

Douglas County School District

Regular Meeting
Douglas High School
Minden, Nevada
Tuesday, March 9, 2010
3:30 p.m.

*Minutes Approved
April 13, 2010*

MINUTES

Present:

Trustees:

Teri Jamin, President
Thomas Moore, Vice President
Keith Roman, Clerk
Sharla Hales, Member
Karen Chessell, Member
Randy Green, Member
Cynthia Trigg, Member

Personnel:

John Soderman, Superintendent
Lyn Gorrindo, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services
Holly Luna, Chief Financial Officer
Rich Alexander, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

Others Present:

Mike Malloy, Legal Counsel

1. Call to Order

Ms. Jamin called the meeting to order at 3:43 p.m.

- A. Ms. Jamin led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. Mrs. Chessell moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Mrs. Trigg. Motion carried, 6/0.

2. Consent Items (Action)

Ms. Jamin inquired if any items were to be pulled from the Consent Agenda. No items were pulled.

Mr. Roman moved to adopt the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mrs. Chessell.
Motion carried 6/0.

Mr. Moore arrived at 3:47 p.m.

- A. Approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 9, 2010.
- B. Approve payments contained in Voucher Numbers 1123, 1124, and 1125 for FY09-10.
- C. Approve personnel actions described in Personnel Report No. 10-03.
- D. Approve the composition of the Family Life, Sex Education, AIDS (FLSEA) Advisory Council.
- E. Approve payments contained in Voucher Numbers 1121 and 1122 for FY09-10.

3. Principal's Report - (Carson Valley Elementary School)

Bob Been, Principal, Carson Valley Middle School, explained Criterion Reference Test (CRT) results used as Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) comparison data, gathered year over year. Multiple groups of students were being assisted to raise achievement and meet AYP target scores. One area of concern was provided on a trend summary that showed little or no growth in eighth grade reading. With regard to state AYP rankings, CVMS was noted to be in the top ten. CVMS was reported to be on the watch list in IEP math, one area of AYP, for the 2008-2009 school year. Mr. Been set the goal to be number one in the state, through focusing on weak areas and defining specific needs of improvement. Criterion Reference Testing (CRT) and Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment scores were reported. Data driven instruction was provided to students using criteria to identify students that includes a value system of 1 – 4. The data is used by teachers to identify specific needs. Students were informed of their scores in order that they could set goals to increase their achievement by 10%. A campaign was created to reward students who reached their goal. A variety of student assistance provided included math camp for students, Saturday school, reading support during lunch, and a number of other offerings.

Parent involvement, an anti-bullying Safe School Ambassadors program, and increased technology were recognized as all work underway to support increased academic achievement.

4. Race to the Top Funds Discussion and Action

Lyn Gorrindo, Assistant Superintendent for Education Services, Brian Frazier, Director of Assessments and Grants, and Kerry Pope, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, shared recent information gathered with regard to the application process, timeline, and future implications of the Race to the Top federal grant. Criteria for the grant, awarded on a point basis, was explained. Mrs. Gorrindo and Mrs. Pope reported involvement with the state task force to create a comprehensive reform package based on several areas of reform. The adoption of quality course standards for K-12 was to be a topic during meetings held this week for national core standards. Math and English Language Arts (ELA) would be completed first, followed by science and social studies. Work to align state standards to federal guidelines had been completed prior to work of the task force. At this time, Nevada was uncertain whether or not state alignment to federal requirements was ranked high or low by comparison. Longitudinal data collected would allow for equal comparisons across the nation.

A K-16 system would be implemented to address current needs for excessive remediation upon entering higher level education. A Career and Technical Education component would also be included. Growth in student achievement was the main focus. Discussions included how to measure Depth of Knowledge (DOK), creating a picture of what students actually know, rather than using a standard based rating. A performance evaluation system for administrators and teachers would be based in part on student achievement data.

Mr. Soderman stated the two larger Nevada counties were participating in the application process. Four years in the future, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act was slated for renewal, wherein national requirements would be enforced in all states. It was noted to be prudent to begin early, through Race to the Top Fund efforts to start addressing the needs of the future. Gradual implementation of standards and changes to assessment processes would be forthcoming.

Mrs. Gorrindo offered to summarize upcoming Race to the Top meetings for Board review of the process. Standards were posted on the Web at www.corestandards.org.leaders.

Ms. Jamin called for public comment. There was none.

Mrs. Chessell moved to approve the Douglas County School District participation in

applying for the Race to the Top Funds by signing the Memorandum of Understanding required by the Nevada Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Education, seconded by Mr. Green.

Motion carried, 7/0.

5. District Improvement Plan/Strategic Plan Main Goals Discussion and Action

Lyn Gorrindo and Brian Frazier reviewed the ten revised Strategic Plan goals and a new method for tracking specific data points, the data dashboard. Wording and suggestions for gathering of particular data was made by Trustees. Suggestions would be considered and incorporated.

Mr. Frazier stated various points of concern listed on the newly created data dashboard. This instrument would be used to provide a district wide view of key data to address District Improvement Plan goals. All data points suggested for the data dashboard referred back to main district goals. The inclusion of colors on the chart, from green to red, were discussed and preferred to be included as a quick look indicator. Percentage scales were discussed with relation to color identification of up and down trends. Preferences were stated to keep information on the dashboard easy to follow.

Mr. Soderman stated the Board and Superintendent should be talking about what is being done and the data collected in order to meet goals on a regularly scheduled basis.

Mrs. Gorrindo responded to questions regarding Inclusion of topics of particular focus this year, such as scope and sequence. She identified the location of specific items within the goals and data dashboard. Averaging information rather than viewing high's and lows was discussed.

Staff members agreed various comments and suggestions made this evening would be incorporated for a first run at the new format to be used in the future.

Mrs. Chessell moved to approve the Strategic Plan goals as revised, seconded by Mr. Moore.

Motion carried, 7/0.

Discussion continued regarding incorporating changes to include 2009-10 data. Mr. Frazier offered that August would be the time frame for receipt of updated data. Teach for Success data was noted to be received in December; AYP data in August.

6. Four Day Week Pilot Program Report – George Whittell High School Discussion and Action

Mr. Soderman stated District administration supported continuation of the four day week at George Whittell High School. Due to the short time frame for implementation of the four day week, hard data had not been collected and compared to support student achievement. To continue for 2010-11, Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) with staff associations and development of a hybrid calendar would need to be accomplished. Data elements would be targeted in the future to provide guidance regarding continuation of the four day week. Mrs. Shannon reported soft data available in support of increased class time, teacher, and student acceptance. Mrs. Shannon asked that a PowerPoint with soft data be sent to the Board, that was available but not presented this evening due to time constraints. Mike Ashton represented the teachers at GWHS by providing input in favor of continuing the four day week schedule.

Specific changes within the calendar were requested by Mrs. Shannon. Mr. Soderman responded that Mr. Alexander would address these issues and the recommended calendar would be available

for the April Board Meeting.

The NIAA proposed realignment of teams was discussed in relation to the four day week schedule. The A league was still being discussed so no clear implications are apparent at this time.

The list of data points by which the four day week will be assessed in the future includes:

HSPE's, MAP's, CRT's, cost, missed classes for students, student/staff attendance, GPA, transportation issues, Human Resources issues, curriculum coverage, ACT's, NIAA realignment implications, survey data, general strengths/concerns, and affect on intervention opportunities..

Ms. Jamin called for public comment.

Chris Sullivan, Lake school parent, commented that she was very much in favor of the four day week schedule.

Mr. Moore moved to approve a second pilot year of the four day week subject to obtaining Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) from the Douglas County Professional Educators Association, Douglas County Support Staff Organization, and Nevada Classified School Employees and Public Workers Association, AFT/PRSP Local 6181, contracted Douglas County School Bus Drivers, Chapter #6, seconded by Mrs. Trigg.

Motion carried, 7/0.

Public Comment

Douglas High School English teachers, Katy Shipley, Katie Carr, Barbara Doherty, Beth Santos and Karen Heine spoke in opposition of adopting the SpringBoard curriculum and textbooks. Each teacher read and provided a written statement to Board members.

A break was taken at 6:12 p.m.

7. MGT of America Inc. – Presentation of Final Facilities Master Plan Discussion and Action

Holly Luna, Chief Financial Officer, introduced MGT America Inc. consultants, Ed Humble, Tim Haley, and Ellen Hooper. The preliminary facilities Master Plan with appendices, was noted to be posted on the Web site. The KIDS Committee project list was provided for reference this evening. Questions resulting from a public meeting held on February 25th were reported to have been answered in the final Master Plan. Additions and changes were noted to be in Chapter 6. Exhibits 6-8 were released tonight for review.

Discussion ensued regarding the PK-8 option offered. As a national trend, this option revolved around minimizing the number of transitions a student would incur. Explanations were provided for various other grade configuration recommendations. Program offerings and facility pro's and con's were reviewed.

Mr. Alexander left at 7:15 p.m.

Mrs. Hales requested national trend data on the PK-8 grade configuration.

Mrs. Luna recommended the Board accept the plan pending changes that might be desired due to MGT having met their contractual obligations.

Timing, with regard to moving the 9th grade to the high school and incorporation a PK-8 Grade configuration was discussed.

Mr. Moore made several requests of MGT, 1) A recommendation regarding which middle school to close including pro's and con's, 2) expanding Lake options through the fourth option instead of only providing an explanation of two of the four options, and 3) a map of the district.

A concern was raised regarding providing an explanation of how the KIDS Committee projects interfaced with the Master Plan. It was noted the tasks were different, but they should be married into the one document.

Mr. Moore moved to approve the facility Master Plan with the following additions, seconded by Mrs. Trigg.

- 1) Incorporate a correlation between the facility plan and the KIDS Committee recommendations
- 2) Incorporate a map
- 3) List the pro's and con's regarding the middle school consolidation recommendation
- 4) List reasons for elimination of item 3 and 4 regarding the Lake school write up
- 5) And provide additional outstanding items

Mr. Moore requested MGT provide a more complete explanation in the Plan with regard to a statement pertaining to the Lake recommendations. He noted the current statement conflicted with the pro's and con's listed for Lake schools and was not as extensive as the same information provided regarding Valley sites. An example provided, was the consideration of a K-8 configuration was not included for the Lake.

Discussion surrounded inclusion of a letter with the Plan, prepared by the District, to include the KIDS Committee contributions to the process.

Mrs. Hales moved for a friendly amendment to include the document from Mrs. Luna, and agreement by the KIDS Committee, that this Plan follows with fidelity, the intent of the KIDS Committee, seconded by Mrs. Trigg.

Following the amendment, concerns were raised with regard to MGT needing to get a sign off by KIDS representatives before the Board completed the contract process with MGT.

The amendment was withdrawn and the original motion was restated resulting in a vote.

Motion carried 5/2, Mrs. Hales and Mrs. Chessell, nay.

Mrs. Trigg moved to make the final payment to MGT of America, Inc. subject to completion of all contractual deliverables, seconded by Mr. Green.

Mrs. Trigg withdrew this motion and restated it as follows:

Mrs. Trigg moved to pay MGT as they have completed their contract to the Douglas County School District, seconded by Mrs. Chessell.

Motion carried 4/3, Ms. Jamin, Mrs. Hales, and Mr. Moore, nay.

A break was taken from 9:05 – 9:15 p.m.

8. Superintendent Application Review Discussion and Action

Mr. Huge inquired, at 9:05 p.m., whether or not the Board desired to continue the meeting on another day or hold this discussion at this late hour. It was decided to proceed this evening. Mr. Huge used numbers to refer to candidates. Additionally, Mr. Huge thanked the press for their cooperation in the Superintendent Search process.

Mr. Moore read a disclosure statement, prepared by District counsel, that his wife is the Secretary to the Board and Superintendent that there were no material affects due to his wife being employed by the District; therefore he would participate and vote on this item.

The Board was informed that candidate number 12 had withdrawn due to having received two contract offers. Mr. Huge offered to make candidate recommendations based on his knowledge of their background as compared to the desired Superintendent profile obtained through input from within the District and community. He recommended eight candidates continue in the process. Trustees were asked if they desired to add any names that had not yet been mentioned, for consideration. Two additional candidates were discussed but not added to the list. Mr. Huge provided additional information regarding each of the eight applicants.

Mrs. Chessell moved to accept Mr. Huge's suggestion of eight candidates for interviews; numbers 1, 2,3,4,7.9, 11, and 13, seconded by Mrs. Hales.

Motion carried 7/0.

9. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Soderman stated the legislative Special Session had concluded. Budget information would be provided to the Board, along with negotiated agreements at the April meeting.

10. Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) Report

Mrs. Trigg invited Board members to view the ACR2 Committee Chair, Assemblywoman Bonnie Parnell, on the Nevada legislative Web site. Additionally, the Nevada Association of School Board was reviewing the value of the National School Board Association and the history of Nevada's withdrawal from the NSBA. AT the most recent meeting, Race to the Top Funding had been reviewed, sharing of perspective school board members materials following primary elections, and

11. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

12. Possible Agenda Items for Future Board Meetings

Mrs. Chessell inquired about a previous suggestion she had made to use a cover page for Action Items. Mr. Soderman responded this cover sheet would be addressed at the Board Workshop to be held this week.

13. Executive Session

There was no executive session.

14. Adjournment

At 10:00 p.m., Mrs. Chessell moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Green.
Motion carried, 7/0.

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.