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10. Mr. Novi also provided data showing the reading and math cohort over the same time period. Changes in test standards and transiency of staff are some circumstances that account for the decline in academic performance.

Dr. Jensen noted that, when the 4-day school week was originally researched, data indicated that in most cases a school should, at a minimum, maintain level academic performance. That became the basis of the

pilot program and we are finding that is not the case. The data does show some limited upward spikes, but it still falls under 50% proficiency rate, which is not sufficient.

Mrs. Kennedy provided results of a survey provided to staff, students and parents. 40 of 74 (54%) of families in McDermitt were contacted. 18 were against returning to the 5-day school week (45%) and 22 were for returning to the 5-day school week (55%). Of the 37 students grades 7-12 who took the survey, 30 were against returning to the 5-day school week (81%) and 7 were in favor of returning to the 5-day school week (19%).

Mrs. Kennedy and her staff met to discuss what would be in the best interest of the students to become more academically prepared and supported. It was a very heated and emotional discussion. 4 of the 13 staff members voted to not return to the 5-day school week, with 8 of the 13 voting yes to return to the 5-day school week. She reported we may lose 1/3 to 1/2 of the current staff for the 2013-14 school year. The location is difficult to attract teachers and there is nothing in the community for young people in regards to social activities.

There was a brief discussion on what incentives could be offered to attract and keep new teachers in McDermitt.

Mrs. Miller moved to return to the 5-day school week at McDermitt Combined School for the 2013-14 school year and beyond. Mrs. Deputy seconded.

There was more discussion on how to bring and keep teachers in McDermitt.

President Seeliger called for a vote on the motion and second on the floor. All Board members were in favor of returning to a 5-day school week at McDermitt Combined School.

Discussion and Possible Action – Discussion to Change the Date of the Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting on May 28, 2013 – Dr. Dave Jensen

There was a brief discussion whether to change the date of the regularly scheduled board meeting on May 28th. McDermitt's 8th grade graduation falls on the same day and Mrs. Deputy and Mr. Hill would like to attend.

After some discussion, Mrs. Deputy moved to keep the regularly scheduled board meeting on May 28th, but begin the meeting at 12:00 noon. Mr. Braginton seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Discussion to Schedule a District-Wide Late Start – Dr. Dave Jensen

Dr. Jensen said that there is a need for time allotted to teachers in preparation of the Common Core State Standards rollout. In brainstorming to provide a district-wide late start, Dr. Jensen, Mrs. Hagness, and Mr. Novi have investigated a one hour late start on Thursdays to ensure support from NNRPDP. The late start will require a slight shift of start time and minor modifications to the schedule on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday of approximately 5 minutes. The proposal will maintain staff contractual obligations. Lowry High School and Winnemucca Jr. High School will actually gain instructional time. Sonoma Heights, Winnemucca Grammar and Grass Valley School will not lose any instructional time.

Dr. Jensen recommended the Board approve the district-wide late start for the 2013-14 school year on a trial basis. He will be monitoring the effectiveness on staff and students; is it a tangible benefit? The District must provide support for the teachers and administrators to provide them the direction of expectation. A major factor that will be looked for is the development of a consistent pacing guide with

Common Core. The district-wide late start will not include the remote rural schools that are on a 4-day school week. It is hoped that PDP will stay after the in-town late start Thursday training and provide professional development to the remote rurals on their working Fridays.

Mr. Braginton moved to approve the district-wide late start as proposed. Mr. Hill seconded. Mr. Braginton amended his motion to approve the district-wide late start as proposed for the 2013-14 school year. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Superintendent 360 Evaluation – Bruce Braginton

A Superintendent 360 evaluation was sent out to all administrators for their feedback. Mr. Braginton graciously offered to have all survey responses sent to him to be compiled. Mr. Braginton then met with Dr. Jensen to go over the survey responses.

The survey consisted of eight questions and four areas to provide comment.

Dr. Jensen was appreciative of the feedback. The feedback was valuable information on how administrators are feeling in certain areas and how he can improve in those areas.

Public Comment: None

Board/Staff Reports:

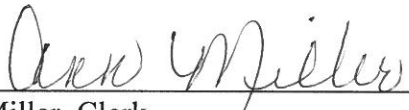
1. Mrs. Deputy was asked why “Rachel’s Challenge” (Lowry High School) is held at the end of the school year rather than at the beginning.
2. Mr. Braginton visited Winnemucca Jr. High School on May 3rd. He said he had a good conversation with Mr. Garrison and Mr. Parks.
3. On May 13th, Mr. Braginton attended the Grass Valley “1st Grade Art Extravaganza”.
4. Mr. Hill asked if Dr. Jensen or Mrs. Kennedy would contact Valerie Barr and let her know that Judge Montero will be presenting an update on Truancy Court. He felt she might be interested in attending.
5. Mr. Hillyer provided Board members with an eight year comparison of high school graduation rates for Lowry High School, Elko High School, Spring Creek High School and the State, as a whole. Lowry High School has consistently had the lowest graduation rate of the three schools. He believes we should do whatever is necessary to improve those rates.
6. Mr. Hillyer noted that Mrs. Kennedy has a difficult challenge ahead of her, but said he knows she will do a great job. He wished her luck.
7. Mr. Betteridge reported that the Winnemucca Jr. High School Band participated in the Northeast Nevada Large Group Festival on May 1st. The Band scored a superior rating from one judge and the highest possible rating from a second judge. He congratulated them.
8. At the previous board meeting, Mr. Betteridge asked Kevin Monsey if he would check into problems with the heating and cooling system at Grass Valley School. To date, Mr. Betteridge has not heard back from Mr. Monsey. He asked Dr. Jensen if anything had been determined as to the reason why the system does not work. Dr. Jensen said there are several issues; some revolve around District practices and issues regarding the actual systems themselves. The units are under warranty and have been replaced.
9. Dr. Jensen provided the Board with a copy of a letter from Rorie Fitzpatrick, Interim Superintendent, regarding teacher licensure in Nevada. The letter requests that the Department of

Ed reinstate the Provisional Teaching License for out-of-state candidates. The Provisional Licenses were eliminated due to "highly qualified teacher" requirements of NCLB. It is hoped that the ESEA Waiver will allow the Provisional Teacher's License to be re-established. This will benefit teachers who have trained and/or worked in another state, but are now being offered employment in Nevada.

10. Dr. Jensen reminded Board members of the graduation dates and times.
11. Mr. Hill asked where we are in the McDermitt principal vacancy. Dr. Jensen said the position has been posted, with a closing date of May 28th. We have received no applications, however, a staff member with an administrative degree has inquired about the position.
12. President Seeliger reminded Board members of the budget meeting on Wednesday, May 15th at 12:00 noon at Lowry High School.

Adjourned 7:22 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright



Ann Miller, Clerk