

Douglas County School District

Douglas High School
Minden, Nevada
Tuesday, August 14, 2012
3:30 p.m.

Approved
September 11, 2012

MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Hales called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. Dr. Noonan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Hales stated Item 3 would be taken prior to Item 2.

**3. Award of High School Diplomas
Special Recognition**

Dr. Noonan welcomed a room full of family and friends who were celebrating the summer high school graduates. Mr. Swisher, Douglas High School Principal, announced there were 11 graduates, although not all were present. Pride in accomplishment was expressed for these students who had completed their requirements for graduation. Students who were present received their diplomas and were recognized for their accomplishments by the School Board and Superintendent.

Mrs. Trigg arrived at 3:38 p.m.

Time was taken to celebrate with the graduates from 3:40 – 4:04 p.m.

2. Consent Items (For Possible Action)

Mrs. Chessell moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Chichester.

Motion carried, 6/0.

A. Approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 10, 2012.

- B. Approve for second reading, Board Policy No. 542, "Plan for Serving Students in Transition."
- C. Approve for second reading Board Policy No. 514, "Reporting Student Progress – Parent Conferencing."
- D. Approve for second reading, Board Policy No. 501, "Guardianship – Eligibility of Out-of-State, Non-Resident Children."
- E. Approve for second reading Board Policy No. 210A, "Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs."
- F. Approve payments contained in Special Run Voucher Numbers 1229 and 1302; and Regular Run Voucher Numbers 1230 and 1303.
- G. Approve personnel actions described in Personnel Report No. 12-08.
- H. Accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and appoint Romelle Cronin as Director of Curriculum and Instruction for Douglas County School District.
- I. Request the Board Clerk to authorize certification page naming Denise Higgins as an authorized signatory for purposes of the Child Nutrition Program.
- J. Approve the quote for the District's Business Travel Accident Insurance coverage for the three year term of September 1, 2012 through August 31, 2015 with AC Newman and annual premiums of \$2,970. Funding provided through the General Fund, Superintendent's budget.

**4. Introductions – Rommy Cronin, Kathy Bomba-Edgerton,
and Christi Hines-Coates
(Special Recognition)**

Dr. Noonan introduced and provided background information for newly hired members of the administration. Rommy Cronin was introduced as the new Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Ms. Cronin was in the process of transitioning from her position as Piñon Hills Elementary Principal. Kathy Bomba-Edgerton was introduced as the new Striving Readers Grant Program Coordinator. She had worked previously as a certified staff trainer at the Professional Development Center (PDC). Christi Hines-Coates, new Director of Special Services, returned to this area to be closer to family, coming to us from Idaho. Dr. Noonan was excited to have everyone on board for the new year. Mrs. Hales welcomed the new hires on behalf of the Board.

**5. Principal's Report – (ASPIRE)
(Administrative Report/Program Review)**

Lyn Gorrindo, Principal, stated facts about the ASPIRE program. Five teachers taught an average enrollment of 80 students, who also received career and academic counseling while at the school. Students were allowed to participate in the Douglas High School CTE and JROTC programs. It was reported during the 2011-12 school year, a total of 105 students were enrolled, 13 of which had come to ASPIRE due to expulsions. The maximum student capacity at the current in town location is 100 students. The enrollment was variable due to students moving in and out of the program for various reasons. Some students returned to DHS during the year. Individual student needs were reviewed for best placement when exiting ASPIRE and returning to DHS. Credit recovery was a goal, along with counseling for students to assist them with making best choices. Credits were obtained by students through use of computer based curriculum. High School Proficiency Exam score percentages were reported. Additional ASPIRE student data was noted to be difficult to separate from DHS in this satellite school. Upgraded software would assist in providing independent data in the future. Through grant funding, one quarter of a certified position would now be available to monitor new A+ software.

Tricia Wentz was commended for her work in academic and career counseling. Through a grant she had written, a coordinator was hired for assistance. A resulting piece of the grant resulted in learning opportunities with the local Nature Conservatory. Additionally, she had assisted in gaining a Health Science position to be based on curriculum currently in use at Carson High School.

Miki Trujillo, ASPIRE teacher, highlighted service learning projects that provided opportunities for students to learn purpose and self-worth. In the coming year, the staff would refer to this school as

the ASPIRE Academy, to show respect for the aspiring students. Uniforms, in the form of polo shirts, would also be piloted to assist with keeping clothing bearing bad connotations out of the classroom and aid in equaling financial barriers.

6. Update on Gardnerville Elementary School and Douglas High School Construction Progress (Administrative Report)

Scott McCullough, Project Manager, recognized CORE Construction and District personnel for their great job in coordinating and completing the vast majority of the construction efforts at Gardnerville Elementary School. The school was ready to open in the next week, following extensive renovation of three areas of the oldest portions of the building. Furniture had been moved out last June to expedite removal of hazardous material in the building over the summer. Abatement efforts proved to be larger than estimated; although, of \$250,000 budgeted, only \$140,000 was spent in this area. Various project expenses were noted, all of which remained on target or less than planned. At this time, only 6 classrooms in the 100 wing were yet to be completed along with some outdoor retention basin and playground work. Use of the Education Specifications resulted in appropriate classroom furniture organization. Parking lot and landscaping efforts were complete, resulting in two acres of turf becoming natural areas. Fibar was the product used as a playground surface for safe ground cover. A purchase of this material was made in conjunction with Douglas County, resulting in a largely reduced cost from the manufacturer. Carpeting and ceilings were replaced. Due to the contingency funding in place, the contract with CORE Construction was extended beyond August 17, offering the ability to finish the GES project.

Mr. McCullough was thanked for his efforts over the past year that ended in such positive results.

With regard to the upcoming Douglas High School construction, Mr. McCullough informed the Board lessons learned from Piñon Hills and Gardnerville Elementary projects would be applied to best implement all portions of this next undertaking. Currently in the design phase wherein schematic level drawings were studied, the next step would be to coordinate renovations for next summer. The addition of two new buildings, bathroom and gym upgrades were scheduled to be completed first. Budget projections would be carefully reviewed.

7. Closed Session

Ms. Jamin moved to recess to Closed Session in order to discuss matters with its management representatives pursuant to NRS 288.220(4), seconded by Mr. Chichester.

Motion carried, 6/0.

Mr. Moore arrived at 4:55 p.m., the start of Closed Session.

8. Douglas County Support Staff Organization Ratification (Discussion and For Possible Action)

At 5:33 p.m., Mrs. Hales stated Item 8 would be pulled from the Agenda due to the contract not being ratified by the support staff.

9. Board Self Evaluation (Discussion and For Possible Action)

Following work performed by a Board subcommittee, and extending this item from the July Agenda in order that all Board members could be present, Mrs. Hales invited discussion of the proposed Board self-evaluation tool. Mrs. Hales referenced an email with a variety of news received from Dr. Merrill, NASB Executive Director. She noted an item of interest in that the Federal Department of Education had released information about district Race to the Top grants. A Board evaluation could be a qualifier for grant funds in the future.

Ms. Jamin informed the Trustees following discussions among committee members, the form offered as a tool, had been reduced to one page and consisted of the most desired topics for review. A rating system was decided upon to reflect the same system proposed for use with staff in future evaluations. The Code of Conduct was included to tie this Board Bylaw into the process. Ms. Jamin offered that the form could be refined as desired. Space was available for comments to be included when each member evaluated the group as a whole.

Discussion ensued regarding the reasoning for implementing a Board self-evaluation. Reasons to support conducting a self-evaluation were stated, as well as issues were raised regarding the purpose and relevance of this process. Particular items listed on the form were questioned with regard to how perception would play in vs. actuality, as well as, the ability to quantify responses. The promotion of conversation was stated to be ideal along with the work toward continuous improvement. It was noted district personnel would view this process differently from a teacher evaluation tool. Personal experiences were stated in support of individual's reasoning on this issue.

Following the discussion, Mrs. Trigg moved to continue with the Board self-evaluation process and ask a subcommittee to bring this item back with changes suggested, seconded by Ms. Jamin.

Ms. Jamin offered that it would be best if Board members who did not participate in the prior subcommittee process, could participate, then the form might become more meaningful and effective.

Mrs. Trigg withdrew her first motion and restated the motion as follows:

Mrs. Trigg moved to vote on whether or not this Board would like to have a self evaluation process, still to be determined, seconded by Mrs. Chessell.

Mrs. Hales called for public comment.

Neil Freitas, parent, was in the audience and stated the Board needed to establish whether or not they desired to have this tool, the value of it, and how to grade themselves.

A vote was taken. Motion carried, 5/2, Mr. Green and Mr. Moore, nay.

Mrs. Hales stated that another subcommittee meeting date would be set for further refinement.

10. First Reading Board Policy No. 543, "Safe and Respectful Learning Environment" (Discussion and For Possible Action)

Lyn Gorrindo, Assistant Superintendent Education Services, offered revisions to Board Policy No. 543, "Safe and Respectful Learning Environment." A subcommittee of secondary principals in conjunction with attorney, Ann Alexander, had offered revisions to incorporate best definitions and timelines necessary to meet NRS requirements. Mike Malloy, attorney present at this meeting, offered additional changes. Wording was noted to be particular around bullying and cyber bullying. The dateline was crucial upon reporting of an incident, as well as recording within the PowerSchool database. Board members commented with regard to their understanding of perceived power in these instances and the seriousness of these matters.

Mr. Chichester informed Trustees the Sheriff's office provided grant funding to schools to assist with bullying education.

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

Mr. Chichester moved to approve for first reading, Board Policy No. 543, "Safe and Respectful Learning Environment," seconded by Ms. Jamin.

Motion carried, 7/0.

Public Comment

At 6:24 p.m., Mrs. Hales called for public comment on items other than what was listed in the agenda. There was none.

11. Student Representative on the Board (Discussion and For Possible Action)

Dr. Noonan asked the Trustees to provide direction to staff regarding the format they desired that would encompass student participation with the Regular Board Meetings.

Ms. Jamin stated she had spoken to others and read online about student participation on school boards, both as voting and non-voting members. The intention was not to have students come as a class requirement to be checked off; she preferred to hear feedback on issues of student interest. A possibility could be to have a Board member go to a high school leadership class to discuss this topic. Another avenue could be to have a Girls State member participate as previously offered.

Mr. Malloy, attorney, stated in Nevada Trustees were the only voting members allowed on a school board.

Discussion ensued regarding the Board encouraging student participation, although input would be taken from one individual, who could not equally represent all. At the same time, students might participate in the light of this being a positive opportunity. A concern was raised that if a student participated, staff could also request representation.

Ms. Jamin stated parameters could be set for student participation. This opportunity for students could enlighten Board members as had been the case when input was received regarding the District motto included on the updated logo.

Ms. Jamin moved that the Board direct staff in conjunction with any interested Board members, to work with the leadership class to identify a possible role for student input to the Board, seconded by Mrs. Trigg.

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

Motion carried, 7/0.

12. CRT and HSPE Assessment Results (Administrative Report)

Brian Frazier, Director of Assessments and Grants, explained CRT & HSPE Assessment Results. Changes to cut scores for Nevada Proficiency Examination Program Tests (NPEP) had been adopted by the Nevada State Board of Education that included increased rigor for college and career readiness. Transitioning for math scores had taken place over three years, 2011-2012 being the last year. Math curriculum was being realigned to meet Common Core standards. New reading cut scores were adopted in 2011; science cut scores were adopted in 2005. As a result, the 2011-12 school year would most likely reflect lower rates of English Language Arts achievement on assessments.

Spring reading Criterion Referenced Test (CRT) scores were provided for 2011 and 2012. Mr. Frazier explained a new trend line symbol used to indicate a downward or upward trend that appeared on the spreadsheet. This symbol would also be incorporated in the new data dashboard format. In looking at CRT reading results, an overall increase at most elementary and middle schools was noted. Math CRT scores were shown as variable, although results increased from 2011 to 2012. Science CRT scores were also variable, although an upward trend was noted when comparing the 2011 and 2012 school years.

Mr. Frazier reported the recent High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) results. HSPE cut scores had also changed. While trend lines were down, Mr. Frazier stated DCSD results remained higher than the rest of Nevada schools. Scores were provided for comparison using the spring 2012 math HSPE data with the current transitional cut score vs. the new cut score of 300. Spring 2013 would show a drop in proficiency with implementation of the new scoring system. Students were reported to have benefited through improved classroom instruction overall.

As a governing member of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), all public schools in Nevada were working to implement new assessments in the 2014-15 school year.

13. Consideration of Competency Modification (Discussion and For Possible Action)

Mr. Frazier reported changes necessary to align district Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments with Common Core curriculum for reading and math (grades K-9), as well as, science (grades 7-9). DCSD graduation requirements for science and reading had now been exceeded by the Nevada State requirements. The HSPE math assessment was the mechanism for meeting math requirements for graduation. Therefore, DCSD MAP score requirements in reading, language, and science, necessary for graduation, were recommended to be removed due to the recent changes in the state standards, as well as changes that had been adopted for assessments in math, science, reading and writing. The state standards and assessments now exceed MAP target scores.

The recommendation was to approve new Common Core, summative MAP tests, aligned with the new curriculum. Students would no longer need to meet high stakes target scores on the MAP in reading, language and science in order to graduate effectively with the class of 2013. Grades K-9 would take the Common Core aligned reading and math MAP in the fall and spring. Grades 7-9 would take the science MAP in the fall and spring. MAP testing was noted to provide growth data. A winter assessment period would be offered to be used when necessary with the student intervention process. Writing requirements were changing to align with the new SBAC assessments of the future.

Mrs. Chessell moved to remove the MAP score requirements in reading, language and science for graduation and provide students with the Common Core aligned MAP assessments in fall and spring each year for reading and math (K-9) and Science (7-9), seconded by Mrs. Trigg.

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

Motion carried, 7/0.

Dr. Noonan expressed excitement to be on comparable ground with 20-30 other states. Mr. Frazier was commended for his efforts in beginning to shore up expectations for the district and reorganize assessments to meet the new expectations.

14. Superintendent's Report (Administrative Report)

Dr. Noonan reported in the week prior to this meeting, the Department of Education issued approval for the Nevada Accountability Waiver, officially ending the era of No Child Left Behind (NCLB). This approval resulted in the release of a new document that would be used to restructure student the accountability system. The new acronym is NSPF, Nevada School Performance Framework. NSPF will take the place of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and NCLB. 34 states received approval for new accountability systems, with systems varying by state. Growth models were a federal expectation that will now change, entailing a lot of training for staff. Part of the approval included elimination of sanctions that were attached to NCLB. For Title I schools, administrators were reported to have just been informed that "school choice" and "supplemental services" programs were eliminated. DCSD families involved in "school choice" were being called and informed. Those who

participated under the program last year were invited to continue; although, they would now need to provide their own transportation due to the elimination of this funding.

Dr. Noonan followed up on the earlier Gardnerville Elementary School update by stating her desire to hold the November Regular Board Meeting at GES to incorporate a public tour of the newly upgraded facility. Additionally, Ms. Luna was noted to have worked this summer to inform staff at each site regarding new playground equipment code requirements. Playground equipment replacements would be underway with the help of grants and parent group fundraising efforts.

15. Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) Report

Mrs. Chessell reported on her attendance, in place of Mrs. Trigg, at the latest NASB Board of Directors Meeting held in Elko. Items covered included, approval of an Association dues increase for the Nevada counties; Executive Board members from all counties were encouraged to attend all four meetings each year; interest was shown in putting together a legal initiative fund to benefit all districts; State Superintendent, James Guthrie, looked to have school districts more effectively use resources; educational funding reports and discussions were noted to reflect funding for charter and private schools, not just districts; superintendents were moving through their positions for a variety of reasons; interim legislative committee involvement for the NASB would hopefully help to eliminate some reports districts have been asked to provide that use time and resources; a request for a public education stabilization account to help in harder times would be supported; and promoting taking evergreen language out of bargaining agreements when there is an economic downturn was noted. Mrs. Trigg thanked Mrs. Chessell for her attendance at the Directors Meeting. Board members were reminded of the upcoming NASB Conference, at the Atlantis Casino, November 15 -17. Newly elected officials were encouraged to attend.

16. Possible Agenda Items for Future Board Meetings

Board members reviewed the list of items to be placed on future agendas. Priority items were identified. Topics to be removed from the list were also noted. A list reflecting changes as discussed would be provided for the next meeting.

Mrs. Hales offered a new topic for discussion. In a study Mrs. Hales had seen, the U.S. was reported to be number one in self-esteem, while behind 25 nations in promoting that hard work equaled success. Mrs. Chessell seconded the idea of exploring this topic.

17. Correspondence

There was no correspondence offered.

18. Adjournment

Mr. Chichester moved to adjourn at 7:35 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Chessell.

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.