

CHURCHILL COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Fallon, Nevada

REGULAR MEETING

August 23, 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

Principal Boone 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
Kimi Melendy, Director of Educational Services
Debra Shyne, Secretary
(Interested Staff/Community Members per Attached List)

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Trustee Strasdin requested New Business Item 13C pulled from the agenda. Dr. Sheldon requested Taylor Durphy removed from the consent agenda (Recommended Personnel Action) as she declined the position of Agricultural Science Teacher and FFA Advisor. Trustee Schank moved to adopt the agenda with Taylor Durphy removed and Item 13C pulled. Trustee Strasdin seconded the motion. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

A. The Board will welcome licensed staff who are new to the District.

Principals introduced new staff members. Principal Malkovich thanked the Board for the increase to site budgets and for spending money for recruitment which paid off. Principal Boone thanked the recruiting teams for their efforts.

B. Mr. Steve Russell, Transportation and Safety director, will report on the types and

frequency of safety drills that occur in schools.

Steve Russell informed the Board that each school has nine fire drills every year, one each month. Mr. Russell has a system to monitor drills so that he can email schools to remind them of the drills they need to complete. The plan is to have either a lockdown or shelter-in-place drill at each school and then reverse the drills the following year. Mr. Russell is working with Captain Wenger of the Fallon Police Department to schedule an active shooter drill in conjunction with various community response teams tentatively scheduled for a Saturday in March or April. Mr. Russell will update the Board once a date has been selected.

Mr. Russell reported that October 19 at 10:25 a.m. is the Great Nevada Shakeout drill. The entire District will participate in the earthquake drill. The current plan is to utilize the all-school alert system.

C. Churchill County High School staff will report on the status of the agricultural program's equipment (written report provided)

Trustee Whitaker asked Mr. Lords what it meant where he indicated that the State agreed to purchase the wheat grown on the field. Mr. Lords stated that the high school has a contract with the prison system to purchase the crop that is grown on the field.

Trustee Schank asked what the high school's plan is for getting equipment operational or disposing of nonoperational equipment. Mr. Lords stated that staff needs to determine which pieces of equipment are worth the cost of repair. If not worth repairing then the equipment would be put on the auction site for sale.

Mr. Lords stated that students were repairing ditches, which will be complete in a week and then they will plant the field in winter wheat. The District will not lease the field for grazing this year. In the spring, the field will be replanted in alfalfa hay.

D. Report regarding the salary structure for the Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers (written report provided)

Dr. Sheldon reported that she was mistaken when she stated that the salary for CTE teachers stopped at the fifth year. That was true, but it changed in the contract a few years ago. CTE teachers are placed on the salary schedule with their education and years of experience, with the maximum of ten years on the salary scale to start.

E. Report regarding MAP RIT scores and Nevada target ranges

Dr. Sheldon explained RIT and SBAC target scores.

Dr. Sheldon stated that average on a bell curve is between the 40th and the 60th percentile. The State has said that to be proficient on the SBAC test the student would have to score at a minimum at the 59th percentile, which is way above average. This is a concern that the superintendents have with the Department of Education's metrics. Above average and proficiency are two different concepts. Dr. Sheldon stated that she is not yet sure if the State will publish star ratings this year. The Superintendents wrote a letter to the State indicating that the State does not have to publish a star rating until 2018 and encouraged the State to take time to be sure the metrics are correct.

F. Update regarding District-related matters

Dr. Sheldon reported on her attendance at the planning commission interagency meeting held twice each year. Entities come together to talk about their initiatives. Dr. Sheldon highlighted the District's Chromebook program, the Jump Start program, and other positive things occurring with students and teachers.

The Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe stated that they were going to break ground in the next 30 to 60 days on a 64-unit apartment complex near Fox Peak Cinema. They are taking a phased-in approach. The rent would be between \$1,200 and \$1,600 per month. They would offer two and three bedroom apartments with two car garages. They might potentially put in a Marriott affiliated hotel next to the gas station, a strip mall, and possibly a franchise restaurant. The group discussed the intersection at Williams and Fox Peak Gas Station, as there are already traffic problems at that intersection.

Dr. Sheldon reported that the playground equipment at E.C. Best is now on the east side of the building. Maintenance will be putting in a new basketball court this year. There has been talk about moving the access road to E.C. Best to the south and turning part of the field into a parking lot for bus drivers and the performing arts center. Then, if the Board decided to, they could sell part of the land.

BUSINESS SERVICES UPDATE

A. Budget to Actual Report (written report provided)

B. Update regarding general business items

Phyllis Dowd had nothing new to report.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES UPDATE

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

Kimi Melendy reported that after updating numbers based on school counts, the District has 16 less students than what was reported in BoardBook and one less student than the District started with last year.

B. Update regarding the District's Educational Grants Program

Ms. Melendy reported on the 17-18 grants. The Library Grant will be out in November, which is roughly \$2,000 split among all schools' libraries. The Read by Three Grant requires staff to include more research into the grant. The District has the same number of grants as previously but the District will receive less money in Title II. The Read by Three Grant will be around \$200,000.

Dr. Sheldon reported that the District has approximately \$200,000 less in grants this year as compared to last year. The District is not replacing the math/science coaching position. The District is providing learning strategists in math at elementary schools and paying stipends out of the Read by Third Grade & Title I grants.

Patty Fleming has contracted through Reno Professional Development Program (RPDP) for 90 days of consulting work during the school year, paid for by RPDP. Ms. Fleming will help with math including oversight of the math strategists at elementary school. She will work

with secondary teachers to align curriculum and put pacing guides in place. The District will also cut back on some travel, professional development opportunities, and contracted services.

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 August 9, 2017, Regular Meeting Minutes
D. Approval of Students 17-22, 17-23, 17-24, 17-25, and 17-26 for Exemption from Receiving Immunizations based on Religious Reasons (NRS 392.435)
E. Approval for Trustee Gent to attend the *Understanding Local Government Finance* course, University of Reno, Extended Studies Professional Development Courses, at a cost of \$225.

Trustee Whitaker moved to approve consent agenda item A, the removal of the agricultural teacher and FFA advisor and items B, C, D, and E. Trustee Hyde seconded the motion. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee Strasdin reported having lunch at E.C. Best with Dr. Sheldon on Monday and observing classes at E.C. Best, Northside, and the middle school.

Trustee Whitaker reported that a Board Policy Committee meeting has been scheduled for September 18. The committee will look at the Board Governance Book as well. Trustee Whitaker also reported on attending Lahontan Elementary School's first day of school.

Trustee Schank reported spending time with Dr. Sheldon and having lunch at the high school.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. For Discussion Only: Principal Amy Word will report on the middle school's academic plan.**

Principal Amy Word reported on the middle school's academic plan, handout provided. There is an electronic copy of the academic plan in Google Docs with links to YouTube videos. Dr. Sheldon emailed the Board the electronic copy of the plan.

Sixth grade students go through a big transition from fifth grade to sixth grade. In seventh grade, students learn about credits and grade point average. In the eighth grade, they have a more serious conversation regarding extracurricular activities and opportunities at the high school to help set students on a career path.

Ms. Word stated that she cannot promise that the counselor will meet with every single student, but the counselor does meet with teachers regarding how to engage with students

quarterly and to help students take ownership of their own learning, be reflective, and think ahead. Advisory class is the delivery system to provide students with the information that they need to know, as Advisory is the only constant class each day. The advisory teacher works with each student and fills out an electronic form.

B. For Discussion and Possible Action: Action to ratify the 2017-2018 School Year Tentative Agreement between the Churchill County School District and the Churchill County Educators Association, including fiscal impact data.

Phyllis Dowd explained the fiscal impact of the agreement (see page 54 and 55 of BoardBook). Dr. Sheldon reported a great negotiating session with teachers as the District and the association worked collaboratively together.

Trustee Schank moved to accept the contract as written with all of the changes, seconded by Trustee Gent.

Elena Marsh stated that she appreciated the give and take through negotiations and reported that teachers are supportive of the changes.

Trustee Whitaker stated that she had a potential conflict of interest regarding Agenda Item 13B that affects her financial interests and relationship with Brad Whitaker, who is a licensed teacher. Therefore, Trustee Whitaker concluded that the independence of judgment of a reasonable person in her situation would be materially affected by this relationship and because this is a clear case of disqualifying conflict of interest, Trustee Whitaker will abstain from voting in this matter.

Trustee Schank stated that she had a potential conflict of interest as her nephew is a school teacher and thereby concluded that the independence of judgment of a reasonable person in her situation would be materially affected by this relationship, and because of this disqualifying conflict of interest she will abstain from voting in this matter.

Trustee Strasdin stated that she has a conflict of interested as agenda item 13B affects her relationship with Michelle Dalager, therefore she concluded that the independence of judgment of a reasonable person in her situation would be material affected by this relationship because it is a disqualifying conflict of interest so she will be abstain from voting in this matter.

President Hendrix reported a potential conflict of interest as his stepdaughter is a teacher at the Churchill County Middle School math department and she is a new teacher. It affects her financial interest, as she no longer lives at his house and he does not assist her in paying her bills. President Hendrix stated that he does not believe that in any way this would affect his judgment, so he will vote on the matter.

Sharla Hales, legal counsel, stated that if you have a disqualifying interest, you should not make a motion. Trustee Schank withdrew her motion.

Trustee Gent made a motion to approve the action to ratify the 2017-2018 School Year Tentative Agreement between the Churchill County School District and the Churchill County Educators Association, including fiscal impact data and changes as provided. Trustee Pinder seconded the motion. There were no public comments.

Trustee Pinder stated that he has seen the highs and the lows and what the District has come out of, and what was negotiated means a lot to him personally and a lot to the people who placed him in the position of Trustee. Trustee Pinder has heard many positive comments because of these negotiations.

Trustee Hyde commented that it was his third negotiations. For the prior two it wasn't the fact that the Board didn't want to give pay increases, it was the fact that the District didn't have money to do so. Trustee Hyde commented that he was glad that everyone worked together to make this happen.

Trustee Gent reported that when he first became a trustee it was through horrible times and that he was glad that he would be leaving while things are good.

President Hendrix stated that members of the Board of Trustees have had a goal to give raises for two years now, as prior to that the District was digging out of the hole. The Board worked diligently together and had some heated discussions regarding raises. The Board worked hard at trying to reach a consensus and being unanimous on their decision. Dr. Sheldon and her staff were creative and came up with a great way to implement a pay increase plan. Trustee Hendrix stated that the Board has felt teachers' pain and it is not something they took lightly. This motion was made in good faith and he offered his best wishes for teachers who dedicate their time to the District. President Hendrix hoped this was a pathway to new beginnings. He congratulated the teachers union for working hard and passing the information to their constituents.

The motion passed unanimously; Trustee Whitaker, Trustee Schank, and Trustee Strasdin abstained.

Dr. Sheldon reported that the District's teacher starting salary is the fifth highest in the State with Clark, Carson, Elko, and Eureka counties paying a little bit more than Churchill. The District's ending salary after 25 years of service is the second highest, making our District very competitive.

C. For Discussion Only: The Board will discuss Policy 4811.0, Early Retirement Incentive Plan.

This agenda item was pulled.

D. For Discussion and Possible Action: The Board will determine a date, time, and location to meet with staff to discuss achievements and challenges and receive staff input.

It was noted that the Board met at the high school two years prior and at the middle school last year. Trustee Schank felt that the Board should meet only with the school teachers at one elementary school and not invite all elementary school teachers. President Hendrix felt that perhaps the Board could target two elementary schools, one elementary school this fall and then one in the spring, and then go back to the high school next year.

The consensus of the Board was to have a meeting on a Wednesday at E.C. Best in September or October. Dr. Sheldon will bring back some potential dates.

POLICIES – First Reading

A. Policy 5410.0 – Safe and Respectful Learning Environment Free From Bullying and Cyber-Bullying (Students)

a. Regulation 5410.0 – Safe and Respectful Learning Environment Free From Bullying and Cyber-Bullying (Students)

Sharla Hales, legal counsel, explained that she made changes to the policy and regulation based on revisions the legislature made to the Nevada Revised Statutes. For the most part, these changes are not big changes.

Trustee Whitaker questioned line 141 on page 128 where it states, “Upon receiving such a request, the Board, in consultation with the parent or guardian, shall assign the student to a different school if an appropriate alternative exists in the District.” Trustee Whitaker questioned the reference to “board of trustee” on line 141.

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 Hyde would like his request from April 12, 2017 to remain on the list as he would like to talk about the Board setting aside dollars for teachers to create one of their own programs that they want to institute for extra educational value.

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

President Hendrix, Vice President Whitaker, and Trustee Gent will meet on Tuesday, September 5, at 4:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Gent made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hyde, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:43 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Carmen, Schank, Clerk of the Board

Prepared by Debra Shyne