

CHURCHILL COUNTYBOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Fallon, Nevada

REGULAR MEETING

March 24, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

President Hendrix called to order the regular meeting of the Churchill County School District Board of Trustees at 7:01 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

Reese Hutchings and Kylie Wallace, fourth grade students from Numa Elementary, led the pledge of allegiance and said a few words about the character counts word Fairness.

VERIFICATION OF POSTING OF AGENDA

President Hendrix confirmed that the agenda was posted pursuant to NRS.

ROLL CALL

Trustees Present

Trustee Clay Hendrix, President
Trustee Greg Koenig, Vice President
Trustee Ron Evans
Trustee Carmen Schank, Clerk
Trustee Matt Hyde, Acting Clerk
Trustee Rich Gent

Trustee Absent

Trustee Kathryn Whitaker

Others Present

Dr. Sandra Sheldon, Superintendent
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

Trustee Schank made a motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Trustee Gent. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously; Trustee Whitaker was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lani Moore who has a seventh grade student at the middle school stated that she requested to be placed on the board's agenda but was denied that request. Ms. Moore voiced concern about the Eureka Math program.

Kelly Lockette who has a seventh grade student at the middle school also expressed concern about the Eureka Math program.

Rochelle Poutree, single mom of six kids with five kids in four different schools, agreed that there are problems with the Eureka Math program.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

A. Nevada Classified School Employee Association (NCSEA) Recognition Week – March 14 through March 18

President Hendrix and Dr. Sheldon presented Deby Smotherman, NCSEA President, with a certificate in honor of Nevada Classified School Employee Association recognition.

B. Update regarding extending road from Lahontan Elementary to ease traffic congestion

Steve Russell reported on a meeting with the Nevada Department of Transportation where access to Lahontan Elementary school was discussed. The District will continue to look at a solution for the traffic in and out of Lahontan Elementary. Mr. Russell reported on the potential to implement a 15 mile per hour zone on South Taylor; potential plans to finish the sidewalk at Merton and Delores; possibility of establishing a school zone speed limit at Sheckler Road and the high school during school hours; potential of requesting a stop light at Williams Avenue and Sherman Street; possibility of adding a crosswalk to Whitaker and Concord; possibility of adding a crosswalk on Discovery Drive north of Goldeneye; and the possibility of adding a second entrance to Lahontan Elementary School (see Mr. Russell's handout attached to minutes).

President Hendrix requested Mr. Russell research if there was a traffic study completed for Lahontan Elementary School at the time of its construction. Dr. Sheldon commented that the District might want a traffic study for access to the high school and Lahontan could potentially be included in that study. This is expected to be a future agenda item. Sharla Hales, attorney for the District, stated that this agenda item is an update, not a discussion. The Board might want to place this discussion on a future agenda.

C. Report listing major committees and subcommittees (written report provided)

D. Update regarding district-related matters

Dr. Sheldon showed the quarter page advertisement to the Board and public. The advertisement will be placed in a booklet for distribution at NAS Fallon and will be part of the My Base Guide phone app. There will be a color and a black and white advertisement identifying information about high school programs, as well as approximately four paragraphs describing other programs within the District. Rebecca Mills, a student in the graphic arts department at the high school, created the advertisement and did an excellent job.

Steve Russell showed a fifteen second video for the See Something - Say Something campaign, which will be displayed at Fox Peak Cinema prior to movies. Trustee Gent thanked Mr. Russell for his work and stated that his contact with Homeland Security said that this was the first time a local community put forth an effort like this for the See Something - Say Something campaign.

BUSINESS SERVICES UPDATE

A. Budget to Actual Report (update)

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 March 10, 2016, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- D. Approval of Projected Class Size Reduction Report for the 2016-2017 School Year
- E. Approval of 2016-2017 Calendar
- F. Approval of Modifications to Policy 5121.0 – Exemption from Compulsory Attendance (Students)
 - 1. For Review Only: New Regulation 5121.0 – Notice of Intent to Homeschool Form
- G. Approval of Deletion of Policy 5122.0 – School Attendance Sectors (Students)
- H. Approval of Modifications to Policy 5131.0 (renumbered from 5131.1) – Silent Contemplation (Students)
- I. Approval of Modifications to Policy 5135.0 – Student Solicitation (Students)
- J. Approval of Modifications to Policy 5135.5 – Corporal Punishment (Students)

Trustee Hendrix requested Item “D” pulled as that item is not due to the State until the first of May. Superintendent Sheldon directed the Board to an updated Personnel Action form. Trustee Gent made a motion **to approve consent agenda items A-C, E-J, as provided, including the updated Personnel Action form.** Trustee Schank seconded the motion. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously; Trustee Whitaker was absent.

REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee Schank reported on recent visits to some schools to thank staff and reported on the progress being made by the Policy committee. Trustee Evans stated that he is the chairman for the state cabinet making contest to be held in Reno on April 13. When Trustee Evans picked up materials he was asked if the woodshop program needed materials. Trustee Evans reported that a semi-truck with about \$10,000 worth of leftover materials will be delivered to CCHS.

President Hendrix recognized Tricia Strasdin, present in the audience, who will be one of the new school board members in January.

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.

B. For Review Only: Review of Regulation 5136.2 – Banned and Illicit Substance Testing and Students Participating in Athletics or Extra-Curricular Activities (Students).

Dr. Sheldon reported that Trustee Gent made some updates including selecting an independent person to oversee drug testing (not someone from the middle or high school). This regulation will go out for 21 day review.

NEW BUSINESS

A. For Discussion and Possible Action: Presentation regarding the Jobs for America’s Graduates program, answer Board questions, and review and potentially approve Memorandum of Understanding to implement in the 2016-2017 school year. The program is estimated to impact 60 students per year in grades 10-12.

René Cantú presented information regarding the Jobs in America’s Graduates program (JAG), a program approved and funded through the Nevada legislature. Mr. Cantú is the Executive Director for the Jobs for Nevada’s Graduates. JAG is a national organization that helps prepare students for the workforce, and to be more prepared to go into the military or enter post-secondary education. Mr. Cantú reported that JAG’s graduation rates/program completion is consistently 90% or higher; in Nevada it is 82%, which is still well above the state and national average.

Dr. Sheldon reported that Ms. Hales reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for JAG. She also reported that the person who facilitates the program would not be a district employee, but an employee of JAG. This JAG specialist would work with approximately sixty students, identified through a counselor or through an interview. The students start as sophomores and remain in the program for the remainder of high school. The JAG Specialist will work with students to ensure they get their homework completed, enroll in summer school if they are credit deficient, and ensure that the students do what they need to do to complete high school.

The Board agreed that the MOU should be placed under the Consent Agenda at the next board meeting for approval.

B. For Discussion and Possible Action: Possible action to change the structure of the Gifted and Talented Program to reduce the expense of the program or find revenues to continue the current program.

Will Jensen stated that he was seeking direction from the Board as there was an initiative passed at the legislature that affect the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program. Mr. Jensen explained the push-out model is the current configuration of the GATE services in the District. GATE students need to have 155 minutes each week of differentiated services. Mr. Jensen explained that if students remained in the classroom, teachers would have to provide a minimum of 155 minutes each week of differentiated services, and stated that while those GATE students are in their classroom teachers already have to provide differentiated instruction.

The District is at the lowest measure of the legislative mandate and is held harmless as the state builds equity in special education funding. The Districts Maintenance of Effort will not be affected. The legislature is providing 1.74 DSA for special education students and the

State is using the additional \$25 million dollars from the legislative session to put equity into the system. The District will realize a net gain of \$180,000; realized on the General Fund side by way of a reduced transfer from Special Education funds.

For the GATE program, the funding stream from ADM11 is \$45,455 and the General Fund kicks in another \$50,895 to cover the remainder of salaries and approximately \$2,000 for supplies. This year the District received \$14,000 for GATE, which is earmarked for innovation. It cannot be used to supplement salaries.

Mr. Jensen stated that there are two options. The District is obligated to provide GATE services and 155 minutes of differentiated instruction to GATE students. GATE services are for the third, fourth, and fifth grades. Currently, this represents 32 students. The District could provide differentiated instruction in the classrooms, and use the \$14,000 to help teachers understand unique needs of GATE students, academically, socially, and emotionally, or the District could continue with the pull-out program and consider the \$45,455 as an expense to the General Fund. The District could build a tremendous program either way.

Trustee Schank stated that she would like to hear from the GATE teachers who are not happy with the pull-out program and transferring to other schools. Mr. Jensen explained that the teacher left just before Christmas, so the program hasn't been running for a while.

Trustee Evans inquired about the \$180,000 savings, confirming that this savings is for next year. Phyllis Dowd explained that the \$180,000 of additional special education funding is already accounted for in next year's budget deficit. Any additional funding spent on GATE would add to the deficit.

Trustee Koenig made a motion, seconded by Trustee Schank, ***to change the GATE program to the differentiation model saving the District approximately \$100,000.*** There were no public comments. Trustee Schank requested this be piloted for one year and the results reported back to the Board. The motion passed unanimously; Trustee Whitaker was absent.

[At 8:24 the Board took a break until 8:33.]

- C. For Discussion and Possible Action: The Board will discuss all aspects of the 2016-2017 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.**

President Hendrix commented that he attended the last Budget Committee meeting and that it was a positive meeting.

Dr. Sheldon reported that the Insurance Committee met with the District's new insurance broker who reported having two proposals with an expected savings of approximately \$180,000, which is really good news. Dr. Sheldon stated that at this point, three-fourths of the way through the fiscal year, the District has expended approximately 90% of the allocated budget. With four months left for substitutes, utilities, and unknown expenditures, some money will remain to carry over in the ending fund balance. Dr. Sheldon stated that revenues and expenditures should be the same so that the Board does not need to dip into the reserves. Enrollment drives revenues and the District has continued to lose

enrollment, even though minimal at this point, and staffing needs to be adjusted. Mr. Lords has identified four positions at the high school to reduce: three teaching positions and one administrative position. An administrator will be assigned to Northside Early Learning Center, paid for with grant funds.

Dr. Sheldon stated that the District needs at least one more elementary school teacher in the 5th grade and that she would like to have two. Right now, fourth and fifth grade classes are looking to be at 29 or 30 students.

Dr. Sheldon reported that the District does not have the proposals back for food services for the Board to determine if there would be savings, but these proposals will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Dr. Sheldon reported that by the end of March, the District will know the final tax projections, hoping for a slight increase. There are still some moving parts, possible staffing situations, which may change the look of the District's budget.

Dr. Sheldon asked the Board to approve the reductions as identified in the handout provided at the meeting and put the altered schedule on hold.

Trustee Koenig stated that he is in his twelfth year as a board member and every year there is close to \$300,000 of the previous years' budget remaining. Trustee Koenig suggested that with the recommended changes, plus the expected food services savings, the budget is there and no other reductions really need to be considered at this point.

Trustee Evans agreed with Trustee Koenig and made a motion ***to accept the Administration's recommendation as presented with the addition of one additional elementary school teacher to the plan presented by the school district and then revisit this issue again April 14.*** Trustee Schank seconded the motion.

Public Comments: Becky Dodd asked what three positions were being cut at the high school. Dr. Sheldon stated two English and one Math position.

There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously; Trustee Whitaker absent.

Dr. Sheldon thanked the Board for their support and stated that the District has turned a significant corner with guidance and thoughtfulness of the Board. The District will remain fiscally sound and might not need to go before the Board of Taxation to explain a two or three percent fund balance.

President Hendrix commented that since 2010, the District's budget has decreased \$7.5 million dollars. President Hendrix thanked every member of the Board, the staff, and the public who participated in the process.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lani Moore voiced additional concerns with Eureka Math and common core, and noted parents are frustrated as well as teachers are frustrated and feel bullied to accept the program.

Kelly Lockett commented about issues with Eureka Math, and requested Eureka Math put back on agenda so parents can discuss Eureka Math.

Will Jensen, site administrator at Northside Early Learning Center, commented that full page ads are in the LVN regarding NELC's upcoming enrollment dates. Applications will be accepted starting April 4. Mr. Jensen stated that NELC is regarded as an exemplar early childhood program and thanked Dr. Sheldon for her support. The State of Nevada has an inclusion conference in June and Jennifer BeeBee and Michele Herzburn have been asked to present regarding their inclusionary practices. NELC exceeded enrollment numbers by 25 percent this year, and are currently at projected enrollment for next year. Mr. Jensen is hoping to get two-thirds of the entire future kindergarten class in early education.

Dr. Sheldon announced that kindergarten registration begins April 4, and there are 140 students registered in from the Pre-K program, who will roll up into the first grade.

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

Trustee Schank requested Eureka Math brought back for discussion. Trustee Hendrix worked with Trustees and requested the Lahontan Traffic Grant remain, as President Hendrix asked for traffic report. The list of all major committees can be removed. Trustee Schank requested not only dropout numbers, but also graduation rates added to her existing BMAR. Trustee Gent agreed that class size could be removed.

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

It was noted that Trustee Koenig, Trustee Hendrix, and Trustee Evans would attend Agenda Setting after the Budget Committee meeting on April 5.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Koenig made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hyde, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:01 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Carmen, Schank, Clerk of the Board

Prepared by Debra Shyne