

CHURCHILL COUNTYBOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Fallon, Nevada

REGULAR MEETING

September 22, 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 WORD: TRUSTWORTHINESS

Brody Allyn and Abigail Kammerer, 5th grade student from Numa Elementary, led the pledge of allegiance and said a few words about the Character Counts word "Trustworthiness."

VERIFICATION OF POSTING OF AGENDA

Vice President Koenig confirmed the posting of the agenda pursuant to NRS.

ROLL CALL

Trustees Present

Trustee Greg Koenig, Vice President
Trustee Carmen Schank, Clerk
Trustee Matt Hyde, Acting Clerk
Trustee Rich Gent
Trustee Tricia Strasdin
Trustee Kathryn Whitaker

Trustee Absent

Trustee Clay Hendrix, President

Others Present

Dr. Sandra Sheldon, Superintendent
Sharla Hales, District Counsel
Phyllis Dowd, Director of Business Services
Kimi Melendy, Director of Educational Services
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 UPDATE

- A. Principal Amy Word and Technology Integration Coach Nate Waite will provide a presentation to the Board regarding the middle school's journey with one-to-one technology devices recently deployed and a look toward the future in next steps for Chromebooks.**

Principal Word reported on the status of the Nevada 21 grant and how the middle school prepared for the one-to-one Chromebook initiative. The middle school formed a technology team to create policies and manuals to guide the process. Staff underwent four days of

training over the summer and eight teachers participated in Google training. Four teachers (Ms. Loesel, Ms. Conley, Mr. Butori, and Ms. Nichols) received Google certification, an international certification, requiring participants to complete a three-hour test.

Nate Waite stated that Chromebooks are instructional tools. Teachers use them to deliver and receive information from students just like they would from a worksheet. Now that students have their Chromebooks, CCMS is refocusing its efforts on making sure that teachers have the right tools, skills, and methods to get the most out of instruction. The school is focusing on the four C's for technology education: Communication, Collaboration, Critical thinking, and Creative problem solving. Mr. Waite further explained the middle school's future goals regarding technology.

Principal Weldon explained the school's training schedule which includes Tech Tuesdays, where Mr. Waite supports teachers with continuing professional development.

Trustee Schank asked if students' behavior or information was tracked while online. Mr. Waite stated that Google does not track students. Students took a digital citizenship class which taught them about cyber bullying, their digital footprint, and how to stay safe online. Chromebooks have IBOSS filters, whether students use them at home or at school.

Dan Slentz, Oasis Online, stated that companies who deal with education have a privacy policy in place for education separate from any other privacy policy they have. They promise that they are not going to do any data mining. If they did, they would be breaking their own policy which would be bad for business. There are state and federal laws that carry stiff penalties if these companies are involved with data mining. Mr. Slentz further stated that Chromebooks are geared toward a certain task. Students cannot install programs on their Chromebook. Chromebooks are a secure system and keeps students on task.

Mr. Waite stated that he is a resource for the teachers. He receives approximately 20 emails each day asking for his help. Mr. Waite goes to the teacher's room and shows the teacher how to do something with Chromebooks which advances the teacher's knowledge of technology. Teachers are experimenting and are doing incredible things already with technology.

Dr. Sheldon reported that the high school is working through the teacher training process and is tentatively looking at a roll-out of Chromebooks in mid-December, if certain benchmarks can be achieved.

B. For Discussion Only. Community Representatives will be present to report and discuss Fallon's economy, job growth, and housing market, as well as projects for future growth.

Dr. Sheldon reported that she invited Rachel Dahl (Churchill Economic Development), Jane Moon (City of Fallon Tourism), Rick Upham (Naval Air Station, Fallon), and Betty Percifield (Department of Agriculture), each present to talk to the Board about Fallon's economy, housing starts, and where Fallon is headed.

Rich Gent thanked the attendees for their presence as his focus is on how the District can help the community to entice more people to come to Fallon and how can the District help other entities relay the good things that are going on in the school district.

Jane Moon, Director of Tourism with the City of Fallon, stated that she has been in her position for three months and reported that it is easy to sell our town and community. Ms. Moon sees people from all over the world daily, who come to the Convention Center and are impressed by our small town. The City's Department of Tourism attracts guests to Fallon with sustained programs (such as Fallon Fights and Tractors and Truffles) as well as new programs that could possibly bring others to Fallon with the potential to invite them to stay. Each department in the City hires interns, which are a product of the school district. Ms. Moon is impressed with the skills and abilities of these interns.

Rachel Dahl, Executive Director of Churchill Economic Development Authority (CEDA), stated that there are three main sectors: military, agriculture, and geothermal. CEDA measures success in the number of jobs created, the revenue generated for Fallon's local governments, and the capital investment made in the community when companies move to Fallon or existing companies expand. Ms. Dahl reported that a number of companies have seen good growth such as New Millennium, Gemini, Dairy Farms of America, and CC Communication. Three geothermal companies are in the midst of expanding and making huge capital investments in the community creating more jobs and revenue. Alan Kalt, Churchill County Comptroller, told Ms. Dahl that sales tax is up, revenue is up from the three main industries, and there are several construction projects such as the Senior Center and the jail. Churchill County has issued ten new single family dwelling permits this year, where only nine permits were issued last year. Local businesses are expanding, such as, Green Builders, Stockmans, Fallon Auto Mall, and there are new ancillary businesses, which are good secondary indicators that there is movement in the economy.

CEDA reported the need to expand railroads to Fallon. Most inquiries from the last six months have been large companies that need rail access. Additionally, Fallon's dairy industry can only bring in half of their commodities by rail due to limitations on track size and weight. So, Fallon is in need of expanding rail traffic.

The Food Hub is a local grocery store located off of Center Street. The goal was to grow our local food economy and to revitalize downtown, and this has been very successful. The Food Hub has gone from 13 food farmers, who have a certification from the Department of Agriculture to sell farm products to a grocery store, to 20 this year.

CEDA has continued rolling out and will continue to focus on the Information Technology (IT) Program. One of the themes through a recent Economic Development Conference was the great need for IT and information security staff. Churchill County's program can provide Northern Nevada Technology with IT employees.

CEDA helped to establish a group to get a grant to purchase the Fallon Theater and are waiting for grant monies to transfer ownership of the theater.

CEDA is working on heavy industry development and marketing New River Business Park, but there are some serious barriers in the basic infrastructure throughout the county such as water, sewer, and power. Nevada Energy is at capacity in many places and will need a major power upgrade to get bigger industry to come to Fallon. CEDA is working with Southwest Gas to inventory the capacity for natural gas to determine if improvements are needed. There is a housing shortage in Fallon. A Northern Coalition headed up by HUD will be hosting a housing summit in Fallon on October 25, and Ms. Dahl would like to see board

members attend. Like many communities, work force is a huge barrier. CEDA holds their Business Council Meeting on the second Wednesday, 7:00 a.m., at Stockmans. This is a great opportunity to visit with other elected officials, the business community, the service community, and having members of the school board there would be very impactful. Ms. Dahl stated that she would love to come back to the Board with a brief list and some data to show the Board what she needs from the school district in support of economic development.

Zip Upham, Public Affairs Officer, Naval Air Station (NAS) Fallon, on behalf of Captain David Hollerman, the commanding officer at NAS, reported that the bottom line is that NAS Fallon is not going away nor getting smaller. NAS has a housing challenge as it is in the process of remodeling base housing and is demolishing and rebuilding housing units, but after new construction they will have approximately 30 to 50 less housing units. The public-private remodel is about a five to six year project.

Mr. Upham reported that from a workforce standpoint, NAS has been fairly static as far as how many people are employed at the base. It fluctuates with contract personnel depending upon construction and maintenance efforts. A number of construction efforts are going on now and will continue for several years. NAS is building a two story air wing training facility as part of the Naval Aviation Warfare Development Center and after it is built they will build a simulator in a one-story structure. Both of these facilities will require significant manpower of contract personnel in order to maintain and operate the facilities. The expectation would be 90 to 100 people. The joint strike fighter will be folded into the Navy's arsenal and will come to Fallon for training. Over the course of the next six to eight years NAS Fallon will have six of those aircraft stationed at NAS Fallon. When finished with the roll-in process, NAS will have at least 30 to 35 maintainers that are specifically assigned to take care of the Joint Strike Fighter and its fancy stealth capabilities, but they are not yet part of today's workforce. From that perspective, in about six years NAS is expecting 120 to 150 more people in the workforce. In three to four years, it is expected that the reserve training center that is currently in Stead will be relocated to NAS Fallon, which will attract personnel as well.

The Navy is working with the Bureau of Land Management on a six year project to remove the existing land withdrawals and expand significantly the surface lands that the Navy controls, specifically for public safety and the impact areas on training ranges. This speaks to the Navy's investment and focus on the required training that is conducted in Fallon. NAS Fallon is not getting smaller and is definitely not going away.

Mr. Upham stated that, from the Navy's perspective, the challenge is not once people are here. Once personnel are here and their children are in school and figure out what the school district has to offer, things go very well. Mr. Upham stated that they generally say we bring Navy personnel to Fallon kicking and screaming and then when they go, they go kicking and screaming, because it is a wonderful community and school district. Reaching people before they get here is a huge challenge. If they are lucky, they get to talk with someone who has been stationed in Fallon. They Google the educational system and see the state-wide statistical information compared to the other 49 states, and this puts Nevada in a very bad light. That is why some drive in from Reno where they have more choices and flexibility. When they get more information about Fallon, they are usually pleasantly

surprised. Putting more information into the Navy's available information for personnel as well as on the school District's webpage about Churchill County test scores as compared to the National average would be more helpful.

Dr. Sheldon reported that the District has taken out an advertisement in a magazine that goes to naval personnel who come to Fallon and has the MyBaseGuide phone application, which contains information about Fallon businesses and schools. The District is planning to hire a Family Community Engagement person soon to assist with public relations.

Betty Percifield, Director for the USDA Rural Development, stated that she is passionate about rural America and specifically Nevada. She is serving seven counties and provides funding for low income individuals and has several other options to make homeownership possible and to invest in rural America. From 2009 to current, USDA Rural Development (formerly Farmers Home Administration) have obligated or invested in Churchill County itself over \$81 million dollars. Ms. Percifield's office is located in the County Extension Office on Sheckler Road.

Mr. Gent thanked the participants for presenting information to the Board.

BUSINESS SERVICES UPDATE

- A. Budget to Actual Report (written report provided)**
- B. Update regarding general business items**

Phyllis Dowd reported that the beginning of the field work for the District's financial audit has begun. Ms. Dowd provided numbers to Eide Bailley and talked with Dr. Sheldon to deliver the good news that the District has a nice cushion for the 17-18 budget. Electric bills were lower due to a mild spring and putting in LED exterior lighting. Some additional funding in the class size reduction for the kindergarten program was received, which was unexpected. There was some savings on the retiree benefits program from PEBP through attrition of retirees to Medicare. There was almost a million dollar increase in sales tax, but when sales tax goes up DSA goes down. There was a food service finding, which hopefully has been resolved and won't occur again. For the free and reduced lunch the District is required to verify some applications through pay stubs and tax returns to confirm eligibility. There were three selected and there were a couple of errors. With Chartwells onboard and with new staffing, this problem should be resolved. The auditors would say that some students were given free lunch when they should have received a reduced lunch, but the District does not charge for reduced lunches, so those students in question would have received a free lunch either way.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES UPDATE

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- A. Sunday-Tuesday, September 25-27, National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) Fall Conference, Hyatt Regency, Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.**
- B. Thursday, October 6, Board Retreat, 6:00 p.m., Old Post Office Meeting Room**

C. Friday-Saturday, November 18-19, Nevada Association of School Boards Annual Conference, Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, Reno

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Recommended Personnel Action (Attachment A)**
- B. Approval of Vouchers**
- C. Approval of September 8, 2016, Regular Board Meeting Minutes**
- D. Approval of Students 16-16 for exemption from Receiving Immunizations based on Religious Reasons (NRS 392.435)**

Trustee Gent made a motion, seconded by Trustee Whitaker, *to approve Consent Agenda Action Items A-D as provided*. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously; President Hendrix was absent.

REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee Schank reported on her attendance at the Nevada Association of School Boards meeting this month.

OLD BUSINESS

A. For Discussion Only: Update regarding the Infinite Campus Program.

Lisa Bliss reported that the state encouraged all districts to change their student information systems to Infinite Campus so that everyone would be using the same system. Ms. Bliss provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Board containing an overview of the various modules of Infinite Campus. Ms. Bliss demonstrated how parents would log into the parent portal and what information they have access to about their child(ren).

Ms. Bliss showed how staff would log into the teacher portal of Infinite Campus. Ms. Bliss explained how parents/guardians can place money on student lunch accounts and how they can, at the same time, pay fees associated with the middle and high schools. Ms. Bliss explained that students and parents/guardians can download the mobile application as well. Ms. Dowd stated that parents can pick one child or multiple children and place money onto each food service account and pay middle or high school student fees. They can make it one transaction, with one convenience fee of \$2.50. The high school and middle school get their activity fees placed into the student body accounts and the food service charges go into the food service account. The business office will reconcile convenience fees each month. The hope is that this will encourage prompt payment on overdue balances.

Trustee Schank asked how long the student's data is tracked. Ms. Bliss stated from date of enrollment to date of withdrawal. Trustee Schank asked if after withdrawal if the information continues to be in a state database system and carried through to colleges and the workforce. Ms. Bliss stated that the main piece of information kept long term is the student's transcript. Dr. Sheldon reported that the District does not continue to collect any data after graduation.

B. For Discussion and Possible Action: Approval to hire a Parent Community Engagement Coordinator to assist with public relations, social media, and community outreach.

Dr. Sheldon provided the Board with a paragraph envisioning what the Parent Community Engagement Coordinator would do, and explained that this position would be a 220 day classified position, co-funded out of Title I and the general fund. The Coordinator would work with the Parent Involvement Committees at the elementary schools. The Coordinator would also work with the middle and high school, work with native families as a liaison for Indian Education, work with grants, data collection, create reports, and support parent activities. The Coordinator would work under Kimi Melendy, Educational Services Director. The Coordinator would provide outreach to parents, perform public relations for the District, and outreach to businesses, and the community. This job will be posted next week.

Trustee Whitaker asked for confirmation that the general fund has \$15,000 for this position. Ms. Dowd confirmed.

Trustee Gent made a motion, seconded by Trustee Whitaker, ***to approve the hiring of a Parent Community Engagement Coordinator to assist with public relations, social media, and community outreach, as provided by Dr. Sheldon.*** There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously; President Hendrix was absent.

NEW BUSINESS

A. For Discussion Only: Derild Parsons, Director of Special Services, will report on recent changes to the Special Education program.

Derild Parsons reported that the biggest change with special education was last year when the school district changed service delivery of severe units. There is no longer a severe unit at E.C. Best; there is one for K-2 at Lahontan and 3-5 at Numa. This helped to consolidate services. At Numa the teacher has been out for a few weeks and will be back soon, so there has been a long-term substitute teacher. An additional paraprofessional was provided to foster learning. Lahontan's severe unit is very small. To the greatest extent possible the District needs to educate students with their non-disabled peers in the least restrictive environment. Mr. Parsons reported that the District has a wonderful group of special education teachers and they are doing wonderful things.

Numa's special education teachers have worked very hard. Other special education teachers have helped with the paperwork behind the scenes to assist the long-term substitute. Writing IEP's cannot be done by a substitute.

Mr. Parsons spoke with Mr. Jensen at the Department of Education and has provided matching funds being spent at the high and middle schools for sensory rooms to help students. The District is spending a little over \$20,000 and the state approximately \$10,000.

Mr. Parsons reported that next Friday the special education teachers will train on Infinite Campus for IEPs. A lot of data was imported from the Easy IEP program.

Mr. Parsons stated that the District contracted out one speech language person and have an intern working with the District's school psychologist who will be moving to Fallon soon.

Mr. Parsons reported caseloads at an average of 14.7 students, some higher and some lower.

Trustee Whitaker asked how Mr. Parsons assesses whether the process is working. Mr. Parsons stated that each student has an IEP and must be in the least restrictive environment so they place students in general education as much as possible. The IEP team makes the determination. The principal is usually part of the IEP team.

Trustee Gent asked why E.C. Best did not have a special education unit. Mr. Parsons reported that E.C. Best has special education teachers, but the units for severe and profound are at Lahontan and Numa. Dr. Sheldon reported that many school districts our size have one severe unit; the District has two. By having fewer severe units it is easier to provide support services from school psychologists, speech and language occupational therapist, and physical therapists.

B. For Discussion and Possible Action: On sending a Board Member to the International School Safety Institute.

Dr. Sheldon stated that this agenda item is in support of a flyer that Trustee Schank brought to the last board meeting. Steve Russell, Director of Transportation and Safety and Dr. Sheldon have attended several of these conferences with the assistance of PoolPact. The District has developed district and building security plans. Those plans are being implemented at this time. Steve Russell will be attending another conference in October and another one in January or February.

The board discussed the various topics for the conference. There was no action taken on this agenda item.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Falk provided a handout to the Board and spoke about studies by psychologists regarding harm to young minds and bodies by excessive screen time.

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

Trustee Whitaker would like to explore the issue of purchasing the Infinite Campus module that allows parents to enroll their students online.

Trustee Schank requested a discussion on data mining and Infinite Campus and how the data is used for analysis or decision making; would like discussion on training staff on policies; and discussion on AB448 regarding Achievement School Zones and how it is going to be accomplished.

Trustee Hyde requested an update from Mr. Russell regarding where he is at with keeping students informed on what they should do if there is an active shooter and where the District is at regarding safety.

SET DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT BOARD “AGENDA SETTING” MEETING

Agenda setting will be scheduled for October 3rd or 4th, dependent upon Trustee Hendrix’s schedule, with Trustees Hendrix, Koenig, and Schank as attendees.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Schank made a motion, seconded by Trustee Strasdin, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:19 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board met in closed session until 10:06 p.m.

Carmen, Schank, Clerk of the Board

Prepared by Debra Shyne