

# CHURCHILL COUNTYBOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Fallon, Nevada

## REGULAR MEETING

February 25, 2016

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Koenig 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: FAIRNESS**

Kris Hadley's first grade students from Lahontan Elementary led the pledge and said a few words about the character counts word "Fairness." The students were: Bradee Smith, Meirra Cavanaugh, Kamden Pichardo, Dakota Sullivan, Paytyn Ennis, Camila Medrano Avalos, and Hannah Montalvo.

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

Vice President Koenig confirmed that the agenda was posted pursuant to NRS.

### **ROLL CALL**

#### **Trustees Present**

Trustee Greg Koenig, Vice President

Trustee Ron Evans

Trustee Carmen Schank, Clerk

Trustee Matt Hyde, Acting Clerk

Trustee Rich Gent

Trustee Kathryn Whitaker

#### **Trustee Absent**

Trustee Clay Hendrix, President

#### **Others Present**

Dr. Sandra Sheldon, Superintendent

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**

There were no public comments.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Board recognized the State Champion Wrestling Team and coaches.

**A. Presentation by Nate Waite, high school Spanish teacher, regarding use of technology in the classroom**

Nate Waite explained how he uses Chromebooks in his classroom utilizing Google Classroom and Google Apps for Education and reported that his classroom employs technology in such a way that his classroom has gone paperless. Mr. Waite reported that students are more engaged and can access the assignments from their phone, their home computers, computers in the school's library, and computers in the classrooms. Textbooks can quickly become outdated, while information accessible with a Chromebook is current.

Mr. Waite stated that it is imperative that teachers are provided training and that WiFi be reliable. Mr. Waite informed board members that he would be happy to provide them with a Google Classroom account, if interested. Dr. Sheldon reported that the District has already doubled the band width and is looking at expanding it further.

**B. John Bates, Representative from PoolPact, will discuss anti-bullying and harassment training for staff and provide the Board with an overview of PoolPact services.**

John Bates explained PoolPact's services and reported that bullying, harassment, discrimination, retaliation, and sexual misconduct training to staff on professional development days every year. PoolPact provides briefings on a variety of subjects as well. Mr. Bates further explained their Essentials Management Program for managers.

**C. Report regarding the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children**

Dr. Sheldon reported that Nevada has joined the Interstate Compact.

**BUSINESS SERVICES UPDATE**

**A. Budget to Actual Report Update (written report provided)**

**A. Budget Committee Update**

**B. Update regarding Employees who accepted the Retirement Incentive Offer**

**C. Update regarding general business items**

Phyllis Dowd, Director of Business Services, was unable to attend due to a family emergency. Dr. Sheldon reported that the Budget Committee meets on March 1.

**EDUCATIONAL SERVICES UPDATE**

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

**B. Review of the English Learner Plan (written report provided)**

There were no questions.

**UPCOMING BOARD EVENTS**

**A. April 9-11, Sunday-Monday, National School Board Association, Boston**

**B. May 19, Thursday, Adult Ed Graduation, 7:00, CCHS Auditorium**

**C. May 27, 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 February 11, 2016, Regular Board Meeting Minutes**
- D. Approval of February 17, 2016, Special Board Meeting Minutes**
- E. Approval of Student 16-05 Exemption from receiving immunizations based on religious reasons (NRS 392.435)**
- F. Acceptance of the Social worker Grant Application (SB515)**
- G. Approval of Modifications to Policy 5112.0 – Retention Policy (Students) – Second Reading**
  - 1. Review of Regulation 5112.0 (Renamed from 5112.1 Policy) and Regulation 5112.2 (Incorporated into 5112.0)**
- H. Approval of Modifications to Policy 5115.0 – Non-Resident Student Variance (Students) – Second Reading**
  - 1. Review of Regulation 5115.0 – Application for Out-of-County Variance (Students)**
- I. Approval of Policy 5120.0 (No Changes) – Student Withdrawal from School Drop-Out Prevention (Student) – Second Reading**
- J. Approval of Modifications to Policy 5120.1 – Release Time for Religious Functions (Students) – Second Reading**

Trustee Gent requested Item “G” pulled for comment. Trustee Gent made a motion, seconded by Trustee Evans, **to approve Consent Agenda Action Items A-F and H-J, as provided**. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously; President Hendrix was absent.

Trustee Gent requested clarification on the policy. Dr. Sheldon stated that children who are struggling are recommended for the Instructional Consultation program. Kimi Melendy indicated that there is a checklist that guides the retention process located in the regulation.

Trustee Gent made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hyde, **to approve Consent Agenda Action Items G and G1**. Trustee Schank commented that the regulation states that parents would not be notified until the end of the third nine weeks, and felt that was late. Dr. Sheldon explained that parents are notified sooner. The third nine weeks is when the parents/guardians are notified that retention is being considered. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously; President Hendrix was absent.

## **REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

Trustee Hyde reported on a recent trip to Northside Early Learning Center and the high school. Trustee Whitaker reported on her visit to the high school and Lahontan Elementary School. Trustee Schank reported to the public that the board visited with teachers at the high school. Trustee Evans did not attend the meeting at the high school due to illness, but reported that the meeting was productive.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. For Discussion and Possible Action: Call for additional bids through oral bidding and opening of the bid proposals and possible action to accept bid for the sale of the Plummer Building located at 50 East Virginia Street.**

There were no written or oral bids.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. For Discussion Only: Presentation by staff regarding the Eureka Math program.**

Dr. Sheldon thanked Brenda Boone for coordinating the report on Eureka Math and thanked teachers for presenting information on their experiences with Eureka Math. Ms. Boone reported that she and Patty Fleming were sent to trainings last year regarding Eureka Math and had teachers pilot the program. It is aligned with Smarter Balance Testing and the new Nevada standards. The vocabulary is more rigorous. Eureka Math will be used for a three to five year period, to stay consistent, and its methods of instruction are high.

Ms. Boone reported that Tyson Sorensen had to leave, but he wanted to let the Board know that he teaches seventh grade. He is pleased with Eureka Math and feels that it is a different way of teaching than they are used to, but really likes the program.

Brad Whitaker, kindergarten teacher at Lahontan, reported that he is a fan of Eureka Math and preparation for next year will be less. The program spirals, so it revisits topics over and over again. The new teachers said they like it because it provides a script for them until they get a better understanding. It comes with a lot of ideas and activities that can be adjusted as needed. It provides a common language for his grade level. Mr. Whitaker provided a simple lesson for the Board to look at which provides a reason behind the activities. Mr. Whitaker reported that he was pleased with the MAP testing math results.

Lisa Mills, first grade teacher at Lahontan, has used Eureka Math for a little over one year. It states exactly what the objective is. She agreed that there is a lot of prep work the first year and it is new for parents. It does provide a common vocabulary. Ms. Mills noticed students using multiple strategies while taking the MAPS test. Students are asked to show or tell what they did, how they solved the problem, and students have to think critically.

Linda Rasmussen, E.C. Best second grade teacher, has taught in the district for 20 years, and stated that she agrees with what the other teachers have said. Her second grade students were just introduced to Eureka Math. Ms. Rasmussen stated that any change requires growing pains. She has noticed that conversation is huge in Eureka Math. It ties into Chromebooks which provides for more practice. Eureka Math has parent resources so parents can go online to see lessons and how to do the lessons in each module.

Christina Murphy, fifth grade teacher at Numa, started with Eureka Math last year. With Smarter Balance testing coming down the pike, she didn't feel she was meeting the needs of her students in the past. Ms. Murphy reported that her math instruction has changed dramatically. Students use manipulatives and are a little slow picking it up because they have learned math differently for a number of years, but she is seeing students having conversations about math. Ms. Murphy stated that it has been difficult for her students and she has made some adjustments to her lessons, but she is seeing progress and students are

having less math anxiety. Parents are starting to understand that their children are learning math differently than how they learned math.

Dr. Sheldon stated that Patty Fleming and Brenda Boone have had parent nights where they work with and engage parents in the process as we make this change.

Trustee Schank stated that she requested the report on Eureka Math as she has heard negative comments from parents. Trustee Schank requested a report on student growth in math after spring MAPS testing. Ms. Boone stated that not every school took winter MAPS so there may be a change in the spring. Ms. Boone stated that with every new program there might not be a change in the first year, and hopefully there will be change a year down the road.

Trustee Whitaker stated that what is chosen should be data driven not parent driven and it needs to meet the Nevada State Standards. We need to provide services so parents understand, but it has to meet the standards and show growth in math with understanding and test scores.

**B. For Discussion and Possible Action: Churchill Arts Center would like to utilize three rooms at Northside Early Learning Center to provide art activities to students and the community.**

Trustee Evans made a motion, seconded by Trustee Whitaker, *to move forward with the Memorandum of Understanding with the Arts Center*. There were no comments from the public. The motion passed unanimously; President Hendrix was absent.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Deby Smotherman commented that the discussions at a previous budget committee meeting about a four-day week is based on the Northside model where no licensed and administrators take a pay cut so there is not much savings.

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

Trustee Evans requested revisiting Patty Fleming's request for early buyout.

Trustee Whitaker requested addressing the minimum class sizes for a class to be viable at the high school through the budget process.

Trustee Schank requested statistics on the drop-out rate for the past ten years; a list of board and major committees and subcommittees and, as part of the budget discussions, monies to take care of technology issues for projects and Smart Boards.

**SET DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT BOARD "AGENDA SETTING" MEETING**

Agenda Setting was scheduled for 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday, March 1, with President Hendrix, Trustee Koenig, and Trustee Whitaker attending.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Evans made a motion, seconded by Trustee Schank, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:43 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

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Carmen, Schank, Clerk of the Board

*Prepared by Debra Shyne*