

CHURCHILL COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Fallon, Nevada

REGULAR MEETING

September 13, 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

Walt Henderson 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 (*via phone*)
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

Dr. Sheldon stated that an updated Recommended Personnel Action sheet was placed in the Board's red folders as a prospective employee declined her position. Trustee Whitaker moved to adopt the agenda with the change of Recommended Personnel Action sheet, seconded by Trustee Pinder. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

A. Report regarding Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) labs and costs associated to run the STEM labs

Kimi Melendy reported that there are two STEM labs at the middle school. Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students have a STEM class each semester and eighth grade students have the opportunity to take an additional semester class, if they choose to do so. The high

school also has two STEM labs. Chip Rutledge uses one lab and the science department uses the other lab. Creative Labs software for the STEM labs cost \$2,000 for each lab each year.

Computers in the elementary STEM labs became outdated. The District is fortunate that fourth and fifth grade classes have one-to-one technology. Numa uses curriculum called “Defining STEM” in their classrooms, which involves project-based learning, provides real-world videos for students to view and learn, and has performance tasks embedded with literacy. Numa staff will be provided professional development regarding the “Defining STEM” curriculum during professional development days in September.

Students, kindergarten through eighth grade, work with the Full Option Science System (FOSS). FOSS kits provides hands-on science activities, standards align to next generation science standards, and provides performance tasks embedded in literacy.

B. Report regarding the success of the Jump Start program, including current enrollment numbers

Kevin Lords reported that 15 first year students and 11 second year students are in the Jump Start program, for a total of 26 students. Mr. Lords reported that last year 23 students, first and second year combined, took a total of 109 credits combined, with a 97 percent pass rate, and eight students received associate degrees. The Jump Start program is set up for success with a lot of support.

Trustee Schank asked what the high school does with students who do not pass and about funding. Mr. Lords stated that the District pays for the textbooks and all of the students’ costs except for supplemental items. The cost per student is between \$3,300 and \$3,500 per year. Mr. Lords stated that the high school checks grades at midterm. Students who fail a class were moved back into the program at the high school. The cost for students failing a Jump Start class is no different than students who fail a class at the high school. Students are funded at the same level whether they are Jump Start students or high school students.

Trustee Hyde commented that regardless of whether or not students fail at WNC and have to go back to the high school, the District does not want to lose DSA for students.

Trustee Schank stated that she has received questions from parents regarding the Jump Start program. Dr. Sheldon told Trustee Schank that she is welcome to send parents with questions to either her or to Mr. Lords.

C. Report on the success of the JAG Program, including current enrollment numbers

Kevin Lords reported that the high school instituted a JAG program last year. The legislature pays for the teacher’s salary and training. The high school has two sections for tenth and eleventh grade and one section for twelfth grade students. Last year, 90 percent of the seniors enrolled in JAG graduated high school. Dr. Sheldon stated that the JAG program works with at-risk students and is working across districts throughout the state.

Trustee Hyde asked how much could the JAG program grow. Mr. Lords stated that each section would have no more than 20 students, so a maximum of 60 students.

Trustee Whitaker asked if the numbers this year indicate that some students left the JAG program. Mr. Lords stated that seniors only have to take four classes, so some probably opted to not take the JAG class in their senior year.

Trustee Whitaker noted a discrepancy in the number of students on Mr. Lords' report as compared to the number identified in the JAG report (reports in BoardBook). Mr. Lords stated that he took his number out of the Infinite Campus student management software. Dr. Sheldon commented that the JAG program might have a different requirement in counting JAG students. Perhaps they have to be in the program a specific number of months to be included.

BUSINESS SERVICES UPDATE

- A. Update regarding the District's financial audit**
- B. Update regarding general business items**

Phyllis Dowd reported that Eide Bailly is doing much of the audit work from their Reno office. The audit is moving forward with no findings yet. Ms. Dowd stated that she has looked at the fund balance and expects a strong ending fund balance after the audit. The audit will be presented to the Audit Committee in October and hopefully to the full Board at the second Board meeting in October.

UPCOMING BOARD EVENTS

- A. Friday-Saturday, November 17-18, Nevada Association of School Boards Annual Conference, Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, Reno.**
- B. Friday-Sunday, April 7-9, 2018, National School Board Association 2018 Conference, San Antonio, TX**

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Recommended Personnel Action (Attachment A)**
- B. Approval of Vouchers**
- C. Approval of August, 2017, Payroll**
- D. Approval of August 23, 2017, Regular Meeting Minutes**
- E. Approval of Student 17-27, 17-28, 17-29, 17-30, and 17-31 for Exemption from Receiving Immunizations based on Religious Reasons (NRS 392.435)**
- F. Approval of contract for Laura Malkovich, Early Childhood Coordinator**
- G. Approval of Modifications to Policy 5410.0 – Safe and Respectful Learning Environment Free From Bullying and Cyber-Bullying (Students)**
 - 1. For Review Only: Regulation 5410.0 – Safe and Respectful Learning Environment Free from Bullying and Cyber-Bullying (Students)**

Trustee Gent moved to approve consent agenda items A-G as provided to include the modification to item A (amended Recommended Personnel Action sheet), seconded by Trustee Whitaker. There were no public comments. Trustee Whitaker commented that the old Immunization Exemption form is being used. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee Schank reported that she was in Las Vegas to attend the Nevada Association of School Board Directors meeting and will report at the next Board meeting.

Trustee Gent reported that he recently received accolades for Amy Word and Melissa Waite from a parent.

OLD BUSINESS

A. For Discussion and Possible Action: The Board will schedule a Special Board Meeting at an Elementary School to discuss achievements and challenges and receive staff input.

The consensus of the Board was to schedule a Special Board Meeting on November 1, 4:00 p.m., at E.C. Best Elementary School. Dr. Sheldon will invite teachers from other elementary schools as well. President Hendrix commented that the goal is to have a second meeting at an elementary school later in the school year.

NEW BUSINESS

A. For Presentation and Discussion Only: The Board will be provided information about professional development meetings that occur at the middle and high school regarding math curriculum.

Kimi Melendy reported that Nate Waite, Michelle Richardson, and Bonnie Hargis meet together and work with principals to talk about professional development training needs for teachers at school sites. The District provides literacy, technology, and math training as well as Smartboard or Google Classroom training for new teachers. Training is provided after school so teachers can get credits for license renewal. The District is fortunate that Ms. Fleming is supporting professional development in math.

Professional development training days are scheduled for September 21 and 22. Numa will work on "Defining STEM" to learn how to utilize that curriculum more in classrooms. Dave Nagel will work with teacher teams at the elementary schools and the middle and high schools regarding looking at data, assessments, and student learning. He will work with middle and high school teachers on assessing learning. Mr. Nagel has been working with principals and smaller teacher lead teams in webinars. The District purchased the "Being a Writer" program for kindergarten through sixth grade students. RPDP will provide training K-5 on professional development day.

Ms. Fleming will provide Eureka Math training as well as training in Engenuity's Math Path Blazer for elementary teachers. Spencer from Engenuity will provide live webinars.

Ms. Fleming has been working with the middle school one Friday each month with continued focus on Eureka Math. She works with the math teachers on some Wednesdays to look at and analyze the data as well as review SBAC and MAP test scores to ensure that students are making growth. Ms. Melendy stated that teachers are working very hard to meet the needs of students in classrooms. Ms. Fleming also provides quarterly walk-throughs at the middle school, has coaching conversations with teachers, and co-teaches lessons so that she can model teaching techniques.

The high school is focused on utilizing their current curriculum. They have some pacing guides in place and are working on providing rich tasks to enhance the curriculum. Dave Nagel will work with the high school on September 21 to talk about assessing learning. RPDP instructors will join Ms. Fleming and provide a half-day session on September 22 working with high school math teachers. Ms. Fleming works with staff once a month during Friday collaboration time to provide support to teachers. Substitutes will take over the class so Patty can walk with teachers going into other classrooms. High school teachers will work towards using inquiry based math to solve problems.

The District did not replace Brenda Boone's position as math/science trainer, but the District has placed a math strategist at each elementary school, grade level K-5. Math strategists are paid a small stipend out of Title I grant and provide support to teachers at their grade level. Ms. Fleming meets with the math strategists to provide them with support. They will work with staff on professional development days as well.

Dr. Sheldon stated that having math strategists at each school is building capacity for teacher leaders to work with other teachers in their grade level. Principals selected teachers with strong math instruction skills. Strategists meet with Patty to look over the unit of instruction and then they work with teachers in their grade level and align instruction and assessment pieces so everyone is working toward the same goal with support.

Dr. Sheldon stated that there is a variety of curriculum materials at the high school, but the District has asked high school teachers to develop a course of instruction called curriculum maps, to look at standards and develop instructional units by using resources they have available in print and online. Ms. Fleming is working with them now to develop online resources and rich tasks which are problem solving scenarios and assessments.

Kimi stated that the high school has a list of professional development meeting dates and times for math (handout provided). Ms. Fleming will meet with the high school half days and will work with the math department.

Trustee Strasdin stated that the elementary schools and middle school have been receiving rich coaching but voiced concern about the high school. Ms. Melendy stated that coaching starts September 22. Dr. Sheldon stated that Ms. Fleming is doing much more pushed-in professional development on collaboration days, professional development days, and during the school days with classroom walkthroughs and coaching opportunities.

Trustee Whitaker voiced support for the superintendent and principals to ensure that teachers are doing what they are supposed to do with professional development knowledge with the clear expectation that the District expects them to work together to benefit the students.

Ms. Melendy provided a handout indicating dates, times, and locations of committee meetings and district improvement committees that will occur throughout the school year.

President Hendrix asked what is expected out of joint curriculum committee meetings. Ms. Melendy stated that the committee looks at professional development needs of schools, ensures that the curriculum is aligned, ensures staff is working with the math strategist assigned to their school, and determines other ways to support teachers in their instruction. Dr. Sheldon stated that the curriculum committee provides oversight but the real work regarding curriculum occurs with teachers in meetings at school sites. That type of professional development needs to be with every teacher, not just a representative. Representatives report back to their schools about things that occur across the District. The

curriculum is in place, we just need to work with teachers to use resources to increase student learning.

President Hendrix stated that he would like to see goals for the curriculum committee. Ms. Melendy suggested Board members attend the meetings at the school level to see progress that is being made with curriculum.

The curriculum committee looks at MAP scores across the District, overall SBAC scores across the District, and how this impacts learning and what kind of professional development is needed to improve learning and test scores. They look at district goals and make sure they are being interpreted to improve student learning.

Principal Lords reported that the high school's math department was annihilated with budget cuts. Mr. Lords explains some of the challenges his staff has in getting students motivated to learn. Mr. Lords stated that the high school's school performance team is meeting on Friday to discuss goals for the year and will present their goals to the Board in their October meeting.

B. For Presentation and Discussion Only: The Board will be updated on the District's practices regarding disclosing public health information to parents.

Chief Nurse Stefanie Utz provided handouts to the Board regarding communicable diseases and head lice. Ms. Utz stated that her staff takes their direction primarily from the Nevada Division of Health Department of Information and Epidemiology. The handout identifies the amount of time a student would need to be excluded from school dependent upon the disease. Ms. Utz explained that if there were a student in the District with measles, for example, nurses have compiled a list of students who have not had their immunizations for religious or medical reasons. Parents would be contacted and their child would be excluded from school for a period of time.

Trustee Strasdin stated that she was interested specifically in head lice and voiced concern that the District does not communicate well with parents when there are cases of head lice in schools. Parents would like to know if their child has been exposed. Stefanie Utz explained that there is a lot of misinformation in our community. Having head lice is not a disease and research indicates that very few cases of head lice is contracted in school, except in the very young population such as pre-kindergarten classes. Ms. Utz explained the process involved with identifying students who may be infected with head lice. The Board and staff discussed how to better communicate information to parents with respect to head lice. The consensus of the Board was to continue sending a letter home to parents with students regarding head lice, but also indicate in the letter that there have been recent cases of head lice at the school.

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 Schank requested a report on the construction technology class (how much is it funded, and what is happening with the class).

President Hendrix requested discussion regarding Board attendance at the National School Board Association Conference in San Antonio in 2018.

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

Trustees Hendrix, Whitaker, and Hyde will meet on Tuesday, September 19, at 4:30.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Gent moved, seconded by Trustee Pinder, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:12 p.m. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

Carmen, Schank, Clerk of the Board

Prepared by Debra Shyne