

CHURCHILL COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Fallon, Nevada

SPECIAL MEETING

February 1, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

President Hendrix called to order the special meeting of the Churchill County School District Board of Trustees at 5:42 p.m. at the Old Post Office, 90 North Maine Street, Fallon, Nevada.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Hyde led the pledge of allegiance.

VERIFICATION OF POSTING OF AGENDA

President Hendrix confirmed the posting of the agenda pursuant to NRS.

ROLL CALL

Trustees Present

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

Others Present

Dr. Sandra Sheldon, Superintendent
Sharla Hales, District Counsel
Debra Shyne, Secretary
Michelle Austin, Teacher
Becky Dodd, Teacher

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Trustee Schank made a motion, seconded by Trustee Pinder, to adopt the agenda; the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Becky Dodd commented that it has been suggested that bonuses are not going to be provided to new teachers who do not have three years of teaching experience. Ms. Dodd was concerned about this practice and felt that the Board should reconsider if they want to keep teachers in the District.

NEW BUSINESS

A. For Discussion Only: The Board will complete the Board's Self-Evaluation Questionnaire according to Policy and Regulation 8349.0.

President Hendrix stated that it has been a pleasure to work with the Board and would like to focus on cohesiveness and on students.

Board Self Evaluation Question A: How well has the board done its job?

Board members shared their views on where the Board has done a good job and where it has challenges. Some of their comments were as follows:

- Create a better mission statement.
- The Board has an Audit Committee, Budget Committee, Safety Committee, Discipline Attendance Committee, and a Policy Committee. There is the need for written documentation containing protocols for Board committees regarding membership, what constitutes a quorum, do Board members assigned to the committee chair the meeting or vote, as well as other protocols for these committees.
- The Board is good at short term planning, but not focused enough on long term planning. Utilizing bond money for the repair and maintenance of schools and curriculum would be considered long term planning.
- The Board has done a good job on the budget through tough times.
- Focus on communicating the mission of the District.
- Think outside the box in terms of an education model.
- Work on better communication.
- Continue to work on curriculum.

Sharla Hales, legal counsel, stated that she could provide one page for each Board committee identifying protocol information. Ms. Hales will research to determine if protocol for committees should be a regulation. The Superintendent will provide a list of committee members to the Board so that the Board can revalidate the list of members. Several Board members felt that Board members should not typically be voting members.

Dr. Sheldon referred to a sample of a District Performance Scorecard contained in BoardBook. The group talked about setting measureable goals and tracking progress of those goals over time.

President Hendrix commented that the Board has made a lot of progress and now it is time to lengthen its stride.

The Board rated themselves as doing a very good job, realizing there are many areas where they can improve.

Board Self Evaluation Question B: How well has the board conducted itself?

Board members shared their views. Some of their comments were as follows:

- Board members value each other's opinions and ideas.
- NASB professional development has been very helpful.
- Work towards District goals and hash out ideas.
- The Board functions well together.

The Board feels that, while there is room for improvement, they have done a very good job of working together as a team.

Board Self Evaluation Question C: Performance of Individual Board Members

Individual Board members identified areas of challenge and areas where they felt they have done a good job. The Board expressed gratitude for guidance provided by Sharla Hales, the direction the Superintendent has taken the District, and appreciation for support staff for their efforts in supporting the Board. Some items mentioned were as follows:

- Better communication at all levels.
- Visit schools more often.
- Maintain a strong fund balance.
- Focus on public relations in terms of communicating the good things that are going on in the District.
- Focus on all of grade levels to better prepare students for high school.
- Focus on increasing graduation rates, grading consistency, and student engagement.
- Provide a State of the District presentation.
- Encourage staff to submit articles to the LVN regarding student competitions and academic successes.
- Provide school board updates via the local radio station (KVLV).
- Create a new mission statement by working with all stakeholders.
- Focus on pay raises, if the budget allows.
- Look at priorities of principals.
- Focus on bringing in new teachers.
- Maintain contingency fund.
- Focus on science and history.
- Look at the potential for specials at some of the elementary schools, with a focus on music.

B. For Discussion Only: The Board members will discuss their vision, priorities, and goals for the District, including, without limitation, matters concerning: student achievement, curriculum, fiscal issues, facilities, technology, professional development, District operations, Board operations, personnel, and other areas.

Discussion occurred regarding creating a Board Governance Book as a resource for Board members so that they understand their roles as Board members. Dr. Sheldon will create a draft Board Governance document, review it with the Policy Committee, and then provide it to the Board for review.

The Board discussed having goals that are specific, measureable, attainable, realistic, and timely. Dr. Sheldon stated that generally creating a mission statement is a community process. The Board set a goal of creating a new mission statement for completion no later than the July Board meeting.

The Board agreed that Dr. Sheldon would create an action plan with data points to monitor three measureable action steps on how to accomplish those goals.

Some priorities discussed were:

- Maintain strong fund balance.
- Focus on students who are in need of credit retrieval.
- Three reports each year on student growth.
- Implement rigorous relevant curriculum.
- Ensure excellence in instruction to ensure students are on track to graduation.
- Better communication at all levels.
- Increase staff morale.
- Increase the graduation rate.
- Give staff pay raises, if long-term sustainable.
- Focus on student achievement and supporting staff and students in all grades.
- Find a way to increase the enrollment in our vocational classes.

Putting structure to the goals by making them measurable would help keep everyone accountable.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Hyde made a motion, seconded by Trustee Whitaker, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:50 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Carmen, Schank, Clerk of the Board

Prepared by Debra Shyne