

Douglas County School District
Regular Meeting
Kingsbury Middle School
Stateline, Nevada
Tuesday, March 8, 2005
3:30 p.m.

**Minutes Approved on:
April 12, 2005**

MINUTES

Present:

Trustees:

Sharla Hales, President
Connie Wennhold, Vice President
Loren Orr, Clerk
John Louritt, Member
Cynthia Trigg, Member
Teri Jamin, Member

Personnel:

John Soderman, Superintendent
Rick Kester, Director of Business Services
Rich Alexander, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Roy Casey, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services
Lisa Fontana, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Nancy Bryant, Principal, Piñon Hills Elementary School
Marty Swisher, Principal, Carson Valley Middle School
Chris Perdomo, Principal, Zephyr Cove Elementary School
Konnie Susich, Teacher, Zephyr Cove Elementary
Johanne Raymond, Teacher, Zephyr Cove Elementary
Diane Drumm, Teacher, Zephyr Cove Elementary
Lindsay Lucas, Teacher, Zephyr Cove Elementary
Mikell Peacock, Teacher, Zephyr Cove Elementary
Sarah Flanagan, Teacher, Zephyr Cove Elementary

Others Present:

Mike Nivinskus, Legal Counsel
Johnelle Prado, Parent

Absent: Keith Roman, Member

1. Call to Order

Board President Sharla Hales called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

A. Mrs. Trigg led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Mrs. Hales announced that the Supervised Physical Education matter that the Board requested to be addressed at the February 8, 2005 meeting would not be heard at this meeting, as more research on the subject is needed. She assured the Board that the matter would be heard when the administration is prepared to do so.

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

Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6/0.

2. Consent Items

Mrs. Hales called for public comment on the items in the consent agenda. There was none.

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

- A. Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 8, 2005
- B. Approve the Minutes of Special Board Workshop on February 22, 2005
- C. Approve personnel actions described in Personnel Report No. 05-03 as follows:

2004-2005 SCHOOL YEAR - HIRING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL:				
Name	Position/Location	Effective Date	Salary	Replacing
Tara Marino	Special Ed Aide/IEP – JVES	2-7-05	14EE1	Adam Beaty
Michele Lopez	School Secretary – PHES	2-14-05	23EE1	Whitney Lehr
Nicholas Gitthens	Custodian – GES	2-14-05	23EE1	New Position
CLASSIFIED RESIGNATIONS:				
Name	Position		Effective Date	
Edward "Tony" King	School to Career Internship Assistant – DHS/GWHS		1-31-05	
Bret Sandborn	Groundsperson – Maintenance		3-11-05	
CLASSIFIED TERMINATIONS:				
Name	Position		Effective Date	
Adam Beaty	Special Ed Aide/IEP – JVES		2-2-05	
CLASSIFIED CHANGES:				
Name	Former Position	New Position		Effective Date
Sean Taylor	Computer Specialist – Computer Services	Computer Systems Analyst – Computer Services		2-25-05
CLASSIFIED RETIREMENTS:				
Name	Position		Effective Date	
Deneva Moore	School Secretary – KMS		6-30-05	
CERTIFIED REQUEST FOR LEAVE (SHORT TERM):				
Name	Position/Location	Date(s)	Action	
Mark Lilly	Teacher/DHS	2/22/2005	Unpaid Leave	
CERTIFIED REQUEST FOR LEAVE (LONG TERM):				
Name	Position/Location	Dates		Reason for Leave
Karen Green	Teacher/CVMS	2005/2006 School Year		5-A

C. Personnel Report 05-03 (continued)

CERTIFIED RETIREMENT:		
Name	Position/Location	Date
Joel Brodkey	Teacher/Tahoe Detention Facility	End of 2004/2005 Contract
Dee Robinson	Teacher/ZCES	End of 2004/2005 Contract
Melinda Ristow	Teacher/PWLMS	End of 2004/2005 Contract
Nancy Rollston	Principal/KMS	End of 2004/2005 Contract
Teresa Masterson	Counselor/CVMS	End of 2004/2005 Contract
Mary Roman	Teacher/PWLMS	End of 2004/2005 Contract
Jim Bell	Teacher/CVMS	End of 2004/2005 Contract
Linda Bell	Teacher/CVMS	End of 2004/2005 Contract
CERTIFIED TRANSFERS FOR 2005-2006:		
Name	Transfer to Position/Location	Transfer from Position/Location:
Martin Swisher Jr.	Principal/DHS	Principal/CVMS
<p>Mark Van Voorst, current principal assigned to Douglas High School, asked the Superintendent to be reassigned to another administrative position within the District for the 2005-2006 school year, creating an opening for the principal position at Douglas High School. The Superintendent called all current principals to see if there was any interest on the part of any principal in transferring to Douglas High School. After completing those discussions the Superintendent has selected Marty Swisher to fill the Douglas High School principal position starting in the 2005-2006 school year.</p> <p>Mr. Swisher, a Whittell High School graduate, has been in the district for many years. He has served with distinction as a middle and high school teacher, as well as a middle school principal. He has proven his leadership and talents in both capacities, and Mr. Soderman is recommending his transfer from Carson Valley Middle School to Douglas High School starting in the 2005-2006 school year.</p>		

D. Approve the payments contained in Accounts Payable Voucher Number 1033 for fiscal year 2004-2005.

E. Excuse from compulsory attendance the following students for the 2004-2005 school year:

Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell Fischman – 15 year-old daughter, 10 th grade. Fourth year homeschooling. Performance objectives delineated.
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Hart – 17 year-old son, 11 th grade. First year homeschooling. Performance objectives delineated.
Mr. & Mrs. John Price – 14 year-old daughter, 9 th grade. First year homeschooling. Using an approved correspondence program. Performance objectives delineated.
Mrs. Margaret Sever – 13 year-old son, 7 th grade. First year homeschooling. Using a home educator consultant. Performance objectives delineated.
Mrs. Marie Smith – 10 year-old son, 5 th grade. First year homeschooling. Performance objectives delineated.
Mrs. Trish Smith-Robinson – 16 year-old son, 11 th grade. Second year homeschooling. Using an approved correspondence program. Performance objectives delineated.

F. Approve the request submitted by Brittany S. Nau, Christy Lopes, Elliot Liebowitz, and Rachel Lynne Freeman to take the GED examination.

G. Approve for Second Reading and Adopt Bylaw 060, "Meetings."

- H. Approve the reorganization of the principal position at Kingsbury Middle School to a vice principal position with an increased responsibility factor and a 215 day contract beginning the 2005-2006 school year.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6/0.

3. Administrative Reports and Program Reviews

A. Principal's Report (Zephyr Cove Elementary School)

Zephyr Cove Elementary Principal Christine Perdomo and her School Improvement team presented a report on the progress made toward the goals of their School Improvement Plan. Mrs. Perdomo shared Fall Achievement Level Test data from the 2001-2002 school year to the current 2004-2005 school year, as well as Criterion Reference Tests, Terra Nova, and Iowa Test of Basic Skills results.

Mrs. Susich, Mrs. Raymond, and Mrs. Perdomo shared the results of perception surveys collected in which parents, teachers, and students responded to questions concerning their perception of strengths and weaknesses at Zephyr Cove Elementary School. Each team member then reported their progress towards goals in math, reading, and parent involvement.

Mr. Orr asked why 71 percent of the teachers answered "no" to the question, "Do you believe all students can master more advanced skills." Mrs. Susich and Mrs. Perdomo answered that it is more a problem with the wording of the question than a belief that students cannot master advanced skills. Mrs. Susich added that teachers realize that not all students would master higher levels skills, especially for special education students. Mrs. Perdomo stated that with the right teaching strategies, special education students can experience growth, but perhaps not advanced skills.

The Board thanked Mrs. Perdomo and her School Improvement team for their presentation and congratulated them for attaining "high achieving school" status.

4. Information and Discussion

A. Discussion of the Assembly entitled "Teen Dating Violence" sponsored by the Kiwanis Club and Family Support Counsel.

Karen Edwards, Executive Director of the Family Support Council, along with Sondra Condon, representing the Kiwanis club, extended an invitation to Board members to attend the upcoming optional assembly entitled "Teen Dating Violence" that will be held at Douglas High School on April 19, 2005, and the evening event on April 20, 2005, at the CVIC Hall in Minden. Lori Fralick Ombudsman, who is heading an Initiative through the Attorney General's Office, will be giving the presentations in April.

Mrs. Edwards and Ms. Condon explained that this presentation is the result of the Purple Ribbon Coalition that consists of various community organizations such as Kiwanis, 20/30 Club, Sertoma, and Soroptomist. This assembly will help parents and teens to identify signs of domestic violence, and inform them where they can go for help.

The Board thanked Mrs. Edwards and Ms. Condon for the invitation.

B. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent John Soderman began his report by asking that Board members review the signup sheet for Communications meetings at the sites and indicate which meeting they would like to attend. He provided an overview of the various meetings and events he had attended since the last Board meeting. He mentioned that he testified for three hours at the State Legislature regarding iNVest, which is encouraging since there seemed to be much more interest than in past Legislative hearings.

He reminded the Board that he will be addressing parent concerns regarding Lake school consolidations in the near future, and informed them of other events and meetings in which that they might wish to participate.

C. Nevada Association of School Board (NASB) Director's Report

Mrs. Hales reported to the Board regarding issues discussed at the March 5, 2005, NASB Director's meeting. She announced that the Annual Conference will be held October 6 – 9, 2005, in Las Vegas. She stated that the biggest news at the meeting was that NASB is considering terminating their membership in NSBA because Nevada has the smallest membership and, therefore, the smallest budget. She explained that, because of the way the dues are structured, Nevada pays up to nine percent to the National Association. Other states pay an average of two to three percent of their budget and are able to bring in money to financially bolster their state's association. Curt Chapman, President of NASB and Randy Robison, NASB Director, asked the National Association for flexibility in dues, and the association declined this request. Mr. Chapman and Mr. Robinson subsequently discovered that states can ask that a committee be formed to examine their dues, but the Association said that the bylaws were changed some time ago, and the provision to ask a committee to be formed to review dues no longer exists. They did, however, offer a payment plan. If the state is not a member of the National Association, individual districts can no longer be members, either.

Mr. Louritt recollected that the Board voted to discontinue membership to the National Affiliation so that those dues could go towards the increased dues for the National Association and that the increase in dues was necessary to provide some of the services lost by dropping the Affiliation membership. He stated that NASB should return some portion of the dues collected from each district if it plans to terminate membership with NSBA.

Sharla announced that a program known as "America Schools" helps raise money for schools by recycling empty ink cartridges and used cell phones and suggested that this might be a program worth participating in some time in the future.

Regarding legislative issues, Sharla shared that Randy Robinson asked the districts to generate an e-mail contact list for occasions when he needs to generate support for legislative issues. He could then ask that community members contact their legislator very quickly prior to legislative issues being heard. Randy also advised the Board members at the meeting that the property tax is consuming the legislature's calendar at present, but that issue has a March deadline and more education issues can then be addressed. One of those issues will likely deal with the error that Washoe and Clark County have in their accounting where their budget fails to reflect expenses of approximately \$68 million. The affects of this on school districts is that the state will likely ask for that money first before they can ask for any money statewide.

Ms. Jamin shared her experience at the recent New Board Member Orientation held in Carson City. She said that, in addition to a refresher on the topics covered at the Elko NASB conference, she enjoyed the presentation on engaging the public and making them feel welcome at Board meetings. The workshop on personality and communication styles emphasized that flexibility is key in a Board's success.

D. Review and Discussion of Enrollment and Facility Issues at Lake Tahoe Schools

Mr. Rick Kester, Director of Business Services, illustrated the declining enrollment pattern at Douglas County School District's three schools at Lake Tahoe. He explained that the Administration believes that the steadily declining enrollment patterns at Lake Tahoe, from 942 students in 1997-98 to 631 students currently, strongly supports the notion that consolidation of schools at the Lake needs to be considered for the future. The actual loss of 311 students in the last eight years and the expected loss of approximately another 100 students over the next five years, may require that some consolidation and reconfiguration of schools take place in order to provide Lake Tahoe students a quality education in an efficient manner.

He stated that, at this time, the Administration's preference is that Zephyr Cove Elementary contain students in grades K – 6, and Whittell High School contain grades 7 – 12. He assured the Board that this discussion would be brought before the Board again in November or December 2005 once enrollment figures have been reported for the 2005-2006 school year. In conclusion, he stated that although the decision to consolidate schools is not financially driven, it should not be ignored that consolidation would save the District approximately \$850,000.

Mrs. Trigg asked Mr. Kester to generate a comparative analysis that would indicate the savings to the district generated by closing each school site. Mr. Kester committed to producing that report, but commented that the savings would amount to about the same no matter which school was closed.

Before calling for public comment, Sharla announced that the Board is committed to hearing as much public comment on this issue as possible, and that there would be many more opportunities in the future to voice concerns.

Sue Scharer, Chris Sullivan, Kathy Percival, and Sally Swoger, parents of Kingsbury Middle School students, stated their concerns of having 7th grade students at the same site as 12th graders. They would prefer a K-8 elementary school and a high school of 9th – 12th grade students. Having a K-8 elementary next to the high school would also benefit academically advanced middle school-aged students as they could possibly attend high school classes, such as math.

A question was asked about a departmentalized 6th grade. A Zephyr Cove Elementary teacher responded that she participated in this type of environment for 6th graders in the past and found that 6th grade students lack the maturity to handle departmentalization.

In response to a question regarding how intramural sports will be handled for middle school athletes, Mr. Soderman answered that intramural sports would remain the same - middle school teams would compete with other middle school teams. Several parents also expressed their concerns about the lack of "Ski P.E." in the current curriculum.

Mrs. Hales thanked the parents for sharing their concerns and called for a brief recess at 5:38 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 6:00 p.m.

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

5. Items Requiring Discussion and Action

A. Adoption of Property Sale Resolution (Resolution No. 05-01) for the Sale of 14.97 Acres Parcel of Land Adjacent to Piñon Hills Elementary School

Mr. Kester reminded the Board that, at the February 8, 2005 Board meeting, they authorized the Administration to commence procedures for the sale of a 14.97-acre parcel of land next to Piñon Hills Elementary School by public auction. They also authorized the Administration to hire appraisers as required by NRS 393.240 and prepare a property sale resolution declaring the Board's intention to sell the property to the highest qualifying bidder to be acted upon at this Board meeting.

Mr. Kester reminded the Board that this 29.08 acres property was originally purchased at a cost of \$401,670.00 in 1993 to serve as a site for Piñon Hills Elementary. The school was built on the northern part of the site consuming a total of approximately 14 acres of the parcel. The remaining portion of the property is nearly 15 acres and is not included in the District's plans as a future additional school site. This parcel of land is not large enough for a middle school site, has difficult drainage issues for large buildings such as schools, and does not fit into District plans for a school site. The district has an excellent 20-acre middle school site next to Jacks Valley Elementary School in Northern Douglas County. The appraised value and confirmation set the selling price at \$1.5 million. He directed the Board's attention to the timeline provided in their Board packet and described the various deadlines that must be met in selling this property.

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

Mr. Louritt made a motion to Adopt Resolution Number 05-01, seconded by Mrs. Trigg.

Before a vote was taken on the motion, Mrs. Jamin asked if the proceeds from the sale of this property have been earmarked for any projects. Mr. Kester answered that it has not, and explained that the money can only be used for capital improvements.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6/0.

B. Review and Update of the District's Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Kester explained that, in preparations for completion of the District's 2005-06 tentative budget that will be presented to the Board of Trustees on April 12, 2005, the he would like to review with the Board a revised five-year capital improvement plan and major maintenance projects scheduled for inclusion in that budget. A five-year capital improvement plan is also required by Nevada Revised Statutes.

He reviewed the plan and highlighted various projects, such as the new roof at Jacks Valley Elementary and C.C. Meneley Elementary School, the addition of a classroom pod at Minden Elementary, and an addition to the District office. He stated that the plan has also been extended through fiscal year 2009-10.

Regarding Douglas County redevelopment, Mr. Kester informed the Board that the District has been assured partial funding for improvement projects at Jacks Valley Elementary School, but there is no firm commitment and we cannot wait until the funds materialize to proceed with projects such as roof replacements and HVAC repairs.

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

After further discussion and questions from the Board, Connie Wennhold made the motion to approve the District's updated Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan with the understanding that the District aggressively pursue the funding from the county's redevelopment fund for Jack's Valley's improvements. Mrs. Jamin seconded the motion.

Mr. Orr shared his concern about placing the county redevelopment provision in the Board's action, as the District does not have control over Douglas County redevelopment funds. Mrs. Hales responded that it is simply a directive to pursue the funding and does not restrict the administration to proceed with any of the projects.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6/0.

C. Sabbatical Leave Request

Mr. Alexander, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, brought forth the Sabbatical Leave Committee's recommendation to approve Amy Hope's Request for Sabbatical Leave for the 2005-2006 school year. The committee consists of Ken Carr, a Pau-Wa-Lu math instructor, Roy Casey, Assistant Superintendent of Education Services, and Board Member Keith Roman. Mrs. Hope made a presentation to the committee on March 2, 2005, where she explained that she would earn a Doctorate in Education Leadership with an emphasis on balanced math instruction. After her presentation, the committee voted unanimously to approve her Sabbatical Leave request. Mr. Alexander assured the Board that Mrs. Hope has been advised that she must return to employment at Douglas County School District and work for the district for two years after her leave expires. He explained that a long-term elementary teacher with a one-year contract would fill her current position.

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

After further discussion, Mr. Louritt made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Sabbatical Leave Committee, seconded by Cynthia Trigg.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6/0.

Mrs. Hales shared that she would have liked more information on exactly how Mrs. Hope's sabbatical would benefit the district in return for such a generous opportunity, but wished Mrs. Hope luck in her studies.

D. First Reading of Revisions to Board Policies 226, "Parent and Family Involvement," 705, "School Safety," and 901, "Public Information Program"

Mr. Roy Casey, Assistant Superintendent of Education Services, presented to the members of the Board of Trustees the revisions to Board Policies 901 (Community) – "Public Information Program; 705 (Property) – "School Safety," and 226 (Program) – "Parent and Family Involvement" and explained that this would be a first reading of policy revisions. He also presented as supporting information Administrative Regulations 705(b), "School Safety" and 901, "Communication with Staff,

Parents, and Community” for policy implementation clarification. He explained that these policies and regulations would transfer policy action previously empowered through the Strategic Plan through the Communication, School Safety, and Family Strategies.

After comments and revisions were noted from the Board, Mr. Casey was congratulated on yet another flawless presentation.

Mr. Orr made a motion to approve for First Reading the Revisions to Board Policy 226, “Parent and Family Involvement,” 705, “School Safety,” and 901, “Public Information Program” with noted corrections. Mr. Jamin seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6/0.

E. Withdrawal of Application to Sponsor Newly Created Charter Schools in the Douglas County School District

Mr. Casey addressed the Board regarding formally withdrawing their application to sponsor future charter schools due to the resources that the district must utilize to review new applications to form charter schools and the staff time involved in annually monitoring accountability data.

Mr. Casey explained that the mentoring and technical assistance afforded to Sierra Crest Academy (SCA) has involved hundreds of man-hours. His personal technical support to SCA includes advising administration regarding school closures, staffing problems, habitual student discipline problems, policy generation, and the list goes on. In addition, their school’s accountability data must be incorporated into the District’s data, which sometimes causes his staff to run up against very strict deadlines, as the data is not submitted in a timely fashion. He advised the Board that he and Nancy Bryant, (his replacement after his retirement in June, 2005) would review NAC and NRS and conduct a full audit of Sierra Crest Academy during spring break.

He further explained that during the first year of operation, the District has access to two percent of their SCA’s budget to cover the costs incurred in monitoring their progress, but it cost much more than two percent. Next year, only one percent of their budget will be available to the District, and it is anticipated that it again will not cover expenses to the District.

He concluded his presentation by stating that we should send the letter included in their Board packet addressed to Mr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction, requesting withdrawal of application to sponsor future charter schools as soon as possible.

The Board thanked Mr. Casey for his diligence and perseverance in monitoring Sierra Crest Academy’s operation.

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

After further discussion, Mr. Orr made a motion to approve the withdrawal of the Application to Sponsor Newly Created Charter Schools in the Douglas County School District, seconded by Mrs. Trigg.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6/0.

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

7. Possible Agenda Items for Future Board Meetings

Mrs. Hales suggested that the Board begin monthly Board training as an agenda item at monthly meetings. Each Board member would rotate as facilitator at each meeting. She explained that if we ask school district staff to participate in professional development, the Board should do so as well. Mrs. Wennhold and Mrs. Trigg supported her suggestion.

8. Executive Session

There was no executive session.

9. Adjournment

At 7:30 p.m., Mr. Orr made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Wennhold.

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.