

# CHURCHILL COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Fallon, Nevada

## REGULAR MEETING

April 12, 2017

### CALL TO ORDER

President Hendrix called to order the regular meeting of the Churchill County School District Board of Trustees at 6:02 p.m. at the Churchill County School District Administration Office, 690 South Maine Street, Fallon, Nevada.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Strasdin 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 Tricia Strasdin  
Trustee Phil Pinder  
Trustee Matt Hyde, Acting Clerk  
Trustee Rich Gent

#### 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 Schank made a motion to pull Consent Agenda Item "A" #2 and noted that under Item #F, Students 17-15 and 17-16 were for immunizations exemption, not GED approval. Trustee Whitaker seconded the motion. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Craig Butcher voiced concern about an incident that recently occurred at the middle school, ruled as accidental. Mr. Butcher commented that the District is not following their policy regarding a safe and respectful school environment.

The following parents and students voiced concern about AP classes not being offered next year due to the low number of students requesting those classes, were concerned that this will affect college-bound students, and requested the Board reconsider AP classes. Students: John Soloman Jr., Dodson Frost, Hannah Hitchcock, Tyler Marsh, Jade Lynn Bauman, and Brady Blundell. Parents: John Soloman, Laurie Martin, Jackie Bauman, Amy Young, and Elena Marsh.

Nate Waite, teacher, reported on the positive things happening in the District. Staff at the middle school held a family technology and learning night and invited fifth grade families as

well. Over 20 staff members volunteered their time to demonstrate technology they use to help kids. The library was full of families where they could talk face-to-face with administrators and staff. The Blended Learning Committee has invited staff members from across the District and has been looking at options for all kids. There are new opportunities coming, which do not necessarily mean the elimination of present opportunities.

## **SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE**

### **A. Report from the Discipline and Attendance Uniform Subcommittee regarding School Uniforms.**

Kristin Sheldon and Torri Coldwell reported on the results of the Discipline and Attendance Subcommittee regarding school uniforms (handout provided). Parents filled out the uniform survey at parent conferences. The makeup of the subcommittee consisted of parents, Kristen Sheldon, Kimi Melendy, Torri Coldwell, Celeste Keller, members of the Parent Involvement Committee (Sheila Washington, Jennifer Blosser and Cyndi Lipiniki), and NAS Fallon School Liaison Officer Michele Taylor. The survey was open to all staff. The survey had a comments section for parents and staff to voice their opinion. There were 484 yes votes, 342 no votes, and 46 responses left blank. The Attendance and Discipline Subcommittee suggests a no vote at this time as the vote was very close.

Torri Coldwell explained that the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) are vague when it comes to school uniforms and reported that Washoe County has had a lawsuit regarding uniforms. Ms. Coldwell provided a copy of the NRS statutes and stated that policies, procedures, and discipline would have to be in place for the District to move forward with uniforms.

President Hendrix asked what the teachers comments were regarding uniforms. Kristin Sheldon stated that teachers were more concerned about cost for students and families, and the ability for students to wear clothing as a form of self-expression.

Trustee Schank stated that she appreciated the research and that she requested this agenda item. When she visited the charter school, she asked teachers what the number one thing was that contributed to high academic scores and everyone said uniforms, which surprised her. Trustee Schank has spoken with teachers and principals in the District and many feel it would solve discipline problems.

Kristin Sheldon stated that 872 parents returned their survey out of 1,537 possible students. The subcommittee debated heavily and decided that parents would have one vote for each of their children. There were 56 surveys returned from teachers, but Kristin Sheldon didn't get a final count for all staff.

Trustee Whitaker stated that the team submitted this information to the Discipline and Attendance Committee and thanked the team for their work. They had parent and staff involvement. They took this topic seriously and provided great information. There was a lot of thought and effort behind the Discipline and Attendance Committee's recommendation. There was a survey, a study, they looked at research as to whether uniforms improve test scores and if uniforms have an impact on discipline.

Trustee Schank asked what the research was on discipline and academic success. Michele Taylor reported that there is not a lot of research available, but it does appear to play a hand in academic success. Research shows that it changes the environment and the

behavior and morale of the students because they feel unified, and teachers feel unified as well. However, most of the research was based on junior high and high school students. There was less vandalism, less theft, and less harassment. The school used primarily for this research was a school district in Long Beach, California. Information shows that 47% of schools nationwide have some sort of uniform policy, but some of them are dress codes. Even the District's dress code would be considered a uniform policy.

**B. Report on the Nevada School Performance Framework**

Information provided in BoardBook.

**C. Update regarding general business items**

Dr. Sheldon stated that she was aware of the emails regarding the AP issues and stressed that classes have not been canceled. At this point, Board policy states that there has to be a minimum of 15 students to have a class. There have been classes in the past where policy has been overridden. Dr. Sheldon recommended that this item be placed on the next Board agenda for discussion. Students are still registered and administration is working through class requests to determine the number of classes and sections needed for next year.

Michele Taylor stated that May is the month of the Military Child, where military children are recognized for the sacrifices they make. An average military child moves nine to twelve times during grades kindergarten through twelfth grade, which does not include deployment cycles, double parent deployments, or wounded warriors, as well as other issues they face. Wearing purple shows support for these children. Ms. Taylor and Kristin Sheldon reached out to the Parent Involvement Committee who created ribbons in recognition of the military child. They made enough for all staff members at the schools and for the transportation staff. Staff is encouraged to wear them on Fridays, if not every day. Each Board member received a ribbon at the meeting.

Dr. Sheldon reported that staff sent a letter to community leaders asking them to attend a District Tour of Schools on May 2. Kimi Melendy, Kristin Sheldon, and Debra Shyne have been coordinating the event. The tour will begin with a look at Northside Early Learning Center, as the District's childhood program is an anomaly in our state and an example of an excellent pre-kindergarten school. Guests will tour Numa Elementary to check out their Chromebooks and promethium boards. ROTC students will provide tours of the high school and guests will be treated to lunch prepared by the students of the high school's Culinary Program.

Dr. Sheldon reported that she would be taking vacation the week of April 17.

**BUSINESS SERVICES UPDATE**

**A. Update regarding general business items**

Phyllis Dowd stated that she would defer to the budget discussion in New Business.

## **UPCOMING BOARD EVENTS**

- A. Thursday, May 18, 6:30 p.m., Adult Education Graduation, Old High School Auditorium
- B. 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 March, 2017, Payroll
- D. Approval of March 22, 2017, Regular Meeting Minutes
- E. Approval of Student 17-13, 17-15, 17-16 for Exemption from Receiving Immunizations based on Religious Reasons (NRS 392.435)
- F. Approval of Student 17-14, ~~17-15, 17-16~~ to Enter the General Education Development (GED) Program
- G. Approval of Increase 230-Day Groundskeeper position to 260 Days
- H. Approval of the 2017 SumFun Program Bus Lease Agreement
- I. Approval to purchase 11-Seat 2016 Ford Transit Van with 14,000 miles, from Fallon Auto Mall, not to exceed \$25,000

Item A #2 was pulled and Students 17-15 and 17-16 are for Immunization Exemption approval, not approval for the GED program. Trustee Gent made a motion to approve consent agenda item A except item 2, B-#, F as amended, and G-I, seconded by Trustee Schank. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

## **REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

Trustees Gent, Schank, Strasdin, Pinder, and Hyde reported on their recent attendance at the National School Board Association Conference in Denver, Colorado. Trustee Whitaker reported on her attendance at the national dance competition, where 1,400 kids competed and several District students won awards. Trustee Strasdin reported on the recent NASB Orientation III training, held in Reno.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. **For Discussion and Possible Action: Determine date for strategic planning facilitator to meet with stakeholders to create the District's mission and vision statements.**

Dr. Sheldon reported that she spoke with Pam Salizar, a strategic planner, who is heavily involved with legislative issues and is the leader of the Teaching and Learning Committee. Ms. Salizar is working with the legislature to encourage them not to have student test data as part of the teacher evaluation. Dr. Sheldon stated that working with the strategic planner would probably happen in August or September.

- B. **For Discussion and Possible Action: Regarding Student Academic Support Program for the Churchill County High School.**

Dr. Sheldon stated that she had a conversation with representatives of AVID. AVID is a very

large program and is something that the District should continue to explore. The program might be a better fit with the middle school. In July, AVID will have a Summer Institute in Colorado. Dr. Sheldon plans to talk with Amy Word, the middle school principal, to see if she would like to learn more about the AVID program. The AVID program works with teachers to develop high-level critical thinking strategies. AVID encourages students to take AP courses, which might capture some students who would not typically take AP courses. The AVID program would give the student extra tutoring and support to help them with the rigor of AP courses.

Dr. Sheldon did not recommend the AVID program for the high school at this time. She spoke with Principal Lords and discussed ways to encourage more students to take AP courses. At the last NASS meeting, Steve Canavero, Nevada's Superintendent of Public Education, stated that he was looking at doing away with the open half day in senior's schedules and requiring additional credits for seniors.

Dr. Sheldon stated that Mr. Lords has a teacher interested in moving forward with the Greenwave Plan for Success for one period of the day. Trustee Whitaker agreed that the high school is working toward the goal of helping students be college and career ready and should move forward with the program. The consensus of the Board was to put the Greenwave Plan for Success on the consent agenda for the next Board meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. For Discussion and Possible Action: Approval of the Tentative Budget for year-ending June 30, 2018. Any and every line item in the Tentative Budget may be discussed and changed.**

Phyllis Dowd reported that this budget cycle has been a pleasure compared to some tough budget cycles over the past few years. Ms. Dowd stated that the last legislative session changed kindergarten students from being .6 of a student to a full 1.0 student for DSA. On page 54 in BoardBook is the estimated enrollment used for funding. The District didn't get 120 new students, though there has been a slight increase, but now the DSA amount reflects kindergarten with full DSA. Currently, DSA is \$6,744 per student. Ms. Dowd budgeted \$99 less per student or \$6,645. Dr. Sheldon and Ms. Dowd will attend the Department of Education meeting on April 13 to argue that the new model for assessing DSA will negatively affect 11 out of the 17 districts. Ms. Dowd stated that she is budgeting for the worst-case scenario and will not know more until after the legislative session is over in June.

Ms. Dowd stated that the Board has set priorities and she has budgeted for staff increases, however, negotiations are ongoing. Raises are the only priority that Ms. Dowd put into the budget. If the District's DSA amount is reduced by \$99, then there will not be enough money left over to do anything else outside of raises.

Ms. Dowd stated that the District anticipates the employee insurance benefit to increase by 10%, the groundskeeper changed from 230 to 260 days, and the District is offering new hire bonuses. The District is seeing a lot of interest in open teaching positions. The District had more retirees elect insurance as an incentive, which will affect next year's expenses. Ms. Dowd will slightly decrease the amount for next year retirement buyouts, based on the six or seven possible buyouts. Jump Start funding is \$30,000 less than what was budgeted this year. Oasis Online and some software costs will increase. Recruiting expenses are

anticipated. This year the State of Nevada paid for Infinite Campus. Ms. Dowd targeted \$25,000 for Infinite Campus next year. If the Board gives staff increases, that will include increased costs to the funds that pay wages, like Special Education funds, which increase the maintenance of effort and, therefore, increases the transfers from the General Fund.

Ms. Dowd stated that she has been conservative on the revenue estimates, which will allow for a 4% ending fund balance, which may not remain in the final budget. Ms. Dowd anticipates the per pupil rate to go up in 2019. The economy is improving, so property tax collection rates are improving. People are buying new cars, so government services taxes are improving.

Trustee Schank asked if raises were long term sustainable, to which Ms. Dowd affirmed. The federal fiscal year starts October 1, so federal programs could be affected and it would be difficult if those amounts were reduced. The District can't lay off licensed staff during the school year. Ms. Dowd did lower Impact Aid funds based on the housing shortage at the Naval Air Station. E-Rate revenue is going to go up for our District this year, and those funds are already committed funds.

Trustee Gent made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hyde, to approve the Tentative Budget for year ending June 30, 2018. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Schank asked what would happen if the Board authorizes lower class sizes for AP classes. Dr. Sheldon stated that there would not be an increase in budget unless the District purchases teachers' prep periods. There is some money in the budget to provide for that. What could happen is that the other classes would have slightly higher enrollment. The final budget will be submitted at the last Board meeting in May, so there is time to make adjustments.

**B. For Discussion and Possible Action: Approval of the 2017-18 Board Calendar.**

Trustee Whitaker move to approve the 2017-18 Board calendar with the year changed to 2018 for January through June. Trustee Pinder seconded the motion. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

**C. For Discussion and Possible Action: The Board will receive training on the Ethics in Government law from Yvonne Nevarez-Goodson, Executive Director of the Nevada Commission on Ethics, including among other things, training on the duties to disclose and to abstain from voting when a Board Member has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure or abstention.**

This item was deferred as Ms. Nevarez-Goodson was held up with legislative matters.

**POLICIES – FIRST READING**

**A. Policy 5152.0 – Parents and Students Rights Concerning Student Records (Students)**

1. *For Review Only: Regulation 5152.0 – Release of Information About Students (Students)*
2. *For Review Only: Regulation 5152.1 – Confidentiality of Health and Welfare Information (Students)*
3. *For Review Only: Regulation 5152.2 – Procedures for Granting Access to the Education Records of Students in the Churchill County School District (Students)*

4. *For Review Only: Regulation 5152.3 – Procedures for Challenging the Content of the Education Records of a Student in the Churchill County School District (Students)*
5. *For Review Only: Regulation 5152.4 – Record Disposal (Students)*

**B. Modifications to and combining Policy 5100 – New Student Enrollment and Policy 5009 – Age of Entrance (Students)**

Regulation 5152.0, first paragraph, first sentence, needs to have the plurals cleaned up. It states that an eligible student is a student who has reached eighteen (18) years of age or is attending an institution of post-secondary education. Trustee Whitaker asked if that would affect Jump Start students. Dr. Sheldon will look into this issue.

These policies/regulations will return for second reading at the next Board meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Merilee Johnson’s daughter attends the middle school and is afraid to go to school due to an incident that occurred. It was ruled an accident by the principal, but parents feel it was intentional. She is now homeschooled and misses her friends and teachers.

A student who didn’t identify himself commented that 11 people signed up for AP Calculus class, which is proportionate to the minimum number of 15 students due to a decrease in school population.

Tracy Kish commented that his granddaughter will be going to the middle school next year and voiced concern about recent comments made on Facebook .

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

Trustee Hyde requested a discussion on the District’s educational grant program.

Trustee Pinder requested further discussion on AP classes.

Trustee Schank requested discussion on spring MAP scores for comparison and growth.

Trustee Gent requested discussion regarding discipline issues at the middle school.

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

President Hendrix, Vice-President Whitaker, and Trustee Gent will meet at 4:30 on April 13.

**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 Churchill County Administrators’ Association, Churchill County Education Association, and the Nevada Classified School Employees Association pursuant to NRS 288.220, seconded by Trustee Schank, at approximately 8:10 p.m. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

### **RECONVENE OPEN SESSION**

Trustee Whitaker made a motion to go into open session, seconded by Trustee Strasdin. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board meeting adjourned at approximately 8:32 p.m. The Board then met in litigation session.

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Carmen, Schank, Clerk of the Board

*Prepared by Debra Shyne*