

# CHURCHILL COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Fallon, Nevada

## REGULAR MEETING

March 26, 2015

### **CALL TO ORDER**

President Evans called to order the regular meeting of the Churchill County School District Board of Trustees at 6:30 p.m. at the Churchill County School District Administration Office, 690 South Maine Street, Fallon, Nevada.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **CHARACTER COUNTS BI-MONTHLY WORD: FAIRNESS**

Faith Gentry Steep and Morgan Stacey, 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from Lahontan Elementary school, lead the pledge of allegiance and spoke briefly on the character counts word "Fairness."

### **VERIFICATION OF POSTING OF AGENDA**

President Evans confirmed the posting of the agenda.

### **ROLL CALL**

#### **Trustees Present**

President Ron Evans  
Vice President Clay Hendrix  
Trustee Matt Hyde  
Trustee Rich Gent  
Trustee Carmen Schank  
Trustee Greg Koenig  
*[Vacant Board Position]*

#### **Others Present**

Dr. Sandra Sheldon  
Phyllis Dowd, Director of Business Services  
Sharla Hales, Legal Counsel  
  
Debra Shyne, Secretary  
(Interested Staff/Community Members per Attached List)

### **REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted under unanimous consent.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jim Falk spoke regarding his attendance at legislative hearings regarding education matters. Danny Lecker spoke regarding the four-day work initiative. Nona McFarlane stated that she called Ed Pearce (KOLO TV) to ask him to report on the issues the school district is dealing with. Deby Smotherman asked if the four-day week will be discussed at the next board meeting. Michele Russell and Andrew Campbell voiced concerns about the four-day week. Ray Jacobs, teacher, Northside Early Learning Center, spoke in support of the grade level schools. Joy Lacow-Sweet spoke about the potential loss of income for food services, transportation and noon duty aids.

## **CCSD STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

- A. The Board of Trustees received information regarding academics, activities, and athletics by 10th Grade Student Paola Duenas.

## **PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE REORGANIZATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

- A. Public hearing in compliance with NRS 393.080 to consider reorganizing the grade configurations of E.C. Best, Lahontan and Numa, Elementary Schools and Northside Early Learning Center, including presentation of information by administrative staff and public comments regarding the proposed reorganization.

Noreen Swenson and Jennifer Guerro spoke in favor of K-5 schools. Lisa Solinski recommended eliminating a technology person instead of a counselor at the elementary schools. Beth Edwards, parent, spoke in opposition to grade level schools. Keith Boone spoke in support of grade level schools. Brenda Esposito, parent, spoke in support of the K-5 schools. Ron Turner, Garage Supervisor at the Bus Sheds, spoke in support of wage reduction across the board and voiced concern about cutting classified employees. Deby Smotherman spoke in support of grade level schools. Jim Moore spoke in support of K-5 schools. Sunshine Pell spoke in support of grade level schools, keeping counselors, and considering a volunteer program for specials. Gregg Malkovich spoke in support of grade level schools. Joy Lacow-Sweet spoke in support of grade level schools. Katy Van Dusen spoke in support of grade level schools. Kieran Kalt spoke in support of K-5 schools.

President Evans stated that the reason for reduction in force is due to finances. The expected reduction, as of now, to the DSA (the District's main funding source) is \$78 per student.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

- A. Discussion of negotiations and strategies regarding Churchill County Administrators Association, Churchill County Education Association, and the Nevada Classified School Employees Association pursuant to NRS 288.220.

Trustee Gent made a motion, seconded by Trustee Schank, to go into closed session as per NRS 288.220. The motion passed unanimously. The Board met in Executive Session from 7:35 until 7:48.

Trustee Gent made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hyde, to reconvene open session as per NRS 288.220. The motion passed unanimously.

## **RECONVENE OPEN SESSION**

The meeting reconvened at 7:50.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

### **A. Mr. Will Jensen, Director of Special Services, will report on the threat assessment protocol.**

Mr. Jensen reported on the threat assessment protocol, as he has been collaborating with Dr. Susan Martin (Washoe County) over the past few months. These protocols and forms will be in place with the intervention team. If there is a threat, the teacher reports it to the principal and to the team and then the team goes through the threat assessment protocol.

### **B. Dr. Sheldon will update the Board regarding the universal screening tool.**

Mr. Jensen stated that the data from the universal screening tool is not designed to drill down data on individual students. It is designed to determine the overall health of a population at a school. It is a diagnostic tool regarding where students are both socially and emotionally. The District has a baseline and will do one more screening, and from that screening will be able to see if students 4-8 years old are improving with respect to social emotional health.

Teachers make observations and write down information, but students are not contacted. After discussion, it was decided that notice would be sent to parents of students 4-8 years old prior to the next screening.

### **C. Update regarding District related matters.**

Dr. Sheldon reported on school events and stated that Trustee Schank had requested the District mission, vision, and beliefs be posted on walls at the entrance of the Pit, and are now posted.

Dr. Sheldon reported that the email server went down last Thursday and an alternate server is up and running. It is not know at this time if the forensic staff will be able to recover all of the email and calendar items. Dr. Sheldon will meet with Oasis Online for a status update and to confirm that many, if not most, of the emails were archived and if Oasis will be able to retrieve information from the archive, if needed. At the Board's April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, there is an agenda item to move forward with the purchase of new backup servers.

Dr. Sheldon reported that the public announcement for the Board member vacancy was in the paper twice and the application is online. Interested parties can get the application online or contact Debra Shyne at the district office.

## **BUSINESS SERVICES UPDATE**

- A. Bond Fund Report (written report provided).**
- B. Board Budget Report (written report provided).**
- C. Budget to Actual Report (written report provided).**
- D. Travel Report (written report provided).**
- E. Quarterly Workers' Compensation Update, including items to reduce experience modification rate (written report provided).**

Trustee Schank asked about the balance of the Bond on page 15 of BoardBook: \$902,000, and voiced concern about having enough money to complete all of the projects. Dr. Sheldon stated that based on recent legislative activity, the District does not need to pay

prevailing wage and the estimates contain prevailing wage. Additionally, the District has pay as you go money that can be used if needed. The million dollars for the CCHS Theater was an estimate, and the District hasn't even yet determined the square footage of the building. Marty Johnson will be talking with the Master Plan Task Force in May regarding the new legislation regarding the rollover bond being extended for ten years. Even if the District does not go out for more bonds, the District will have pay as you go money for the next thirteen years, which will go into the Capital Projects Fund.

### **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES UPDATE**

- A. The latest Student Enrollment Data will be provided to the Board of Trustees (written report provided).**

### **UPCOMING BOARD EVENTS**

- A. April 10-11, Friday-Saturday, Nevada Association of School Boards School Board Member Orientation, Part II (location to be determined).
- B. May 21, Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Adult Education Graduation, Churchill County High School Auditorium.
- C. May 29, Friday, 7:00 p.m., High School Graduation, Ed Arciniega Stadium, Churchill County High School.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Recommended Personnel Action (Attachment A).
- B. Approval of Vouchers.
- C. Approval of March 12, 2015, Regular Board Meeting Minutes.
- D. Approval of Student 15-07 to enter the General Educational Development (GED) program.

Trustee Koenig requested Item A #2 under consent agenda be pulled. Trustee Schank made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gent, **to approve consent agenda items B, C and D as written**. There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Koenig stated that Item #2 under "A" is a one-year leave of absence for Cheryl Venturacci. Trustee Koenig stated that a leave of absence to take another job is not identified in the master agreement. Trustee Koenig made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hyde, **to deny the request for leave of absence**. There was no public comment. The motion passed 5:1; with President Evans opposed.

Trustee Schank made a motion, seconded by Trustee Koenig, **to approve consent agenda Item A #1, #3, and #4 as written**. There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

### **REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. Evans reported on his attendance at the ROTC Ball. Ms. Schank attended the District Performance Committee meeting and will make a report at a future meeting. Trustee Hyde reported on the Baseball Camp for Youth and recognized the hard work of the coaches.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. For Discussion and Possible Action: The Board may determine how to reorganize elementary schools, including the potential to move grade levels to different schools, and potentially designating Northside Early Learning Center as Pre-K only, and other similar possible reorganization.**

Old Business Item "B" was addressed prior to "A".

*[After a brief break, the Board meeting restarted at approximately 9:32.]*

President Evans stated that this is a discussion of twelve additional licensed positions. Dr. Sheldon stated that there are still concerns that the District could be facing some additional challenges from the legislature. There was a public hearing yesterday regarding class size reduction (\$1.2 million for Churchill), for grades K-5. Some legislators are hearing that we need to increase the DSA, as there is a \$78 reduction when you absorb the roll-ups on the salary schedules, and include the increased costs of retirement and insurance. They might take the class size reduction and increase the DSA. This makes no net difference in the amount of money that the District would receive. The concern is that, because of the deadline to reduce licensed staff is before the legislative session is over, these licensed positions need to be reduced on the contingency that there is not enough money. If there is money, the Board can look at keeping some of those positions. The District cannot cut licensed staff after April 30<sup>th</sup>. The Board removed from the list the 12<sup>th</sup> "unidentified" position.

Trustee Koenig made a motion, seconded by Trustee Schank, ***to approve RIFing those extra 11 positions with the understanding that if money is there then those positions would be added back.*** There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Dowd stated that the deadline for BoardBook is tomorrow (03/27), as the next board meeting is April 1<sup>st</sup>. The agenda will be posted on March 27<sup>th</sup>, but BoardBook will not be ready until Monday or Tuesday. The personnel action sheet will list all of the rehires of licensed staff.

Trustee Koenig made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hyde, ***to decrease our budget for early buyouts to \$100,000 and to decrease the contingency to \$65,000.*** There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. For Discussion and Possible Action: The Board will discuss all aspects of the 2015-2016 Budget and set budget priorities in an effort to provide direction to the Budget Committee and Staff so that items to be reduced can be explored and quantified. Staff will provide information to the Board for review. Any and every line item in the budget may be discussed and acted on for possible reduction or increase.**

Ms. Dowd explained the reports regarding the budget.

Trustee Schank asked what the difference would be in special education whether grade level schools or K-5 schools.

Mr. Jensen stated that special education cuts can be made today, with no reconfiguration of any kind to our school district. Caseloads in Nevada can legally be set at 22:1; 24:1 if a

waiver is in place with the Department of Education. Those waivers are being approved all over the state. To say we can make cuts in either model is correct; we can make cuts in either model. Mr. Jensen stated that his job is to determine where cuts can be made and students can still be educated with free and appropriate public education. Mr. Jensen's recommendation is based on what he thinks case managers in the District are able to handle and do a fantastic job. The recommendation Mr. Jensen made is programmatic, a systemic way of looking at special education services. Mr. Jensen does not believe adding kindergarten to the existing staff at Numa is the best option for a reduction and student services. When the students are consolidated it is easier to provide multiple resources within that system. There are no para-professional legal requirements, other than when an IEP calls for additional adult support; where a para-professional can be added. The District can reduce four IA's in the elementary system and this is more sustainable in a consolidated model.

Trustee Hendrix stated that his motion is based on the fact that two administrators, Will Jensen, and Dr. Sheldon, all of whom Trustee Hendrix respects, have recommended grade level schools. Trustee Hendrix stated that he does not want to reduce more elementary teachers. Trustee Hendrix made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hyde, ***that for the upcoming school year we do grade level schooling.***

Trustee Gent asked if there is any difference in violence in grade level versus K-5 schools. Dr. Sheldon stated that she has not found anything that addresses violence.

Trustee Schank stated that she has spent time at Northside with the Pre-K program and have been told that teachers appreciate being able to collaborate together. Trustee Schank stated that she has gone back and forth on this issue and commented that there is an additional savings of \$350,000 if the District goes with grade level schools.

Trustee Hyde stated that accountability will be better with grade level schools as principals only need to worry about two grade levels.

Trustee Schank stated that at one time the District had grade level schools, but because the community was growing, some of the classes had to be relocated to a different school. The District has lost 1,000 students in the last ten years.

Trustee Koenig commented that the Board cannot decide on a four-day week because the Board is unaware of what concessions the associations will make.

President Evans stated that he vacillated back and forth, received a lot of emails, and also had a lady stop him today who stated that her kids went through grade level schools. Her point is that we talked about the transition of moving schools, but the kids will know all of the other kids in their grade, and the transition to the middle school would be much easier.

Trustee Gent stated that he was not comfortable with the \$20,000 cost of moving classrooms. Dr. Sheldon stated that this summer there will be one move, the rooms would be packed up and labeled, it would be done in less than a week, and \$20,000 is probably a little high. Trustee Koenig stated that the moving cost is a one-time charge, while the District will save \$350,000 each year, as money would not need to be transferred to the special education budget.

Trustee Schank asked which grade levels would be at each school. Dr. Sheldon stated that it is her recommendation that Lahontan would be K-1, E.C. Best would be 2-3, and Numa would be 4-5. Lahontan is the District's smallest school and K-1 has the largest class sizes and would fit into Lahontan and therefore all of the buildings. Numa is the District's largest school, so we would like to move two to three smart labs there, with a focus on STEM education for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Public Comment: Andrew Campbell, middle school, thanked Dr. Sheldon for speaking with their staff and stated that one advantage of grade level schools is a restart of accountability with the State. Margaret St. Andre, parent at E.C. Best, asked what would happen to specials if the District goes to grade level. Dr. Sheldon stated that the specials will go away with grade level or K-5. If K-5 the District would assign a counselor to each building and if grade level, there would not be a counselor at the K-1 school. Ms. St. Andres voiced concern over losing a counselor. Trustee Schank commented that the reason is money -- if they have money that would be one of the first positions to reinstate. The Board has cut music, P.E. counselors -- a lot of positions. Trustee Hyde commented that counselors will be available, there just will not be one permanently assigned to that school.

The motion passed unanimously.

*[The Board took a break at 9:22.]*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. For Discussion Only: FIRST READING: Review of proposed changes to Policy 5410 – Bullying, Cyber-bullying, Harassment, Intimidation, and Violence are Prohibited in Public Schools.**

Dr. Sheldon explained the changes to the policy to provide timeline for notification of parents of each student involved in a bullying incident, and that notification would be within one school day after receiving the report of the bullying violation.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Mello asked what would happen if the District ran over 15% on the cost of bond projects.

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AS REQUESTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND CLARIFICATION OF REQUESTED AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no additions.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Schank made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hyde, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:55 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

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Carmen, Schank, Clerk of the Board

*Prepared by Debra Shyne*