

MINUTES

Present:

Trustees:

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

Absent:

Randy Green, 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:

Rick Hsu, Legal Counsel

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Hales called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. A moment was taken to recognize Patriot Day by remembering the victims, responders and injured persons. Ms. Jamin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Chessell moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Ms. Jamin.

There was no public comment.

Motion carried, 5/0.

2. Consent Items (For Possible Action)

Mrs. Hales stated a change was necessary to Item 2-F, "Personnel Report No. 12-09." Lacey Tank, shown in the Classified list had been hired to work at GES rather than GWHS.

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

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

Motion carried, 5/0.

A. Approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 14, 2012.

- B. Approve the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting August 24, 2012.
- C. Approve for second reading, Board Policy No. 543, "Safe and Respectful Learning Environment."
- D. Approve the application for Assembly Bill 1: Grant Fund for Incentives for Licensed Educational Personnel."
- E. Approve payments contained in Special Run Voucher Number 1304; and Regular Run Voucher Number 1231.
- F. Approve personnel actions described in Personnel Report No. 12-09.
- G. Approve the Douglas County School District Test Administration Guidebook: Procedures and Expectations for the 2012-2013 school year.
- H. Accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and appoint Jason Reid as Principal of Piñon Hills Elementary School.

3. Introduction of New Personnel

Dr. Noonan welcomed and introduced newly hired Piñon Hills Elementary School Principal, Jason Reid. Mr. Reid came to DCSD from the Eastern Sierra Unified School District with 14 years of experience in administration across grades K-12.

4. Special Recognition

Dr. Noonan and Pam Gilmartin, Principal of Jacks Valley Elementary School, introduced Cathy Smith. Appreciation was shown for Ms. Smith, Cafeteria Manager, who was a hardworking, team player, making a difference each day in the lives of students and staff. Mrs. Hales awarded Ms. Smith a card and pin to commemorate her achievements.

5. Board Intervention Fund Reports (Administrative Report/Program Review)

Mrs. Hales stated the Board approved an expenditure of Board Intervention Funds (BIF) as a direct, additional support for students. Administrators were thanked for their work in administering these funds for the best benefit to students.

Lake and Valley elementary and secondary principals reported Board Intervention usage for 2011-12. A variety of opportunities for students to gain proficiency in math, reading, and writing were shared. MAP growth data were presented by each school site. Sites reported an increase in both CRT scores and student Grade Point Averages (GPA's) within the group of students receiving assistance. Intervention offerings varied from several weeks to a full semester of assistance for targeted students. Administrators determined the number of certified teachers or tutors necessary to schedule and implement interventions. Sites offered interventions at various times including lunch and after school. Additionally, Pau-Wa-Lu identified and invited students to a retreat for 8th graders as support for a variety of their needs, prior to the interventions offered as a result of BIF funds. Six freshmen participated in activities throughout the year as well.

Douglas High School offered lunch tutoring to all students as a consistent opportunity to receive help with current course work. Mr. Swisher expressed appreciation for the ability to have students participate in ASPIRE concurrently.

George Whittell High School provided after school tutoring to students who wished to participate.

Much appreciation was shown to the Board for allocating the funds used to positively, directly, impact students. Principals welcomed the opportunity to continue to supplement students through receipt of these resources. Administrators were thanked for their continued, extra efforts, in the area of providing interventions to struggling students.

6. Report on Summer School Program for 2012

Rob Parks, Summer School Administrator, reported attendance and achievement data relating to the four courses and seminars offered during summer school 2012. In attendance, were 43 middle school and 225 high school students. Classes provided were Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) improvement in the areas of math, reading, and English Language Arts; High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) assistance for math, science and writing; credit recovery in English, history and science for grades 7/8; and expository and research paper competency seminars. MAP score improvement courses were attended by 7 – 9th graders. Seniors who were unable to graduate in June due to the need to retake HSPE exams were offered the opportunity to be proficient in order to earn their diploma. Of 16 students who took the HSPE's, 10 passed. OdysseyWare software engaged students enabling students to earn credits equaling 116.5 credits overall.

Transportation was provided to summer school in the morning; although, buses were not available in the afternoon, high school students were prevalent for the later session.

Looking ahead, Mr. Parks desired to increase student attendance and have access to a counselor during the summer school session. Administrators commented in support of summer school and the highly qualified staff involved.

7. Teen Screen (Administrative Report)

Lyn Gorrindo, Assistant Superintendent Education Services, and representatives for Teen Screen provided an overview of this national mental health and suicide screening program. The Board was offered the opportunity to ask questions and gain insight on the program prior to district implementation. Cindy Hannah, Carson City Health and Human Services, Debbie Posnien, Director of Suicide Prevention, and a Carson City volunteer coordinator with the Medical Reserve Corps of volunteers, promoted suicide and mental disorder prevention screening. The program began at Columbia University in the 1990's, has more recently been revised and offered as an evidence based practice to help students be successful. Strictly used as a screening tool, the program is geared to kids between 11–18 years old. No diagnosis or treatment is involved. The trained staff including case managers, screeners, and personnel who debrief (registered nurses) use the nurse or counselors office at schools for the screening. Approximately 15 students per hour could be screened. A volunteer based approach, dependent upon parent consent and voluntary staff participation, the process is used to determine students at high risk of poor mental health for early intervention.

Some concern was expressed that students would be taken from class to be screened. Dr. Noonan offered that the program might be piloted at ASPIRE, at the spring health fair, on collaboration days, or weekends. Another concern mentioned, was regarding the presentation to parents in that no one should feel pressured to have their student participate. Dr. Noonan added that Washoe County School District was implementing the program for 7th grade. This report was noted to have been prepared to provide an overview to the Board to familiarize them with the process.

8. Bond Administration Report (Administrative Report)

Marty Johnson, JNA Consulting Group, provided history of the three bonds previously issued for approximately \$23 million and updated the Board on upcoming bond sales. Through use of programs available under stimulus money incentives, over \$2 million will be saved in interest expense. The 2011 Legislature had lowered the required reserve to 50% of debt service from the

prior 100% requirement. Alternative options for future bond sales were explained. The district could experience greater flexibility if bonds were sold with a 30 year payback, in lieu of a 20 year payback. Debt service for \$17.5 million necessary for the proposed projects would fit with revenues for both the 20 and 30 year payback ranges. The 30 year bonds would allow for additional future funding of approximately \$5 million and increase the Pay-As-You-Go cash from approximately \$2 million to \$2.5 million over the next several years. Mr. Johnson reviewed the necessary steps to move forward with bond issuances. Holly Luna, Chief Financial Officer, requested Board feedback regarding the 30 year bond payback, indicating her recommendation to allow as much flexibility in bond authorization as well as Pay-As-You-Go cash. Timing was key to support securing the Bank Qualified status. Mr. Johnson quantified that the Bank Qualified status could exceed \$500,000 allowing a portion of that to be converted to Pay-As-You-Go funding.

Mr. Chichester commented in support of allowing flexibility by selecting the 30 year bond, with potential multiple sales over current and upcoming calendar years to benefit from Bank Qualified status. The recommendation was also supported maintaining a 100% reserve in the Debt Service regardless of the 50% requirement stated within the statute. Ms. Luna stated the District continues to fund at 100%.

In order to sell bonds in December Trustees were encouraged to begin the process of bond authorization in October.

Ms. Luna stated following positive feedback, she would bring a DMC Notice and Resolution to the October Board meeting for approval.

Ms. Jamin suggested involving the KIDS Committee participants prior to taking action, although the group was not formally engaged at this time. Ms. Luna offered to provide facts to the Committee and gain this input through email.

9. Student Representative at Board Meeting (Discussion and For Possible Action)

Dr. Noonan reported having met with Leadership students at both Douglas and Whittell High Schools to gain their feedback with regard to participation at the Douglas County School Board Meetings. Suggestions received included having students come in pairs and rotate the individuals who could attend. One of the teachers offered that each student could attend one time a year. Students could gain from learning how to be proactive with community involvement, rather than participating in reactive approaches. Credit could be awarded in the Leadership Class for having attended.

Ms. Jamin stated she was in attendance for the Douglas student Leadership group meeting. A court proceeding was held at DHS during this same timeframe that Ms. Jamin felt may have diverted student attention. Three students offered comments regarding the time of the day they might attend. Their thoughts were they might participate up through Public Comment. Adding that a conversation had taken place at Agenda Review, the Board could now decide their preference for student participation.

Mr. Moore responded that it did not appear students desired to actively participate and felt the Board as a whole could discuss this matter noting two members were absent this evening.

Dr. Noonan added GWHS had a student leader for each grade level who were happy to bring an opinion to the Board from the student body overall as well as the parents. GWHS students would take turns attending meetings.

The possibility of holding a Special Meeting to further the discussion was mentioned, although not supported. This item was tabled for November, the next meeting all Trustees could be present.

Public Comment

At 5:58 p.m., Mrs. Hales called for public comment. There was none.

15. Closed Session

Mr. Chichester moved to recess to closed session in order to discuss matter with the management representatives pursuant to NRS 288.220(4), seconded by Mr. Moore.

Motion carried, 5/0.

The Board reconvened in open session at 6:45 p.m.

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

Mrs. Hales stated an update on the Board self-evaluation process would be provided at the November Regular Board Meeting.

11. Superintendent's Report (Administrative Report)

Dr. Noonan stated the official count day results would be forthcoming. Enrollment was steady when compared to last year, holding at approximately 6200 students. A series of meetings based on SB11 passed in the last legislative session regarding state public school funding, had occurred. The purpose was to study the equity of funding within the Distributive School Account (DSA). Superintendent Jones, Clark County, had assured Nevada districts he would not support decreasing other district funds in an effort to support his own district's needs.

The Board would be presented with a wrap up report based on the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) reporting system. Due to the new accountability measures, the Trustees would then be informed through a series of presentations the process as it relates to the new system.

12. Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) Report

Mrs. Hales reminded Board members the next conference was coming up in November. Everyone was invited to attend any segment of the conference they were able to.

13. Possible Agenda Items for Future Board Meetings

Mrs. Hales suggested the room be rearranged at Regular Meetings to allow for the Board to be closer to the public. The idea resulted from a discussion regarding the possibility of having a student representative participate with the Board. Her thought was some Cabinet members might prefer to sit apart from the regular setting, allowing for a table to be removed. This arrangement would create a shorter proximity to the audience of about 10'.

Mrs. Chessell inquired about equity within the schools relating to available playground equipment. Dr. Noonan responded the Board would receive more information in January based on funding available.

14. Correspondence

It was noted that Backpack Buddies had moved to the Bently Building at 1617 Water Street. The group packaged backpacks for needy children at this location, 10:00 a.m., the second Monday of every month. Volunteers were appreciated.

15. Closed Session

Closed Session occurred earlier, at 6:00 p.m.

16. Adjournment

Mr. Chichester moved to adjourn at 7:20 p.m., seconded by Ms. Jamin.

Motion carried, 5/0.

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.