

CHURCHILL COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Fallon, Nevada

REGULAR MEETING

September 24, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

President Evans called to order the regular meeting of the Churchill County School District Board of Trustees at 7:00 p.m. at the Churchill County School District Administration Office, 690 South Maine Street, Fallon, Nevada.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CHARACTER COUNTS BI-MONTHLY WORD: TRUSTWORTHINESS

Adrian and Hogan Stewart, 3rd grade students from E.C. Best Elementary school, led the Pledge of Allegiance and said a few words about the character counts word "Trustworthiness."

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 Greg Koenig
Trustee Matt Hyde
Trustee Rich Gent
Trustee Carmen Schank, Clerk
Trustee Kathryn Whitaker

Others Present

Dr. Sandra Sheldon, Superintendent
Phyllis Dowd, Director of Business Services
Kimi Melendy, Director of Educational 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

Becky Dodd voiced concerns of the Churchill County Education Association membership: class size reduction funds are not helping with the large class sizes in grades 1, 4 and 5 and Title I money is not being used to hire two literacy coaches as promised. Ms. Dodd voiced concerned for staff at Lahontan Elementary School due to large class sizes, most teachers have moved to a new school, half have a new principal, and teachers have been requested to learn new reading and math programs. Compounding the problem is the lack of a counselor who could assist with some behavioral problems. Ms. Dodd requested the District and Board work together with staff at Lahontan to lessen the stress and help staff be more effective. Ms. Dodd stated that, most concerning, is the lack of Chromebooks for teachers who have completed the required training.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

A. The Board of Trustees will recognize Christine Kuklica, Reporter, Lahontan Valley News.

President Evans presented Christine Kuklica with an appreciation gift (marble apple) and thanked her for her hard work and for sharing things happening in schools.

B. Update regarding the Auxiliary Gym progress

Paul Eskeldson updated the Board regarding progress made on the Auxiliary Gym.

C. Update on the "Read by Three" Grant

Dr. Sheldon updated the Board regarding the Read by Three Grant (handout provided). Grant submission was extended to October 15.

D. Update regarding the forming of a Committee to review the Weighting of Grades for Advanced Courses

Dr. Sheldon reported that a meeting has been scheduled for October 13, at 4:00 p.m., with Karl Marsh, Steve Johnson, Kevin Lords, Dr. Sheldon, as well as Sherry Black and other representatives from Western Nevada College, to discuss weighting of college level and AP classes.

E. Update regarding District related matters

Dr. Sheldon reported on the various curriculum committees, all well attended, where participants are engaged and involved with programs and have been evaluating some of the work in the classrooms. Dr. Sheldon reported on literacy in the classroom, science FOSS inquiry based kits promoted through RPDP, and the implementation of Eureka math. K-5 teachers received teacher guides and Brenda Boone will be working with grade level strands and providing professional development.

Dr. Sheldon reported that the initial projection was that it would take until semester to get 300 Chromebooks distributed, however, the last one was handed out two weeks ago. An additional 170 Chromebooks have been ordered and delivery is expected within the next few weeks.

Dr. Sheldon reported on the professional development that has occurred in schools.

Dr. Sheldon reported a one-year grant received by the Churchill Community Coalition for after-school homework assistance and remediation intervention for targeted students, at a cost of \$76,998. The cost is approximately \$13,000 for each of the District's six schools.

Dr. Sheldon reported on the JAG program - jobs for Nevada Graduates. It is free and pays for a learning specialist at the high school to work with identified at-risk groups. The graduation rates have increased for those at-risk students and many are placed in full-time jobs.

Dr. Sheldon reported that the National Math Institute contacted her regarding a Department of Defense grant to give students incentives to take Advanced Placement (AP) classes at the high school. It focuses initially on military students, but can also encompass any non-traditional student who might be concerned about taking an AP course. It

incentivizes taking the AP course. If a student takes an AP course and passes with 3, 4 or 5 the grant pays for the test and pays the student \$100. The teacher is paid \$100 for every student that passes the test. It changes the culture of the school and gets more students engaged in AP courses. This program does require a match. Kristy Loesel, Military Liaison, spoke with the State who recommended that we check with the Department of Education for assistance in meeting the match.

Dr. Sheldon reported that she applied for a Leadership Award to be part of a Fellows Program with the Lexington Institute, a think tank out of Virginia. Out of several hundred applicants, Dr. Sheldon is one of thirty to interview in Orlando, Florida, November 8-11. The Institute will select ten people from the thirty interviewing. The Lexington Institute will pay all expenses.

BUSINESS SERVICES UPDATE

A. Budget to Actual Report (written report provided)

B. Update regarding general business items

Phyllis Dowd reported that the District received funding for class size reduction. Though less than what was received last year, most of the deficit was made up for with the monies received for full-day kindergarten. The District is approximately \$45,000 short.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES UPDATE

A. The latest Student Enrollment Data will be provided to the Board of Trustees

B. Update regarding the Distance Education program

Kimi Melendy reported that Linda Sanders oversees all of the part-time students and some full time students; Arlene Detomasi with Adult Education oversees the majority of the full time students; and Steve McMorris at the high school is teacher of record for students taking history classes. There is one aide supporting the teachers at the high school.

Ms. Melendy reported that students pay a fee for technology and pay for credit retrieval at a cost of \$50 per class. Dr. Sheldon stated that if a student wants to take a class, not for credit retrieval, the cost is \$150. Credit retrieval fees help pay for teachers for summer school and technology updates. Phyllis Dowd explained that the monies received come to the District Office and then goes back out to the school to pay for program needs. Staff will work with the Budget Committee to determine how those funds go back to the school and then Principal Lords will be responsible for how those funds are spent.

UPCOMING BOARD EVENTS

A. November 20-21, (Friday, Saturday) NASB 2015 Annual Conference, Reno

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Recommended Personnel Action (Attachment A)

B. Approval of Vouchers

C. Approval of September 10, 2015, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

D. Approval of Student 15-13 Exemption from receiving immunizations based on religious

reasons (NRS 392.435)

- E. **Approval of Student 15-14 Exemption from receiving immunizations based on religious reasons (NRS 392.435)**
- F. **Approval of Student 15-15 Exemption from receiving immunizations based on religious reasons (NRS 392.435)**
- G. **Approval of Student 15-16 Exemption from receiving immunizations based on religious reasons (NRS 392.435)**
- H. **Approval of 2015 Churchill County High School Track and Field Team Fundraiser – Christmas Tree Sales**

President Evans commented that Item “C,” the minutes, shows Trustees Evans and Hendrix present, but the title should read absent.

Trustee Gent made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hendrix, **to approve consent agenda Item A, B, C with change provided, D, E, F, G and H, as provided.** There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

POLICIES

- A. **For Discussion Only: SECOND READING** – Modification to Policy 4811.0: Early Retirement Incentive Plan.

Trustee Schank made a motion, seconded by Trustee Whitaker, **to approve the Early Retirement Incent Plan modification to policy 4811.** There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee Schank reported on her attendance at the State Conference in Las Vegas, where there were discussions on blended learning, and private, public and charter schools. They also discussed school budget issues.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **For Discussion and Possible Action: Action to ratify the 2015-2016 School Year Tentative Agreement between the Churchill County School District and the Churchill County Education Association, including fiscal impact data.**

Phyllis Dowd reported on the changes in the contract, which CCEA ratified on September 22.

Trustee Whitaker stated that NRS 281.420 required her to disclose a conflict of interest on the matter before the school board as it affects her because her husband who is employed by the District as a teacher. Sharla Hales, legal counsel, commented that the changes do not affect Trustee Whitaker’s husband any more than it affects all teachers, and therefore, Trustee Whitaker can vote.

Trustee Koenig made a motion, seconded by Trustee Schank, **to ratify the 2015-2016 School Year Tentative Agreement between the Churchill County School District and the Churchill County Education Association.** There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

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

Trustee Gent requested effort made to find alternative sources to help teachers who have significant class sizes, perhaps with volunteers or freeing up others from duties to assist teachers.

Trustee Gent requested information regarding creating a Foundation as an alternate funding source.

Trustee Schank requested a comparison of salary and fuel for the transportation department as compared to last year's expenses.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Hyde made a motion, seconded by Trustee Schank, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:01 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Carmen, Schank, Clerk of the Board

Prepared by Debra Shyne