

CHURCHILL COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Fallon, Nevada

REGULAR MEETING

October 10, 2018

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

Mr. Steve Ranson 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 Tricia Strasdin
Trustee Phil Pinder
Trustee Rich Gent (*left at 7:00 p.m.*)
Trustee Matt Hyde, Acting Clerk

Others Present

Dr. Summer Stephens, Superintendent
Sharla Hales, Legal Counsel
Phyllis Dowd, Director of Business Services
Lisa Bliss, Northside Early Learning Center Coord.
Debra Shyne, Executive Assistant
(*Interested Staff/Community Members per Attached List*)

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was noted that Trustee Gent was present, but will leave the meeting at 7:00 p.m. to return to his place of employment. Trustee Gent moved to accept the agenda as provided, seconded by Trustee Strasdin. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

A. Ms. Lisa Bliss, Northside Early Learning Center Coordinator, will provide an update to the Board regarding their first month of school.

Lisa Bliss, Coordinator, and Michelle Herzburn, Teacher, provided an update to the Board regarding activities and programs at Northside Early Learning Center (PowerPoint presentation provided). Trustee Schank requested Ms. Bliss provide Board members with dates for upcoming events at Northside.

B. Update regarding District related matters

Dr. Stephens provided an update to her 90-day entry plan into the District and stated that it has been a privilege to work with different organizations in the community, with the Board, and with District staff. Goals were set for the smooth and orderly transition of leadership. Dr. Stephens has been working with principals as they develop their school performance plans and has reviewed student achievement results from last year. She has worked with Phyllis Dowd regarding the budgeting process, considering a different approach, and want to be strategic about utilizing funds to enhance the District. Dr. Stephens has been providing opportunities to listen to stakeholders and has been working on putting together a Strategic Plan Design Team to be sure all of those voices are heard.

BUSINESS SERVICES UPDATE

A. Update on the Financial Audit

B. Update regarding other business items

Phyllis Dowd reported that auditors were in the review process of the District's financial statements. There were no other updates.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES UPDATE

A. Violent Acts Report, August 20, 2018 through September 30, 2018 (written report provided)

There were no questions.

UPCOMING BOARD EVENTS

A. 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 September 2018, Payroll

D. Approval of August 22, 2018, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

E. Approval of September 12, 2018, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

F. Approval of Students 18-27 through 18-28 for Exemption from Receiving Immunizations based on Religious Reasons (NRS 392.435)

G. Approval of the Churchill County School District Test Security Plan 2018-2019

Trustee Gent moved to approve consent agenda action items A-G, as provided, seconded by Trustee Pinder. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee Strasdin reported on her attendance at School Board Candidates' Night.

Trustees Strasdin, Whitaker, and Schank reported on their attendance at a recent Nevada Association of School Boards training.

Trustee Schank reported on the Board's Special Board meeting at Lahontan Elementary School and on her attendance at the Candidates' Nights.

Trustee Gent reported that the Navy Band will be at the Churchill County High School on October 18.

OLD BUSINESS

A. For Discussion and Possible Action: Bid opening and possible action to accept bid for the sale of the Churchill County High School construction house located at 450 Discovery Drive.

Phyllis Dowd reported that the District received an offer for the house, but it was not full price. The District cannot accept an offer that is lower than fair market value as identified on the appraisal. The next day, the realtor provided an offer of the full appraisal price of \$262,000. Ms. Dowd recommended that the Board accept the offer. The fair market value of the land will go into the Capital Projects Fund and title fees that are split between the District and the buyer will be taken from the sale of the house. The remainder of the funds will go into the High School Construction Fund.

Trustee Whitaker moved to accept the bid for the sale of the Churchill County High School construction house located at 450 Discovery Drive for \$262,000, seconded by Trustee Schank. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Dowd reported that the closing date would be in mid-November.

NEW BUSINESS

A. For Discussion and Possible Action: Presentation from Representatives of Fund Our Future (www.fundourfuturenv.com) Potential to approve Resolution 18-06 in support of Fund Our Future.

Amanda Morgan, representative of Educate Nevada Now, provided background regarding the Fund Our Future Coalition, which is a coalition of parents, students, teachers, organizations, and districts coming together to advocate for more funding for public schools (PowerPoint presentation included in BoardBook). The three missions to accomplish during this next legislative session is to develop a cost or evidence-based funding formula, ensure that new revenue dedicated to education moves the state towards the goal of fully funding our students, and ensure reasonable and transparent accountability measures.

Ms. Morgan reported that Nevada falls about \$4,000 per pupil short in providing resources for students to succeed. Nevada teachers make the third worst salaries in the country when accounting for the number of students in the classroom. The 2018 Quality Counts gives Nevada a "D" in education, an "F" in distribution and fiscal effort, and Nevada is 48th in education funding. Ms. Morgan reported that the Nevada Plan Funding Formula was developed in 1967 and has not been updated since. It fails to take into account the actual costs districts face. Ms. Morgan discussed additional issues associated with funding, and explained further details about the purpose of the Fund Our Future coalition and their proposed funding formula.

Trustee Schank asked who funds the Fund Our Future program. Ms. Morgan stated that it was the brainchild of Educate Nevada Now, which is her organization, in addition to the Hope for Nevada organization.

Trustee Gent asked how many organizations support the coalition and what leverage does the organization have to effect change. Ms. Morgan stated that right now Fund Our Future involves individual parents, students, and some teacher groups. Representatives have also been meeting with business community organizations, such as Chambers of Commerce. They have support from a broad base of organizations and districts, the Nevada Association of School Boards, and the Nevada Association of School Superintendents. Individuals from these groups talk to legislators, which is where their real power lies, as recently they dominated 2.5 hours of public comment at the legislature.

Trustee Whitaker asked how many years Fund Our Future has been around and what successes have they had. Ms. Morgan stated that it started in February and has been growing since. They presented to the K12 Education Committee and the Committee agreed with their stance on marijuana. From their perspective it will be the Governor's decision regarding the education budget, so they sent a letter to the Governor taking Fund Our Future's recommendation to heart, advocating for those funds to increase educational funding. Ms. Morgan stated that they are working to modernizing the school funding formula that she is cautiously optimistic. Fund Our Future Nevada does not want to redistribute the pie, but grow the pie for education.

Trustee Whitaker asked if there were further expectations from the Churchill County Board of Trustees. Ms. Morgan stated that the Board could donate time and in-kind services. Board members could join in on monthly calls or be updated via email. Ms. Morgan would like the Board to keep her informed if they have to make a reduction in force or to programs so that she can share that information and advocate for all counties in the state.

Trustee Whitaker moved to approve resolution 18-06 in support of Fund our Future, seconded by Trustee Pinder. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. For Discussion and Possible Action: Dr. Stephens will present “big idea” themes and information she has pulled from the recent Stakeholder Input Survey, past surveys, academic achievement results and other sources. The Board will review the information presented and collectively decide on the matters of highest priority for the District to address. The Board may take action to direct the Superintendent to enhance, modify, or eliminate efforts already underway or take action on new efforts that could be made concerning a broad spectrum of concerns, including academics, physical facilities, socio-economic concerns, and all other matters that impact students.**

Dr. Stephens provided input to the Board from the recent Stakeholder Input Survey and various other surveys and data regarding the District. This information will drive the strategic design process (PowerPoint presentation provided).

The Board and Superintendent discussed the various themes that were identified as a result of the recent survey. People want to be sure our students graduate and leave the District with a plan. Some of the items presented were setting expectations and rigor while engaging students in real-world applications of learning, develop and implement effective

routes to graduation, personalizing learning to meet students where they are and take them where they need to be, engaging staff, developing strategies to reach our goals, whole child development through the various areas of learning and growth, improve communication and engagement internally and externally, and create cultures of success and support. Dr. Stephens asked the Board to keep those in mind as they discuss the survey results. Dr. Stephens said that after she has a set of themes from the Board, the Strategic Design Committee will look at those themes as a starting point to identify measureable goals.

Dr. Stephens and Board Members discussed the summarized responses from the Stakeholder Survey in response to the following questions:

- What do you think of when you hear Churchill County School District?
- What are Strengths of ChurchillCSD?
- What are Areas for Growth for ChurchillCSD?
- What success measures help us know that we met our goals?

After a lengthy discussion, Board members provided their thoughts which major areas to focus on.

Trustee Strasdin commented that being consistent with consequences and learning culture and movement with Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) as these all affect attendance rates, bullying and fighting, safety, and security, and contributes to mental health.

Trustee Hendrix would like a better idea of the District's technological objectives. The District has Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), a one-to-one initiative, and project based technology, but what are the District's short and long-term goals. These contribute to everyone always learning and the importance of critical thinking.

Trustee Schank would like to focus on bullying, PBIS, implement "be kind" and focus on reading and math proficiency rates. Additionally, focus on alignment of curriculum, technology, learning, programs, offerings, safety and security, and culture and climate.

Trustee Hyde commented that teachers, parents, and the community need to be engaged.

Trustee Whitaker stated that the idea about students understanding why is important. We have to have a strong curriculum and recognition by staff as to why and where we are going. Also important is the real world connections to content and learning, communication, collaboration, teamwork, and critical thinking.

Trustee Hendrix stated that until we get serious about mental health, we are not serious about education. Until kids start understanding why they act and react the way they do and teachers understand why teachers act and react the way they do, we are creating boundaries that do not need to be there. We need to identify the problem and ask the why question. If you don't understand why, you do not get to the core problem of what is the real issue with that student. The math scores in 9th and 10th grade are atrocious. Most of this is related to uniformity of curriculum. Common core may be solving some of those problems, but Trusteed Hendrix commented that he has not seen end results or the solutions.

Trustee Pinder agreed that mental health is important for safety and has to be addressed and that the District should look into counselor needs district-wide, and look at bringing back specials (art, music, and P.E.).

Trustee Whitaker commented that when talking about communication, collaboration, and critical thinking, these need to be measurable among all staff. It is a critical component that is connected to highly effective leadership, with the understanding that we need to be collaborating and working in the same direction.

Dr. Stephens stated that she would keep the Board apprised of the work of the Strategic Design Committee and bring information back to them at the October 24 Board meeting.

C. For Discussion and Possible Action: Determine a date to change the November 14 Board meeting due to schedule conflicts.

The Board agreed to move the November 14 meeting to November 13, at 6:00 p.m.

POLICIES

The Board will receive information on, discuss, and may take preliminary action on the following policies.

A. Policy 4117.0 – Evaluation of School District Employees

1. **For Review Only: Regulation 4117.0 – Evaluation of School District employees**

B. Policy 4138.0 – Complaints Concerning School Personnel

1. **For Review Only: Regulation 4138.0 – Complaints Concerning School Personnel**

C. Policy 4850 – Whistleblower Protection

D. Policy 5050.0 – Homeless Children

1. **For Review Only: Regulation 5050.0 – Homeless Children**

E. Policy 5905.0 – Educational Services Plan for Students in Foster Care

These policies were first reading and will be on the next Board agenda for second reading.

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

Trustee Strasdin would like to discuss blended learning and 8th grade transition to the high school.

Trustee Shank requested that Carol Lloyd from the Churchill County Library present to the Board on ways that the District can partner with them.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Geoff Nell stated that he is the Organizational Director for the State of Nevada Mass Resistance Pro-Family Group and spoke about children's deviant behaviors.

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

Trustees Hendrix, Whitaker, and Gent will meet on Tuesday, October 16, at 5.

CLOSED SESSION

A. Discussion of negotiations and strategies regarding Churchill County Education Association pursuant to NRS 288.220.

Trustee Hyde moved to go into closed session for discussions of negotiations and strategies regarding the Churchill County Education Association at approximately 9:10 p.m., seconded by Trustee Strasdin. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:56 p.m.

Carmen Schank, Clerk of the Board

Prepared by Debra Shyne