

Douglas County School District
Regular Meeting
Douglas High School
Minden, Nevada
Tuesday, August 9, 2005
3:30 p.m.

**Minutes Approved on:
September 13, 2005**

MINUTES

Present were:

Trustees:

Sharla Hales, President
Teri Jamin, Clerk
Keith Roman, Member
John Louritt, Member
Ron Beck, Member
Cynthia Trigg, Member

Absent: Connie Wennhold, Vice President

Personnel:

John Soderman, Superintendent
Rick Kester, Director of Business Services
Rich Alexander, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Nancy Bryant, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services
Dr. Janice Florey, Director of Grants and Assessments
Norma Villasenor, Classified Personnel Director, Human Resources
Dr. Lisa Fontana, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Brian Frazier, Principal, C. C. Meneley Elementary
Keith Lewis, Vice Principal, Carson Valley Middle School
Dan Holler, Douglas County Manager
David Brady, County Commissioner

Others Present:

Mike Nivinskus, Legal Counsel

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Hales called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

A. Mr. Louritt led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Hales announced that recently adopted legislation requires all meetings of the Board of Trustees to be recorded and reviewed basic protocol to be followed for a successful recording. She then announced that Mrs. Wennhold was excused from this meeting due to a family

illness.

B. Mr. Louritt made a motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Ms. Jamin.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6/0.

2. Consent Items (Action)

Mr. Louritt made a motion to approve the following consent items, seconded by Mrs. Trigg:

- A. Approve the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on July 12, 2005
- B. Approve the Minutes of the Special Board meeting held on June 23, 2005
- C. Approve personnel actions described in Personnel Report No. 05-08.
- D. Approve payments contained in Voucher No. 1053 for the 2004-2005 fiscal year and Voucher No. 1054 for the 2005-2006 fiscal year.
- E. Excuse from compulsory attendance the students described in the Home School Report for August 2005.
- F. Authorize the District to apply for the signing bonus provided by Senate Bill 427.
- G. Approve the dual credit course additions to master list as submitted.
- H. Approve the recommendation to modify the 2005-06 calendar to have January 2, 2006 as a holiday and count the October 5, 2005 Inservice Day as a day in session for the 2005-06 school year only.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6/0.

3. Administrative Reports and Program Reviews

3-A. Principal's Report (C. C. Meneley Elementary)

C. C. Meneley Elementary Principal Brian Frazier presented a report on progress towards the goals of their School Improvement Plan. He reminded the Board that CCMES achieved "Adequate" status for a second year and described the programs in place in their efforts to keep the "Adequate" designation.

Mr. Frazier described the data that he and his staff are reviewing to meet the needs of students for the 2005-2006 school year and displayed a matrix illustrating the expected growth in Achievement Level Tests scores from Fall to Spring in each grade level. The matrix detailed the areas in which grade levels were at or above expected growth figures in language, math, and reading, and which grade levels were below growth expectations in each area. He also explained that his staff would be evaluating growth by subpopulations in the same manner.

Mr. Frazier presented a slide depicting CCMES' structure of decision-making, which consists of their Site Accountability Committee, and two committees that deal with various facets of the School Improvement Plan (Priority Needs Committee and School Improvement Planning

Team). Each staff member must choose a committee in which to participate (Reading, Math or Family Involvement).

Mr. Frazier concluded his presentation by displaying the priority needs areas in Reading, Math and Family Involvement and the tasks that each member of each committee would be focusing on this school year. He also explained the interventions in place for student remediation after the school day has ended.

Following questions and comments from the Board, Mr. Frazier was congratulated for the success towards his School Improvement Plan.

3-B. Report on Adequate Yearly Progress Designations

Dr. Janice Florey, Director of Grants and Assessments, presented the District's Adequate Yearly Progress designations to the Board of Trustees for school year 2004-2005. She explained the requirements that must be met in order for a school to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

She then announced the AYP designation of each school. All schools were "Adequate" or "High Achieving" with the exception of Pau-Wa-Lu Middle School, which is on the "Watch List" for their special education population's math achievement, and Douglas High School, which is designated as "Adequate." This places DHS in their first year on "Hold" or "Needs for Improve" status. If they make Adequate Yearly Progress next year, they will no longer have the "Needs to Improve" designation. She also mentioned that George Whittell High School received an "Exemplary" status.

She then provided an explanation of "Safe Harbor," whereby schools not meeting annual state objectives can make AYP if the percentage of students not proficient for a subgroup is reduced by 10% from the previous year. She also explained that the District's Achievement Level Tests contribute to the success of the District in meeting AYP.

She reminded the Board that the target scores had been raised for the 2004-2005 school year. The bar will be raised again in 2007-2008 and will continue to be raised until the ultimate goal of No Child Left Behind to have all students 100 percent proficient by 2013-2014 is reached.

She described the improvement in AYP of each school from the 2001-2002 school year to the 2004-2005 school year and clarified that as a district, we are "Adequate" across the Board at the elementary and high school level, but are on the watch list in math at the middle school. She mentioned that only five schools in the entire state of Nevada were designated "Exemplary" for the 2004-2005 school year, and George Whittell High School was one of the five. She then described the criteria that must be met to receive an "Exemplary" rating.

Mrs. Bryant thanked Dr. Florey for her hard work and diligence in appealing several of the original designations, which were miscalculated. The Nevada Department of Education concurred with every appeal made by Dr. Florey.

The Board and Mr. Soderman thanked Janice for her informative report on our District's AYP designations for the 2004-2005 school year.

3-C. Report on the DCSD Summer School Program for 2005

Dr. Lisa Fontana, Director of Curriculum and Instruction (Summer School Principal), and Keith Lewis, Vice Principal of CVMS (Summer School Administrator) presented to the members of the Board of Trustees and the public an administrative report on the Douglas County Summer School program for 2005.

Dr. Fontana provided an overview of the courses offered for the 2004-2005 summer school session, which focused on improving the students' performance on the Achievement Level Tests (ALT) and High School Proficiency Exams (HSPE) if the student was below grade level in their ALT score or not successful in passing their HSPE tests. In addition, one-week seminars were offered for students to complete their performance assessments of the business letter, research paper, science Inquiry/technical writing, and/or expository paper. A one-week 6th grade reading camp was also offered.

Dr. Fontana reviewed the logistical changes from last year's summer school session as compared to this year's session. Some of the changes highlighted were the reduction of sessions from two three-week sessions to one four-week session, the use of consistent curriculum provided by the district's Professional Development Center, the focus on assessment improvement instead of credit recovery, and the school day duration dropping from five hours for four days each week to three and one-half hours for five days each week. In addition, a fee was charged for students enrolling in assessment improvement courses, which was free for students last year.

Dr. Fontana explained that the enrollment criteria also changed this session. Only those students who were below grade level on the ALT test scores, not proficient on their HSPE, or have not completed a performance assessment were invited to attend. Entrance requirements were modified for approximately 20 ninth graders that were one-half credit deficient in order to move to the next grade, even though summer school did not offer credit recovery courses.

Mr. Lewis clarified that fee waivers were accepted at the parent's request, ensuring that students needing summer school were not left out. He presented the enrollment statistics for this year's session, which totaled 340 total students with only one session held (175 students participated in the ALT improvement courses, 33 students for HSPE courses, and 132 students that completed the one week afternoon sessions for the performance recovery offerings.)

Dr. Fontana stated that the student achievement data was exciting because all enrolled in the performance assessment course offerings completed their performance assessments, and 92 percent participating in the ALT improvement courses improved their test scores. She also recognized the outstanding teaching and support staff on hand this year.

The Board congratulated Mr. Lewis and Dr. Fontana for their evident successful summer

school session.

Mrs. Hales called for a brief recess at 4:57p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 5:13 p.m., and Mrs. Hales announced that Item 5-A, "Approval of Negotiated Agreement with the Douglas County Support Staff Organization (DCSSO), would be heard at the request of Ms. Villaseñor, followed by item 4-C, "High School Sites in the Carson Valley."

5. Items Requiring Discussion and Action (Action)

5-A. Approval of Negotiated Agreement with the Douglas County Support Staff Organization (DCSSO), an affiliate of the Nevada State Education Association

Mrs. Villaseñor, together with Mr. Scott Sanders, member of the Douglas County Support Staff Organization, provided the Board with an overview of the agreement reached between the Douglas County Support Staff Organization and the Douglas County School District as follows:

1. Two year agreement: 2005-2007
2. Sick Leave 8-1-A: Probationary employees are not eligible for sick leave during the probationary period, however, will be credited with sick leave earned during probationary period upon successful completion of probation. Establishes sick leave bank for catastrophic coverage using employee's own accumulated sick leave above allowable maximum.
3. Organization Leave 8-5-A: Increases leave from 10 to 15 days aggregate annually.
4. Professional Growth 8-7: Provides opportunity for employees to attend at least one District sponsored professional class/course based upon District needs on a yearly basis during a non-student workday.
5. Group Insurance 9-2: District will pay \$533.25 of employee's insurance premium for 2005-06 and any increase in the cost above insurance premium for the 2006-07 school year. Maintains Advisory Insurance Committee on an ongoing basis.
6. Compensation 14-1: Reflects a 2% salary increase with an additional .25% PERS adjustment for employer-paid PERS for 2005-06 and a 4% salary increase for 2006-07.
7. Compensation 14-6: Allows a principal to provide an annual stipend of \$500.00 to a qualified employee who provides bilingual clerical services outside the employee's regular workday for the benefit of the school.

Mrs. Hales called for public comment. There was none.

Mr. Louritt made a motion to approve the changes in the Negotiated Agreement reached by between the parties for the 2005-2007 school years and ratify a new Negotiated Agreement for 2005-07, seconded by Mrs. Jamin

Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6/0.

4. Information and Discussion

4-C. High School Sites in the Carson Valley (discussed before 4-A and 4-B)

Mr. Dan Holler, Douglas County Manager, and Mr. David Brady, County Commissioner, presented a topographic map of Douglas County and described the various areas of the County that are growing in population and housing developments. He explained that the transportation grid and commuter routes must also be considered when contemplating new school sites, as well as an area designated as a buffer zone between housing developments and the school site.

He described the location of several parcels in the northern portion of the county that will become available through the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service. In addition, he pointed out areas in south Douglas County off of Pinenut Road that could accommodate new school sites in the Ranchos area. He said that the Ranchos have a large receiving area, (about 550 acres) in various stages of development for a future elementary site. The county has asked that 300 acres be set aside by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for public purposes near the Rohenstroth Fairgrounds off of Pinenut Road. This area could incorporate a high school site, with the biggest challenges being access into the area (currently Pinenut Road and East Valley Road.) and infrastructure such as sewer. He stated that although this area has low land cost due to the purchase price of the BLM land, the infrastructure costs would be higher. He mentioned the possibility for an additional bus yard in that area for the District as well.

After Mr. Holler answered questions from the Board, Mr. Kester clarified that the District already patented 55 acres around Jacks Valley Elementary School, and the property directly to the east adjacent to Jacks Valley Elementary School has 21 acres with water rights where the District has always intended to build a middle school.

Following further questions and discussion, Mr. Soderman thanked Mr. Holler for addressing the Board regarding future school sites. He explained that the priority for the district is to secure a large high school site in the south county area near the fairgrounds. We may not need the site for some time, but it would be advantageous for the District to secure property at this time due to the low land cost in the area. In doing so, we could potentially move the 9th grade students back to high schools, lessening the population burden to the middle schools. The current trend in enrollment indicates that a new elementary school (based on current housing in the county) would not be a high priority at this time. Moreover, it was noted that elementary sites are easier to acquire from developers compared to high school sites.

Following questions, the Board thanked Mr. Holler for his informative presentation.

Public Comment

At 6:09 p.m., Mrs. Hales called for public comment.

Nancy Gardner approached the Board to finish reading her statement regarding her concerns about the administration at George Whittell High School that she had began to present at the July 2005 Board meeting.

Mrs. Hales announced that the Board would return to the "Information and Discussion" portion of the agenda.

4. Information and Discussion (continued)

4-A. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Soderman reported to the Board regarding the meetings and events he had participated in since the last Board meeting. He directed the Board's attention to the Superintendent's job description in their red folder and asked that they provide feedback at their earliest convenience. He also announced that Mr. Dan Wold had been selected as the Vice Principal at Kingsbury Middle School and would appear in the September 2005 personnel Report. He then reminded the Board of upcoming events that may be of interest to them.

4-B. NASB Director's Report

Mrs. Hales advised the Board that NASB did secede from the federation in order to focus their full attention on hiring a full-time director. She mentioned that although Randy Robison would not seek the position as director, he would still be a lobbyist for NASB.

5. Items Requiring Discussion and Action (Action) (continued)

5-B. Approval of Negotiated Agreement with the Douglas County Professional Educators Association (DCPEA) – (Item 5-A was addressed earlier on the meeting)

Mr. Soderman announced to the Board that the DCPEA had not yet ratified the Negotiated Agreement. Therefore, this item would need to be moved to the September 2005 Board meeting.

The Board took no action on this item.

5-C. Discussion and Consideration of an Amended Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Kester reminded the Board that at the Board July 12, 2005 Board meeting the Board discussed capital projects that should be considered for funding from the approximately \$1,500,000.00 proceeds from the recent sale of a 14.97 parcel of land adjacent to Piñon Hills Elementary School. He then provided a synopsis of the input received from the Board at the July 12, 2005 meeting and the resulting changes to the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan.

He highlighted some of the changes to the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan such as the

contribution to the DHS all-weather track project that is scheduled to begin in the summer of the 2005-2006 school year, and the construction of a 9,000 square foot permanent facility for the R.O.T.C. program slated to begin during the summer of the 2010-2011 school year.

After questions and further discussion, Mrs. Hales called for public comment. There was none.

Mr. Louritt made a motion to adopt the amended Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan for 2005-2006 through 2010-2011, seconded by Ms. Jamin.

Mrs. Hales commented that she was considering supporting the addition of elementary classrooms in the plan to decrease team teaching. However, based on the research she received regarding the effects of team teaching on student achievement, she felt that the research did not indicate that students suffer as a result of team teaching and that an ROTC program would be more beneficial to middle and high school students at this time.

Mrs. Hales called for a vote. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6/0.

6. Correspondence

Mrs. Hales directed the Board's attention to a letter in their red folder regarding the athletic trainer currently providing services at Douglas High School.

7. Possible Agenda Items for Future Board Meetings

Mr. Soderman advised that the process of searching for a Superintendent should begin as soon as possible since Superintendents are typically looking for jobs in January or February.

The Board directed Mr. Soderman to proceed with collecting proposals from Superintendent search firms.

Mrs. Trigg mentioned that she would like defensive driving and the driver's education program reviewed, supported by Mrs. Jamin.

Teri Jamin requested that Mr. Soderman follow up on the presentation by Mr. Holler with a letter clearly stating the priorities of the District. Mr. Soderman committed to doing so.

Mrs. Hales asked Mr. Soderman to contact Carson City School District regarding their position on a joint vocational high school with Douglas. Mr. Soderman committed to contacting Mrs. Pierczynski, Superintendent of the Carson City School District.

Mr. Roman requested that the Superintendent's evaluation currently scheduled in November to be moved before October 1st since current legislation requires that Superintendent's evaluations be held in open session after October 1, 2005. After further discussion, it was noted that the Board President and the Superintendent set the meetings under the Board

Bylaws. Therefore, they will make this decision.

8. Executive Session

There was no executive session.

9. Adjournment

At 7:10 p.m., Mrs. Jamin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Beck.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6/0.

Submitted by:

Rebecca C. Winter
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.