

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 28, 2013 at 12:00 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, Curtis and Sally Kull, Doc Welter, Sandy Hammargren-Silver Pinyon Journal, Ray Parks, Judge Mike Montero, Kevin Monsey, Mike Mitchell, Bryon Krell, Mike Formby, Dorene Kitras, Jason Pruitt, other interested persons and Secretary Paula Wright.

President Seeliger opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence: None

Minutes: Mrs. Deputy noted that in the May 14th minutes, under Board/Staff Comments, she did not actually attend Rachel's Challenge at Lowry High School, but was asked by a community member why the program is held at the end of the school year rather than at the beginning of the school year.

Mrs. Miller moved to approve the May 14, 2013 minutes with the noted correction. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Hill moved to approve the May 15, 2013 minutes as written. Mr. Braginton and Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried.

Public Comment: Mrs. Sally Kull asked that the following letter be read into the minutes.

It is our great joy to be the proud parents of the valedictorian for Lowry Class of 2013. Our daughter had her sights set on this goal from the first day of her freshman year. Through sacrifice, tears and stress, she persevered to reach this ultimate end to her high school education. Although there are multiple benefits to this honor such as scholarships, monetary rewards and college options, her vision of giving the valedictory address at the graduation ceremony was the one bonus that motivated her.

In May, there was an announcement to turn in speeches for the graduation ceremony. Lowry does not declare the valedictorian until the last week of school. Not wanting to be presumptuous, she awkwardly asked about the valedictorian speech, although she hadn't been officially notified. She was told that "just because you are valedictorian does not necessarily mean you get to give a speech". Apparently this has been the protocol of Lowry for many years to allow any student in good standing to submit a speech to be given at graduation. Three speeches are chosen. If you happen to be valedictorian, then it is just an added benefit. So, if she was to give a speech; it would be as any other student, not as the valedictorian.

It may seem to be a minor technicality to some, but it completely devalued the honor of addressing her class in this capacity. She did not want to speak for the sake of speaking, but wanted to express her heartfelt gratitude, joy and motivation to her teachers and classmates

from her position as number one in her class. She was devastated. She climbed her mountain, only to have the flag to plant at the summit taken away from her.

To have the valedictorian give a speech has been tradition for essentially every high school, college, university, police academy, fire academy and other educational institutions since the founding of our country. Ninety-nine percent of all the high schools in northern Nevada let the valedictorians give a speech.

We do not understand the reasoning behind this policy. If it is to create a level playing field for all students, this does nothing to benefit any student. Life is not a level playing field. It is a series of challenges that molds and shapes us into who we are and what we will become. Lowry also does not let students wear any special medallions, cords or accoutrements awarded to students for being a part of any special clubs or organizations, such as FFA or national leadership groups. We need to honor academic achievement in any and every way we can. Reward is what motivates all of us, whether it is acknowledgment, fame or merely a paycheck. Public speaking or wearing a medallion may not be a big deal to some, but if the reward of it will nurture excellence in one student, why not only allow it, but promote it. We all benefit from honoring achievement in any forum, be it business, athletics or education. One student could be a history maker. As a society, we all reap the benefits of excellence in others. Let us raise the bar, acknowledge the accomplishments of our students in any and every way we can, and see how far it takes them and us.

We are not objecting to other students being allowed to speak at their graduation, only to not having the specific honor bestowed on the students who earned it. Let one or two speeches be given by any student who wishes.

Our daughter was not given the privilege this year of giving the valedictory address. She was heartbroken, but will go on to great and noble things in her future. Her accomplishment cannot be taken from her. Our intent now is to possibly change the protocol for future academically gifted students. I know many families in this community who have very intelligent and motivated children. We wish to give them every reason to strive for their goals. We can always be better. Let's be proud of our students and our high school.

12:07 p.m. Mr. Hillyer arrived.

Superintendent Report

1. On May 15th, Mr. Novi and Dr. Jensen had the opportunity to meet with Lowry High School AP teachers on enhancing AP test taking to assist with our high school NSPF measure. Teachers are fully committed and the District will work to ensure that cost is not an issue to test taking.
2. On May 15th the final budget hearing was held. No changes were made to the budget, other than the addition of the three positions directed by the Board during the tentative budget presentation.
3. On May 16th, Ronda Havens and Dr. Jensen met with our auditing firm (Drake, Rose and Associates) to begin the process for the 2012-2013 audit.
4. That afternoon, the insurance committee met to review renewal rates. Ultimately, it was deemed necessary to shift our plan from Cigna to Anthem, with an overall renewal rate of 8.6%. Dr. Jensen expressed his appreciation to the committee for their diligence and insight.
5. May 17th was the final, all day administrative meeting for the year. The day comprised of ENI training, as well as year end business and 2014 prep.

6. On Tuesday May 21st, Dr. Jensen had the opportunity to attend the Mining Foundation meeting. He expressed his appreciation for the support that both Lowry and the District receive from the Mining Foundation.
7. The afternoon of May 21st, Bryon Krell, Mike Formby and Dr. Jensen met with Kevin Monsey to review the facilities update recommendations as will be presented as part of the agenda.
8. A number of year end assemblies are currently under way. Lowry High School held theirs on May 22nd, with Winnemucca Jr. High School the evening of the 22nd, Sonoma May 29th at 9 a.m. and French Ford, Grass Valley and Winnemucca Grammar on Thursday, May 30th.
9. Dr. Jensen reminded Board members of McDermitt's 8th grade graduation the evening of the 28th, McDermitt's High School graduation Wednesday at 7 p.m., and Lowry and Paradise Valley on Thursday, May 30th at 7 p.m. (Note: correction noted at 6/25/13 meeting-PV's graduation was held on Wednesday, May 29th)
10. The McDermitt principal position officially closed at noon on May 28th. As of closing, we have four candidates that have submitted a letter of interest. Three candidates are current District teachers and one is outside the District. Applications will be screened and interviews will be scheduled for next week in McDermitt.
11. Dr. Jensen will be attending a combined NASS and NASA conference in South Lake Tahoe June 16-18th.
12. JOIN will be holding their graduation on June 21st at 7 p.m. in the Convention Center for anyone interested in attending.
13. On May 21st Dr. Jensen received the devastating news that the Legislative Counsel Bureau had found a technical error on the DSA and made a recommendation to the Legislature of a \$78 million reduction in the DSA over the biennium. For Humboldt County School District that equated to approximately \$300,000 for each year of the biennium. Dr. Jensen was pleased to report that on Friday, May 24th the Legislature reinstituted the funds.
14. Dr. Jensen sent out congratulations to the staff and students for a wonderful school year and hopes that everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer vacation.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Warrants

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

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of a Trip Request for the Lowry High School FFA Livestock Judging Team to the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls for a Livestock Judging Camp – Dr. Dave Jensen

Dr. Jensen suggested the Board may want to include trip requests under the consent agenda.

Dr. Jensen presented the trip request for FFA since they were unable to attend the meeting during the school day.

Lowry's FFA Livestock Judging Team requested approval to attend camp at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls. This camp is sponsored by various college judging teams and allows students the opportunity to develop and enhance their judging skills. 9-10 students and two chaperones will be making the trip on July 8-11th. They requested the use of a district vehicle and all costs will be paid by the club.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the trip request for the Lowry High School FFA Livestock Judging Team to travel to the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls. Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of a Trip Request for the Lowry High School FFA Livestock Judging Team to Boise, Idaho for the FFA Livestock Judging and Meats Judging Competition – Dr. Dave Jensen

Dr. Jensen presented the trip request for FFA since they were unable to attend the meeting during the school day.

Lowry's FFA team requested approval to attend the Livestock Judging and Meats Judging in Boise, Idaho the first or second week of September. 8-10 students and two chaperones will be making the trip. They requested the use of a District vehicle and all costs will be paid by the club.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the trip request for the Lowry High School FFA Livestock Judging Team to Boise, Idaho for the FFA Livestock Judging and Meats Judging competition with the usual caveat that, chaperones are obtained and depending on conditions for the safety of students and chaperones. Mr. Braginton seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of a Trip Request for Alexander Jackson and Andrew Meyer to Attend the SkillsUSA Nationals in Kansas City on June 24-28, 2013 – Dr. Dave Jensen

Dr. Jensen presented the request for Mr. Meyer and AJ Jackson since they were unable to attend the meeting during the school day.

Dr. Jensen reported that AJ Jackson scored a gold medal during the recent National SkillsUSA Conference, which afforded him the opportunity to compete at the national level.

Mr. Meyer requested permission for AJ and himself to travel to the National SkillsUSA conference in Kansas City, Missouri June 24-28th. Approximate cost of the trip is \$3044, which will be paid by the club.

Mr. Braginton moved to approve the trip request as presented for Mr. Meyer and Mr. Jackson to attend the SkillsUSA Nationals in Kansas City. Mr. Hillyer seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of a Miscellaneous Leave Request to Facilitate Student Teaching for Lori Egan – Dr. Dave Jensen

Last year the Board authorized miscellaneous leave for Mrs. Lori Egan to conduct her student teaching; however, given some unforeseen circumstances she was unable to complete her student teaching. As a result, she submitted a letter to formally rescind her board approved miscellaneous leave.

Mrs. Egan is again requesting miscellaneous leave to conduct her student teaching this fall beginning in August for sixteen weeks, ending in December. Mrs. Egan intends to continue driving her bus route, while student teaching at McDermitt Combined. Dr. Jensen noted that miscellaneous leave is permissible under Article 12.9 of the Humboldt County Support Staff Organization Negotiated Agreement.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the miscellaneous leave request for Lori Egan to facilitate her student teaching. Mr. Hill and Mr. Betteridge seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Establish Board Meetings for June, 2013 – Dr. Dave Jensen

After a brief discussion, Mr. Hillyer moved to cancel the June 11, 2013 board meeting. Mr. Hill seconded, motion carried. The next scheduled meeting will be held on June 25, 2013. Mrs. Deputy said she may not be able to attend the June 25th meeting.

Discussion Only – Update on the 2012-13 Truancy Board – Judge Montero, Ray Parks, Doc Welter

Judge Montero began by thanking Ray Parks and Doc Welter for all the time and effort they put into the program. Mr. Parks has chaired the Advisory Board for the past two years and has been a tremendous help to the court. Mr. Welter monitors the students throughout the week. Both gentlemen attend Truancy Court every Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m. He also thanked other members of Truancy Court: Richard Hoss (DA's office), Collette Hanson (Juvenile Probation), Rospi Welter (Division of Child and Family Services), the court appointed special advocate volunteers, Sal Romero (Juvenile Advisory Board), Judge Pro-tem, Jack Bullock, Kathy Brumm (from Judge Montero's office), Michelle Garrison, and a number of interpreters.

Students who have been identified as truant are referred to the Advisory Board. It is then determined if the student would benefit from monitoring by the Advisory Board or if they should be referred to Truancy Court. If it is determined the student should participate in Truancy Court, the student and his/her parents attend court once a week and is monitored by the Truancy Court team.

During the 2012-13 school year, 57 students were referred to the Advisory Board. Twenty-nine of those students were referred to Truancy Court. Of the 29 students, 59% (17) of the students completed the program. 61% of the students referred to Truancy Court showed a 76-100% improvement in truancy.

Mr. Welter explained how truanies are calculated at the high school. Mr. Welter noted that the number of students that have been withdrawn from the high school or have been absent for ten consecutive days (drop outs) is significantly lower this year than in the past.

Mr. Parks explained how the Advisory Board determines who moves on to Truancy Court and how students can be helped by weekly monitoring by the Advisory Board.

When asked what the Board could do to help the program, Judge Montero said that he would like to see the program continue and feels there is a need for more counselors in the schools and the need for a social worker to follow up on services being provided to students.

Dr. Jensen thanked Judge Montero, Mr. Parks, and Mr. Welter for their leadership and stated that the Board and administration is in full support of the program. He thanked them for their time and efforts.

Discussion and Possible Action – Inter-local Agreement Between Humboldt County School District and Humboldt General Hospital to Support Athletics – Dr. Dave Jensen, Jim Parrish, Dr.

Perkinson, Louis Mendiola

Postponed

Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of SIOP Training for Winnemucca Grammar School – Dorene Kitras

The Board previously approved year two of the SIOP training program at Sonoma Heights and McDermitt Combined.

Mrs. Kitras provided the Board with a school overview comparing growth and projected proficiency in math and reading from Fall 2012 to Spring 2013. The overview showed significant growth in both areas.

Mrs. Kitras requested three full release days of training for school year 2013-14, consistent with days granted for Sonoma Heights School and McDermitt Combined. New staff members will be offered a two-day introduction training at Sonoma Heights in August. Trainings will focus on how to write lesson plans and collaboration between grade levels. The training will include six days of observations. Cost of the training and books is approximately \$12,254. Dr. Jensen noted that Title I funds will be used to offset the cost.

Mrs. Miller moved to approve the SIOP training for Winnemucca Grammar School. Mr. Hillyer and Mr. Braginton seconded. Mrs. Miller amended her motion to approve the three day SIOP training for Winnemucca Grammar School. Mr. Hillyer seconded, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action – Facilities Improvement Project Review – Dr. Dave Jensen, Mike Mitchell, Kevin Monsey, Bryon Krell, Mike Formby

The Board asked that they be provided a summary of projects, by school and priority. Approximately \$15.7 million worth of projects have been identified throughout the District. The list does not include the single point of entry projects or the future growth expansion. Dr. Jensen noted that the future expansion budget totals approximately \$29 million. If the District finds itself in a position for facility expansions, it will require the District to go to the voters for a separate or supporting bond question. The existing amount we are generating would not be sufficient to cover the cost of expansions.

One major project will be the re-keying of the entire District (approx. 1000 doors) at a cost of approximately \$80,000.

Mr. Monsey walked the Board through the projects by school. Roofing is one of the major priorities on several buildings. Under the projected projects for Lowry High School, there was a brief discussion as to whether the Board wanted to keep the new synthetic turf for the football field on a priority one (1-3 year) status at an approximate cost of \$585,000. The synthetic turf would reduce water consumption and upkeep at a current cost of approximately \$38,000 annually. The Board was in favor of postponing the turf project until all roofing projects have been completed. It was recommended moving the Lowry turf project from a Priority 1 (1-3 years) to a Priority 3 (5-10 years). Dr. Jensen noted that it would not preclude the Board to consider the project sooner, if desired.

There was a brief discussion regarding the possibility of developing community partnerships for the mutual benefit of the school district and community in providing the needs and wants for each. It was suggested placing an item on an upcoming agenda to discuss the format to be used to begin discussions for school district/community partnerships for facilities and programs.

Discussion and Possible Action – Establish Community Forum Dates in Regards to Facilities Improvement Projects – Dr. Dave Jensen

Once the District establishes the project priorities, it was suggested two community forums be established to gather community input. After some discussion, it was decided to set a community forum for September 12th. One forum will be held from 1-3:00 p.m. and one from 7-9:00 p.m.

2:29 p.m. Recess

2:36 p.m. Return

**Discussion and Possible Action – Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) Coordinator
Discussion - Dr. Dave Jensen**

Dr. Jensen reported that the NSPF school ratings have been released by the Nevada Department of Education. The Nevada Department of Education, as a stipulation of the ESEA waiver, is requiring that every school that is ranked a three star or less to go through the Nevada Comprehensive Curriculum Audit Tool-School (NCCAT-S) process. Because McDermitt Combined has been deemed a focus school, the District will be required to go through the NCCAT-D process. The District contracted the services out this year for McDermitt, with payment coming through the Focus School Grant funds (\$5,000).

For the upcoming year, it is projected that seven NCCAT evaluations will be required. Dr. Jensen's issue with contracting the services out for that number of schools is the difficulty in maintaining continuity of the process with an external contractor. A district position would allow for immediacy and consistency of the tool.

We are projecting a student enrollment of approximately 3600 for the upcoming school year. The last time we saw a student enrollment, approximate to the anticipated 3600 for the upcoming school year, was in 2002-03. At that time we had 15 administrators, a reduction from 17 the previous year (2001-2002).

If supported by the Board, the NCCAT coordinator will work with schools that have been identified as three star or less on the NCCAT. Currently, the school statuses are being embargoed until June. We currently believe we have only one school that is above the three star rating. New ratings will be issued in September. Dr. Jensen provided the Board with a job description, responsibilities and qualifications for the position. If approved, it is proposed that the person be paid on an administrative director salary schedule.

There was a brief discussion of what would happen if the Board did not approve the hiring of this position. The additional duties would more than likely be given to current school administrators and staff, with district supports, to complete the process for their individual schools.

Jason Pruitt, parent of a student at Winnemucca Grammar, approached the Board regarding the NCCAT coordinator position. He asked for clarification of how the star ratings are assigned to schools. He asked, "If we hold our schools and staff accountable now, why we would need to fill the position?"

Dr. Jensen stated that the principals and staff are held accountable and willingly accept this accountability. He said that we must now have an "end product" and the documents to support and facilitate the changes we've made.

Mr. Hillyer moved to approve the addition of one administrative position as presented for the purpose to facilitate the Nevada School Performance Framework process, in a coordinator position, for a three year period, at which time it will be reviewed. Mr. Braginton seconded, motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Board/Staff Reports:

1. Mr. Hill reported that he heard on the radio that the Legislature is trying to increase the Net Proceeds of Minerals tax from 5% to 10% and asked if the additional funds would be provided to school districts. Dr. Jensen said he was unaware of this proposal.

2. Mr. Hill stated that he was under the impression that the valedictorian was allowed to speak at graduation and was disappointed to find out otherwise.
3. Mr. Hill thanked Mr. Hillyer for attending the Orovada graduation.
4. Mr. Betteridge asked for an update on the solar panel savings. Dr. Jensen said he would provide the Board with an update.
5. Mr. Betteridge asked about the disposition of the several solar panels that have been damaged. Dr. Jensen reported that the vandals have been identified; the District has pressed charges and is seeking recoupment of the cost. On other claims, the District has gone through our insurance company. The District has secured some extra panels for replacement use.
6. Mr. Hillyer asked if the legislation on the redistribution of the Net Proceeds of Minerals passed. Mr. Seeliger said that the legislation regarding the Nevada Plan has not yet passed.
7. Mr. Hillyer said that he feels the Board works well together and they bring very diverse experiences to the board.
8. Mr. Braginton reported that he has been reading a book that he received at the NASB conference on how to be an effective board member. He said there are areas the Board can improve in and agreed with Mr. Hillyer that the board functions well together.
9. Mr. Braginton said he too was disappointed in the situation with the valedictorian.
10. Mrs. Deputy reported she believes her daughter's class was the last to have multiple valedictorians.
11. Mrs. Deputy attended Kings River Elementary School's graduation on Wednesday, May 22nd. They graduated one 8th grade student and three kindergartners.
12. Mrs. Deputy said she was very disappointed that Denio Elementary School's graduation was changed from 6 p.m. to 5 p.m. and no one was notified. She arrived at 5:55 p.m. and the graduation had already ended.
13. Mrs. Deputy reminded everyone of McDermitt's 8th grade graduation on May 28th and Paradise Valley's on May 29th.
14. Mr. Hill said that he was told by parents that they will have approximately 40 students attending the Orovada School next year. Dr. Jensen reported that the grade levels have been reassigned to better even out the number of students each teacher will have next year.
15. Mrs. Miller reported on an article in the newspaper stating that the Governor is proposing \$2 million to help recruit teachers into at-risk positions in the rural setting. The article later made it sound like the funds would be going to Clark County. She questioned Clark County being considered rural.
16. Dr. Jensen reported that the District will be submitting a Pre-K grant for the continuation of the Pre-K program at Grass Valley Elementary.
17. Dr. Jensen noted that he met with Mrs. Kull and was aware of the concern shared tonight. She expressed her concern to him regarding the valedictorian and the opportunity to provide a speech based on this identification. He appreciated the opportunity to better understand her concerns. Dr. Jensen noted that the District has granted autonomy to both Lowry and McDermitt on how the schools handle their graduation process. He said that the process Lowry High School has used is that, any student interested may submit a speech and the speech will be considered for presentation. In the past, the valedictorian and salutarian have had strong indications of placement prior to graduation and have submitted a speech, if they were interested in doing so. In the case of Miss Kull, it was reported that opportunities were afforded for a speech to be submitted, however, she was uncomfortable submitting a speech without formal notification of being the Valedictorian. As a result, no speech was submitted and Miss Kull was not included in the presentation. The process in place for Lowry's graduation has been consistent for a number of years, with this year presenting the only issue of this nature. Dr. Jensen encouraged that individual sites continue to be granted autonomy to define their

graduation process as deemed most appropriate. This would not preclude changes to the process if the site determined such to be appropriate.

18. Mr. Seeliger reminded board members that the Superintendent's evaluation will be reviewed at the June 25th meeting. He will be sending the evaluation form out to Board members the week of June 3rd. He asked that the evaluations be returned to him no later than June 23rd.

Adjourned 3:26 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Paula Wright

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ann Miller", is written over a horizontal line.

Ann Miller, Clerk