

# CHURCHILL COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Fallon, Nevada

## REGULAR MEETING

August 9, 2017

### CALL TO ORDER

President Hendrix called to order the regular meeting of the Churchill County School District Board of Trustees at 6:00 p.m. at the Churchill County School District Administration Office, 690 South Maine Street, Fallon, Nevada.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Lisa Bliss led the pledge of allegiance.

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

#### Others Present

Dr. Sandra Sheldon, Superintendent  
Sharla Hales, Legal Counsel  
Phyllis Dowd, Director of Business Services  
Lisa Bliss, Data and Assessment Coordinator  
Debra Shyne, Secretary  
*(Interested Staff/Community Members per Attached List)*

### REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

President Hendrix informed the Board of a change on the classified hiring list as Lisa Redmond is filling a special education paraprofessional position, not a PE paraprofessional for the middle school. Trustee Whitaker moved to adopt the agenda with the noted change, seconded by Trustee Gent. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

### SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

#### **A. Ms. Lisa Bliss, Data and Assessment Coordinator, will provide an update regarding the 2016-17 Assessment results.**

Lisa Bliss shared the 2016-17 Smarter Balance Assessment and NWEA MAP test results with the Board (PowerPoint presentation provided in BoardBook.) Dr. Sheldon voiced appreciation for first grade teachers, as they were the first to come on board with the new curriculum three years ago. Those first grade students are now third grade students and

have been using the new curriculum for three years and we are seeing growth, especially in math.

Dr. Sheldon reported that Patty Fleming will be working through the Reno Professional Development Program (RPDP) part time focusing on aligning Eureka math units, creating pacing guides to be sure that formative assessments are given, and helping teachers interpret results so they can provide interventions immediately, versus waiting until the end of the unit or further down the line. Dr. Sheldon stated that we are seeing a turnaround and hope to see gains in the upper grades as students have more years in the Eureka math curriculum. The state has adopted the Eureka math curriculum and it is showing great results in other districts as well. Dave Nagel will assist the high school and middle school regarding grading and proficiencies and will continue to work with kindergarten through fifth grade schools creating data teams.

Ms. Bliss stated that there is definitely room for improvement but also recognized that the District has experienced a huge change in expectations and content standards. The District will keep moving forward to build and close gaps, provide individualized learning, make connections with students, and support instruction so that students are college and career ready.

Kimi Melendy reported that the Blended Learning Technology Committee looked at eight software programs for online education to replace the A+ program. They selected the Engenuity software program. Engenuity does not have curriculum for kindergarten through fifth grade. The company that sells Engenuity software partners with NWEA MAP and takes the RIT score from MAP and plugs it into Engenuity, which then gives each student exactly what they need to improve their skills. Students who are lower and need different lessons have the ability to catch up and this approach allows students who are at a higher level to continue growing and not remain stagnant. Engenuity has a program for online classes, has My Path for 6-12 math interventions, and Math Laser for K-12 interventions.

Trustee Whitaker requested data on the Engenuity program. Ms. Melendy stated that she would send information to Board members. The Board would like staff to return at semester and provide an update. Trustee Schank requested Ms. Bliss send Board members the NWEA map, student profile sample, student goal-setting worksheet, and a copy of the assessment schedule. Ms. Bliss will also send Board members the MAP target ranges by grade level.

## **B. Update regarding the 2017-2018 School Performance Plans**

At the February Board retreat, the Board asked that the District create a building level plan that aligns schools' objectives with Board goals. Dr. Sheldon referred the Board to pages 17 through 28 in BoardBook regarding the new template for school performance plans. Dr. Sheldon explained that the plan would require one or more measureable objectives, an action plan to implement those objectives, the resources needed, evidence of progress, and a timeline. Dr. Sheldon provided principals with a copy of the template. The expectation is that the principal, some teachers, the counselor, and some parents would be on the committee. The principals will complete the plan by the end of September. Principals will present their plans to the Board the end of September or in October. Principals will show evidence of progress towards their goals in the spring. Dr. Sheldon reported that principals can use this same data in the format required by the State, so this is not a duplication of

effort. Dr. Sheldon reported that staff has provided principals with a fillable document for ease of use.

### **C. Update regarding District-related matters**

Phyllis Dowd updated the Board regarding the new phone system. The new phone system is working everywhere in the District except at the high school. CC Communications, Oasis Online, and representatives from the manufacturer of the phones are working to resolve the issue.

Dr. Sheldon reported that Kristen Sheldon and Steve Russell were attending the welcome back night at the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe Education Center on August 9. Welcome back night for Churchill County School District students and parents will be on August 10. Staff will attend the welcome back at the Naval Air Station on Friday evening, August 11. The welcome back for all staff will be at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, August 1, at the high school auxiliary gym. Dr. Sheldon invited Board members to attend.

## **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES UPDATE**

### **A. Report on the summer school programs in the District.**

Kimi Melendy reported on four summer school opportunities provided over the summer. The extended school year summer school started June 20 and ended July 13. Sixty-two pre-kindergarten through fifth grade students attended summer school at Northside. Extended school year summer school for grades six through twelfth was held in the middle school for nine students, where students worked on academics as well as social and emotional skills. There were two teachers and four aides to support the program. Transportation provided busing for these students. Mr. Parsons and Mandy Lister managed this program.

The District was fortunate enough to have enough money to have elementary summer school for 75 students, kindergarten through fifth grade. Susannah Hooper-Howe managed this program, held at E.C. Best Elementary school. Five teachers and four paraprofessionals worked to support these students in reading and writing. Diane Shamberger supported the curriculum with art projects. Summer school lasted three weeks, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 to 12:00.

The District provided credit recovery for students in sixth and seventh grade. This was for sixth grade students who needed extra support so they could be successful in seventh grade and for seventh grade students who failed one or more classes last year. Credit recovery summer school met for two hours each day for one month.

The District provided credit recovery for high school students who failed one or more classes last year for students going into ninth through twelfth grade. They met from 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, June 5 to June 29. Sixty-eight students attended and two teachers supported those students. Out of the 68 students, 47 students completed their classes.

Trustee Schank asked the cost of summer school. Several grants paid for summer school. High school students pay a course fee for credit recovery, which helps pay for teachers, but

General Fund monies supplements the program. Kimi Melendy will provide costs associated with summer school.

Ms. Melendy stated that she would start planning for summer school in April as the District has funds available for summer school next year. President Hendrix stated that he was interested in the number of students who take summer school for credit recovery go on to graduate high school. Ms. Melendy said she could start tracking that information.

President Hendrix commented that it is important that the eighth grade math class be successful.

*[The Board took a break from approximately 6:48 to 8:07 p.m.]*

## **UPCOMING BOARD EVENTS**

- A. Friday-Saturday, November 17-18, Nevada Association of School Boards Annual Conference, Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, Reno.**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Recommended Personnel Action (Attachment A)**
- B. Approval of Vouchers**
- C. Approval of July, 2017, Payroll**
- D. Approval of July 26, Regular Meeting Minutes**
- E. Approval of contracts for Melodee Jacobsen, Occupational Therapist and Kim Terry, Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant**
- F. Approval for Dr. Sheldon to attend the District Administration Leadership Institute Superintendents Summit, October 2-6, 2017, in Florida**
- G. Approval for Trustee Pinder to attend the Understanding Local Government Finance Course, University of Reno, Extended Studies Professional Development Courses, at a cost of \$225**
- H. Approval of New Policy 5901.0 – Special Diet – Second Reading**

President Hendrix reminded the Board that Lisa Redmond's position on consent agenda item "A" is a special education paraprofessional, not PE paraprofessional.

Dr. Sheldon reported that she would like to emergency hire four teachers as the District offered positions after the posting of the consent agenda pending approval from the Board at the August 23 Board meeting. These positions were for a third grade teacher, an agriculture teacher, a construction teacher, and possibly an early childhood teacher.

Trustee Gent made a motion to approve consent agenda item "A" with adjustments as cited, B-E, G, and H. Trustee Strasdin seconded the motion. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Schank commented that Dr. Sheldon's contract allows her to attend a certain number of conferences. Dr. Sheldon commented that her contract states that the Board can approve her to attend additional conferences. The District Administration Leadership Institute will pay for Dr. Sheldon's expenses. The Institute selected 62 superintendents from across the nation to attend the conference. Trustee Schank made a motion to approve item F on the consent agenda, to approve Dr. Sheldon to attend the District Administration Leadership Institute Leadership Institute. Trustee Gent seconded the motion. There were no

public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

## **REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

Trustee Pinder reported on his attendance at the Nevada Association of School Boards conference regarding legislative changes to laws.

Trustee Whitaker reported that she, Trustee Strasdin, and Trustee Schank met to work on the NASB award nominations.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. For Presentation and Discussion: Trustee Schank will provide a legislative update to the Board of Trustees.**

Trustee Schank provided the Board with an update of key legislative bills (handout provided at meeting).

### **B. For Discussion and Possible Action: Approval to provide high school credit for algebra and geometry in the middle school.**

Kevin Lords provided the history of changes in graduation requirements. A number of years ago required math credit changed from three to four and science credit changed from two to three. The middle school offered Algebra I, but students still had to take an additional math class in their senior year. It was decided to discontinue offering Algebra I at the middle school.

Dr. Sheldon reported that the middle school is offering an Algebra I class this year and 24 students are taking the class. Students have to pass the rigorous end of course assessment. If students do not pass the assessment, then they would retake Algebra I in their freshman year.

Trustee Whitaker moved to approve providing high school credit for Algebra and Geometry credit in the middle school providing they pass the class and the end of course exam. Trustee Schank seconded the motion. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

### **C. For Discussion Only: Principal Kevin Lords will update the Board regarding the high school's Career and Technical Education programs (CTE).**

Kevin Lords stated that the CTE programs have teachers that are very experienced or teachers that are brand new. The culinary arts teacher was new last year. The high school pulled the food nutrition class this year. It is a three-year program and the high school had culinary arts as a four-year program. Students would take nutrition but not complete the fourth year of culinary arts for certification. The high school decided to offer Culinary Arts I, II, and III, and incorporate nutrition into the program.

The Board approved a new CTE coordinator. She is extremely experienced, has many connections with the community, and understands grants. The CTE coordinator will help the program grow, offer more student internships, and will work towards getting more grant funds. The auto program has been bursting.

Mr. Lords stated that the Drafting and Design teacher is new. He is not a math teacher, but

he is an experienced teacher.

Mr. Lords stated that the high school has struggled getting a construction teacher. Construction is booming and potential teacher candidates can make a lot more money working construction in private industry. The construction class was changed to Furniture and Cabinetmaking, what used to be Woodshop. A qualified teacher has accepted the position and will be on the Board's next agenda for approval. He has experience in the industry, is an OSHA trainer, but building houses is not his expertise. The high school will continue with an advanced construction class to finish the program, but will move to Furniture and Cabinetmaking for new students coming into the program.

Mr. Lords, Mr. Henke, and Darren Lewis met at the construction house to determine the work left to complete the house. The high school will work with contractors who have contracts with the District to get the work completed. Students made cabinets and will install them in the house. Once installed, the focus will be on electrical, plumbing, flooring, and eventually landscaping toward the goal of selling the house. The hope is to have the house ready to sell by the end of October, but construction contractors are very busy. In the past, the contractors go at a slower pace so they can work with students to learn their trade.

Mr. Lords reported that the new agricultural science teacher is not a science person. Ms. Moore was in that position and is highly qualified, so this means these classes would not be for science credit. The new teacher is an agriculture person, is very involved in FFA, and continues to be involved in livestock judging.

The field has been a work in progress. Students have pulled trees out of the ditches and cleaned the ditches. If water is put in the ditches, they will fail, so the ditches need work. As school starts, the hope is that students can prepare the field for grazing this fall. Mr. Lords stated that the agricultural equipment is in need of repair. In the past, they have borrowed or rented equipment.

Trustee Whitaker asked what the District is doing to support the teachers to ensure a successful program. Mr. Lords stated that he met with Mr. Evans and they plan to structure collaboration time for Mr. Evans to meet with new teachers on Fridays to go through various scenarios to assist with classroom management, instruction, budgets, and materials. The CTE programs are utilizing Chromebooks for instruction as well.

Dr. Sheldon stated that the District is contracting with Patty Fleming to provide new teacher training for 34 new teachers. She will go through basic classroom management and will split secondary and elementary teachers to provide professional development to support those teachers.

Dr. Sheldon stated that Tesla requires candidates to have critical thinking skills, be good communicators, and be able to collaborate with others. Students are walking out of high school into Tesla jobs starting at \$60,000 per year. There are some great positions for students coming out of the CTE programs. The District needs to continue focusing on CTE programs, getting students certifications, linking students with Western Nevada College, Truckee Meadows Community College, and industry.

Julie Wolf, audience member, commented that she grew up in farming and that she and her husband own a ranch. She voiced concern for the agricultural program and stated that she

would like to see private business partner with the District so that students can get real-life experiences. Dr. Sheldon offered Ms. Wolf to meet with her to discuss her concerns.

### **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 ITEMS**

Trustee Strasdin requested a discussion about drills occurring in our schools, specifically lockdown and active shooter drills.

Trustee Schank requested discussion on students failing the Jump Start program and the CTE construction teacher salary cap.

Trustee Gent stated requested the status of the equipment for the agricultural program.

Trustee Hendrix requested discussion regarding an onsite Board meeting similar to the one at the middle school last year and the high school the year prior.

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

Trustees Hendrix, Whitaker, and Schank will meet on Tuesday, August 15, at 4:30 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Hyde made a motion, seconded by Trustee Pinder, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:24 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

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Carmen, Schank, Clerk of the Board

*Prepared by Debra Shyne*