

Douglas County School District

Regular Meeting
Kingsbury Middle School
Stateline, Nevada
Tuesday, July 10, 2007
3:30 p.m.

**Minutes Approved
August 14, 2007**

MINUTES

Present were:

Trustees:

John Louritt, President
Teri Jamin, Vice President
Cynthia Trigg, Clerk
Sharla Hales, Member
Thomas Moore, Member
Keith Roman, Member

Absent:

Karen Chessell, Member

Personnel:

Carol Lark, Superintendent
Nancy Bryant, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services
Holly Luna, Director of Business Services

Others Present:

Bob Cox, Legal Counsel

1. Call to Order

Mr. Louritt called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

- A. Richard Spence, President of the Douglas County School District Bus Drivers Association, led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. Mr. Moore made a motion to adopt the Agenda, seconded by Mrs. Jamin.

Mr. Louritt stated that Items 2D, 2G, 2H, and 2I would be pulled from the Consent Items for discussion.

Mrs. Hales made a motion to approve all Consent Items, with the exception of 2-D, 2-G, 2-H, and 2-I, seconded by Mrs. Trigg.

2. Consent Items (Action)

- A. Approve the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on June 12, 2007.
- B. Approve payments contained in Voucher No. 1044 for the 2007-2008 fiscal year.
- C. Approve personnel actions described in Personnel Report No. 07-07.
- D. (1) Approve the 2.5% increase, effective July 1, 2007, on the 2007-2008 Confidential Employee Salary Schedule included in each Board Member's agenda packet, contingent upon the 2007-2008 State Distributive School Account including salary funding and the

additional PERS contribution funding; and (2) approve the change of the Purchasing/Buyer position from the Classified Employee Salary Schedule to the Buyer and Budget Manager position on the Confidential Employee Salary Schedule effective July 1, 2007, as shown in the attached salary schedule.

- E. Approve the request submitted by Joseph Edward Kruse to take the GED examination.
- F. Approve the changes in the Negotiated Agreement reached by the parties for the 2007-2009 school years and ratify a new Negotiated Agreement for 2007-09.
- G. Approve changes to the Substitute Bus Driver Salary Schedule of 2.50% (+ .375 in alignment with the EE Bus Driver Salary Schedule) for the 2007-08 fiscal year and 4% for the 2008-09 fiscal year.
- H. Adopt the District's updated Debt Management Plan.
- I. Approve the 2.5% increase, effective July 1, 2007, on the 2007-2008 Classified Supervisory and Professional Salary Schedule included in each Board Member's agenda packet, contingent upon the 2007-2008 State Distributive School Account including salary funding and the additional PERS contribution funding; and (2) approve the revised salary range for the Chief Health Nurse from Range D (220 days) to Range E (200 days).
- J. Award a contract for asphalt sealing and repair in the amount of \$59,670.00 at Carson Valley Middle School to Sierra Nevada Construction as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder meeting District specifications. Funding to come from the 2007-08 General Fund Major Maintenance Account.

Mr. Louritt stated that Item 2-D, Approval of Increase to Confidential Employees Salary Schedule was pulled due to wives of two Board members currently being employed under this Salary Schedule.

Mrs. Hales brought out for discussion possible contingencies due to DSA funding. Following this discussion, Mrs. Hales moved to approve Item 2-D.

(1) Approve the 2.5% increase, effective July 1, 2007, on the 2007-2008 Confidential Employee Salary Schedule included in each Board Member's agenda packet, contingent upon the 2007-2008 State Distributive School Account *being equal to or higher than the amount of estimates previously provided the District upon which we based our budget* including the additional PERS contribution funding; and (2) approve the change of the Purchasing/Buyer position from a Classified Employee Salary Schedule to the Buyer and Budget Manager position on the Confidential Employee Salary Schedule effective July 1, 2007, as shown in the attached salary schedule, seconded by Mrs. Trigg.

Motion carried 4/0; Mr. Louritt and Mr. Moore abstained.

Ms. Villaseñor approached the Board to discuss Item 2-F and Item 2-G. Mr. Louritt clarified that Item 2-G had been pulled for discussion.

Ms. Villaseñor and Mr. Spence, President of the Douglas County School District Bus Drivers Association reported on the negotiated agreement that was ratified for the Association. This was the first time the Interest Based Bargaining process was used and was reported to be very successful. Thanking Mr. Spence, Mrs. Villaseñor noted the process was beneficial to both the District and the bus drivers. Regarding Item 2-G, Approval of a substitute bus driver salary schedule and salary increase, Mrs. Villaseñor reported the difficulties in obtaining bus drivers

and measures that had been taken to hire more for the new school year.

Mr. Louritt offered Board members an opportunity for discussion. They expressed many thanks to Mr. Spence for his professional attitude and willingness to participate in the Interest Based Bargaining negotiation process.

Mrs. Trigg moved to approve Item 2-G, changes to the Substitute Bus Driver Salary Schedule of 2.5% (+.375 in alignment with the EE Bus Driver Salary Schedule) for the 2007-08 fiscal year and 4% for the 2008-09 fiscal year, seconded by Mrs. Jamin.

There was no further discussion or public comment.

Motion carried 6/0.

Next, Item 2-H, Adoption of an Updated Debt Management Policy, was discussed. Mr. Louritt stated the Board had received additional information on this date, and needed a moment to review documents.

Mrs. Hales made a motion to adopt the District's updated Debt Management Plan with reservation that the Five Year Capital Plan is a work in progress and may be changed at any time, seconded by Mr. Roman.

After some discussion, Mrs. Hales amended the motion to adopt the District's updated Debt Management Plan with reservation that the Five Year Capital Plan is a work in progress and may be changed as needed with Board approval, seconded by Mrs. Jamin.

The board voted to amend the motion. Motion carried 5/0. Mrs. Trigg abstained.

Mr. Louritt called for a vote on the motion as amended. Motion carried, 6/0.

The next Consent Item pulled was Item 2-I, Approval of Increase to Classified Supervisory and Professional Employees Salary Schedule. This being similar to Item 2-D, was quickly decided upon.

Mrs. Hales moved to approve the 2.5% increase, effective July 1, 2007, on the 2007-2008 Classified Supervisory and Professional Salary Schedule included in each Board Member's agenda packet, contingent upon the 2007-2008 State Distributive School Account *being equal to or higher than the amount of estimates previously provided the District upon which we based our budget* including salary funding and the additional PERS contribution funding; and (2) approve the revised salary range for the Chief Health Nurse from Range D (220 days) to Range E (200 days), seconded by Mrs. Trigg.

Mr. Louritt called for discussion and public comment. There was none.

Motion carried unanimously, 6/0.

3. Administrative Reports and Program Reviews

3-A. Principals' Report – (C. C. Meneley Elementary)

Mr. Frazier, principal of C. C. Meneley Elementary School for the 2006-2007 school year reported on progress of their School Improvement Plan (SIP). Mr. Frazier welcomed and introduced the new principal, Paula Zona and her husband, to Board members prior to his PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Frazier reported the SIP focus previously having been in the area of professional development was now moving to refine balanced literacy. Changes this school year included an overview of balanced math strategies. Professional Development in balanced literacy and balanced math strategies will continue into the 2007-2008 school year. One major SIP focus was improving interventions and instructional strategies in order to maximize student proficiency in the sub populations across all grade levels. Interim assessments were used to determine student needs for interventions scheduled during their lunchtime. The passing of student data collected during the year to teachers receiving students for the next school year was in place to provide many benefits for early identification of intervention needs. The focus on this area led to satisfactory growth by students over the year.

Overall, Meneley made good progress on district, state, and national assessments. On the State Writing Exam, Meneley students earned a 59% proficiency rate, up 20% from the previous year, in all categories including sub populations. Mr. Frazier attributed this increase to flexible writing groups wherein students needing help in particular areas were identified. Overall student performance on the State CRT and on the District Map was positive, though there were subpopulations that will still need to be closely monitored during the coming year. Mr. Frazier stated the rate of increased cut score percentages on the CRT across all proficiency levels were encouraging. In conclusion, Mr. Frazier stated their goals over time had decreased from three to one. The one goal now was to increase student achievement in both reading and math.

3-B. Principals' Report – (Jacobsen High School)

Mr. Frazier, Director of Grants, Assessments and Special Programs, presented a PowerPoint on the progress of the School Improvement Plan for Jacobsen High School. As the new administrator for Jacobsen High School, Mr. Frazier reported on data and statistics from the 2006-2007 school year. He noted co-teaching and differentiated instruction was necessary due to having four teachers, students ranging from age twelve to sixteen, and student enrollment time averaging four and half to five months. The teaching environment was stated as being very good, with a nice facility using a standards based system. The Teach For Success protocol and a School Improvement Plan was in place. The specific goal at Jacobsen was for 100% of the students to achieve one year of growth in math, language, reading, and science, in four months time. Data reported included facts that 61% of students showed one year of growth in reading, 63% in language, and 65% in science. Future goals were reported to be continuing to increase the percentage of student growth in all areas. Professional development for the upcoming year would focus on co-teach strategies and refinement of research based, best instructional practices.

3-C. Legislative Update

Mrs. Lark presented a PowerPoint encompassing Senate and Assembly Bills passed in June that affect education. This legislative update addressed the Bills that would involve future decision-making by the Board. Mrs. Lark stated that DCSD had previously accomplished many items on the list, although some procedures would need to be fine-tuned to meet new requirements. Additional clarification from the State Department of Education would be obtained before writing some policies and implementing the variety of directives. Mrs. Lark reported that the State Department summary of Bills in the area of Education was a fifty-one page document that would be divided up amongst administration for perusal and implementation.

Several Boy Scouts arrived who were attending in order to obtain their Citizenship in the Community merit Badge.

Mr. Louritt called for a break at 5:35 p.m.

Public Comment

There was none.

4. Information and Discussion

Mr. Louritt called for Items 4-B and 4-C to be heard prior to 4-A.

4-B. Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) Report

Mr. Roman reported on the events of the June NIAA meeting. Stating that the decision was made that schools in the 4A division would remain under that designation and would not be changed, as previously discussed to 3A, he reported Whittell High could be affected, but Douglas High would realize no changes. Mr. Roman reported that schools located out of state would not be allowed in to the Nevada League in the near future. Teams from youth detention facilities were discussed and it was decided that at this time they could participate in scheduled events. Due to recently passed legislation, Mr. Roman stated student cases involving eligibility to play would not include allowing students to play prior to an arbitrator's decision in a case. In the past, relief had been granted and students played through the current season.

4-C. NASB Report

Mr. Louritt passed around a thank you card for Board members to review. It had been received from Dotty Merrill, NASB Executive Director, as a result of flowers given to her, for her help throughout the legislative session, on behalf of the Board at the July meeting.

4-A. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Lark briefly reported on recent year-end events, as well as, upcoming events. Graduations and Grad night were mentioned as having gone well with a large turnout of students participating at Grad Night. Three Whittell High School students were noted as having taken BYU classes that offered credit necessary for them to graduate. These students attended a separate graduation held with Mrs. Shannon and were appreciative of the help offered to them enabling them to graduate this year. Summer School was stated as currently underway, with approximately 30

students attending at the Lake, and 300 at Douglas High School. Additionally, Mrs. Lark reported having attended a NASA conference for two days, a Professional Standards Commission meeting, and having put a lot of time into legislative issues.

5. Items Requiring Discussion and Action (Action)

5-A. First Reading of Board Policy No. 219, "Selection of Textbooks and Other Instructional Materials"

Carol noted that an email regarding this item, from Mrs. Chessell, had been placed in the red folder due to her absence.

Mr. Cox first addressed changes he had submitted to the Board in their red folder that was additional to what had been received in their meeting packets. He noted that Mr. Malloy was in attendance at the previous meeting wherein issues were discussed and he had therefore worked with Mr. Alexander to revise the Administrative Regulation (AR). The new revisions provided this evening, were a result of Mr. Cox's further review of the AR and decision to delete redundancy, as well as, add videos to the list of materials, change the appeal process to include permission from the Superintendent or designee, and broaden language in the area of profanity. Mr. Cox added that the intent surrounding the revisions were to narrow down opinions offered by Trustees and obtain further direction.

This being a highly litigated issue, Mr. Cox reported that the area of free speech could not be encroached upon, but the U.S. Supreme Court granted districts control over profanity.

Mr. Cox reviewed a portion of the AR relating to parent notification that allowed a parent to opt out if concerned by information provided. Board members discussed this at length, including the format to be used and collection of forms, as would be necessary for student participation. Through discussion, it was decided clarification was necessary as to whether or not "written" authorization would be required, and if the notifications were to be mailed. Some questions raised were: Would parents be notified by mail? What would the timeframe be? Some expressed concern that a week was not sufficient. Would actual consent to participate be obtained? The possibility of a performance being cancelled due to parent objection was noted. The implementation of the consent process was compared to parental consent currently obtained for sexual education. Ultimately, timing and practicality decidedly needed clarification.

Next, discussion surrounded support of the administrators, as far as their decision to allow materials to be presented, vs. the need for Superintendent review. It was noted that to date, site administrators had not given input on proposed changes.

Another issue raised regarding performances, was whether or not they should be scrutinized for "pure artistic value." Mr. Cox stated he would review the revisions noting that performances could be held for not only a course of study, but also for artistic value.

Addressing profanity as written in the AR, Board members expressed their dislike for inclusion of profanity, and questioned wording that included "occasional use," as being acceptable. Allowance of specific cuss words was discussed, but the determination of a list of words found unacceptable was not created.

The practicality of notifying parents of possible questionable content in a course was reviewed. The consensus reached was that student handbooks could be updated to include this information.

These changes were reviewed as being to the Administrative Regulation, but it was also stated that the Policy needed review and change, as well.

Mr. Cox stated that changes would be made in the area of parent notification, and some language would be revised, including exclusions. He added that input from both the drama department and Mrs. Chessell would be helpful before a final determination could be made.

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence reported.

7. Possible Agenda Items for Future Board Meetings

Mr. Roman stated he would like to begin receiving information on the possibility of a bond. Mr. Louritt seconded the request for a staff report on the bond issue.

Mrs. Hales stated she would like to move forward with information on incentive pay for teachers including looking at deadlines for applying for funding. Mrs. Luna noted the necessity of this being brought up in negotiations.

Mr. Moore asked if a discussion was necessary regarding items being provided to the Board for information only, that were currently placed in Consent unnecessarily to be voted upon. Mr. Louritt responded that the agenda was decided upon prior to the public meeting and felt that documents submitted to the State should be reviewed.

Mrs. Hales inquired if there would be a report on any other energy saving options, other than what had been heard. She expressed a desire to have another company reviewed before implementation of a new program. Mr. Louritt stated that Mrs. Luna was working on other options that would be presented to the Board. Mrs. Hales stated she would email information regarding a company she had learned of.

8. Executive Session

There was none.

9. Adjournment

At 7:10 p.m., Mrs. Jamin moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Roman.

Submitted by:

Carolyn Moore
Secretary to the Superintendent and
Board of Trustees

Approved:

Clerk of the Board

Note: Upon approval by the Board of Trustees in a public meeting, these minutes become the official minutes of the meeting held on the above date. Board minutes are kept on a permanent basis and are available for public review in the office of the Superintendent.