CALL TO ORDER

President Whitaker 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 Hyde led the pledge of allegiance.

VERIFICATION OF POSTING OF AGENDA

President Whitaker confirmed the posting of the agenda pursuant to NRS 241.

ROLL CALL

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Trustees Present</th>
<th>Others Present</th>
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<tr>
<td>Trustee Kathryn Whitaker, President</td>
<td>Dr. Summer Stephens, Superintendent</td>
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<td>Trustee Matt Hyde, Vice President</td>
<td>Sharla Hales, Legal Counsel</td>
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<td>Trustee Carmen Schank, Clerk</td>
<td>Phyllys Dowd, Director of Business Services</td>
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<td>Trustee Phil Pinder, Acting Clerk</td>
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<td>Trustee Tricia Strasdin</td>
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<td>Trustee Fred Buckmaster</td>
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<td>Trustee Amber Getto</td>
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REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Trustee Schank moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Trustee Buckmaster. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

William Few and Estrellita Cruz, sixth grade students from the Churchill County Middle School, voiced their concern about the condition of the middle school’s track and field athletic area. The students collected over 400 signatures from students, staff, and community members, and requested this issue placed on the next Board agenda.

Roxanne Walker spoke regarding a person’s negative remarks on the radio after the recent basketball championship directed at her son and requested the Board protect students. Jeff Cooley, parent, was present and in support of Ms. Walker.
RECOGNITION

A. The Board will recognize the Churchill County High School Archery Team for placing second in the Nevada State National Archery in the Schools Program competition. The Board will also recognize individual archers who placed in the competition.

On behalf of the Board, Trustee Pinder recognized the archery team and individual archers for their accomplishments.

B. The Board will recognize Coach Anne Smith for being selected as the 2019 Girls 3A State Basketball Coach of the Year.

On behalf of the Board, President Whitaker recognized Coach Anne Smith, selected as the All-State Girls Coach of the Year.

C. The Board will recognize the Churchill County High School 2019 NIAA Class 3A Nevada State Girls Basketball Champions. The Board will also recognize athletes for individual honors.

On behalf of the Board, President Whitaker honored the Girls Basketball Champions. President Whitaker recognized Leilani Otuafi and Leta Otuafi for making the First Team Girls All-State.

D. The Board will recognize Coach Chelle Dalager for being selected as the 2019 Boys 3A State Basketball Coach of the Year.

On behalf of the Board, Trustee Strasdin recognized Coach Chelle Dalager, selected as the All-State Boys Coach of the Year.

E. The Board will recognize the Churchill County High School 2019 NIAA Class 3A Nevada State Boys Basketball Champions. The Board will also recognize athletes for individual honors.

On behalf of the Board, Trustee Strasdin honored the Boys Basketball Champions who were also the Academic State Champs with a GPA of 3.74. Trustee Strasdin also recognized Elijah Jackson as the MVP and First Team, Thomas Steele, Johnny Cooley, and Hayden Strasdin for Second Team, and David McFalls as Honorable Mention.

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

A. Update regarding District-related matters.

Dr. Stephens stated that the name of a volunteer coach for the baseball team was not on the recommended personnel action form. The volunteer coach has been a coach this year and has completed his paperwork. Dr. Stephens will speak with Mr. Daum and bring the coach’s name forward on the March 27 agenda.

Dr. Stephens updated the Board regarding the preschool early childhood positions. At this point, the District can only sustain five classrooms. Grants are due on May 1 and will award on June 14. The District has applied for these grants. Conversations have occurred with staff at Northside regarding best and worst case scenarios. Dr. Stephens commented that it would be best to have these positions be sustainable.
Dr. Stephens spoke about information that the District would like to track on a dashboard. Strategic Plan teams are moving forward with the development of the communications plan and multiple pathways to learning, looking at best practices for chronic absenteeism. Staff members involved like having a voice. They continue to share the Profile of a Learner and encourage everyone to think about those characteristics, as we want students and adults to emulate those characteristics. More staff members have volunteered to be part of the Strategic Plan Committees. Dr. Stephens stated that it is hard work, but it is the right work, and she will continue to provide updates as action plans formulate. Dr. Stephens will provide regular updates to the Board as action plans are implemented, perhaps focusing on one goal each month.

Trustee Schank inquired if other districts have the same Pre-K program. Dr. Stephens stated that some districts might partner with other agencies such as Head Start. The Pre-K Development Grant (PDG) has been reapplied for and awarded, but will not be funded for another year, so there is a gap year. The state would like to fund existing programs and call it Nevada Pre-K. Over each of the last four years the Nevada Pre-K amount ranged from $120,000 to $130,000, the first year of the PDG grant $660,000, the highest amount in 2017 was $1,760,000, and this year the District was awarded $935,000.

Phyllis Dowd stated that the state has a matching requirement for the federally funded PDG grant, but the federal government has created this gap, which makes continuous funding difficult. The District intends to apply state funds next year, but will not know the amount of money available until the middle of June. Dr. Stephens stated that the District can maintain five classrooms from the general fund in the amount of $440,000, plus the District can utilize funds for students with special needs. Additionally, though funding is not certain, the District may get zoom funding for English language learners.

**BUSINESS SERVICES UPDATE**

A. Update regarding the budget process

B. Update regarding District-related matters

Phyllis Dowd reported that the February 19 Budget Committee meeting was well attended. The Board will set goals based on the strategic plan and set the budget in alignment with those goals. The Budget Committee would help in this process.

Ms. Dowd attended a legislative subcommittee regarding K12 budgets on February 19, where the state introduced budget items for K12. After that meeting, districts’ chief financial officers met and discussed the new and old funding models. Mark Mathers from Washoe County School District developed strong graphics regarding how the Governor’s recommended budget is short $185 per pupil from the start, regardless of the new or old funding model, which will be emailed to the Board. The state is not providing enough money for the 3% cost of living raises that the Governor has recommended, nor the expected increases in PERS and insurance. The goal is to get the legislature to understand funding the base first, and then compensate for special needs.

Superintendents presented the iNVest document. Superintendent Adam Young explained what has occurred in White Pine over the past 20 years. They have cut electives and other
school activities, and now offers reading, math, and arithmetic. There were very compelling questions from the legislators.

Ms. Dowd explained the teacher allocation error did not include a phase in. The per pupil rate in the draft budget was $6,929 per pupil, which is $294 less than what our District currently receives. Ms. Dowd called the state and they had forgotten that Churchill, Carson, and Elko had this issue. They said this would be a legislature decision, and the Nevada Department of Education (DOE) does not appear to support the phase in, which worries Ms. Dowd. The State Superintendent of Education and the head of the State Finance Department have left the DOE. Ms. Dowd is still hopeful that the phase in will occur, but she wanted Board members to be aware.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES UPDATE

A. The latest Student Enrollment Data will be provided to the Board of Trustees (written report provided)
C. Violent Acts Report, January 1, 2019 through January 31, 2019 (written report provided)
D. Violent Acts Report, February 1, 2019 through February 28, 2019 (written report provided)

There were no questions.

UPCOMING BOARD EVENTS

A. March 30 through April 1, 2019, Saturday-Monday, National School Board Conference, Philadelphia, PA

[The Board took a 5 minute recess and resumed the meeting at 7:14.]

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Recommended Personnel Action (Attachment A)
B. Approval of Vouchers
C. Approval of February, 2019, Payroll
D. Approval of Student 19-05 and 19-07 to Enter the General Education Development (GED) Program
E. Approval of Student 19-06 for Exemption from Receiving Immunizations based on Religious Reasons (NRS 392.435)
F. Approval to renew the Wide Area Network (WAN) and Internet Contracts with CC Communications for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022
G. Approval to Delete Regulation 4125.0 – Teaching Combination – Husband/Wife – Second Reading

Trustee Hyde stated that he had a potential conflict of interest with consent agenda Item F, as he is an employee of CC Communications, so he would abstain from that vote.

Trustee Pinder moved to approve A-E and G, seconded by Trustee Getto. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Pinder moved to approve Item F, seconded by Trustee Schank. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously; Trustee Hyde abstained.
REPORT BY BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee Pinder reported on his attendance at a recent Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) training, and voiced appreciation for the tremendous achievements of the high school’s athletic teams.

Trustee Schank reported on her attendance at the budget committee, reported that negotiations is ongoing, and reported on her attendance at the NASB training.

Trustee Strasdin reported on her attendance at the state’s athletic competitions and thanked Superintendent Stephens and Mr. Winter for attending the state championship games in Las Vegas.

Trustee Whitaker updated the Board regarding progress in hiring a NASB Executive Director and reported on the status of various legislative bills.

[The Board skipped to Old Business Item B.]

OLD BUSINESS

A. For Discussion and Possible Action: Regarding modifications to Policy 5244.4 – Churchill County High School Graduation Requirements (Second Reading)

Principal Scott Winter reviewed the handout provided at the meeting. These new graduation requirements would take effect for incoming freshmen next year, but students can currently get the College and Career Readiness designation. Sharla Hales suggested the Board approve the policy with an additional sentence added that explains the phase in.

Tricia Strasdin moved to accept modifications to Policy 5244.4, Churchill County High School Graduation Requirements, with the addition of the timeline commencing with the class of 2023. Trustee Pinder seconded the motion.

Mandy Lister, CCSD employee and parent of a CCHS student, voiced concern about the elimination of the honor school diploma. Students in the honors program are held to a higher standard and colleges look at students who achieve 4.0 or higher. Ms. Lister has spoken with other staff members who feel the same way.

Trustee Schank asked if the difference between an honors diploma and an advanced diploma was the 3.25 GPA and the number of AP courses. Mr. Winter stated that he hopes that implementing the strategic plan, personalized learning, and project based learning will raise the bar for all students.

Dr. Stephens stated that she has concerns about consistent grading practices. JumpStart students, unless they took multiple AP courses as a sophomore, could not qualify for the honors diploma, even though they may take classes that are more rigorous. Dr. Stephens wants all students to strive to be their best self. The College and Career Ready diploma will raise the bar. Dr. Stephens is also concerned whether students are held to higher standards because they are not required to take the AP exam.

Trustee Strasdin commented that the District could add distinction to diplomas. The high school could do more to recognize academic achievement before students walk across the stage at graduation. Trustee Strasdin commented that she currently has two children in the honors program.
President Whitaker stated that she has a daughter who is in the Jump Start program with a 4.0 GPA and she can’t graduate in honors school because she can’t meet the qualifications as they require classes in her senior year that she can’t take, yet she will likely graduate with an Associate’s Degree. If they are taking AP classes that is one thing, but the high school does not require them to take the test. The ACT and SAT are more important than the honors distinction. President Whitaker agreed that academic achievement should be recognized before graduation.

Andrew Campbell, middle school teacher, voiced concern about how this affects people who move into our school district from out of state. Mr. Campbell supports the Military Child Compact and is not sure how many states are on board, but would hate to disappoint a senior with the expectation of an honors diploma.

The motion passed unanimously.

B. **For Presentation and Discussion: Regarding Churchill County High School Pilot Option(s) for the 2019-2020 school year including possibilities for various personalized learning approaches.**

Mr. Winter stated that Steve Johnson, and Mike Nelson have worked with this model and have been great advocates for the pilot program and for students. Mr. Winter spoke about the student-centered model that the District could choose that fits in with personalized learning. He presented the same PowerPoint presentation to his staff the previous Wednesday regarding project based learning (PBL).

Students learn by doing the project, not by doing the project after presentation. The teacher is a teacher-coach and helps guide and push the learning envelope for students. Mr. Winters reviewed the five core strategies:

- Establishing Real-World Connections
- Building Projects that are Core to Learning Standards
- Structuring Collaboration for Student Success
- Facilitating Learning in a Student-Driven Environment
- Embedding Assessment Throughout the Project

Standards have to be in place up front. The project anchors the curriculum and can be interdisciplinary. When students proficiently show what they know, the applicable standards would be checked off. Students need to practice major skills, which include critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity. Students need to be able to work independently but also be able to work with others. When students are deeply invested in their own learning, classroom management and absenteeism take care of themselves.

Mr. Winters stated that students need voice and choice. PBL is student driven and staff must listen to the students and adjust based on their suggestions. Students need a chance to stop and reflect on what they have learned and on questions they still have. They would determine how to revise their approach and track their own progress. Teachers would constantly assess student progress. Mr. Winter expressed hope that more and more teachers will become positively curious about PBL.
Mr. Johnson and Mr. Nelson have been talking about PBL for several years and were excited to hear about this and to assist in finding ways to implement PBL at the high school. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Nelson met the Friday before with half of the high school staff who were interested in PBL. It was an opportunity for them to express their feelings and voice their concerns. The unanimous feeling from that meeting was that those teachers would like to implement PBL in their classrooms next year. The biggest concern was the logistics of how this would work with the master schedule.

Mr. Nelson stated that, logistically, there is a huge amount of front loading from an instructor’s standpoint for PBL. The high school does not have a schedule yet and does not know how many student are interested in PBL. Considering finals week and the time it would take to provide these offerings to students, they are concerned that they do not have enough time to put this together and do it correctly. They suggested that perhaps next year teachers interested in PBL could implement PBL in first, second, and third blocks in their classroom, and then take time during collaboration to meet and discuss what is working in the classroom. This could build and expand in future years into a cohort with multiple teachers and a larger number of students.

Trustee Buckmaster asked about the schedule. Mr. Johnson stated that they would likely start with sophomores and juniors and see how PBL works. Staff has also talked about the number of projects that would be the most beneficial in a PBL model. Mr. Johnson stated that PBL would work better utilizing a block schedule.

Trustee Strasdin asked what would happen if a student reaches an agreement with the teacher about a project and then the student does not meet the timelines. Mr. Johnson stated that this applies to the traditional model as well. The teacher could address the project with the student(s) to determine how best to proceed. They would have rubrics that would hold each student individually accountable. Teachers would monitor and evaluate students on a regular basis to keep them on track. Teachers have to provide students with the standards that align with the ACT, for which students need to know.

Mr. Nelson stated that they would have an orientation with students and parents so that they are aware of the scope and scale. As part of next year’s discussion, they would bring in counseling and administrators and look at various scenarios.

Principal Winter stated that it is important to spend time teaching students how to learn in this model and how to grow their skills regarding following timelines and how to collaborate with each other. Students will be at different levels. Students will have the opportunity to understand what PBL is and they can self-select. Mr. Nelson commented that teachers would communicate well enough with each other to ensure they do not overload students.

Trustee Hyde asked if staff has looked at other schools who have implemented PBL to see how they became successful. Mr. Winter stated that there is a lot of information online regarding how PBL is being implemented, not just at grade level but also across curricular, from urban and rural schools, and those with traditionally low socio-economic activity. Mr. Winter cautioned that there is not just one single way to implement PBL as it is extremely individualized and is reflective of the community, the culture of the school, the makeup and pathway of students, and the vision of the District as a whole.
The PBL model provides equity in learning and allows students to learn at their highest potential. Mr. Winter encouraged Board members to read information about PBL online from the Buck Institute. Mr. Winter sent a survey to students regarding PBL concepts and the majority of students pointed toward student-centered learning, though some students were unsure. Trustee Schank suggested staff spend an afternoon in the blended learning community. Mr. Winter commented that he has already spoken with Nate Waite to arrange this. Mr. Winter also stated that Edutopia is a website that supports PBL.

President Whitaker commented that the Board approved Blended Learning Community approximately one year ago and knew they would hit bumps in the road. It is okay to have a misstep; it is important what we do to correct the misstep. We should not be too hesitant, and recognized that it does take commitment from teachers.

Mr. Winter stated that there is a core group of teachers and there is enthusiasm for PBL. Mr. Winter told teachers that while they are interested, they may or may not be part of the first group of teachers to implement PBL. Mr. Winter plans to have this ready by the end of the school year to implement in the fall.

Presidents Whitaker stated that the Board is in support of the pathways model of learning. The Board wants to be progressive and not leave students behind. We know it takes tremendous effort by faculty and staff to make this happen and appreciate those willing, anxious, and excited about implementing PBL. Trustee Buckmaster asked if Board members could attend collaboration meetings. Sharla Hales, legal counsel, cautioned Board members as this topic might come back to the Board for future action. Ms. Hales stated that Board members could request a written or verbal report at Board meetings regarding implementation progress. Board members need to be careful not to insert themselves into that process or to risk having an open meeting law allegation. It was determined that Scott would let Board members know and Board members interested in attending will let Dr. Stephens know. Board members who do attend these meetings are only there as observers.

NEW BUSINESS

A. For Discussion and Possible Action: The Board will be presented with information regarding potential refunding options in connect with the refinancing of all or a portion of the Churchill County District, Nevada, General Obligation (Limited Tax) School Improvement Bonds (PSF Guaranteed), Series 2009 (the “2009 Bonds”) and the Churchill County School District, Nevada, General Obligation (Limited Tax) School Improvement Bonds (PSF Guaranteed), Series 2010A (Taxable Direct Pay Build America Bonds) (the “2010A Bonds”). The Board will discuss the options and may take action to direct proceeding with the refunding of all or a portion of the 2009 Bonds and/or 2010A Bonds.

John Peterson, JNA Consulting, stated that he has worked with the District for many years on bond issues, and the present opportunity is to refinance existing bonds to lower the effective interest rate, similar to refinancing a mortgage or any other debt.

The 2009 and 2010 bonds are nine and ten years old, respectively. Mr. Peterson expects the interest rate to be between 2.8 and 2.9 percent. Pending Board approval, they would sent out requests for proposals to banks and bring bids back to the Board at their April 10 meeting for final approval. Mr. Peterson pointed out that the debt service savings would be
approximately $440,000, spread out over a ten-year period. The existing bonds and the refunding bonds would mature in 2030.

In 2017, there was a significant rewrite of the federal tax code that touched municipal bonds. The Board can issue tax-exempt bonds because school districts are government entities, but in order to issue tax-exempt bonds the old bond had to be callable within approximately three months. The 2010 bonds are not callable for about a year, so Mr. Peterson proposes issuing the refunding bonds as taxable for nine months and then they would automatically convert to tax exempt in February 2020. The taxable and tax-exempt rates would be agreed to today.

The costs associated with issuing refunding bonds, such as professional services for JNA Consulting and fees to the bond council, are paid for out of the refunding bond, so those costs would not come out of the General Fund. The savings from the bond refunding stays in the Debt Service Fund available for making bond payments in the future as well as transfers out for capital improvements. The 0.55 tax rate approved in 2008 that the District levies for repayment of debt would not change.

Trustee Schank asked what was creating the savings. Mr. Peterson stated that when the bonds were issued in 2010 they had a 2030 maturity, which was 20 years from that point. Today, the period is 11 years, which is the reason for the decline in interest rates. A 10-year U.S. Treasury bond is 2.6 percent.

Phyllis Dowd commented that she and Dr. Stephens met with John Peterson and Marty Johnson a week or so ago and they laid out their proposal. Ms. Dowd reminded the Board that they previously tried to refund, but it did not work out. JNA Consulting has the same commitment to us this year. If we go through the process and get to the end and something happens and we do not achieve the savings we expect the District can back out of the deal. Mr. Johnson expects the bids in about two weeks and JNA Consulting is fairly certain about the rates. After November 2016 interest rates spiked by half a percent in just a month and that continued through early 2017.

Trustee Schank moved to approve proceeding with the refunding of all or a portion of the 2009 bonds and or 2010A bonds, seconded by Trustee Strasdin. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. For Discussion and Possible Action:** Set date, time, and location for the Board to meet with staff at a school location to gather feedback and input from staff members and others from that school community on a wide variety of topics.

This would be an additional meeting to regularly scheduled board meetings. The Board decided to meet at 4:00 on Wednesday, April 24, at the Churchill County High School.

**POLICIES**

A. **Policy 4116.0 – Licensed Personnel – Duties and Responsibilities**

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

C. **Policy 4144.0 – Prevention of Sexual Misconduct Toward Students**
   1. **For Review Only:** Regulation 4144.0 – Prevention of Sexual Misconduct Toward Students.
D. **Policy 4148.0 – Leave for Parents of Children Enrolled in School – Change to Policy 4148.0 with modifications**

E. **Policy 4860.0 – Staff Use of Social Media**
   1. **For Review Only: Regulation 4860.0 – Staff Use of Social Media**

Trustee Strasdin noted that the last two lines of page 68 of BoardBook reads, “Employees consent to such monitoring by acknowledgement of this regulation and use of the District’s IT resources and systems.” Do employees receive a copy of this regulation via email, especially since it is brand new?

Dr. Stephens that the Policy Committee has had conversations about distributing information to staff. Each year, typically in September, employees are provided a list of policies and regulations that they are required to read. Kevin Lords is maintaining a list of policies and regulations that have changed and will notify staff. When new teachers arrive, there is a concerted effort to be sure employees review these policies and regulations. Dr. Stephens stated that the 21 Day Review Group could be expanded to all staff members when there is a big change or if the policy is new.

Sharla Hales stated that the Board has the right to set policy and every teacher knows that and knows these are open meetings and every teacher has access to the agendas. It is a reasonable expectation for the Board to expect that all staff members are generally familiar with policies and regulations that apply to them. They generally know that policies and regulations change, and they should stay up to date on the list. For something major, like this policy and regulation, the District wants to be sure they know about it because if there is a violation due process requires notice before a staff member violated the rule. This is why Mr. Lords is keeping the list of policies and regulation, so that the District can call specific attention to them. Staff will be held responsible to the standards set forth in these policies. I think this policy should go hand in hand with the internet acceptable use agreement. There is an element of reasonableness on the part of the District. If something happened in the month after this regulation became effective, the District would say that the regulation is new, and that it is probably not fair to hold staff to this standard, but would in the future.

Trustee Strasdin commented that the District has not had the human resources position as it is right now, so notification in August is a little weak. Dr. Stephens commented that the 21 Day Review Group could be expanded to go to everyone when there are significant changes or new policies and regulations.

**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 on the conditions of the middle school track placed on the next agenda.

Trustee Hyde requested discussion on how to protect District students from adults who have access to radio airways.
Trustee Buckmaster suggested the District purchase a backdrop, perhaps with the Greenwave on it, so that when the Board recognizes students a picture can be taken in front of it.

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

Trustees Whitaker, Hyde, and Buckmaster will meet on March 19 at 3:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:40 p.m.

______________________________
Carmen Schank, Clerk of the Board

*Prepared by Debra Shyne*