

**Minutes Approved On:
September 14, 2004**

Douglas County School District

Regular Meeting

Douglas High School

Minden, Nevada

Tuesday, August 10, 2004

3:30 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mr. Louritt called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Present were:

Trustees:

John Louritt, President

Sharla Hales, Vice President

Connie Wennhold, Clerk

Keith Roman, Member

Don Forrester, Member

Loren Orr, Member

George Echan, Member (Arrived at 4:00 p.m.)

Personnel:

John Soderman, Superintendent

Rick Kester, Director of Business Services

Rich Alexander, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

Lisa Fontana, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Brian Frazier, Principal, C. C. Meneley Elementary

Jan Keith, Director of Special Services

Others Present:

Mike Nivinskus, Legal Counsel

A. Brian Frazier led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Mr. Forrester made a motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Mrs. Wennhold.

Mr. Louritt announced that Item 5C has been postponed at the request of the Douglas County Professional Employees Association.

Mr. Louritt called for a vote. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7/0.

2. Consent Items (Action)

Mrs. Wennhold made a motion to approve the following consent items, seconded by Loren Orr:

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 13, 2004

B. Personnel actions described in Personnel Report No. 04-08 as follows:

2-B Personnel Report Number 04-08				
2004-2005 SCHOOL YEAR - HIRING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL:				
Name	Position/Location	Effective Date	Salary	Replacing
Sherrill Sundell	Help Desk Support Tech-Comp Services	7-16-04	26EE3	Kristen Anderson
Ann Warrell	Cashier/Helper – KMS	8-30-04	10EE1	New Position
Linda VanDerSluis	Cashier/Helper – ZCES/GWHS	8-30-04	10EE1	New Position
Donna Gilio	Cashier/Helper – JVES	8-11-04	10SS1	Vivian Singer
Natalie Vogt	Special Ed Aide/IEP – KMS	8-30-04	11EE1	New Position
Cecilia Brooks	Special Ed Aide/IEP – CCMES (5 hr)	8-11-04	11EE1	Tisha Rice
CLASSIFIED RESIGNATIONS:				
Name	Position/Location	Effective Date		
Kathleen Oaks	Special Ed Aide /IEP – GWHS	6-11-04		
Meghan Proffitt	Custodian – MES	8-10-04		
Michael Reid	Playground Aide – MES	6-17-04		
Kelli Hoshizaki	Playground Aide – ZCES	6-17-04		
CLASSIFIED CHANGES:				
Name	Former Position	New Position		
Melinda Schuler	Special Ed Aide/IEP – CVMS	Special Ed Aide/IEP – DHS		
Donna Browder	Special Ed Aide/IEP – CCMES	ECE Special Ed Aide – CCMES		
Leona Pupich	Assistant Cook – MES	Assistant Cook - SES		
Sandy Lampson	Special Ed Aide/IEP – JVES	Special Ed Aide/IEP - PHES		
CERTIFIED RETIRES FOR 2004-2005				
Name	Position/Location			
Mike Kiger	Teacher/GWHS			
Shirley Brandt	Teacher/DHS			
CERTIFIED RESIGNATIONS FOR 2004-2005:				
Name	Position/Location			
Justin Pruett	Teacher/PWLMS			
CERTIFIED HIRES FOR 2004-2005:				
Name	Position/Location			
Carolyn Graham	Teacher/CCMES			
Sarah Hillenbrand	Teacher/PHES			
Jacqueline Petrosky	Teacher/PWLMS			
Mike Reynolds	Teacher/CVMS			
Nancy Stiles	Teacher/DW			
Angela Trombley	Psychologist/DW			
Laura Williams	Teacher/JVES			
David Trujillo	Teacher/PWLMS			
Jeff Hendricks	Teacher/PWLMS			
RECOMMENDATION:		Ratify or approve personnel actions described in Personnel Report No. 04-08		

C. Payments contained in Accounts Payable Voucher 1039 for FY 2003-2004 and Voucher 1004 for

D. Excuse from compulsory attendance the following students:

Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Bullis – 12 year-old son, 7 th grade. Fifteenth year homeschooling. Performance objectives delineated.
Mr. Lyle Freeman – 17 year-old son, 12 th grade. Seventh year homeschooling. Performance objectives delineated.
Ms. Maika Dunbar-Alcalde – 17 year-old son, 12 th grade. Sixteenth year homeschooling. Performance objectives delineated.
Ms. Pam Silvis – 14 year-old son, 9 th grade. Seventh year homeschooling. Performance objectives delineated.
Mr. and Mrs. Barry Simpson – 14 year-old daughter, 10 th grade; 12 year-old son, 7 th grade; 10 year-old son, 5 th grade; 7 year-old son, 3 rd grade. Eleventh year homeschooling. Performance objectives delineated.
Ms. Ann Tisue – 12 year-old son, 6 th grade; 10 year-old daughter, 5 th grade. Seventh year homeschooling. Performance objectives delineated.
Ms. Alesia McHugh – 13 year-old son, 8 th grade; 8 year-old son, 3 rd grade. Second year homeschooling. Performance objectives delineated.
Mr. and Mrs. John Bellotti – 16 year-old daughter, 10 th grade. First year homeschooling. Using an approved correspondence program. Performance objectives delineated.
Ms. Cynthia Hansen – 10 year-old daughter, 5 th grade; 8 year-old daughter, 3 rd grade. First year homeschooling. Using a home educator consultant. Performance objectives delineated.
Ms. Dawn Lee – 7 year-old son, 2 nd grade. Second year homeschooling. Performance objectives delineated.
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Fierle – 13 year-old daughter, 8 th grade; 15 year-old daughter, 10 th grade. Eleventh year homeschooling. Performance objectives delineated.
Mr. and Mrs. Matt Furry – 12 year-old daughter, 8 th grade; 8 year-old daughter, 3 rd grade; 11 year-old daughter, 5 th grade. Fifth year homeschooling. Performance objectives delineated.
Ms. Heather Bradley – 10 year-old daughter, 5 th grade; 8 year-old daughter, 3 rd grade. 4 th year homeschooling. Performance objectives delineated.
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kirchner – 8 year-old son, 3 rd grade; 7 year-old daughter, 2 nd grade. Third year homeschooling. Performance objectives delineated.
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Pommer – 15 year-old daughter, 11 th grade; 11 year-old daughter, 6 th grade; 8 year-old daughter, 3 rd grade. Eleventh year homeschooling. Performance objectives delineated.
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Meeks – 10 year-old daughter, 5 th grade; 12 year-old daughter, 6 th grade. Second year homeschooling. Performance objectives delineated.
Ms. Marie Smith – 13 year-old daughter, 8 th grade. Third year homeschooling. Performance objectives delineated.
Mr. Gerald Nott – 14 year-old daughter, 9 th grade. First year homeschooling. Using an approved correspondence program. Performance objectives delineated.
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Clark – 15 year-old son, 9 th grade. Third year homeschooling. Using an approved correspondence program. Performance objectives delineated.
Mr. and Mrs. Brent Guddat – 16 year-old daughter, 11 th grade. Eleventh year homeschooling. Performance objectives delineated.
Ms. Katherine Funk – 7 year-old son, 1 st grade. First year homeschooling. Using an approved correspondence program. Performance objectives delineated.
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Arnaud – 16 year-old son, 12 th grade. Fifth year homeschooling. Using an approved correspondence program. Performance objectives delineated.

RECOMMENDATION: Excuse from compulsory attendance the students described above for the 2004-2005 school year.

- E. Second Reading and Adoption of Board Policy 518 – “Graduation Requirements”
- F. Second Reading and Adoption of Bylaw No. 060 – “Meetings”
- G. Second Reading and Adoption of Board Policy 902 – “Communication With the Board and Public Comment”

- H. Authorize the District to apply for the signing bonuses provided by Senate Bill 427.
- I. 2004-2005 Additions to Dual Credit Courses Master List

Mr. Louritt called for public comment. Hearing none, Mr. Louritt called for a vote on the motion.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7/0.

Mr. Soderman introduced Jan Keith as new Director of Special Services. He announced that Mrs. Keith was a special education teacher at PHES and the administrator for the 2003-2004 summer school session. He stated that she is working with Mr. Casey to get up to speed with the requirements of this new position and is doing a wonderful job.

3. Administrative Reports and Program Reviews

A. Principal's Report

Mr. Brian Frazier, Principal, C. C. Meneley Elementary School, presented his school's School Improvement Plan. He began his presentation by reminding the Board that his school was on the "Watch List" in four areas for the 2003-2004 school year. He announced that, due to his staff's diligence and dedication, his school has been removed from the "Watch List" in all areas. He explained that testing data was evaluated and students were divided into appropriate skill groups in order to focus on areas of need in math in grades 3, 5 and 6. For fourth grade, the focus was on writing skills based on student achievement level test results in language arts, baseline writing samples, and previous state writing assessments results. He provided Criterion Referenced Test (CRT) results for 2004 that showed increased growth in subpopulations in reading and math. As an example, the growth in 5th grade math increased from 46 percent to 69 percent proficient.

Regarding CCMES' School Improvement Plan, Mr. Frazier mentioned that his school had participated in the Dr. Leitner trainings and are developing their SIP using the SAGE model. He stated that this school year, CCMES would continue to address the needs of the student by disaggregating the subpopulation and testing data. All teachers will be involved in some fashion in groups designed to implement, review, and revise the action plan in literacy, math, and family involvement. They will continue with flexible groups in math in grades 3, 5, 6 and add 4th grade this school year.

He concluded by thanking the District staff for their help in analyzing data and developing their School Improvement Plan, as well as Sherry Smokey for her work with their Native American student subpopulation.

After answering questions from the Board, Mr. Frazier was congratulated by the Board and Superintendent for CCMES' successes in removing his school from the "Watch List" and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

4. Information and Discussion

A. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Soderman began his report by stating that four schools were on the "Watch List" in 2003-2004: Douglas High School, Scarselli Elementary, Carson Valley Middle School, and C. C. Meneley Elementary School. This year, all but Douglas High School are off the "Watch List." Douglas High School is "In Needs to Improve" because of failure to test 95 percent of all special education students. 93 percent were tested. He announced that all three lake schools (Zephyr Cove Elementary, Kingsbury Middle School, and George Whittell High School), as well as Pau-Wa-Lu Middle School, have been named "High Achieving."

He announced that Health Aides have been hired - one each for Kingsbury Middle School, Douglas High School, and one at Scarselli Elementary School. He commented that the new Chief Nurse will update all school health staff concerning West Nile Virus so nurses know what to look for and what protocol to use in the event a student contracts the virus. He stated that Mr. Ron Lynch has fogged all sites for mosquitoes in an attempt to lessen the danger of contracting the virus at school sites. Grounds and maintenance personnel are looking at wet spots where mosquitoes might breed. Because pesticides cannot be used at Lake Tahoe, there is no lake solution for mosquito abatement at this time.

Mr. Soderman read a list of summer construction that had been completed and congratulated Mr. Kester and all the staff responsible for getting the job done before school starts. He also mentioned that the parents of Nicole Snyder, the student that was killed in an automobile accident over the summer, are planning to start a scholarship in Nicole's name. More information on this scholarship would be provided as received from the Snyders.

He announced that the District might have more enrollees than expected in elementary grades, but less in secondary in part due to the charter school. He concluded by providing the Board with upcoming events, such as the District Picnic on August 26 at the Corley Ranch, and Communications meetings that would be held in the coming month.

B. NASB Director's Report

Mrs. Hales reported on the NASB meeting in which the Education First and National Average initiatives were discussed. She announced that the State Board of Education voted to support both the Education First Initiative and the National Average Initiative at their March, 2004 meeting. She speculated that the initiatives could be more politically motivated than truly helpful. An unwanted side effect of Education First could be that education may actually be funded at lower amounts in order to reserve funds for other things like fire and police services. The NASB felt there was nothing to be gained in formally supporting either initiative. The NASS is focusing on the iNVEST Plan.

She reported that NASB directors feel that unless focus is directed to one plan (iNVEST), the impact is less because the voice is not as strong. The Education First initiative provides money for education without a plan for where the money should be spent, without a showing of how much is needed and without requiring accountability. Mr. Forrester commented that although it seems to be a good idea to support initiatives that give money to schools, it could hurt NASB's lobbying power if we take money but have no accountability to show it is helping. He stated that the NASB and NASS have no formal position and favor focusing on the iNVEST Plan.

Mrs. Hales concluded by sharing her experience with the P-16 counsel, which is a group that examines ways to decrease remediation at the college level. She stated that the American Diploma Project studied Nevada and four other states to determine whether a high school diploma prepared student for college or good paying job out of high school. She shared that Texas HSPE has two cut scores - one for meeting the graduation requirement and one for college preparedness. The Board of Regents is working on what a fourth year of math would entail to prepare students for college. They are also looking at additional science requirements and a senior English class with a composition component.

5. Items Requiring Discussion and Action

A. Approval of General Fund Contingency Transfer of \$195,000.00 to Fund the Purchase of Three School

Buses

Mr. Kester stated that the district needed three additional busses this school year due to the Carpenter bus issues. Carpenter buses have been found to be defective in some aspects of the structural components of the roof. These defects, which are not resolvable by turning to the manufacturer since they are no longer in business, are primarily an issue in a rollover accident. This problem came to light nationally approximately a year ago, and the Nevada Department of Education and the Nevada Highway Patrol have adopted a semi-annual inspection procedure to eliminate the buses from use that continue to show defective welds and structural integrity.

Up until the latest Highway Patrol inspection of our buses in July of 2004, the District had lost only one of the Carpenter buses due to defects. Districts are allowed to repair cracks one time before buses are declared defective. If cracks reappear on a subsequent inspection after welding, or if the initial crack in the frame is severe enough the first time, the Highway Patrol requires that the bus be taken out of service. In the latest July inspection, the District took eight Douglas County School District buses out of service because cracks appeared following previous repair. This increased our total buses lost to nine. Of the 19 Carpenter bodied buses remaining, ten have had previous cracks discovered and have been repaired (welded) and nine remain crack free.

Because of the likely potential of losing more buses in the next inspection in January from the ten buses that have been repaired, it is necessary to speed up the District bus replacement schedule and purchase three more buses in this fiscal year. The District will purchase these buses off an already existing school district bid.

He stated that Administration will be looking at buying two or three additional good used buses from existing accounts within the 2004-05 budget. These buses, along with an increase in the purchase of new buses in 2006-07 from our usual purchase of 3 or 4 to 6 or 7, should allow the District to maintain our bus fleet size and not impact transportation schedules at the student level.

After further discussion, Mr. Louritt called for public comment. Hearing none, Mr. Echan made a motion to approve the transfer of \$195,000.00 from the District's 2004-2005 general fund contingency account for the purchase of three new school buses in the 2004-2005 fiscal year, seconded by Mr. Forrester.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7/0.

B. Representative to the Lake and Valley Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Soderman reminded the Board they asked the administration to explore the idea of having a liaison to the Tahoe Douglas and Carson Valley Chambers of Commerce. He explained that he contacted both Chambers, and they welcomed any Board member that would like to be involved in the Chamber. There are no fees involved, and representatives would be non-voting members. The duties of the representative would be to report on education-related matters and to keep apprised of Chamber matters. He stated that the Carson Valley Chamber meets on the first Wednesday of every month at the Chamber of Commerce Building, and the Tahoe Chamber of Commerce meets the first Tuesday of the each month at various Tahoe area locations.

Mr. Louritt called for public comment. Hearing none, discussion continued on the matter.

Mr. Echan provided a brief history of the Board's prior involvement in the Lake's Chamber of Commerce. He explained that during his first or second term on the Tahoe/Douglas Chamber of Commerce, it was mentioned that it would be a good idea to have an education committee. At that time, a student

representative from George Whittell High School was invited to attend the Chamber meetings. Although he is not against an honorary position for a Board member at the Chamber of Commerce, he did not remember one ever being created in the past. He cautioned that the Lake Chamber of Commerce requires that you attend at least quarterly and that the Chamber is very focused on Lake issues.

Mr. Orr commented that it is a good open door opportunity to have a presence in the community and that the amount of time invested would be time well spent.

Mrs. Wennhold made a motion to approve consideration of appointment of trustee representatives to serve as liaisons to the Tahoe Douglas and Carson Valley Chambers of Commerce, seconded by Mr. Orr.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7/0.

After further discussion, Mr. Louritt called for public comment. Hearing none, Mr. Forrester made a motion to appoint Loren Orr as the School Board Trustee representative to the Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce and to appoint Mr. Echan as the representative to the Tahoe/Douglas Chamber of Commerce. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hales.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7/0.

C. Level III Grievance, Mc Gee II

Mr. Louritt announced that this item had been postponed at the request of the DCPEA.

At 4:55, Mr. Louritt called for public comment. Hearing none, he announced that public comment would be called again at 6:00 p.m. and that the Board would continue with the remaining agenda items.

6. Correspondence

Mr. Forrester mentioned that the information provided in his mail packet regarding new state policy on serving healthier foods in schools was very informative and interesting.

7. Possible Agenda Items for Future Board Meetings

Mr. Forrester asked that the iNVEST plan, the National Average Initiative, and the Education First initiative be placed on the Agenda for discussion and possible action.

8. Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Mr. Louritt called for a recess at 5:11 p.m. and stated that the Board would reconvene at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of hearing public comment.

At 5:15 p.m., (during the break), Mr. Echan, Mr. Forrester, and Mr. Roman left the meeting.

Public Comment

At 6:01 p.m. Mr. Louritt called for public comment. There was none.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Orr made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Wennhold.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 4/0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

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.