

MINUTES OF THE
Special Meeting of the
DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Southeast Region Center
5708 Mountain Vista Street
Las Vegas, NV 89120
January 30, 2006
10:00 a.m.

Present were:

Trustees:

Connie Wennhold	President
John Louritt	Vice President
Keith Roman	Member
Cynthia Trigg	Member

Members Not Present
were:

Karen Chessell	Member
Sharla Hales	Member
Teri Jamin	Member

Additional Team
Members Present:

Romelle Cronin- Principal/PHES
Martin Momsen- Teacher/PWLMS
Pam Henie – Classified Staff
Lorraine Vogel - Parent
John Soderman - Superintendent

1. Call to Order

Board President Connie Wennhold called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

- A. Mr. Louritt led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. Mr. Louritt made a motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Mrs. Trigg.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 4/0.

2. Information and Discussion

At 10:16 a.m. Dr. Lauren Kohut-Rost, Carol Lark's current supervisor and Southeast Region Superintendent along with George Ann Rice, Associate Superintendent Human Resources, met the group in the conference room at the Southeast Region Center. They each made statements about Carol and her performance, and answered questions asked by the visiting team. Strengths and qualities included her ability to hire well, her training and application of the interest based bargaining system, as well as the fact that teacher's in the schools that she had supervised do not tend to request transfers. They stated that she is also a creative thinker and a mentor to teachers and administrators alike. Areas of growth include more experience working with secondary schools and working with a larger budget.

At 10:50 a.m., the group was visited by various site administrators including Pat Skorkowsky, Middle School, Jean Donadio, High School, Lee Esplin, Elementary School, and Susan Smith, Elementary School. The site administrator group was joined by Board members Susan Brager-Wellman and Sheila Moulton. Again, each person made statements about Carol and provided the opportunity for questions to be asked and answered. Her strengths as a collaborator and ability to work with difficult parents were featured. Her experience with dealing with a difficult teacher that needed to be terminated, and the seven-day arbitration involved was explained additionally. Three of the administrators had been mentored in some fashion by Carol directly. Jean Donadio, principal of Boulder High School, said that her limited high school experience has not been a problem. There was a discussion about how the administrators were evaluated. They felt positive about their evaluation experience and that issues were brought to their attention as needed. They felt there was a very collaborative relationship.

At approximately 11:30 a.m. the administrators left and the two Board members, Susan Brager-Wellman and Sheila Moulton had the opportunity to visit with the team. Carol was described as a leader that develops leaders. She has had experience working with legislators, developed business partnerships, and is a creative, brilliant person. The people working with Carol have fun at the same time, while being productive. No negative comments or growth areas were suggested.

At 12:00 p.m. the team, with the exception of Mr. Soderman who visited with Carol in her office so she could ask questions about Douglas County School District and the superintendency, went to lunch at the Southeast Region VoTech High School (Culinary Center). Mrs. Soderman and Ms. Lark joined the team at lunch a little later.

At 1:20 p.m. all team members with the exception of John Louritt, went for a visit to Squires Elementary School. Mr. Louritt made phone calls from the office. Mr. Soderman visited more with Ms. Lark at that time to answer questions about Douglas County School District, how the superintendent develops goals, the superintendent contract, and how the superintendent is evaluated by the Board.

Reports from the Squires visit were that staff and administrators felt privileged to work with Carol.

The team returned to the office, meeting at 4:00 p.m. Each member of the team had a chance to summarize his or her experience and make a statement about Carol. They included that she built strong relationships and had a positive relationship with the employee associations. There was still some concern about her lack of secondary experience, however, she is known as a

collaborator, listener and problem solver, and would rise to the challenge. She was described as intelligent, motivating to others, and as having high expectations for teachers and administrators. It was commented that she would work well with the Board and promote strong community relationships. It was not believed that she would micro-manage, nor be autocratic and controlling. Her decision making style is described as collaborative and though there was some concern about making urgent decisions, it was felt that she would be able to do that. It was also commented by the two Clark County Board members who were very supportive, a growth area was that Carol is not experienced in special education due process, expulsions, principal selection, grievances and as large a budget as in Douglas County. However, overall she was described as a super candidate by all.

At 5:00 p.m. dinner was held at Bahama Breeze. Mr. Jim Hager, search consultant along with Carol and Mr. Lark joined the team for dinner.

At 6:30 p.m. the meeting was adjourned and the team returned to the airport for the flight home.

Public Comment

Mrs. Wennhold called for public comment at 6 :00 p.m. There was none.

3. Adjournment

Mr. Louritt made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Trigg.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote, 4/0.

Submitted by,

Carolyn Moore
Secretary to the 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.