

# CHURCHILL COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Fallon, Nevada

## REGULAR MEETING

March 22, 2017

### CALL TO ORDER

President Hendrix called to order the regular meeting of the Churchill County School District Board of Trustees at 6:01 p.m. at the Churchill County School District Administration Office, 690 South Maine Street, Fallon, Nevada.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/CHARACER COUNTS WORD "FAIRNESS"

Max Macias and Liam St. Andre, kindergarten students from Lahontan Elementary, led the pledge of allegiance. Students from Ms. St. Andre's class sang the national anthem.

### 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 Tricia Strasdin  
Trustee Phil Pinder  
Trustee Matt Hyde, Acting Clerk  
Trustee Rich Gent (*attended New Business via phone*)

#### Others Present

Dr. Sandra Sheldon, Superintendent  
Phyllis Dowd, Director of Business Services  
Jim Hales, Substitute Legal Counsel  
(*Interested Staff/Community Members per Attached List*)

### REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Trustee Strasdin requested Item H pulled from the consent agenda for discussion. Trustee Schank moved to approve the agenda with the change. Trustee Pinder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously; Trustee Gent was absent.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Becky Mathews, CCMS teacher, invited the Board to the Churchill County School District Variety Show on March 30, 4:00-6:00 p.m., in the Pit. Ms. Mathews asked the Board if they had an act to include in the variety show.

### RECOGNITION

#### **A. The Board will recognize the Churchill County High School Girls' Varsity Basketball Team for Winning the Nevada State 3A Girls' Basketball State Championship.**

Trustee Pinder presented a certificate to the group, as well as individual certificates to some athletes for their individual achievements.

**B. The Board will recognize Anne Smith for being selected as the Nevada State 3A Girls' Basketball Coach of the Year.**

Trustee Strasdin presented a certificate and CCSD pin to Coach Ann Smith.

**SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE**

**A. Dr. Sheldon will report on the Community Flood Preparedness Plan, in cooperation with the City and County, to address flooding threats.**

Dr. Sheldon reported that Brian Byrd and Steve Russell have been meeting with community emergency management leaders to discuss plans should the canal breach and effect homes and businesses. Flooding usually occurs late April or May. The District would provide support with buses for transportation and, if needed, provide schools as evacuation centers. The City's gymnasium and the Wolf Center at the Methodist Church are the first evacuation sites. If there were an additional need for space, E.C. Best would be the first evacuation school as it is located close to the hospital. Numa and Northside would also be designated as evacuation locations. Mr. Byrd and Mr. Russell will continue to meet with the emergency management team until the threat is over.

Dr. Sheldon explained the postcards that she sent to board members, thanking them for their dedication as Trustees. Dr. Sheldon stated that she has been periodically sending postcards to staff and students in the District as she sees or hears about successes to recognize. Dr. Sheldon accomplishes this by using an online program called Touchnote.

**B. Update regarding District-related matters**

Aly Lawson, Lahontan Valley News, and Kristin Sheldon, CCSD Parent Community Coordinator, reported about a fun social media endeavor. Ms. Lawson reported that "Fallon wants Fallon" is a social media campaign geared at the potential of coaxing talk show host Jimmy Fallon to come to Fallon, Nevada. Local business and community leaders have expressed their interest in assisting with this endeavor. The idea is to flood Twitter feeds and upload photos of citizens in the community holding up Jimmy Fallon heads in front of their heads. The hope is to bring Jimmy Fallon to Fallon where he could fly on a helicopter at NAS Fallon and see our community. Various organizations are putting together a care package of Fallon items to be sent to Mr. Fallon at his studio. The Board took a photo holding Jimmy Fallon heads. The photo will be uploaded to social media.

Dr. Sheldon reported that the National School Board Association Conference starts on March 24 and that staff will arrange for the shuttle to and from the airport for Trustees attending the conference. Dr. Sheldon will make reservations for Friday's dinner.

**BUSINESS SERVICES UPDATE**

**A. Budget to Actual Report (written report provided)**

**B. Update regarding general business items**

There were no questions.

## **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES UPDATE**

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

There were no questions.

## **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 22, 2017, Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
**D. Approval of March 8, 2017, Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**E. Approval of modifications to Policy 5149.0 – Student Health Services – Immunization Program – New Policy (Students)**  
*1. For Review Only: Regulation 5149.0 – Student Health Services – Immunization Program*  
**F. Approval of modifications to Policy 5244.3 – Graduation Policy – Adult High School Diploma Program (Students)**  
**G. Approval of modifications to Policy 5244.4 – Churchill County High School Graduation Requirements (Students)**  
*1. For Review Only: Regulation 5244.4 – Churchill County High School Graduation Requirements*  
**H. Approval of modifications to Policy 8349.0 – Board Self-Evaluation (Internal Board Operations)**  
*1. For Review Only: Regulation 8349.0 – Board Self-Evaluation Questionnaire*

Trustee Whitaker moved to approve items A-G on the Consent Agenda, seconded by the Trustee Schank. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously; Trustee Gent was absent.

Trustee Strasdin stated that she would like the scoring system in the regulation to be more useful. The evaluation tool provided for good conversation at the Board's recent retreat. The Board agreed that Trustee Strasdin would make changes to the regulation and bring it back to the Board for review. Trustee Whitaker will work with Trustee Strasdin to edit the regulation.

Trustee Strasdin moved to approve policy 8349.0, as written, seconded by Trustee Whitaker. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously; Trustee Gent was absent.

## **REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

*[Trustee Gent connected via phone.]*

Trustee Whitaker reported on her attendance at the Dancing with the Stars event put on by the Community Swing Club, where Trustee Hyde danced as one of the stars representing the Board of Trustees. Trustee Whitaker reported that several of the District's students are part of the Community Swing Club and they are competing at a national level in Idaho this week in individual and team completions. Trustee Whitaker stated that several FFA students are competing now and if they win, they will compete at the national level in the fall. Trustee Hyde reported on his experience dancing in "Dancing with the Stars." Trustee Schank reported on her visits to the special education department at Numa elementary.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. For Discussion and Possible Action: on a resolution designated as the "2017 Refunding Bond Resolution"; declaring the necessity of incurring a bonded indebtedness on behalf of the Churchill County School District for purpose of refunding certain outstanding bonds of the District; authorizing Obligation (Limited Tax) Refunding Bonds, Series 2017; providing the terms, conditions, and form of the bonds; ratifying action previously taken relating thereto; and providing the effective date.**

Phyllis Dowd reported that the target interest rates were between 2.35 and 2.5 percent and the bids were between 2.8 and 4.1 percent. Ms. Dowd stated that the higher interest rates impact savings to the point that the District would not like to proceed with the refunding at this time. Ms. Dowd will work with the consultants and determine if it would be worth bringing it back to the Board in the next several weeks or months ahead. The District has incurred less than \$200 for the refunding activities to date. The bonding attorney sent documents Federal Express and JNA Consulting stated they would not charge for their efforts up to this point in time.

- 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.**

Dr. Sheldon reported that she sent an email to the Board with her priorities. The Board has mentioned previously that their first priority is raises, but raises are negotiable and cannot be addressed at the board meeting. The second priority is increasing school discretionary budgets by seven to ten percent. It is up to the Board to set priorities, as money is available.

President Hendrix asked each Board member to provide his or her priorities. Ms. Dowd reported that, using this year's enrollment count, a seven percent increase in school discretionary budgets would cost \$31,500 and ten percent would cost \$45,700.

Trustee Gent's priorities were staff raises, seven percent increase for school discretionary budgets, dean of students to cover the high school and middle school, a high school counselor, and a music aide.

Trustee Schank's priorities were staff raises, increase in school discretionary budgets, counselor at the high school, dean split between the middle and high school, music aide split between the middle and high school, ELL teacher, music teacher split between E.C. Best and Numa, and to keep the contingency fund.

Trustee Whitaker's priorities were staff raises, increase in school discretionary budgets a minimum of seven percent and is okay with ten percent, one dean at the high school, one dean at the middle school, counselor at the high school, and an ELL teacher. Trustee Whitaker is not in favor of splitting a dean position between the middle and high school.

Trustee Strasdin asked Dr. Sheldon her position on splitting a dean between the middle and high school. Dr. Sheldon commented that while it is better than not having a dean, having a dean's position split does not create continuity of discipline at either site.

Trustee Strasdin's priorities were staff raises, increase school discretionary budgets with a minimum of seven percent and is comfortable with ten percent, high school dean, middle school dean, and high school counselor.

Trustee Pinder's priorities were staff raises, increase in school discretionary budgets seven to ten percent, full time dean at the high school, full time dean at the middle school, counselor at the high school, ELL teacher, and an elementary music teacher.

Trustee Hyde's priorities were staff raises, increase in school discretionary budgets at seven percent, counselor at the high school, dean at the middle school (not in favor of splitting a dean), ELL teacher, and music teacher. Trustee Hyde voiced concern about the Board adding positions and then having to reduce some of those positions later. Addressing student discipline at the middle school might help discipline issues at the high school later on.

President Hendrix's priorities were staff raises, increase in school discretionary budgets ten percent, groundskeeper position expanded to 260 days, dean at the middle school, and dean or counselor at the high school, as President Hendrix could not determine which position was more important. Then, an ELL teacher, a music aide, and look at specials at the elementary schools next year.

After discussion, the Board determined that their top priorities were staff raises, school discretionary budgets increased by seven to ten percent, dean at the middle school, and a counselor or dean at the high school (yet to be determined). The Board would like the groundskeeper increase of days placed on the next Board agenda.

Kevin Lords arrived after the discussion. Mr. Lords stated that while he would like both positions, his priority would be a counselor over the dean of students.

*[Trustee Gent no longer attended the meeting via phone.]*

**C. For Discussion and Possible Action: Update on preparation of Board Governance document (work in progress)**

Dr. Sheldon stated the Board Governance document is intended to provide operating procedures and protocols for existing and new Board members. The Board could add or delete information from the Board Governance document. Consensus was to send the Board Governance document to the Policy Committee for review and possible additions. Trustee Whitaker would like a new board protocol document, as the most recent protocol was signed on September 12, 2013. Only three of the seven Board members who signed the

protocol are still Trustees.

**D. For Discussion and Possible Action: Update and discussion regarding the District's Strategic Planning process.**

Dr. Sheldon stated that at the Board retreat the Board expressed the desire to revisit the District's mission and vision statements. Dr. Sheldon contacted Pam Salazar who facilitates strategic planning. Ms. Salazar will be sending Dr. Sheldon potential dates in May and August. Dr. Sheldon realizes the Board would like this in place before school starts. Dr. Sheldon will have potential dates identified at the next Board meeting. It will take four weeks to send letters to invite teachers, parents, community members, key communicators within the community, parent groups, NAS Fallon representatives, and others to attend a meeting to discuss the mission and vision statements.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michelle Austin, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, reported that Numa is in the process of SBAC testing. So far, students have completed two science, one English language, and one math test for a total of seven hours. Students will test again tomorrow and on next Tuesday and Wednesday, for a total of an additional six hours of testing. Look at what we are doing to these kids. Map data closely parallels SBAC. Ms. Austin requested the Board take a leadership role, call legislators, and speak out about too much testing.

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

Trustee Hyde stated that this would not necessarily be an agenda item, but he would like to know the projected number of charter school students returning to the District. Dr. Sheldon stated that she heard that only 19 charter school students were moving on from eighth grade to the charter school high school.

Trustee Strasdin requested a discussion on the District's policy for disclosing public health issues to parents in a way that will increase transparency while protecting educational records as required by FERPA.

Trustee Whitaker requested discussion regarding what the Board could do to express appreciation to District staff.

Trustee Schank requested discussion regarding SBAC testing, and requested input from teachers, so that when she goes to state meetings, she can share information.

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

President Hendrix, Trustee Whitaker, and Trustee Schank will meet for agenda setting on April 4, at 4:00 p.m.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

### **A. Discussion of negotiations and strategies regarding Churchill County Administrators’ Association, Churchill County Education Association, and the Nevada Classified School Employees Association pursuant to NRS 288.220.**

Trustee Whitaker moved to go into closed session to discuss negotiations and strategies regarding the Churchill County Administrators’ Association Churchill County Education Association, and the Nevada Classified School Employees Association pursuant to NRS 288.220. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

## **RECONVENE OPEN SESSION**

At approximately 8:36 p.m., Trustee Hyde made a motion to go into open session, seconded by Trustee Whitaker. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously; Trustee Gent was absent.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Hyde made a motion, seconded by Trustee Strasdin, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:37 p.m. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously; Trustee Gent was absent.

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Carmen, Schank, Clerk of the Board

*Prepared by Debra Shyne*