CALL TO ORDER
President Whitaker called to order the regular meeting of the Churchill County School District Board of Trustees at 4:33 p.m. at the Churchill County School District Administration Office, 690 South Maine Street, Fallon, Nevada.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
President Whitaker led the pledge of allegiance.

VERIFICATION OF POSTING OF AGENDA
President Whitaker confirmed the posting of the agenda pursuant to NRS 241.

ROLL CALL
Trustees Present
Trustee Kathryn Whitaker, President
Trustee Matt Hyde, Vice President
Trustee Carmen Schank, Clerk (via phone)
Trustee Phil Pinder, Acting Clerk
Trustee Tricia Strasdin
Trustee Amber Getto
Trustee Fred Buckmaster

Others Present
Dr. Summer Stephens, Superintendent
Sharla Hales, Legal Counsel (via phone)
Phyllys Dowd, Director of Business Services
Debra Shyne, Executive Assistant
(Interested Staff/Community Members per Attached List)

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA
Trustee Schank moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Trustee Hyde. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously; Trustee Strasdin was not yet at the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT
There were no public comments.

NEGOTIATION SESSION
At approximately 4:37, Trustee Hyde moved to go into closed session for discussion of negotiations and strategies regarding Churchill County Administrators’ Association, Churchill County Education Association, and the Nevada Classified School Employees Association pursuant to NRS 288.220, seconded by Trustee Pinder. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously; Trustee Strasdin was absent at the time of this vote.

[Trustee Strasdin arrived at approximately 4:38 p.m. The meeting reconvened at approximately 5:17 p.m.]
For Discussion and Possible Action: The Board may approve the hiring of Jacob Sommer to provide legal counsel during the Level 3 Grievance brought by the Nevada Classified School Employees Association regarding account technician delivering items from the warehouse.

Sharla Hales, District’s legal counsel, explained the purpose of this agenda item. Normally, during Level III grievance hearings, Ms. Hales does not advocate for the District or the association as she remains neutral and provides legal counsel for the Board. In this instance, Dr. Stephens requested Ms. Hales present the District’s case, which would make it a conflict to serve in that capacity and provide legal counsel to the Board as neutral fact finders and arbitrators in the hearing. For that reason, it was determined to seek an independent attorney to provide legal counsel to the Board during the hearing. Mr. Sommer is willing to do this work.

Mr. Sommer charges $275 per hour, which is a reasonable rate for an attorney with his experience, and Mr. Sommer is familiar with the Board as he has been at Board meetings on Ms. Hales behalf in the past.

Trustee Schank moved to approve hiring Jacob Sommers to provide legal counsel during the Level 3 Grievance brought by the Nevada Classified School Employees’ Association. Trustee Getto seconded the motion. There were no public comments. The motion passed 6:1; Trustee Buckmaster was opposed.

GRIEVANCE HEARING

A. The Board will hold a grievance hearing and will take action on the Level 3 Grievance brought by the Nevada Classified School Employees’ Association regarding account technician delivering items from the warehouse.


[The Board went into litigation session with Mr. Sommers at 6:15 p.m. and returned at 6:27 p.m.]

President Whitaker asked the District and the Association if they agreed that they had a full and fair hearing. Ms. Hales stated yes; Mr. Langton stated yes, except for questions overruled as irrelevant. President Whitaker asked Mr. Langton if he would like to ask any clarifying questions. Mr. Langton stated that he could not remember the questions and commented that the hearing was sufficient. Board members asked questions and then deliberated.

Trustee Hyde moved to deny the Level III grievance brought by the Nevada Classified School Employees’ Association regarding account technician delivering items from the warehouse. Trustee Pinder seconded the motion. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

[The Board took a break from approximately 6:56 to 7:16 p.m.]
SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

A. Churchill County Middle School staff will report on the success of their Blended Learning Community.

Amy Word, Emily Alexander, and Maureen Park reported on the progress made in their Blended Learning Community (BLC). Staff learned a lot in the first year. They were able to try new things, which did not always go the way they expected, so they would try new things. Due to budget, there are less staff and student in the BLC. The goal this year is to create projects and expand the way students learn, helping them with learner agency so that students have a role in making goals, managing time, understanding and having a voice in their learning.

Emily Alexander invited the Board to see the BLC “maker spaces,” which contains 3D printers. Students are required to go through a certification process and wear lanyards when they check out the space. The BLC has 60 students, 2 learning coaches, and an instructional aid. They can spread out and utilize the spaces as originally intended. She contributes the increase in SBAC scores to the rigor of Edgenuity, the ability for students to redo assignments on their own, having an assessment on a device, and the importance that the learning coaches put on the test. Maureen Park reported observing students going deeper through Edgenuity and through their projects.

Board members asked questions. The staff discussed the importance of communication with students and parents, mutual respect, abiding by tribes agreements, setting expectations for kids, and reported few behavior referrals. Teachers require students to complete a minimum of two projects per quarter. Grades for projects are specific to core class standards that students meet. Staff reported on other aspects of the BLC.

Nate Waite reported that he would be talking with kids regarding design thinking. The District is collaborating with the Churchill County Library regarding resources they offer to students for projects, and the Library offers volunteer hours for BLC students. Students would volunteer one hour a week for six weeks and then another group of students would volunteer. Students will learn how to utilize the library’s resources in ways to expand learning in the home.

B. Update regarding District-related matters

Dr. Stephens reported that the Greenwave Flash is back at the high school, thanks to the work of the students and English teacher Rachel Dahl, and the paper will go to print once each month. Expectations are rising from the students, who are gaining more understanding of the Profile of a Learner. Dr. Stephens requested Board members and community members to subscribe to the District’s and schools’ Facebook pages. Ms. Dahl will send Debra Shyne the link to the Greenwave Flash, once the website is developed.

Dr. Stephens reported that the District received clarity from the state regarding the school safety grant. There were errors in the allocation of the grant funds, which has been corrected to the intended allocation. The District opened a social worker position to serve kindergarten through sixth grade students and families, housed at Lahontan Elementary School. The goal is for this person to address the needs of the whole family and work with families regarding student absenteeism.
The 21st Century Learning Grant work in coordination with the Fallon Youth Club that involves tutoring enrichment in schools start on Monday. The District is currently hiring for these positions.

Dr. Stephens will attend a Superintendents’ meeting in Las Vegas and then all-expenses paid conference with Tech and Learning. This conference focuses on data and personalized learning. Dr. Stephens serves as the Secretary/Treasurer for the Nevada Association of School Superintendents and the Chair of the Regional Professional Development Program Governing Board. On October 10 through October 13, Mr. Winter, Dr. Stephens, the two high school and one middle school counselors will attend a national high school career pathways conference. Mandy Lister, CCHS Counselor, will participate at the state level to get her credentials in career development work. Recently, the District joined Cohort 2 of the competency-based education network.

Next week, staff will continue working with JOIN on work-based learning. On September 24, they held a joint technical skills meeting with the college and helped that group with the requirements of the new laws and expectations for Perkins. The goal is to look at data for the programs to be sure that we are addressing all of our needs. The work-based learning advisory meeting next week will focus on requirements for employment, which will be useful when the District starts rolling out paid internships for students.

BUSINESS SERVICES UPDATE

A. Budget to Actual Report (written report provided)
B. Update on Financial Audit
C. Update on Northside Funding Needs
D. Update regarding other business items.

Phyllys Dowd reported that the auditors were in the business office last week and are on target to provide the full audit report at the Board’s October meeting.

Ms. Dowd reported that she provided a quick recap of Northside funding in BoardBook. The District received an additional $75 per student for 130 students, but that was part of a block grant. The school is operating well with five four-year-old classrooms, two special education half day classrooms, and two English language half day classrooms. The school is currently full.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES UPDATE

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

UPCOMING BOARD EVENTS

A. Friday-Saturday, November 22-23, 2019, NASB Annual Conference, Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, Reno
B. Wednesday, November 20, Visit from State Superintendent Jhone Ebert
CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Recommended Personnel Action (Attachment A)
B. Approval of Vouchers
C. Approval of August 28, 2019, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
D. Approval of Class Size Reduction Projection Report
E. Approval of Student 19-16 for Exemption from Receiving Immunizations based on Religious Reasons (NRS 392.435)
F. Approval of Students 19-14 and 19-15 to Enter the GED Program
G. Approval of 2020 Board Calendar Meeting Dates
H. Approval of Churchill County High School Track Team fundraiser
I. Approval to move the November 13 Board meeting to November 20

Trustee Hyde moved to approve consent agenda items A-I, seconded by Trustee Pinder. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee Buckmaster reported on his visit to the high school where he toured the facilities and spoke with staff and students. Trustee Schank reported on her attendance at the Policy Committee meeting, where the Committee worked on personnel policies. Trustee Getto reported on her attendance at a recent parent engagement meeting and that she appreciated input by principals. Trustee Strasdin reported attending the Lyon County School Board meeting recently where they introduced new employees and shoot hands with Board members. Two Board members apologized for how hard things have been in our District, which saddened her, but commented that she appreciates the hard work that is happening in our District.

NEW BUSINESS

A. For Discussion and Possible Action: The Board will receive a report on the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) Ratings.

Dr. Stephens referred the Board and public to a copy of the parent engagement slideshow, located in BoardBook. Dr. Stephens recognized the principals for their hard work on School Performance Plans, and commented that everyone was working toward the same goals.

Dr. Stephens reported that the high school and middle school have star ratings, but the elementary schools do not. Our District is the only district in the state that has grade level schools. Dr. Stephens and Lisa Bliss have been working with the state to clarify star ratings as the state wanted to rank all elementary schools together, and our District does not feel this would be accurate. The state has determined that they would not provide a star rating to Churchill’s elementary schools for the 2018-19 school year and has confirmed that this fact will not interfere with the District’s ability to apply for SB178 funds for at-risk students.

B. For Discussion and Possible Action: The Board will receive a report on the 2018-19 Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) and American College Testing (ACT) Results.

Lisa Bliss commented that principals would review data for their schools when they present their School Performance Plans later in the meeting. Ms. Bliss pointed out that Numa’s
English language acquisition is still the District’s area of strength and math is the area of focus. Ms. Bliss stated that the Profile of a Learner is inspiring as it addresses the concept of embracing the student has a whole. Testing is important as we support kids in acquiring knowledge and skills and help them with their pathways. Lisa further explained assessment data (report in BoardBook).

C. **For Presentation and Discussion: School principals will provide a report on the successes and challenges for the start of the school year and will present their School Performance Plans.**

Dr. Stephens reported that Principal Boone was out of the District, but he will present his School Performance Plan to the Board in October.

Principal Scott Winter stated that during the summer, high school staff worked with Western Nevada College on dual credit opportunities and worked with teachers to determine how these fit into the high school schedule. Every student had a schedule on day one. Mr. Winter reported on AB117, which requires some seniors take six classes. This year, there was a push to ensure that seniors were in the right classes to support their pathway. Students must have a 3.25 GPA or meet other requirements to take four classes instead of six classes, though there is a process where students can apply for an exception. Counselors spoke with seniors at the beginning of the year and have since met with all students regarding their schedules, academic plans, mental health counseling, and are following the American School Counselor Association, which Nevada’s state standard for counseling. The learner-centered framework, common assessments, and career pathways are important to teachers and students. Board members voiced concern about students lacking credit in their first year and how this affects their pathway. Mr. Winter commented that an additional counselor and the addition of an Advisory class should help. Mr. Winter reported on goals related to the high school’s SPP. Trustee Strasdin commented that she hopes that in the next year common assessments become a reality.

Principal Amy Word stated that the District is doing the right thing with the learner-centered framework. Ms. Word was not pleased with their star rating or scores. They have reduced chronic absenteeism from 25 percent to 17 percent. They have been working toward a common assessment for a while and feel that the learner-centered framework will help them make progress. Ms. Word commented that this is the first time in the twenty years she has been in the District, where everyone is focuses on the same goals of high quality curriculum and rigorous assessments. Staff is completing a course together regarding the learner-centered framework. Ms. Word reported on goals related to the middle school’s SPP.

Principal Shawn Purrell reported that this is the first time since he has been with the District where there is consistency from grade level to grade level with a focus on the learner-centered framework. Mr. Purrell voiced concern about filling open positions now and for the next school year commenting that recruitment needs to start early this year. Mr. Purrell reported on progress made with standards, curriculum, pacing, standards-based report cards, and leaner-centered framework. Mr. Purrell reported on goals related to Numa’s SPP.

Principal Kimi Melendy commented that Lahontan’s teachers are dedicated teachers and have very helpful with her transition as principal. She reported that Lahontan staff has been
working on student behaviors, noting that Mr. Harrington has worked with staff in this regard. Ms. Melendy is happy that Lahontan will receive a social worker who can assist with a variety of student and family issues, including absenteeism. Ms. Melendy reported on goals related to Lahontan’s SPP.

D. **For Presentation and Discussion:** The Board will discuss and take action to approve the Fiscal Year 2020 Augmented Budget, including revising, adding, or deleting any line item in the augmented budget.

Phylllys Dowd reported that the financial and trial balance is going to the auditor, so she incorporated the ending fund balance of 2019 into the beginning of the 2020 budget. The ending fund balance is higher than anticipated, at $1,034,000, which she incorporated into the beginning fund balance of the General Fund in the 2020 Augmented Budget. Net proceeds from minerals (geothermal revenue) was approximately $90,000 higher than anticipated and higher than it has been over the past few years; there were some savings within positions in the District; sub costs were lower; and, at the end of the year the state increased grant funding for new hire incentives which were added to the General Fund. These combined, including benefits, represents approximately $200,000 in savings. Utilities were under budget by $95,000, due to a mild spring and winter. Dr. Stephens ended site spending earlier than usual, which saved another $300,000. Traditionally, audit expense and actuary expenses were expensed in the year of the audit or actuary study, but the auditors let her expense the 2018 audit in 2018, but they wanted the 2019 audit expenses expensed in 2020, the year they are doing the work. The $74,000 budgeted for both of those services did not occur in 2019 and is in the fund balance for next year.

Ms. Dowd followed the proposed regulation on the Contingency Fund and placed 3% of total expenditures in 2020, so the Contingency Fund went from $100,000 to $775,000. The only way the Contingency Fund could be spent is through an action item by the Board of Trustees. After approval, funds would be transferred out of Contingency Fund into an account specific to the expense. Some of the ending fund balance was allocated to attorney fees. Kimi Melendy is Lahontan’s principal most of the time so her pay was moved from one category to another. ESSA requirements require expenses to be reported by school level so the new HVAC technician’s wages were shared with all of the sites. Class size reduction funds were $70,000 higher than anticipated. They did not fund more teachers, but they provided more for the 10.5 teachers that they do fund. Special education had an additional $266,000 in funding. Special Services has several increased workload students, so they hired a couple of special education instructional assistants. Food service had carryover grant funds for equipment that was not installed before June 30, so those funds rolled forward. The District was awarded a Fresh Fruit and Vegetables grant for Lahontan, E.C. Best, and Numa, so that revenue and expense has been incorporated.

Ms. Dowd reported that she met with Dr. Stephens regarding the Capital Improvement Funds and will bring it to the Board for approval in October. The updated plan will incorporate security funding from the grant.

Trustee Hyde moved to approve the 2020 Augmented Budget, seconded by Trustee Strasdin. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.
E. For Discussion and Possible Action: Report by Phyllis Dowd regarding the fiscal impact of the proposed changes to the 2018-2020 School Year Negotiated Agreement between the Churchill County School District and Churchill County Administrators’ Association. Action to ratify the proposed agreement.

Ms. Dowd explained the costs associated with the agreement, which includes a 1.5% increase in the Administrators’ salary table, restoration of the vice principal salary table to separate the middle and high school vice principals, costs associated with the employee portion of the PERS contribution rate, and an increase in allowable number of in-service credits to move on the salary table. The increase of in-service training does not have a cost this year but could potentially have an increase of $2,000 in future years, dependent on training administrators seek.

Trustee Getto moved to approve the agreement between the Churchill County School District and the Administrators’ Association, seconded by Trustee Pinder. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

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 Buckmaster requested discussion regarding bringing back a warehouse position. Trustee Schank requested discussion to schedule visits to schools.

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

Trustees Whitaker, Hyde, and Buckmaster will meet on October 1, at 7:30 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

A. Discussion of negotiations and strategies regarding Churchill County Administrators’ Association, Churchill County Education Association, and the Nevada Classified School Employees Association pursuant to NRS 288.220.

This session occurred at the beginning of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:38 p.m.

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Carmen Schank, Clerk of the Board

Prepared by Debra Shyne