

CHURCHILL COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Fallon, Nevada

SPECIAL MEETING

February 15, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

President Hendrix called to order the special meeting of the Churchill County School District Board of Trustees at 4:02 p.m. at the Churchill County Middle School, 650 South Maine Street, Fallon, Nevada.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Tyson Sorensen led the pledge of allegiance.

VERIFICATION OF POSTING OF AGENDA

Trustee Hendrix confirmed the posting of the agenda pursuant to NRS 241.

ROLL CALL

Trustees Present

Trustee Clay Hendrix, President
Trustee Kathryn Whitaker, Vice President
Trustee Carmen Schank, Clerk
Trustee Matt Hyde, Acting Clerk
Trustee Tricia Strasdin
Trustee Phil Pinder
Trustee Rich Gent

Others Present

Dr. Sandra Sheldon, Superintendent

Debra Shyne, Secretary
(Interested Staff/Community Members per Attached List)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tyson Sorensen expressed concern about substitutes being required to clock in and out during prep period and lunch. Mr. Sorensen leaves work for his substitutes to do during prep period. This practice has affected the morale of substitute teachers. Dr. Sheldon stated that the purpose of clocking in is to assist the Business Office in paying substitutes using the automated clock system instead of going through multiple time cards from all of the sites. Dr. Sheldon stated that substitutes should be paid for a half-day or for a full day, as they are not hourly employees. Dr. Sheldon encouraged Mr. Sorensen to talk to her about these types of issues.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **For Discussion Only: The Board will meet with Churchill County Middle School staff to discuss achievements and challenges and receive staff input. Copy of Board Goals and District Mission/Vision/Beliefs statement attached.**

The Board of Trustees and members of the middle school discussed the following issues:

- Motivating students to do what they are supposed to do.
- The need to provide resources to assist students and their families.
- Technology in the classroom is engaging many students. The middle school staff are motivated and having success with technology in the classroom.
- Concerned about students in need of credit retrieval.
- Middle school math and English credits are too low so students feel they can fail a semester and still go to the high school. Sixth grade does not have a credit requirement.
- There needs to be a change in promotion requirements.
- Results of state assessments are returned to the District too slowly.
- Need another counselor and/or another administrator to assist with behavioral issues.
- Need a math teacher for remediation.
- Pass/Fail rate stricter.
- Music room needs renovation.
- Make Jump Start equitable.
- Alternative assessment awareness and support.
- Support in English language learner.
- Consistency in Grade Policy – Define what high expectations are.
- Competency-based classes.
- Special education teacher would like a washer, dryer, sink, and dishwasher.
- Concern that sixth grade students rotating seven classes might not be good for student achievement. Sixth grade teachers felt that teaching sixth grade in pods was better for students.
- Not enough accountability at all grade levels.
- Keep technology teacher, Nate Waite, who has been a very helpful resource for teachers.

Staff requested Board Members come into their classes to see the challenges they face and how hard teachers work. The middle school has a lot of poverty students and students not getting lunches.

Trustee Whitaker commented that the reason the Board scheduled this meeting was not to lecture staff or find out what they were doing wrong. The Board wants to hear what the problems are and what the Board can do to support staff. The Board appreciates teachers' hard work. While the Board wants to visit classrooms, it can be difficult for Trustees who work during the day. The Board recognizes that it is challenging to be a middle school teacher, but the Board wants the best teachers K-12 and the best administrators K-12. Trustee Whitaker asked if it was more of a struggle with students who aren't motivated to

do their work or is the problem with students who have difficult time learning. Staff felt that it was a bit of both.

Teachers reported on the challenges and successes in their classrooms.

Staff commented that they appreciate the work their administrators do in support of the students and staff at the middle school.

Nate Waite reported that Lanni Mori is going to represent the State of Nevada at the Nevada Legislature in a couple of weeks teaching a lesson broadcasted live to schools across the State.

Dr. Sheldon reported that the District spent approximately \$25,000, supported by a state grant and the District's special education money, to create a sensory room for students at the middle school. Staff shared experiences of how the sensory room has been beneficial for students and not just special education students.

Dr. Sheldon reported that, over the summer, maintenance staff is planning to remove some walls in the middle school band room to enlarge the space.

Dr. Sheldon stated that the Board is engaged with student improvement. In a recent perception survey, almost every teacher said they were willing to change, willing to learn new things, and willing to move forward. The District has teachers who are engaged with their students and instruction and no matter where they are in their career are willing to learn and grow. Dr. Sheldon thanked staff for attending the meeting and sharing information with the Board. Dr. Sheldon reported that the Board met in a retreat on February 1 and confirmed that their focus on student learning, student engagement, and supporting teachers.

Trustee Hyde thanked the middle school staff for their dedication recognizing that their jobs are difficult and encouraged teachers to continue to ask the Board if they feel there is something the Board can do to help them in their classrooms.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Whitaker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Pinder, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:40 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Carmen, Schank, Clerk of the Board

Prepared by Debra Shyne