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
Trustee Gent 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 Tricia Strasdin
Trustee Phil Pinder
Trustee Rich Gent

Others Present
Summer Stephens, Superintendent
Sharla Hales, Legal Counsel
Debra Shyne, Executive Assistant
(Interested Staff/Community Members per Attached List)

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA
Trustee Gent moved to accept the agenda as provided. Trustee Pinder seconded the motion. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT
There were no public comments.

RECOGNITION
A. The Board will recognize the 2017-2018 Track Team.
   Trustee Whitaker presented certificates to members of the 2017-2018 track team who were available to be present at the meeting and recognized the efforts of the track team.

B. The Board will recognize the 2018 Summer Graduates.
   Dr. Stephens read the names of three graduates who completed their required credits over the summer and received their diplomas: Bradley Irvin, Wynter Gilbert, and Dalton Boice.
SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

A. Mr. Ozzie Henke, Director of Maintenance, will provide an update regarding summer projects.

Ozzie Henke reported on the status of summer projects and on upcoming projects for winter break (listed in BoardBook). Board members asked questions regarding facilities. Mr. Henke reported that the maintenance staff still has 30 Promethean Boards to install.

Trustee Strasdin asked about the gym roof at the high school. Mr. Henke reported that the roof has been replaced once and repaired. During heavy rain, there is a drip that occurs on the far side of the gym. Mr. Henke reported that Lahontan has the same problem, and that the cause is that the lip is too high on the drains, so water will sit and wick underneath. At Lahontan they notched those drains and sealed them, and the drip hasn’t occurred since.

Trustee Strasdin asked about the performing arts smoke repair. Mr. Henke reported that the problem is above the theater. Last year someone pulled the emergency release, and it released the fusible plug that holds the smoke vent. In a case of fire, it gets hot and will melt the fusible plug and open the vents so the hot air and smoke can release through the roof. Mr. Henke said that those vent plugs are no longer made. They have a plug that is holding and will work in a fire, but he would still like to have them replaced.

Trustee Schank asked about the removal of the speed bumps at the high school parking lot. Mr. Henke reported that they slurry sealed the parking lot. Students were driving around the speed bumps creating more of a hazard. Speed bumps can be added later, if desired. The District is also working on providing more lighting to the outside of the high school and all District buildings.

Trustee Whitaker asked if there were any plans for the west side of E.C. Best, as the grounds look pretty bad. Mr. Henke said that he has a plan to potentially expand the parking lot for the buses in the next budget season, since the District lost the armory area where they used to park buses in the back. The District is working with the school to move some equipment to the back playground and fence off that area, and maintain the parking lot. Mr. Henke is exploring hiring high school students for the summer to pull weeds and remove trash at all sites, which will keep them busy all summer.

Mr. Henke commented that they removed the barriers at the high school parking lot as they were accumulating graffiti and are not very effective. Barriers block off entry, but students find another way around them or damage them. The District has placed cameras in the parking lot to monitor traffic. Trustee Whitaker thanked Mr. Henke for his work over the summer.

Trustee Hyde reported that several years ago the District explored the possibility of a second access to the high school back parking lot and asked if this was still being explored. Mr. Henke stated that he would like to work with the county and city together with the property owners and look at bringing in another access point. The problem with Lahontan’s drop off could be eliminated if the City finished the road that goes to the utilities behind the field.

Dr. Stephens reported that Kenny Mitchell is the District’s new Transportation and Safety Director and met with law enforcement last week. Mr. Henke and Mr. Mitchell can continue
B. Update regarding District-related matters

Dr. Stephens thanked Board members for supporting staff. School has kicked off and every year there are new challenges.

Dr. Stephens reported on her attendance at the Nevada Economic Development Conference in Reno. Fallon won some awards for marketing and Churchill County Economic Development group was one of the key sponsors. Fallon and Churchill County were mentioned a lot at this meeting. Dr. Stephens was one of the few Nevada K12 people in attendance. They talked about what the District has been discussing about the pathways of opportunities to graduates to move forward, collaboration between higher education and high schools building, and opportunities for students to have certifications, licensures, and what that means for the next steps.

Third and fifth grade students will be attending Agriculture in the Classroom at the Cantaloupe Festival on Friday. The student count is unofficial and schools are trying to track down 68 students who have not yet reported to school and schools have not yet receive a records request from another school. Tuesday’s total was 3,239 and count day last year was 3,196, which is an increase of 45 students. Dr. Stephens reported that Fallon is short on foster families so when something happens at home with students, they may have to leave Fallon if placed in foster care.

Dr. Stephens reported that Kenny Mitchell has worked to help the flow of traffic at Lahontan Elementary School. The transportation office received 720 calls on the first day of school. They are working on ways to make the schedule and information clearer and more accessible. The City was great in that they helped block off some spots where people were parking. Things are getting better at Lahontan and continue working on the traffic flow at the high school.

BUSINESS SERVICES UPDATE

A. Budget to Actual Report (written report provided)

There were no questions.

UPCOMING BOARD EVENTS

A. Saturday, September 29, Nevada Association of School Boards Training, 9am – Noon, Hyatt in Reno
B. Friday-Saturday, November 16-17, Nevada Association of School Boards Conference, Las Vegas

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Recommended Personnel Action (Attachment A)
B. Approval of Vouchers
C. Approval of Volleyball Fundraiser for Food Pantry
D. Approval of Student 18-14 and 18-15 for Exemption from Receiving Immunizations based on Religious Reasons (NRS 392.435)

E. Approval of Student 18-16 to Enter the General Education Development (GED) Program

Dr. Stephens stated that Toni Dalluge, who currently works for the District, has been hired to be the school bus driver trainer and clarified that Kerry Angel’s position on the Academic Team is for the Churchill County Middle School.

Trustee Gent moved to approve the consent agenda items A-E with modifications to Item A provided by Dr. Stephens; seconded by Trustee Whitaker. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee Hyde reported spending Saturday at the sports complex for the Sierra Youth Football League Jamboree. The complex looks awesome. Coach Hill said that the football program gets $10,000 for that one day event.

Trustee Strasdin reported on her attendance at the blended learning open house night at the middle school and the open houses at the rest of schools.

Trustee Whitaker reported on her attendance at the blended learning open house and the open house at the high school and Lahontan. Trustee Whitaker spent the first day of school at Lahontan.

Trustee Schank reported on her attendance at the licensed negotiation meetings, attendance at the high school staff meeting on the first day staff returned to work, and her tour of the middle school blended learning community. Trustee Schank thanked Dr. Stephens for the Welcome Back meeting and keeping the Board updated.

NEW BUSINESS

A. For Presentation and Possible Action: Report by Dr. Stephens regarding the fiscal impact of the proposed change to the 2018-2020 School Year Negotiated Agreement between the Churchill County School District and the Churchill County Education Association. Dr. Stephens will provide specific information about 2018-2019, with the understanding that more specific information about 2019-2020 will be provided when it is available. Action to ratify the proposed agreement.

Trustee Strasdin reported a potential conflict of interest. Agenda Item 13A (New Business) potentially affects her financial interest and affects relationship with Michelle Dalager. Therefore, she concluded that the independence of judgment of a reasonable person in her position would be materially affected. Because of this Trustee Strasdin will abstain from voting in this matter.

Trustee Whitaker reported that agenda item 13A (New Business) presents a potential conflict of interest for her as her husband, Brad Whitaker, as he is a licensed employee of the District. Therefore, she has financial interests related to the contract, so will abstain from voting on this item.

Trustee Hendrix disclosed that his daughter works for the Churchill County School District. He does not support her and is not related in a direct way with her finances. Trustee
Hendrix does not believe this would in any way influence his ability to vote and make an impartial decision.

Dr. Stephens reported that page 76 and 77 of BoardBook indicates the salary and benefits related to the salary table for licensed staff and page 95 provides the financial impact of the agreement. Dr. Stephens noted that part of the agreement was to add a step to each column, which came about after the last round. There had already been an agreement to add an additional step to column E. Through the process the agreement was for all columns to gain an additional step. This additional step does not affect everyone, only those who have maxed out in the column with the steps. The cost of the additional step was $67,071. The cost of the one percent increase was $158,492. In addition, the agreement increased sick leave payout from $50 to $60, which is in line with the administrative and classified agreement. The additional step is similar to the classified, which also added one additional column for experience in their salary schedule.

Trustee Schank moved to make the changes to the 2018-2020 School Year Negotiated Agreement between the Churchill County School District and the Churchill County Education Association as presented in BoardBook. Trustee Pinder seconded the motion. Trustee Schank commented that the administrators received a one percent increase, classified one percent, teachers one percent increase, and step increase on experience years will affect everybody so it is pretty balanced. There were no public comments. The motion passed; with Trustees Strasdin and Whitaker abstained.

B. For Presentation and Possible Action: Action to lease the Rio Vista Property for a period of one year.

Jessica Johnston, newly appointed Ag Teacher and Future Farmers of America (FFA) advisor at the high school, proposed leasing the Rio Vista property for a period of one year, from September 15, 2018 to November 1, 2019. Ms. Johnston reported that she has reviewed the finances, and met with Mr. Winter, Mr. Ott, and the FFA Officer team, to discuss the status of the field. Representatives from the community suggested that they take over the field, fix the issues, and leave the field planted in alfalfa. This would give the program a year to rebuild finances and fix equipment. Ms. Johnston asks that whoever leases the field allow students to watch them work the field for the educational experience. FFA would send out a community letter to let people know what is happening with the field and offer community members interested in work place programs for students to contact FFA so that students have an opportunity to learn how to run the equipment, how to bail hay and work a farm.

Trustee Schank asked who was responsible for the field. Ms. Johnston commented that Mr. Ott was in previous years. Ms. Johnston wasn’t involved with the field initially, but saw the field this past weekend. The past agricultural teacher was involved with the field as well. Trustee Schank clarified that both Mr. Ott and Ms. Johnston would be jointly responsible for the field. Ms. Johnston confirmed.

Ms. Johnston commented that the minimum bid is the lease fee of $3,750 which includes advertising plus the costs associated with putting the field back into alfalfa. The leaser could bring in cattle to graze as there is stubble left in the field. There is no water on the field, so they would need to bring in a water source for animals and they would put the field back into alfalfa at the end of the lease.
Mrs. Johnston reported that the hay will be up for sale. The prison usually purchases the hay, but they have not called her back. Dr. Stephens commented that the other option is to sell the hay through the surplus process. The copy in BoardBook has the minimum bid as $3,750 plus the costs associated with putting the field to alfalfa, including advertising costs.

Mr. Gent asked about how she involved the community with the FFA program. Ms. Johnston wanted to make sure that she heard from community members offering help, talked with previous agriculture teachers for advice; talked with parents ready for a change in the program and want to make sure we do what is best for the kids; Mr. Ott was heavily involved; and she asked her FFA Officers for input.

Sharla Hales, legal counsel, requested the Board’s motion include that the Board finds the value of the lease to be under $5,000, because under NRS if over $5,000 it is a much more expensive and complicated process and approve the documents as presented in BoardBook.

Trustee Hyde moved to approve the lease of the Rio Vista property for a period of one year and not to exceed a $5,000 lease agreement with the documents presented in BoardBook. Trustee Pinder seconded the motion. There were no public comments. Trustee Whitaker commented that the lease is actually longer than one year. Ms. Hales stated that it is close enough. The motion passed unanimously.

C. For Discussion and Possible Action: Regarding the potential to change compensation for substitute teachers and emergency teachers.

Dr. Stephens provided the Board with the substitute rates for other districts to discuss potential changes to compensation. The compensation component revolves around the shortage of substitutes teachers. The District could offer a lower salary for emergency substitutes. The plan is for Mr. Lords to provide a more intensive training for emergency substitute teachers, to ensure they are getting what we need them to have to be in the classroom with students. The District is not yet ready to roll out the emergency substitute program. Increasing substitute pay may do nothing, so perhaps we could think about how to incentivize existing staff to not need substitutes. The District started the school year with long-term substitutes in some classrooms.

President Hendrix commented that substitute rates were raised before and it did not help. It is more a matter of supply. We need more analysis about what we can do internally to open the door to teachers participating in substitute teacher work and what can we do to lower the bar to get community people who have the time and talent to come spend a day or two a week in classrooms. Trustee Gent agreed and suggested a study and to look at documentation about statistics on substitutes.

Dr. Stephens commented that the District does have some statistics on substitute teachers. Coursework for emergency substitutes might be helpful to ensure that substitutes feel comfortable and are effective. The training could include information about tribes, blended learning, and classroom technology. Substitutes are looking for belonging and need to understand the culture of the District, to ensure that they feel welcome.

Trustee Strasdin commented that she was interested in incentives, emergency substitutes, and getting the right people in the classrooms. The Board approved additional personal leave days, which adds to the substitute problem.
Trustee Schank asked if training could be done on Friday’s instead of pulling teachers out of the classroom. Dr. Stephens stated that the District is not ready to make a change to compensation until there is a larger discussion and plans to bring more information to the next Board meeting.

Trustee Whitaker suggested talking to school administrators who have a much better feel for the substitute problem. Substitutes get purged if they do not sub after three months and then they have to go back through the process to get back on the list.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Trudy Dahl, Churchill County High School Office Manager, commented that one of the biggest issues is trying to find substitutes when there is District training scheduled on a school day. Sometimes they are seeking as many as 15 substitutes in one day. At the high school teachers teach prep periods and sometimes double up on classes because they do not have substitute coverage. It would be nice to offer Google classroom and Smart Board training for substitute teachers.

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

It was noted that Sharla Hales will help craft an agenda item to ensure a broad discussion on substitute teachers including the number of sick and personal leave days.

Trustee Schank requested a report on test results.

President Hendrix requested an update by the Northside Early Learning Center Coordinator regarding the first month of school.

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

Trustees Hendrix, Whitaker, and Hyde will meet on Monday, August 27 at 4:45.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Whitaker moved to adjourn at 7:30, seconded by Trustee Hyde. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

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Carmen Schank, Clerk of the Board

Prepared by Debra Shyne