

# CHURCHILL COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Fallon, Nevada

## REGULAR MEETING

May 14, 2015

### **CALL TO ORDER**

President Evans called to order the regular meeting of the Churchill County School District Board of Trustees at 6:00 p.m. at the Churchill County School District Administration Office, 690 South Maine Street, Fallon, Nevada.

### **TOUR OF WEST END COMPLEX 6:00-7:00 P.M.**

The Board toured West End Complex.

### **RECONVENE MEETING 7:00 P.M.**

The meeting reconvened at 7:00 P.M.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Evans led the pledge of allegiance.

### **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  
Trustee Kathryn Whitaker

#### **Others Present**

Dr. Sandra Sheldon  
Phyllis Dowd, Director of Business Services  
Jacob Sommer, Legal Counsel (substitute)  
  
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 common core.

Kelly Frost and Terri Pearson provided Board members with tickets and parking passes for the upcoming graduation.

## **RECOGNITION**

- A. The Board recognized Josh Moulton for earning First Place in the Carpentry Event at the Nevada State Skills USA Leadership and Skills Conference in Reno. Josh Moulton will also be attending Nationals in Louisville, Kentucky on June 20<sup>th</sup>.**
- B. The Board of Trustees recognized retiring CCSD employees for their years of service to the District.**

The Board recognized the following 2015 Retirees: Gerald Alger, Brenda Beach, Rex Bertinuson, Vicki Blackburn, Sue Chambers, Mike Fuhlendorf, Sandra Granger, Lula Henley, Gary Hesper, Joan Hiibel, Karen Lawson, Cathy Lucchesi, Pat Manzini, Scott Meihack, Dave Morgan, Louie Mori, Mary Rudden, Mary Thomas, and Shirley House-Zamora.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

- A. Michelle Richardson, Brenda Boone, and Patty Fleming provided information about concepts and techniques learned in Santa Fe during a Thinking Skills and Professional Learning Conference.**

Michelle Richardson, Brenda Boone, Patty Fleming and Sue Chambers presented information on their recent training.

- B. Mr. Brian Byrd, Director of Maintenance, thanked A&K Earthmovers, Inc., for their performance on the transportation project.**

Refer to his memo in BoardBook.

- C. Update regarding district-related matters.**

## **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES UPDATE**

- A. Update regarding 2015 Summer School (written report provided).**

## **UPCOMING BOARD EVENTS**

- A. May 21, Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Adult Education Graduation, Churchill County High School Auditorium.
- B. May 29, Friday, 7:00 p.m., High School Graduation, Ed Arcinega Stadium, Churchill County High School.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Recommended Personnel Action (Attachment A).
- B. Approval of Vouchers.
- C. Approval of April 2015, Payroll.
- D. Approval of April 15, 2015, Special Board Meeting Minutes.
- E. Approval of April 23, 2015, Regular Board Meeting Minutes.
- F. Approval of Student 15-08 to enter the General Education Development (GED) program.

Trustee Schank requested Item "A" pulled. Trustee Gent made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hyde, **to approve Consent Agenda Items B-F**. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Schank requested clarification from Ms. Dowd regarding the Account Technician position. Ms. Dowd stated that the new hire replaced DeAnna Tomb who resigned in January before Joan Hiibel was approved for early buyout.

Trustee Schank made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gent, **to approve the Recommended Personnel Action Item A**. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

## **REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

Trustee Schank reported on her attendance at the Teachers Appreciation Dinner. President Evans reported on his attendance at the Fashion Show for Grad Night, the FFA Banquet and the Teachers Appreciation Dinner. President Evans also reported that he plans to attend the ROTC awards/Change of Officers event on Friday. Trustee Whitaker also attended the FFA Banquet.

## **POLICIES**

### **A. For Discussion and Possible Action: THIRD READING: Proposed changes to Policy 5601 – Participation of Charter/Private/Home School Students in Churchill County School District Classes and Activities.**

#### **1. For Review Only: Regulation 5601 – Participation of Charter/Private Home School Students in Churchill County School District Classes and Activities.**

Dr. Sheldon stated that the revised policy and regulation, updated by Ms. Hales, was changed to include language regarding fees for participation of non-Churchill County students.

Trustee Whitaker stated that NRS 281A.420 requires that she disclose a potential conflict. This agenda item involves charter school students and sports. Trustee Whitaker has a daughter attending the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at the charter school and a child attending Churchill County High School. Trustee Whitaker's daughter does not intend to participate in extracurricular activities offered by the district; therefore, she concludes there is no conflict.

Trustee Hendrix stated that NRS 281A.420 requires him to disclose a potential conflict. He has students attending Churchill County High School, but they may also decide to attend the charter school next year.

Trustee Hyde stated that NRS 281A.420 requires that he disclose a potential conflict of interest. This agenda item involves charter school students and sports. Trustee Hyde has a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade student attending the charter school, but sports are not offered in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Trustee Hyde's older children attend Churchill County School District schools and do not intend to change schools; therefore, he concludes that there is no conflict.

Trustee Koenig made a motion, seconded by Trustee Schank, **to approve policy 5601 – Participation of Charter/Private/Home School Students in Churchill County School District Classes and Activities.**

Principal Lords questioned “F1” in the regulation, explaining that while he understands fixed costs such as transportation, he does not understand why coaches’ stipends would not be passed on. Trustee Koenig stated that he has done a lot of research and has spoken with attorneys - this covers the District should there be a challenge in court. The intent is to be more inclusive than exclusive. A coach is already employed, and because that expense already exists, it would not be passed on to the charter/private school. Trustee Koenig stated that within the next month staff needs to work with the Athletic Director to determine actual expenses for each sport.

There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

Principal Lords commented that there are two different funding sources. The charter school and the District receive funds from the state. When charter school students participate in District activities, the District does not get funding for those students. Principal Lords felt that the charter school should pay for coaches’ stipends; however, he understands Dr. Koenig’s statement about not making it exclusionary.

**B. For Discussion: SECOND READING: Changes to Policy 5110.0 – Churchill County High School Honors School.**

**1. For Review Only: Regulation 5110 – Participation in Churchill County High School Honors School Program.**

President Evans stated that the Board was talking about having a grading scale for Jump Start and one for Honors School, but that is not what is reflected in the edited policy.

Trustee Koenig stated that NRS 281A.420 required him to disclose a potential conflict of interest. The matter before the body affects Trustee Koenig’s commitment in a private capacity to his son, who is participating in the Jump Start Program. If the policy before the Board were revised and mandated weighted grades for Jump Start classes, his son would benefit from an increased GPA. However, even with weighted Jump Start grades he would not be in competition for the top of his class. Trustee Koenig does not anticipate that weighted Jump Start classes will make a significant difference for his son. Trustee Koenig concludes that the independence of judgment of a responsible person in his situation would not be materially affected by this relationship, and because this is not a clear case of a disqualifying conflict of interest, Trustee Koenig is going to vote on this matter.

Trustee Koenig stated that if the class is more difficult, it should get more points; a college class is as difficult as an AP class.

Trustee Schank stated that at the last meeting Mr. Lords said that students going into the Jump Start program were notified that they were not going to get a weighted GPA. Western Nevada College (WNC) is not a part of the high school and it is a separate entity. Trustee Schank would like to know who checks the rigor of WNC classes.

Trustee Whitaker stated that at the last board meeting she commented that she did not agree with having a separate valedictorian for Honors and Jump Start, for many of the reasons Trustee Koenig stated. Trustee Whitaker stated that she did some research on other districts, including Clark County and other states, and there is no distinction between

students who attend dual credit programs and those who attend AP courses, in weighting and separating the valedictorian.

Trustee Hendrix stated that he read the email from a high school teacher and it made logical sense to him. What are we trying to do and where is the competitive advantage? Trustee Hendrix would like the superintendent to put together a program and see what other school districts are doing.

Public Comments:

Roger Donahue, Brooke Donahue's father, stated that his daughter has been attending WNC since her sophomore year and will graduate on Monday with her associate's degree. Mr. Donahue stated that AP's web site indicates that the advanced placement program represents a significant collaboration between colleges, universities and secondary schools and that the AP courses take place in secondary school classrooms, which is false. College faculty members work alongside AP members to help shape the course and exam contents and score exams. The AP program is being directed by regionally accredited college faculty members and WNC is a regionally accredited college. Not allowing WNC classes to be weighted equivalent to AP classes is hypocritical and ridiculous. WNC classes are verified and have withstood the same rigorous requirements as AP classes. WNC classes, in his opinion from seeing the coursework of AP classes and WNC classes, are more difficult, more rigorous and have higher levels, as there are three classes at WNC that cannot be taken at the high school. Mr. Donahue stated that he and his daughter were under the impression they would receive weighted grading and that she would be able to graduate with honors.

Yvonne Bivens, parent of a CCHS junior, stated that last year when the Jump Start Program started her daughter qualified. At that time, they made their decision based on the information they received to not participate in the Jump Start program for two reasons: classes did not have added value and she wanted to remain at the top of her class. The Dean of the Jump Start Program told her that if her daughter was on track for the Calculus Program then the Jump Start Program was not for her, as Calculus was not going to be offered at WNC. Ms. Bivens stated that the Board might want to start the policy with the Class of 2017, next year's juniors, so the policy does not change in the middle of program.

Elena Marsh, parent and community member, stated that her daughter graduated four years ago and took both AP classes and dual credit classes. She did not get weighted credit for dual credit classes, but knew that she would get college credit. Regarding a conflict of interest, Ms. Marsh stated that every decision the Board makes to benefit the charter school hurts the public school.

Edna Buyer stated that her daughter also looked at the Jump Start Program, but did not choose to go into that program as her daughter was on track for AP calculus. Not all of the WNC classes equate to AP classes. For example, English 101 is not the equivalent of an AP class; it is the equivalent of an honors class. She suggested the Board not change the policy two weeks before graduation and the board should work with WNC teachers and high school AP teachers to look at the individual classes and weight them accordingly: regular, honor or AP.

Gary Jamieson stated that he was at the board meeting because his son was on an AP field trip and unable to be attend. He is on the other side of the argument. He chose to take AP classes and is at the top of his class. He found out that he might not be valedictorian because the Board might change the policy tonight, which would be unfair.

Sierra Bivens, student at CCHS taking AP classes, stated that a lot of students opted out of the Jump Start Program because their goal was to be at the top of their class. To give added weight to students now would be unfair.

Wei Deng commented that taking college credits should be weighted, but it should wait until 2017 so everyone will know about the weighting of classes, to be fair.

Jordan Rogers and friend Michelle, number four and five in their class, expressed much the same view, and stated that they did not enroll in the Jump Start Program because they knew they would not get a weighted GPA.

Dawson Frost, a CCHS Freshman, president of class of 2018, stated that there is a five-way tie for number one in his class. The Jump Start students would be at an unfair advantage for valedictorian or salutatorian for weighed GPA, as some of their semester classes are counted as full-year classes. Many students want to stay at the high school campus and do not want the AP or Honors Program destroyed. Students have already completed their four-year plan, so he felt that weighted grades should not change until 2020.

Karl Marsh, AP teacher and nationally board certified teacher, stated that his first question to the Board is how many have talked with the professional educators. The professional educators have been circumvented, though Trustee Hendrix commented that he read Mr. Johnson's email. Getting an associate's degree is what Brooke was working towards. With Advanced Placement classes, there is no guarantee of college credit as the student has to past the test. The district does not have any control over the curriculum at WNC, and in some cases, their curriculum does not come close to the AP classes at high school. At WNC students do not learn in one semester what a student would learn in one year of AP. The Board is taking away the competitive edge.

Karla Olsen, parent of a senior who is on an AP field trip, stated that her son feels that it would be unfair to change it two weeks before graduation as it affects ranking of students.

Derild Parsons, CCHS Dean of Students, spoke as a parent of students in the Jump Start Program. His students were comfortable with what they were told - that Jump Start classes would not receive weighted grades. Mr. Parsons' commented that we need to look at the positive things going on with each type of program, and to not tear programs apart.

Trustee Hendrix stated that the high school students did an excellent job of presenting their arguments and applauded the high school students for their courage.

Trustee Whitaker commented that even Dartmouth does not accept AP credits; it depends on the school and how they accept credits.

Trustee Koenig stated that it makes sense to keep the status quo for current seniors and juniors and then make a change for sophomores.

Dr. Sheldon applauded the students for their analysis and presentations and agreed that faculty from the high school, WNC, and board members should analyze the program as far

as weighted credits are concerned. Jump Start is a program from the high school just like vocational and music programs, as well as others that allow students access to education. Programs and opportunities need to be available for our students. We do not want to destroy the honors program at the high school, but we need to help morph it to be more inclusive.

Trustee Schank made a motion, seconded by Trustee Whitaker, ***to leave the policy as is and not to change the program for this year, table the discussion, and defer it to a policy committee meeting.*** It was noted that a motion was not necessary to table the item.

Dr. Sheldon stated that her understanding from the board was to form a committee of board, staff, students, and WNC representatives to work on this specific issue, make some determinations, and bring it back to the Board. Trustee Koenig stated that he would like to be on that committee. Dr. Sheldon will draw up a proposal and bring it to the Board.

**C. For Discussion Only: FIRST READING: New Policy 2100.0 – Administrative Organization Chart.**

**1. For Review Only: Regulation 2100.0 – Administrative Organizational Chart (Changed from Policy 2100.0 to Regulation 2100.0).**

Superintendent Sheldon stated that the policy indicates that the Board will direct the Superintendent to create an organizational chart and the regulation represents the organizational chart.

**D. For Discussion Only: FIRST READING: Review of Policy 5050.0 – Homeless Children Educational Services (no changes).**

**1. For Review Only: Update to Regulation 5050.0 – Homeless Children Educational Services.**

Sue Chambers, Federal Programs Director, stated that Title I requires the District to review and update policies. Ms. Chambers stated that there are no changes to the policy and explained changes to the regulation.

**E. For Discussion Only: FIRST READING - Policy 5050.1 – McKinney Vento Enrollment Dispute Resolution Process (no changes).**

**1. For Review Only: Updates to Regulation 5050.1 – McKinney-Vento Enrollment Dispute Resolution Process.**

Sue Chambers, Federal Programs Director, explained the modifications to the regulation.

Trustee Schank requested the number of homeless students. Ms. Chambers will email that information to the Board.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. For Discussion and Possible Action: Acceptance of renewal proposal from Wells Fargo Insurance Services for Hometown Health (medical coverage), VSP (vision coverage) and Guardian (dental and life coverage) for July 2015 through June 2016.**

*[The board took a break from 8:52 to 9:00.]*

Phyllis Dowd, Director of Business Services, provided background on what occurred at the insurance committee meeting. There were three meetings and several different options were provided to the committee. The District proposed a base plan and one where the employee could opt to pay more for more coverage. Ms. Dowd explained the differences between the two plans. The administrators supported the second plan if the money saved would go toward hiring teachers, while the classified and teachers wanted to maintain the current plan with an increase of 9.2 percent, dependent on the employee's number of dependents.

President Evans asked if the nine percent increase was already in the budget. Ms. Dowd replied that it was.

Ms. Evelyn Hullin provided the Board with a spreadsheet indicating the plan options including one additional option that allows employees to buy down the deductible and out of pocket amounts (see handout). The Board discussed the various options.

Becky Dodd, President of the Churchill County Education Association, stated that this was not the correct forum. She cited a section in the contract that states that the District provides benefits and those parties need to agree to changes as part of the collective bargaining process. The teachers' contract has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding Policy 4811 which relates to salary and wages as well as NRS 288.

Jacob Sommer, District's Legal Counsel, asked if the insurance carrier is being changed. Ms. Dowd stated that the carrier was not changing. Mr. Sommers stated that he does not believe it requires opening negotiations, but suggested that Ms. Hales research the MOU.

Mr. Sommers was asked if the plan that the District recommends would offer comparable coverage. Mr. Sommers stated that the intent is to make sure there is not a drastic change upward or downward that would require negotiations. As long as the plan is within the spirit of comparable, with no drastic change in coverage, it would be okay. There are some gray areas with the term "comparable."

Ms. Dodd stated that there are three schools and a science department that are packing and unpacking to get ready for school and that if the District expects teachers to have morale then the District needs to support teachers.

Dr. Sheldon stated that the budget is fluid and that the District does not know what the legislature is going to do. We are trying to find ways to provide coverage for employees that is not onerous to help the District through the budget crisis.

Public Comment:

Ms. Smotherman, President of the Nevada Classified School Employees Association, stated that she is concerned that if there is a budget shortfall that the District will have to balance the budget on the backs of classified staff.

A citizen commented on the poor coverage of the current policy, indicating that she always pays the family deductible and it would be a burden to pay additional money for insurance.

Dr. Sheldon indicated that the DSA would be discussed at the legislature on Saturday. Dr. Sheldon also indicated that it might be good if the District remains with the current coverage to offer a buy-up option for employees.

Trustee Hyde made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gent, ***to stick with the same health coverage that we currently have.***

**Trustee Hyde amended his motion to allow the buy up option. Trustee Gent agreed.**

The motion passed: Trustees Hendrix, Gent, Hyde, and Evans in support, with Trustees Schank, Koenig and Whitaker opposed. Trustees Schank, Koenig and Whitaker commented that the reason they were opposed was the fact that they would rather wait until the next meeting when more is known from the legislature about the budget.

- B. For Discussion and Possible Action: Approve award of a contract with Peek Brothers Construction of Fernley, Nevada, in the amount of \$228,738.07 for construction of the Churchill County High School Math Quad and Access Road project.**

Trustee Koenig made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gent, ***to approve the contract with Peek Brothers Construction of Fernley, Nevada, in the amount of \$228,738.07 for the construction of the CCHS Math Quad and Access Road project.*** There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. For Discussion and Possible Action: Action to ratify the 2014-2015 School Year Tentative Agreement between the Churchill County School District and the Churchill County Administrators' Association, including fiscal impact data.**

Trustee Gent made a motion, seconded by Trustee Whitaker, ***to ratify the 2014-2015 School Year Tentative Agreement between the Churchill County School District and the Churchill County Administrators' Association, including fiscal impact data.*** There were no public comments.

Trustee Schank inquired about negotiating the retirement buyout policy. Ms. Dowd stated that the District has requested negotiations with all three associations regarding the policy. The motion passed unanimously.

- D. For Discussion and Possible Action: Action to ratify the 2014-2015 School Year Tentative Agreement between the Churchill County School District and the Churchill Education Association, including fiscal impact data.**

Trustee Gent made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hyde, ***to ratify the 2014-2015 School Year Tentative Agreement between the Churchill County School District and the Churchill Education Association.***

Trustee Schank inquired regarding the early buyout policy. Dr. Sheldon stated that because the policy impacts salary and benefits NRS requires this policy be negotiated. We have asked all associations to come to the table to discuss the policy together and then that policy, once revised, will be brought before the Board for approval.

There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Becky Dodd, President of the Churchill County Education Association, stated that she is hoping all were invited to attend pizza at Pizza Barn on May 15 at 3:15, to honor retirees.

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

No items were added.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Whitaker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hyde, to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

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Carmen, Schank, Clerk of the Board

*Prepared by Debra Shyne*