

CHURCHILL COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Fallon, Nevada

REGULAR MEETING

March 8, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

President Hendrix called to order the regular meeting of the Churchill County School District Board of Trustees at 6:04 p.m. at the Churchill County School District Administration Office, 690 South Maine Street, Fallon, Nevada.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/CHARACTER COUNTS WORD "FAIRNESS"

Joe and Max Dahl, 3rd grade students from E.C. Best, led the pledge of allegiance and spoke a few words about the character counts word "Fairness."

VERIFICATION OF POSTING OF AGENDA

President 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 Tricia Strasdin
Trustee Phil Pinder
Trustee Rich Gent

Trustee Absent

Trustee Matt Hyde, Acting Clerk

Others Present

Dr. Sandra Sheldon, Superintendent
Phyllis Dowd, Director of Business Services
Sharla Hales, Legal Counsel
Kimi Melendy, Director of Educational Services
Debra Shyne, Secretary
(Interested Staff/Community Members per Attached List)

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Trustee Gent moved to adopt the agenda, as provided. Trustee Whitaker seconded the motion. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

RECOGNITION

A. The Board will recognize the 2017 Archery Team for placing 3rd Overall in the State Archery Tournament and will recognize archers who received individual awards.

Trustee Pinder presented the Archery Team with a certificate for placing 3rd overall in the State Archery Tournament, and presented certificates to archers for individual achievements.

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

A. Staff from Numa will report on the use of Chromebooks in the classroom. Staff will also report on their attendance at a recent Title I Conference.

Shawn Purrell, Numa Principal, reported on Numa's Book Fair and Family Night scheduled for Thursday, March 9, from 5 to 7 p.m. Some of the parent activities include a reader's theater and a technology workshop for parents.

Mr. Purrell and Numa teachers (Dominique Johnson, Trudy Mills, Pam Moore, and Judy Travis) reported on their attendance at a recent Title I Conference, which had the theme of "Engagement Revolution." While each staff member attended different sessions, some of the things they learned about involved student and family engagement, staff engagement, using data in collaboration, understanding Hispanic parents' experiences, skills, and education, and bringing art into the classroom.

Mr. Purrell reported that 5th grade has 1 to 1 Chromebooks, 4th grade has 2 to 1 Chromebooks, and every teacher is using Chromebooks in their classroom. Students recently took the Smarter Balanced assessment using Chromebooks. Mr. Purrell thanked Oasis Online for their assistance in preparing the Chromebooks for the assessment.

Kevin Wickware and Trudy Mills reported on how Numa utilizes Chromebooks. Students conduct research on the internet, handwrite a rough draft, and then type their paper on Chromebooks. Some teachers use graphic organizers, group projects, and utilize science and social studies videos online. Students use UTube, can pause the presentation to look for an answer, and then rewind to hear the question again. Staff is starting to use Google Classroom and Google Forms (for surveys). Students use Chromebooks for journal writing where parents, teachers, and other students can comment on their logs. Students are starting to embed videos and hyperlinks in their work products. Teachers noted that Michele Richardson has provided Google training to staff and has been very helpful. Both Mr. Wickware and Ms. Mills felt that Chromebooks were engaging students in learning.

B. Report regarding the math course that Career and Technical Education students can take for credit (written report provided)

Mr. Lords answered questions from Board Members.

C. Update regarding District-related matters

Dr. Sheldon reported that high school students assisted in filling sand bags for the County in preparation for potential flooding (photos displayed on the large screen for audience).

Kimi Melendy reported that the Family and Community Engagement Coordinator has worked diligently in designing two banners, a tablecloth, and pamphlets to display at recruitment fairs (photo of items displayed on the large screen for the audience). Dr. Sheldon reported that members of the leadership team would participate in recruitment fairs over the subsequent six weeks. Recruitment teams have a conditional letter of intent, in hopes of hiring teachers at the job fairs. The District purchased items to give away at the job fairs, which contain the District's address and phone number. Dr. Sheldon stated that Lori Norcutt has done an excellent job of registering for job fairs, scheduling flights, and

making hotel reservations for members of the leadership team who will be attending those job fairs.

BUSINESS SERVICES UPDATE

A. Student Activity Agreed upon Procedures (Audit) Report

B. Update regarding general business items

Phyllis Dowd reported that, for the first time, the District had a third-party audit of the student activity accounts. The audit focused on ensuring that staff is following procedures and using proper accounting methods, to minimize risk to the District. Student Activity Accounts are not part of the District's financial statements. The auditors selected the high school and Lahontan Elementary school to audit. The District is following procedures. Trudy Dahl and Kim Ewart (Office Managers at the schools) were both very receptive and did an outstanding job. The District needs to ensure that mechanisms to monitor the process of depositing money received from an event are established and followed. Ms. Dowd stated that there are some areas to work on, but overall, the audit was good. Next year Eide Bailley will do this audit over the summer so that the information will be part of the yearly audit presented to the Board.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES UPDATE

A. Report on Pupil Enrollment and Attendance Audit

Kimi Melendy explained the findings from the Pupil Enrollment and Attendance Audit. Ms. Melendy reported that principals and secretaries from all schools have met for training regarding audit findings.

UPCOMING BOARD EVENTS

- A. Saturday-Sunday-Monday, March 25-27, 2017, National School Board Association's 77th Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado**
- B. Friday-Saturday, April 7-8, NASB Orientation, Part III, Hyatt Place Hotel, Reno**
- C. Friday, May 26, 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, 2017 Payroll**
- D. Approval of February 15, 2017, Special Board Meeting Minutes**
- E. Approval of Students 17-11 and 17-12 for Exemption from Receiving Immunizations based on Religious Reasons (NRS 392.435)**

Trustee Whitaker moved to approve consent agenda items A-E, seconded by Trustee Pinder. There were no public comments. The motion passes unanimously.

REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee Pinder reported on his attendance at the celebration where the City of Fallon recognized the 3A Basketball Girls' State Champions. Mayor Tedford did an excellent job of recognizing athletes. Trustee Pinder reported that Elaine Adams requested he conduct interviews at the Employability Fair. Trustee Pinder interviewed 16 students and was very impressed with their resume, dress, and responses.

President Hendrix reported that he and his family attended the girls' basketball game in Las Vegas, and that he was very proud of the talented girls and coaches. The Board will be honoring the team at the next Board meeting.

Trustee Whitaker spoke with Chip Rutledge about the promotional video. The video was not a practice production, as its purpose is for the District to use the video for recruitment.

Dr. Sheldon reported that Mr. Rutledge's class was at E.C. Best recently producing a safety video. The kids were excited. High school students mentored younger students. Dr. Sheldon will show the promotional video and the safety video at a future Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A. For Discussion Only: Update on the Eureka Math program.

Dr. Sheldon reported that Patty Fleming submitted an application and went through an interview process for selection to attend a Eureka Math event in San Diego, where attendees learn about the Eureka Math program and provide feedback. Ms. Fleming was selected as one of only 18 people across the nation to attend this event.

Ms. Fleming stated that Eureka Math fits in with 21st Century Learning, is the curriculum used consistently across grade levels (K-8) at CCSD, and has a built-in common vocabulary and common methods for students. Teachers are becoming more familiar with Eureka Math, and are customizing lessons to meet the needs of students. Ms. Fleming provided a presentation on Eureka Math. Teachers began using Eureka Math about a year and a half ago and students are making growth. Ms. Fleming worked through some sample math problems.

Brenda Boone demonstrated examples of math problems from the Smarter Balanced Assessments practice test (handout provided at the meeting). There is a strong correlation with Smarter Balanced Assessment questions and Eureka Math. Ms. Boone explained how students take the Smarter Balanced Assessment utilizing Chromebooks.

Teachers from E.C. Best (Dave Gertson, Monica Mayfield, Mary Phillips, and Linda Rasmussen) addressed the Board and identified benefits and drawbacks of teaching Eureka Math.

Staff members reported on their use of Impact Professional Learning Teams (IPLT) to address student progress with Eureka Math and reported on the learning that is occurring. Eureka Math is a new program and many teachers feel more comfortable with the program this year than they did last year. Scores indicate that students are learning.

Dr. Sheldon stated that the goal of IPLT is to teach lessons collaboratively, use common assessments, review student data to develop common instructional strategies, and to reassess and determine if the strategies made a difference. Dave Nagel has been working with teachers regarding the process of utilizing Impact Professional Learning Teams.

Keith Boone reported that E.C. Best teams have been through professional development with Dave Nagel. Mr. Nagel has also provided follow-up training via webinars. Mr. Boone stated that he is extremely proud of his teachers and students. Teachers move the students to the next step and are seeing gains each week. Each week teams get together and talk about student assessment data, and discuss ways to reteach and extend lessons.

Trustee Pinder asked, since students in previous grades have used Eureka Math, are the students more prepared for Eureka Math and for the Smarter Balanced Assessment. The expectation is that there will be higher test scores as students and teachers become more familiar with the program.

Trustee Whitaker referred to Board Goals:

- Goal #1 Ensure Excellence in Instruction with High Expectations for All Students

Trustee Whitaker stated that the District must focus on all students.

- Goal #2 Implement a Rigorous and Relevant Curriculum to meet the Nevada Academic Content Standards

Trustee Whitaker stated that the Board was told that it takes at least three years to determine if the program is effective. Trustee Whitaker stated that she appreciates the time and effort teachers are putting into educating all of their students.

- Goal #3 Utilize Assessments and Data to Monitor and Measure Growth and Achievement

Trustee Whitaker commented that the District can't look at programs used in the past, as they do not prepare students for the Nevada Academic Content Standards. Eureka Math meets the standards that the Smarter Balanced Assessment contains. Trustee Whitaker noted that the MAP scores mimic the Smarter Balanced Assessment scores, so MAP scores indicate that the program is working well. The District's goal is to help students achieve, collect data, and monitor the data for growth and achievement. Scores are showing that students are growing and achieving. It is fascinating to hear teachers talk about collaboration in teams and to see the process used to see immediate growth instead of waiting for MAPS results later. Trustee Whitaker stated that Brad Whitaker requested MAPS math scores over the past several year for his kindergarten students to see his progress as a teacher. Mr. Whitaker has seen a 30 percent increase, and this is his first year teaching Eureka Math. When using Saxon math, Mr. Whitaker's scores were static for four years.

Mr. Gertson noted that prior to Eureka Math every teacher had their own program, whether it was Saxon or they developed it on their own, so student achievement was different throughout the District, and the students were behind. Eureka Math is a new program, is extremely rigorous, and is a lot of work for teachers, but we are seeing growth. Mr. Gertson stated that a program needs seven years to determine if it is effective. From reviewing data, the program is working.

Michelle Austin, 5th grade teacher at Numa, reported that last year was her first year teaching Eureka Math and it was very challenging. This year it is easier, especially since the students have worked with Eureka Math the prior year. It is challenging and the work is hard. Ms. Austin supported moving forward with Eureka Math.

Brenda Boone commented that the implementation of Zearn might cut down on the amount of copying. Zearn is a computer program directly aligned with Eureka Math, where students can work online.

President Hendrix commended all of the teachers for being part of the process. President Hendrix stated that he doesn't find math fun to learn and feels that the math program in CCSD has been broken, and it needs to be fixed. Principals have not voiced concern with Eureka Math. We need to give Eureka Math a chance. President Hendrix commented that the District is behind investing three or four more years into Eureka Math and seeing where it takes us.

Trustee Schank asked if the high school has Eureka Math. Mr. Lords stated that the high school does not, at this time. Trustee Schank thanked staff for their input. Dr. Sheldon encouraged teachers to take advantage of the assistance provided by Michelle Richardson, Brenda Boone, and Patty Fleming. These coaches can assist teachers with strategies and methods in support of instruction.

B. For Discussion and Possible Action: The Board will discuss all aspects of the 2017-2018 Budget and set budget priorities in an effort to provide direction to the Budget Committee and staff so that items can be explored and quantified. Staff will provide information to the Board for review. Amounts in any and every line item in the budget may be discussed and changed.

President Hendrix stated that sites have provided their priorities, recently reviewed by the Budget Committee. President Hendrix stated that the Board supports raises for staff, but raises are addressed through the negotiation process.

Phyllis Dowd explained the priorities, as provided by sites, administrative staff, and community members. Ms. Dowd reported that currently the District has ten percent of the budget remaining, outside of wages and benefits. At this time last year, the remaining budget was at six percent. Ms. Dowd reported that the Capital Projects fund has a balance of between two and three million dollars. President Hendrix asked if the Chromebooks could be charged to Capital Projects.

President Hendrix asked Principals and Directors to provide background regarding their requests.

Gregg Malkovich reported that his staff worked together to come up with priorities. Mr. Malkovich stated that if class sizes were lower, the intervention specialist might not be necessary. Mr. Malkovich requested an increase in the site budget, to help cover costs of making copies for the Eureka Math program. Mr. Malkovich reported that his site budget is around \$47,000, and the school would benefit from an increase of \$7,000. Dr. Sheldon reminded the Board that site budgets have been cut significantly over the past few years.

Keith Boone reported that teachers feel that the most meaningful special would be a computer teacher who could also assist with STEM activities. Students could go a couple of times a week to the STEM lab to work with the STEM teacher. E.C. Best would also benefit

from 2:1 Chromebooks for the second grade. Mr. Boone will check with his office manager regarding a recommended amount to increase their site budget. Mr. Boone commented that his staff really counts on Michelle Richardson for technology guidance.

Shawn Purrell will also check with his office manager regarding the amount to increase their site budget. Mr. Purrell reported that teachers would like an intervention specialist and would prefer a P.E. teacher instead of another type of “specials” class. Mr. Purrell stated that he would also like more promethean boards for the fourth grade.

Amy Word will also check with her office manager regarding the amount to increase their site budget. Staff felt that the ELL teacher was the highest priority followed by a math teacher. Ms. Word stated that a Dean of Students would be nice, but prefers the previously mentioned two positions take priority to a Dean position.

Kevin Lords requested his site budget return to \$240 per student. Mr. Lords spoke with department heads and their main request is a counselor and a dean of students. If only offered one, Mr. Lords would choose a counselor. Mr. Lords also stated that Mr. Fleming would benefit from an aid for the music program, even if shared between the high and middle school. Mr. Lords reported that he believes Mr. Fleming’s aid position was not reduced but that he had a difficult time filling the position. Mr. Lords stated that he would like their new half-time library specialist to go full time to assist with the scholarship program. The high school has lost quite a few teachers these past few years. Some teachers are teaching their prep period. If all students were in live classes, the high school would need at least one more teacher in each core subjects.

Steve Russell reported that diesel fuel was at \$1.14, is now at \$1.90, and a previous high was \$4.10 per gallon. Mr. Russell reported that his ridership is up this year by 115 students. Mr. Russell explained the need for another bus monitor. Mr. Russell reported using tablets for special needs students to listen to music or play games while on the bus.

Several principals commented that the salary schedule needs to increase, accompanied with bonus money, to attract teachers to Fallon.

Brian Byrd stated that, with the discussion of priorities, the morale of his staff has increased. Mr. Byrd explained the need for increasing the hours of the partial-year groundskeeper to a full year.

Kimi Melendy stated that the Educational Services staff talked and determined that coaches do not need extra days. Right now, if something needs to occur after the school year ends, coaches adjust their work calendar.

President Hendrix stated that it is his goal to accommodate the entire list of priorities, if they fit into the budget.

Kelly Frost, CCHS teacher, passed out a handout containing base salaries for a number of counties in Nevada. Ms. Frost noted that some of the data was from the 2015-2016 school year.

Dr. Sheldon stated that all of the requests are reasonable. Trustee Gent commented that the District used to have a School Resource Officer and questioned whether that position would return. Dr. Sheldon stated that she is not aware of a Federal grant that addresses a School Resource Officer. The Board expects to provide their priorities at the next meeting.

President Hendrix thanked staff for their attendance at the board meeting.

POLICIES – First Reading

A. Policy 5149.0 – Student Health Services – Immunization Program – New Policy (Students)

1. *Regulation 5149.0 – Student Health Services – Immunization Program*

B. Policy 5244.3 – Graduation Policy – Adult High School Diploma Program (Students)

C. Policy 5244.4 – Churchill County High School Graduation Requirements (Students)

1. *Regulation 5244.4 – Churchill County High School Graduation Requirements*

D. Policy 8349.0 – Board Self-Evaluation (Internal Board Operations)

1. *Regulation 8349.0 – Board Self-Evaluation Questionnaire*

Kelly Frost, CCHS Teacher, commented that the social studies teachers would like the list of social studies classes remain in regulation 5244.4. The consensus was to remove the grade levels from the regulation that pertain to social studies.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

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

Trustee Schank requested a report on the self-contained special education classrooms and requested that teachers of those classrooms be present at the meeting.

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

President Hendrix, Trustee Whitaker, and Trustee Hyde will meet on Monday, March 13, at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Gent made a motion, seconded by Trustee Strasdin, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:05 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

[The Board met in litigation conference.]

Carmen, Schank, Clerk of the Board

Prepared by Debra Shyne