

Douglas County School District
Zephyr Cove Elementary School
Zephyr Cove, Nevada
Tuesday, April 10, 2012
3:30 p.m.

MINUTES

*Minutes Approved
May 16, 2012*

Present:

Trustees:

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

Personnel:

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

Others Present:

Mike Malloy, Legal Counsel
Brian Rippet, President, Douglas County Professional Education Association
Nancy Hamlett, Douglas County Support Staff Organization

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Hales called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Mike George, Student Body President, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Hales called for the adoption of the Agenda.

Mrs. Chessell moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Mr. Green.

Motion carried, 6/0.

2. Consent Items (For Possible Action)

Mrs. Hales inquired if there were any request to pull Consent Items. Item 2-A, "Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 13, 2012;" 2-B, "Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 29, 2012;" and 2-E, "Approval of CVMS School Re-Roofing Bid," were pulled for discussion.

Mrs. Chessell moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of Items 2-A, 2-B, and 2-E.

Motion carried, 6/0.

- A. Approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 13, 2012.
- B. Approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 29, 2012.
- C. Approve personnel actions described in Personnel Report No. 12-04.
- D. Approve for second reading, Board Policy No. 545, "Concussion and Head Injuries."

- E. Approve funding from the Capital Projects Fund and allow Business Services to enter into a contract with the lowest, and most responsive and responsible bidder for the new metal roofing system associated with the "B-Wing" of CVMS.
- F. Approve funding from Capital Projects and allow Business Services to enter into a contract with the lowest, and most responsive and responsible bidder for the abatement of hazardous materials associated with the "B-wing" of CVMS.
- G. Approve payments contained in Special Run Voucher Number 1219 and Regular Run Voucher Number 1220 for FY11-12.

Mrs. Chessell stated she was not present at the March 13th meeting and would abstain from voting on Item 2-A.

Mr. Chichester moved to approve Consent Item 2-A, seconded by Ms. Jamin.

Motion carried, 5/0; Mrs. Chessell abstained.

Mrs. Hales stated that an addition and some corrections to Item 2-B were provided in the red folder for review. Mrs. Hales asked for any comments. There were none. Mrs. Hales requested that text be added to include Board comments made during the district calendar discussion. Ms. Jamin suggested including the reasoning of Board members who voted against the motion made for the school calendar; therefore, Item 2-B, "Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 29, 2012," was tabled for approval at the May 16, 2012 Regular Meeting.

Ms. Luna responded to a question regarding Item 2-E. Two companies were mentioned in the backup material causing confusion within the recommendation. Ms. Luna responded that for this project, Garland/DBS, Inc. would be the project manager and D&D Roofing, the subcontractor, was recommended for installation of a new metal roofing system at the "B-Wing" of CVMS. Essentially Garland/DBS, Inc. would provide materials; D&D Roofing, the labor. Ms. Luna explained this project was subject to local bidding that followed NRS 332.195, related to joinder of mutual use contracts by government entities. The co-operative purchasing contract (US Communities) enabled this design-build solution.

Mrs. Chessell moved to allow Business Services to enter into a contract with Garland/DBS, Inc. with D&D Roofing as the subcontractor for the installation of a new metal roofing system at the "B-Wing" of CVMS for the amount of \$315,263.00 with funding to come from the Capital Projects Funds with additional approval for a contingency amount not to exceed \$47,500, resulting in a total project cost not to exceed \$362,763.00, seconded by Mr. Green.

Motion carried, 6/0.

3. Principal's Report (George Whittell High School) Administrative Report/Program Review

Crespin Esquivel, Principal, George Whittell High School stated two site goals. The goals were to increase the percentage of students who are proficient on the math, reading, science and writing HSPE's by 5%; and to increase the percentage of students proficient in math, reading, science and writing on the CRT's by 5%. Newly implemented HSPE assessments were highlighted on the data dashboard due to the cause and effect of new tests that had helped to create a drop in test scores. The percentage of students taking and passing the ACT and SAT tests was provided. ACT and SAT results reflected a decrease in the percentage of college ready students in English, math and science. Mr. Esquivel stated the decrease in science scores was being addressed through curriculum needs in order to see improvement. A drop in CRT scores was reported for middle school students. New CRT assessments were highlighted, although middle school students were reported to need an improved structure within their combined high school environment.

Mr. Moore arrived at 3:45 p.m.

With regard to MAP scores, Mr. Esquivel stated he is working to use DesCartes software with teachers in order that data reflecting specific areas in need of improvement could be used to improve instructional practices in the classroom. The enrollment at GWHS was reported to be steady with 233 students.

Mr. Esquivel stated he began as a new principal to the District last year. Following the transition, this year he had begun improvements to the combined middle and high school student environment. This entailed creating a common prep for math teachers, changing bell schedules to address the needs of the two levels of students, and adjusting the use of advisory period to better meet the needs of middle school kids.

Daria Sharon and Kate Krolicki, two GWHS students, addressed the Board to reflect on their experience of entering GWHS as 7th graders, in the last school year. They expressed discomfort related to being middle school students in a high school environment. Both girls were otherwise content at the school in the 8th grade.

Next year, a focus would be placed on literacy to include foreign language. With the new requirements of teaching the language of math and science in their respective classroom, professional development would be necessary for teachers. Additionally, creative solutions would improve the school within a school atmosphere, such as had been done with maximizing student use of the advisory period. Mr. Esquivel reported alignment of curriculum to Zephyr Cove Elementary School would be a focus, following review of 5th – 8th grade courses. Other improvements were underway that included the use of donated laptops, new iPads, and Thinking Maps all supporting good instructional practices. Students were encouraged to take online classes and attend community college for a wide variety of opportunity.

Peer mentoring to assist students in adjusting from 6th grade to 7th grade would help younger students adjust to the new school next year. Survey results from the parents and community reflected positive results. Parents and teachers were reported to be excited about having student poems, short stories and artwork published through a second semester initiative. Sponsorship through local organizations supported contest opportunities and extra events.

Board members thanked Mr. Esquivel for offering creative strategies to address the downward trend in test scores, seeing the 7-12th grade school as a challenging small school. Knowing a small number of students skewed percentages comparatively, Mr. Esquivel was asked to work with Dr. Noonan to identify the cause in order to continue to receive a high graduation rate percentage in the future.

Mr. Esquivel wrapped up by stating students could receive dual credit for courses taken at Western Nevada College (WNC), although students could no longer obtain the dual credit from Lake Tahoe Community College due to the college being located in California.

4. Consideration of the George Whittell School Four-Day Week Report and of Whether to Re-Submit the Application for the Alternative Schedule to State Board of Education (Discussion and For Possible Action)

Dr. Noonan thanked Dr. Steve Mulvenon, consultant, for his work and stated that following his report, she would make a recommendation. At that time, the Board could hold a discussion and hear public comment.

Dr. Mulvenon thanked staff for providing information to him in a timely manner throughout the months of information gathering. Data was presented starting with the first year of implementation, the 2009-10 school year, along with the goals initially set for the four day week pilot schedule. Scheduling trends across the U.S., national research, and an overview of Nevada districts using the

four day schedule were provided. Studies and research presented, showed no impact or statistically significant difference was found in student achievement as a result of students attending school on the four day week schedule. Various data for GWHS was reported including enrollment, ethnicity, free & reduced lunch and IEP figures. Enrollment had remained steady since the 2006-2007 school year. Student and teacher attendance was shared, as well as High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) and ACT data from 2008-2011. GWHS data was compared to District and State percentages. Survey data gained from staff and students reflected a high percentage of support for continuing the four day week schedule. Community and staff perception data was provided and noted to not match actual data in the area of student achievement. Although, student achievement scores dropped at GWHS, test results exceeded the district average in some categories.

Perception data was gathered from students, staff and parents. A third party, Patron Insight, conducted the survey with very specific questions. Only one response per Internet Protocol (IP) address was allowed. Students were rotated through the library at school in order for them to respond. Survey results included overall perception of the school; perceived academic performance and attendance; how students used Friday's; the way teachers felt students were performing and how the 4 day week impacted their teaching; and overall satisfaction with the schedule.

Teacher attendance was discussed with regard to the impact of team sports and implementation of the four day week. Student attendance improved due to a reduction in absences for school activities, although teacher absences had not decreased. Explanations for the drop in teacher attendance were offered that included all Dr.'s offices were not open on Friday for patients; and with fewer teachers, long term illness of a single or couple of individuals in the small school could skew the data.

Following review of the actual data vs. perception data, Dr. Mulvenon stated it was indeterminable that the areas of concern were caused by the four day week schedule. It was determined the support to continue with the four day week schedule at GWHS was widespread.

Mrs. Hales asked Dr. Noonan for her recommendation.

Dr. Noonan thanked Dr. Mulvenon for his assistance in pulling together all data including the national and Nevada comparisons. She reported having reviewed the data dashboard with Mr. Esquivel and working toward adjustments to scheduling for improvement within the four day week calendar. Dr. Noonan expressed that staff would be addressing achievement, and she didn't believe the schedule created the downturn. Dr. Noonan recommended submitting the four day week calendar to the State for approval of a three year period. Influx of the Nevada Growth Model, Common Core standards with tougher assessments, and upcoming evaluation accountability would impact future student achievement. Dr. Noonan supported parents and staff in the challenge to meet requirements on the shorter schedule. In the event budget impacts forced a change or student outcomes became alarming, the schedule might be revisited.

Discussion ensued among Board members. They reviewed:

- 1) Whether or not the downturn in data was affected by the four day week schedule
- 2) Approval of the schedule for three years
- 3) The initial goals including improved student seat time due to teacher and student absences on Friday due to coaching
- 4) Placing snow days at the end of the year vs. using Fridays to make up lost time
- 5) The importance of families enjoying the four day schedule
- 6) Concern regarding perception of staff and parents vs. real data provided
- 7) Mr. Esquivel supported working within the schedule to improve
- 8) Adjusting the timeframe of receiving Principal Reports regarding GWHS to best understand data
- 9) While there were concerns, Trustees supported Dr. Noonan's recommendation.

Connie Susich, ZCES teacher, commented that she saw two individual concerns; one, a focus on

achievement, and another the four day week schedule. She added that reporting to the Board biannually would not be a long enough time span for Mr. Esquivel to gain ground with data for reporting. Mrs. Hales clarified the intent was not to have dual reports, rather to move the GWHS report to an earlier month in the school year.

Nancy Cauley, ZCES Principal, stated she supported Mr. Esquivel in his efforts and that she was glad the Board was leaning towards approving the four day week schedule for GWHS.

Carol Chaplin and Greg Felton, GWHS parents, stated their support for the four day week schedule, as well as ZCES teacher Damon Kixmiller; and Lindsay Wines, GWHS teacher.

Brian Rippet, DCPEA President, commented regarding teacher absences at GWHS. He reported DCPEA had analyzed teacher absence data and found the average was one day fewer than other campuses.

Mr. Moore moved, based on the Superintendent's recommendation, the Board approve the George Whittell High School four-day week alternative schedule for another three year cycle, seconded by Mrs. Trigg.

Motion carried 7/0.

A break was taken from 5:38 – 5:50 p.m.

**5. Opening of Written Offers, Call for Oral Bids and possible acceptance of qualified offer for the sale of the property located at 1900 Echo Drive, Zephyr Cove, Nevada 89448 (Formerly Kingsbury Middle School)
(Discussion and For Possible Action)**

Mrs. Hales stated she understood that no offers had been received for the Zephyr Cove property that was for sale. Oral offers for purchasing the property located at 1900 Echo Drive, Zephyr Cove, Nevada were requested at this time. No oral offers were received.

**6. KMS Resolution Amendment
(Discussion and For Possible Action)**

Dr. Noonan informed the Board, approval of an amendment to the Resolution from January 2012 declaring the intention to sell the former KMS property, would allow the district to extend the timeframe for the sale. The amendment extended the sales offer for three months. At the end of the time period, the Board would again review the extension of time for continuing to offer the property for sale.

Mr. Moore moved to adopt the provided amendment to the January Resolution and continue with the effort to sell the former Kingsbury Middle School Property, seconded by Mrs. Chessell.

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

Motion carried, 7/0.

**7. Striving Readers' Grant Update/Acceptance
(Discussion and For Possible Action)**

Lyn Gorrindo, Assistant Superintendent Education Services, provided an explanation of the Striving Readers' Comprehensive Literacy Grant process and project highlights. Pride was expressed regarding staff collaboration used to fulfill the requirements that resulted in a 300 page application.

The State of Nevada was awarded 14.2 million per year, to extend for five years. DCSD was awarded \$3.1 million, 77% of the amount applied for. Following the initial two year grant, an analysis would be conducted of fidelity with regard to use of the grant funds, and if approved, the district could reapply for the remaining years. The current year, 2011-12, was designated the first year to incorporate this funding and programs. Grant funds would be used to support implementation of Common Core Standards and balanced literacy through additional technology, professional development and data based decision making. 40% of the grant would support highly qualified professional development. Funds were also allocated for interventionists, eWalk and Read 180 software, and eBooks. A grant requirement was to organize a data management team to report to district personnel. A program coordinator would be hired to oversee data based decision making at all sites. Family outreach would be a focus for this employee to assist parents with guided reading. Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) had been written in cooperation with Head Start and the County Library to support early literacy interventions.

The project was split into three sections; birth – pre-k, K-5, and 6-12 in support of literacy. The district planned to sponsor one or more pre-schools, a week long summer camp for 3rd and 6th grade, and support for technology based instruction.

Dr. Noonan was proud of the staff for their thoroughness in the application process.

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

Ms. Jamin moved that the Board enthusiastically and gratefully approve the grant award and direct staff to proceed with implementation of the project, seconded by Mrs. Chessell.

Motion carried 7/0.

8. Full Day Kindergarten Pilot Project

Lyn Gorrindo, Assistant Superintendent Education Services, and Dr. Noonan shared a plan for piloting full day kindergarten in elementary schools. Minimal State funding was reported to have been available since the legislature initially budgeted for support of 1/3 of at-risk schools in 2005. In order to offer additional kindergarten classroom time to provide a literacy rich environment (not daycare) a combination of grant funding, parent-paid tuition and scholarships would be used to support the initiative. The new Common Core Standard target of having all students read at grade level, by the third grade, inspired the program offering, along with the timing and approval of the Striving Readers' Comprehensive Literacy (SRCL) grant for early learners. On a national level, research showed an increase from 20% of children attending full day kindergarten in the 1970's, to 60% by 2003. Math and English results reported for 96 students attending all-day kindergarten in Washoe County School District proved significant gains, as compared to students in half day programs.

DCSD parents of incoming kindergarten students were recently involved in a survey, accompanied by a letter of explanation, to analyze interest levels with regard to having their child in kindergarten all day. Sites unable to benefit from the SRCL grant funds would charge \$75 - \$95 for tuition per week, per student. The cost was based on a half day teacher and part-time classroom aide, with a minimum of 20 students per classroom. Of surveys received from approximately 27% of families registering for school, 20% said they would participate with tuition being required. The majority, 73%, answered that if district paid tuition was available it would be their first choice. 15% of families preferred to remain in the half-day program.

Tuition based kindergarten was recommended as a pilot program. The expense of the program was dependent on the number of parents who signed up to participate at each site where SRCL grant funds were not used. Students enrolled in all-day kindergarten would be housed in a room separate from half day students at all sites, with the exception of ZCES where only one kindergarten class could be offered. Results and feedback from the pilot program for the 2012-13 school year would be

reviewed prior to proceeding with the program for 2013-14.

Mrs. Hales called for public comment.

Crespin Esquivel, GWHS Principal, stated he had attended full day kindergarten as a student having Spanish as the first language. This opportunity benefited him greatly over his siblings, who did not have the same opportunity.

Melinda Neilander, MES kindergarten teacher, supported approval of full day kindergarten for MES due to seeing a larger gap in students who are prepared for school vs. children who are coming in with lesser skills. She noted other locations offer more days for students to attend in order to meet the standards.

Konnie Susich, ZCES kindergarten teacher, supported the initiative and stated the majority of at-risk students received higher test results after participating in the Extended Day Kindergarten (EDK) program.

Damon Kixmiller, ZCES teacher, also encouraged the Board to help students gain core skills earlier.

Stella Roper, ZCES parent expressed appreciation for offering all-day kindergarten at ZCES.

Mrs. Hales called for Board discussion. Benefits of providing earlier interventions were stated. The use of objective criteria was desired in order to provide the public with knowledge regarding the reasoning for determining which sites would be supplemented with SRCL grant funds.

Mrs. Trigg moved to approve the full day kindergarten pilot project if sufficient parent interest and funding is identified, seconded by Mrs. Chessell.

Motion carried, 7/0.

Public Comment

Brian Rippet, GWHS teacher, stated Lake consolidation had created a significant change for staff and students due to the movement of 7th and 8th grade to the high school. The emotional change for students was not recognized until after the first year. Upon this realization, a school within a school atmosphere was being created to ease the stress for younger students through lunch and passing period schedule changes. Mr. Rippet added that HSPE test scores were a reflection of change due to the new grade configuration, currently addressed through adjustments to the advisory period at GWHS.

9. Resolution Authorizing the Refinancing of the Installment Purchase Agreement associated with the Energy Services Contract of 2008. (Discussion and For Possible Action)

Mrs. Hales opened the public hearing on Resolution Number 03-12 to authorize the refinancing of the Installment Purchase Agreement associated with the Energy Services Contract of 2008 at 6:25 p.m.

Holly Luna, Chief Financial Officer, reminded the Board they had approved that the District move forward with next steps necessary to pursue competitive private placement bids to refinance the ESCO IPA contract being paid from the general fund with savings from the ESCO efficiencies. Ms. Luna informed the Board they were not incurring additional debt. In cooperation with JNA Consulting, Ms. Luna will submit Resolution Number 03-12 to the Debt Management Commission and Department of Taxation. Following approval, Ms. Luna

stated she would return to the Board with the best bid, at the May 16, 2012 Regular Board Meeting. Ms. Luna stated her recommendation.

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

Mrs. Chessell moved to approve Resolution #03-12 in its entirety, seconded by Mr. Green.

Motion carried, 7/0.

Mrs. Hales closed the public meeting.

10. Approval of Architect Contract for Phase 2A (DHS) of the District's Facilities Master Plan (Discussion For Possible Action)

Holly Luna, Chief Financial Officer, introduced Jeff Klippenstein, Principal, of H+K Architects. H+K Architects were reported to have begun work for Phase 2A of the Facilities' Master Plan at Douglas High School. Ms. Luna requested approval of a finalized contract with the architects in the amount of \$1.7 million (10% of the estimated construction budget). Architectural expense was reported to be a "soft cost," paid from the Bond Fund. Mr. Klippenstein stated he had enjoyed working with Turner Construction as part of the CMAR team, and looked forward to continuing with the DHS project.

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

Mr. Chichester moved to approve the negotiated contract with H+K Architects for \$1.7 Million to assist the district in the Phase 2A DHS project, with funding to come from the Bond Fund, seconded by Mr. Moore

Motion carried, 7/0.

A break was taken from 6:52 – 7:03 p.m.

11. Review/Update 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan for 2012-2013 (Discussion and For Possible Action)

Ms. Luna briefed the Board on the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan for the upcoming year. The Facilities' Master Plan projects, support by bond funds, would continue to move forward as they had been approved by the Board. CVMS abatement and re-roofing of "Wing B" had been added. Elementary playgrounds were scheduled for upgrades, with the exception of GES and PHES playgrounds that had been completed. The technology renewal rotation schedule would continue. An adjustment had been made to the technology fund due to receipt of additional grant money from the Community Foundation.

Mr. Chichester moved to approve the updated FY2012-2013 Five Year Capital Improvement Plan as recommended by Business Services, seconded by Mr. Moore.

Motion carried, 7/0.

**12. Consideration of 2012-13 Tentative Budget
and Scheduling of Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 16, 2012
(Discussion and For Possible Action)**

Ms. Luna presented the FY12-13 Tentative Budget including the budget challenges and method for building a school district budget. The last three legislative bienniums were reported to have resulted in a total of \$6 million in reductions to district revenue. A federal subsidy of \$1.2 million was received through EduJob grant funds for FY10-11 and FY11-12. A gap of approximately \$1 million was noted that required proposal of a 2.5% district wide salary reduction for FY12-13 or other adjustments that might include layoffs and Reduction in Force (RIF) notices. At this time, the Department of Education had not confirmed the FY12-13 DSA allocations. The Ad Valorem true-up to the DSA would be forthcoming prior to the May final calculations.

The Board was informed of the process necessary to build a budget. This started with the Ending Fund Balance from the prior fiscal year. Through analysis, the beginning fund balance is determined. The FY12-13 tentative budget was based on a 3.5% underspend in FY11-12.

Highlights of the tentative budget were stated. In the area of capital planning, a \$15 million bond sale was anticipated for the spring of 2013, and tied to the 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan as approved in the previous item.

Concerns for future budgeting included the Student Nutrition Program and Transportation. While currently self-sustaining, the Student Nutrition Program might need a subsidy from the general fund due to increased costs. School meals might also require a price increase to accommodate this shortfall. Funds were made available for ageing kitchen equipment, although not yet purchased, allowing for transfer of the remaining amount to the ending fund balance as unspent. Reinstatement of a bus replacement schedule was also due to be discussed.

Class Size Reduction (CSR) continued to require a \$200,000 subsidy from the General Fund. The Special Education Fund had been reduced by five Full Time Equivalent (FTE's) employees for FY11-12, resulting in a subsidy transfer of \$4.1 million from the General Fund. Confirmation of FY12-13 funding of units, and Maintenance of Effort (MOE) were underway to determine the special education units that included four for GT, and one for Jacobsen High School. Additional transfers may be needed for FY12-13.

The annual actuarial analysis of the self-insured Workers' Compensation Fund resulted in the continued use of .005% of payroll overhead set aside for Workers' Compensation claims. The self-insured Health Insurance Fund was projected to maintain current monthly premiums of \$575 per eligible employee. Two premium holidays had been used in the recent past: one in December 2009; and again in December 2011. The Stop loss insurance premium increased as of January 2012 moving from \$150,000 to \$175,000 resulting in more risk to the plan. Ms. Luna stated, for information only, the projected ending fund balance of the self-insured health insurance fund for FY12 -13 is estimated to be \$1.0 million, or \$1.7 million lower than the ending fund balance of FY07-08.

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

Mr. Moore moved to approve the FY2012-2013 Douglas County School District Tentative Budget and declare a public hearing on the budget for Wednesday, May 16, 2012, 5:00 p.m. at the Douglas High School Library, 1670 Highway 88, Minden, Nevada 89423, seconded by Mr. Chichester.

Motion carried 7/0.

13. Student Feedback Surveys (Discussion and For Possible Action)

Rich Alexander, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources, provided updated information regarding arranging a presentation of the Tripod Project, by Cambridge Education, LLC. The Board had requested a presentation on the research behind surveys used to collect student feedback. Tuesday May 1st, at 3:30 p.m. was offered to the Board as a possible time for this workshop.

Mr. Moore inquired if other companies were also being reviewed.

Mr. Alexander stated a singular presentation had been arranged that would include a webinar.

Mr. Moore moved to hold a Board Workshop on May 1st, at 3:00 p.m. or later, for a virtual presentation by Cambridge Education, LLC of the Tripod Project, seconded by Mr. Chichester.

There was no public comment offered.

Motion carried, 7/0.

14. Strategic Plan Retreat and Cycle Review (Discussion and For Possible Action)

Dr. Noonan stated this agenda item covered several areas, including changes to Superintendent High Priority Listings and review of the Strategic Plan cycle, per Board request. An updated list of High Priority Focus Areas was provided that included Striving Readers Literacy Grant initiatives as well as, the existing goal list indicating action steps that could be removed.

Mrs. Hales asked if Trustees liked the changes offered. Consensus was to accept the High Priority Focus Areas, as offered, with the updated listings.

Board discussion included the fact that goals were understandable, measurable and district level staff could delegate some steps to principals. Common Core Standards and the SRCL grant were top priorities with scope and sequence and report card revisions being immediate projects.

Mrs. Hales stated the survey listing under Goal 4, Climate, was helpful; although her goal was to include a student feedback survey to impact instruction.

Dr. Noonan informed the Board administrators would receive professional development on the new Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) system, upon hearing from the federal government regarding the accountability waiver. Performance Excellence Framework might be deleted from the Focus Areas and the Baldrige Model brought forward as Baldrige is recognized nationally for ongoing educational improvement. The revised Strategic Plan would come to the Board in the future, following approval of updates this evening.

Mrs. Trigg moved that Dr. Noonan move to accept Strategic Plan changes as presented, seconded by Mrs. Chessell.

Motion carried, 7/0.

Dr. Noonan reviewed a spreadsheet listing major district work on a monthly basis.

Mr. Chichester stated he asked to review the Strategic Planning cycle following his attendance at two retreats wherein goals and objectives for the district were addressed. Concern was stated for the staff commitment of time and effort necessary to produce the meeting as well as, for time allotted to

perform the work and collect data. Additionally, the retreat included only nine members of the public, eight of which were invited last January, plus one other individual.

Board members addressed the possibility of changing the Strategic Plan to a biennium cycle. Comments included:

- 1) Continually changing goals equated to shooting at a moving target.
- 2) Annual data was not enough to offer analysis to major goals.
- 3) The Striving Readers grant reporting in the spring might provide additional analysis and goals, in lieu of the retreat annually.
- 4) Community perception of changing the process was a concern due to competency implementation of the past.
- 5) Perception of education from the community was desirable.
- 6) The group format providing an update on various topics was enjoyed.
- 7) An update on goals could be provided in a smaller setting.
- 8) The Strategic Plan process changed due to state requirements as well as, the addition of Common Core curriculum would result in changing district dynamics.
- 9) January was the proper timeframe due to the District Improvement Plan being finalized in the fall.
- 10) Public buy in to the education process was key. Streamlining the process to pinpoint areas of need and convey a sense of purpose was suggested.
- 11) The Board might consider options for change, although a worry for losing the time to provide the community an opportunity for input was of concern.

Mrs. Hales asked if staff would like to speak to change within the Strategic Plan process.

Dr. Noonan stated preparation for the retreat began 2-3 months prior to the actual event. The work involved with holding an all-day meeting decreased time available for work necessary to implement goals. Dr. Noonan realized the value of conveying the results of work underway to the public; although, the consistent negative feedback from this retreat day was that individuals did not get to choose work the district should be addressing. She suggested reflecting on work underway, every other year, and providing an opportunity to address main goals on a biennium basis.

Ms. Jamin stated sending an invitation to community members would be best for gaining public input, rather than just offering an open meeting notice, in order to have the best attendance.

Mr. Moore moved that the Board change the annual retreat to a biennium cycle, seconded by Mrs. Trigg.

Mrs. Hales offered a friendly amendment to change the motion to read, "to add in for alternate years, a Strategic Plan Retreat report," seconded for purposes of discussion by Mrs. Chessell. A suggestion was made that the Strategic Plan retreat might be held in a smaller setting, although a Regular Board Meeting was not the desired format.

Discussion ensued with regard to possibly holding a Strategic Plan session within a Board Meeting, inviting individuals, and welcoming the community to attend in an open setting.

Mr. Moore called the vote on his original motion and stated he had not accepted the friendly amendment.

Mr. Malloy stated the amendment was not accepted; therefore, there was no need for a second on the amendment.

Mrs. Hales offered that another motion could be made. Mr. Malloy replied another motion would be fine as long as the Board was not reconsidering the same motion.

A vote was taken. Motion carried 4/3; Mrs. Hales, Mrs. Chessell, and Ms. Jamin, nay.

Mr. Moore stated a second motion. Mr. Moore moved to have an informal gathering between public, staff, and the Board to review progress on Strategic Plan goals, not changing or adding to them, just an overview to receive feedback from the public, either during a Board Meeting or as a stand-alone meeting, seconded by Mrs. Trigg.

Ms. Jamin stated her desire to continue to incorporate staff in order to receive their input, along with the nine members of the public into the Strategic Plan Retreat process.

Mr. Moore stated his motion would allow for flexibility in planning.

Concern was expressed that Strategic Plan Committee members continue to be a part of the process including community members who had participated for over a decade, along with district staff.

Motion carried, 6/1; Mrs. Hales, nay.

15. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Noonan reported Douglas High School held a staged DUI presentation to make an impact on students regarding drinking and driving. County emergency services, District and Sheriff's Office personnel were involved in this scared straight style demonstration.

In May, a snow day option would be offered for discussion. Human Resources would report a creative method of building in three snow days by adding minutes to the school day (subject to state approval). Mr. Alexander explained how varied start and end dates for schools resulted in added personnel expense. Through use of adding 6 minutes per day to the ZCES schedule, and 9 minutes per day to the GWHS school day, teacher contracts would not be violated and snow days could be built in. This would create a savings rather than incurring expense should snow days be necessary.

16. Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) Report

Mrs. Trigg informed the Board NASB Director, Dotty Merrill, had provided the most recent newsletter via email. Board members were encouraged to visit the NASB Web site. Mrs. Trigg offered to share a delegate assembly handbook she had received from the National School Board Association. This publication addressed policies and governance that would be used at the upcoming conference that Mrs. Trigg planned to attend in Boston, MA.

17. Possible Agenda Items for Future Board Meetings

Mrs. Trigg inquired about having either the Board or Superintendent receive information on a new chronic truancy program, entitled Dropout and Truancy Prevention Network. Dr. Noonan offered to review the program, and if the program would be something the District would like to entertain further, bring it to the Board to pursue.

Mr. Chichester stated he had been asked about the contract for the consultant used in the calendar process. The Board had not discussed and approved the contract; therefore, he asked that a discussion be held to inform the Board regarding hiring of consultants, seconded by Mrs. Trigg.

18. Correspondence

Mrs. Hales stated the Board had received correspondence from Ray Sidney. There was no other correspondence mentioned.

19. Closed Session

At 8:32 p.m., Mrs. Chessell moved to recess to closed session in order to discuss matters with its management representative pursuant to NRS 288.220(4), seconded by Ms. Jamin.

Motion carried, 7/0.

20. Adjournment

Mr. Chichester moved to adjourn at 9:10 p.m., seconded by Ms. Jamin.

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.