

Douglas County School District
Douglas High School
Tuesday, September 10, 2013
3:30 p.m.

Minutes Approved
October 8, 2013

MINUTES

Present:

Trustees:

Thomas Moore, President
Karen Chessell, Vice President
Ross Chichester, Clerk
Neal Freitas, Member
Sharla Hales, Member
Teri Jamin, Member

Absent: Cynthia Trigg, Member

Personnel:

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

Others Present:

Rick Hsu, Legal Counsel

1. Call to Order

Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mr. Moore called for public comment. There was none.

Motion carried 6/0.

2. Consent Items (For Possible Action)

Mr. Moore asked if there were any items to be pulled from the Consent Agenda. There were none.

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

Motion carried, 6/0.

- A. Approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 13, 2013.
- B. Approve payments contained in Special Run Voucher Numbers 1330 and 1404; and Regular Run Voucher Number 1405 for FY13-14.
- C. Approve personnel actions described in Personnel Report No. 13-09.
- D. Approve the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of August 16, 2013.
- E. Accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and appoint Michelle Trujillo as ASPIRE/Alternative Education Principal.
- F. Accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and appoint Susan McNeall, Wendi

- Yankoskie and Victoria Blakeney as Elementary School Vice Principals
- G. Approve submission of the NWRPDP Annual Report to the State Board, the Commission and the Legislative Bureau of Educational Accountability and Program Evaluation.
 - H. Approve the Douglas County School District Test Administration Guidebook: Procedures and Expectations for the 2013-2014 school year.

Mr. Moore announced he had an emergency come up at work and that he would need to leave at 5:45 p.m.

3. Introduction of New Administrators (Special Recognition)

Dr. Noonan introduced four newly hired administrators. Background information was provided for each of the three new Vice Principals: Susan McNeill (GES/MES/PHES), Vicky Blakeney (JVES) and Wendi Yankoskie (CCMES/SES). Miki Trujillo was introduced as the new principal for ASPIRE, Jacobsen High School, Summer School and the Tahoe Detention Center. The administrators were appreciated for their commitment to success of students and welcomed into their new positions.

4. Airport Facilities (Discussion/For Possible Action)

Scott McCullough, Project Manager, shared drawings of the proposed additions and improvements for the Airport Facilities. Department names and various office area usages were identified and reviewed as listed on the floor and site plans. Records management would be contained in a metal building with appropriate fire systems. The network operating center managed by the Information Technology Department would be moved from Douglas High School to the airport facility. Ultimately, the existing building and new modular would be concreted into a new complex housing a training center and lounge to include employee joint usage areas. New outdoor parking lot lighting and a security gate would be installed. Mr. McCullough asked for approval to proceed with improvements at the airport facility.

Mr. Moore called for public comment. There was none.

Mr. Chichester moved to approve schematic design, and provide authorization to proceed with Airport Facilities renovations. Funding previously approved in 5 Year CIP Bond Funding, seconded by Ms. Jamin.

Motion carried 6/0.

5. Nevada School Performance Framework - Overview (Administrative Report/Program Review)

Dr. Noonan informed the Board, the State would announce the school star ratings as calculated for the 2012-13 school year assessment data next Monday. Brian Frazier, Director of Assessments and Grants, would explain the star rating (1-5 stars) based on the number of points earned (100 point system).

Mr. Frazier explained the various achievement measures and points assigned in the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) system. The basis for reports is proficiency on State assessments; growth across State assessments; reduction of gaps in achievement; college and career readiness indicators for high schools; graduation rates and graduation gap reduction for high schools; and other indicators. Adequate Growth Percentiles (AGP) are used to compare the growth of all students. Each student receives an AGP.

There are 4 categories of index points weighted and used for *elementary* and *middle* schools: Student growth percentiles - 40%; Proficiency - 30%; Subpopulation Growth Gap Reduction

(Free/Reduced Lunch (FRL), English Language Learners (ELL) and Individual Education Plans (IEP) - 20%; and other indicator(s) - 10%. Index points earned were compared to points eligible. Data provided at the elementary level is for grades 4, 5, and 6. Two data points were used to determine growth.

Mr. Frazier informed the board, “supergroups” were formed when subpopulations have fewer than ten students in any of the three groups (IEP, FRL or LEP). Points were calculated by way of the “supergroup” under the growth category. Duplicate data was removed from “supergroups.” For purposes of the NSPF, count day enrollment numbers were used.

Board members revisited definitions of performance indicators and learned how to read School Overview Reports that included bar graphs. These data reflected performance trends which resulted in the star ratings earned by the schools. A raw data file spreadsheet was provided with disseminated data for clear reference used to identify students by breaking out supergroups and providing a breakdown of points received.

Mr. Frazier explained *high school* index point weighting consisting of 5 categories: Graduation – 30%; Status and Growth – 30%; College & Career Readiness – 16%; Other indicator – 14%; and Subgroup Proficiency Gaps – 10%. In 9th grade, other indicators included credit deficiency. An example was provided to review points earned and points eligible, as well as a bar graph was used as a visual to show higher and lower categories wherein points had been earned. Star reports for the 2012-13 school year were scheduled for release the following week.

Student achievement could be compared to students across the state to identify gaps and see the school Median Growth Percentile (MGP), a summary prepared for the school. The Student Growth Percentile (SGP) is used to measure achievement over time and compared to similar groups of students year over year. Percentages were explained using sample data for 2011-12 for all 5 areas of the index point weighting system.

Questions were raised with regard to information not included on the NSPF reports. Career and Technological Education had not been represented, nor had numbers of students taking the PSATs. Dr. Noonan commented the report had been created over the course of a year with educators deciding the areas that should be included; although, educational leaders were aware the first run reports would need to be tweaked somewhat to best represent student data.

6. Data Dashboard Revisions (Administrative Report/Program Review)

Brian Frazier provided an updated, draft, district data dashboard and asked for comments from Trustees. Terminology resulting from the new State NSPF system had been incorporated into the document, such as Adequate Growth Percentile (AGP). A definition would be added to explain the new graduation gap section. Data provided as a result of eWalk software for classroom walk-throughs was also included under instruction data. Reading and math proficiency testing was listed as a result of High School Proficiency Exams (HSPEs). It was requested that definitions be added to data points and/or as a reference at the end of the document to best explain the origin of data. The Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Grant (SRCL) data had been incorporated in the areas of software usage, such as percentage of students participating in READ 180 and percentage of students recovering credit using the A+ program.

Mrs. Hales suggested the addition of Tripod student survey data, based on feedback around classroom instruction, could be added to the dashboard once it was received.

A request was made to copy spreadsheets on a full size page for easier reading.

Following some discussion regarding the 5 page dashboard, consensus was to maintain the dashboard in its entirety due to different individuals focusing on different areas of facts provided.

Refinements might be made in the future following use of the new dashboard after a period of time.

Mr. Moore thanked Mr. Frazier for his work to update the data dashboard and include all facets of information.

7. Music Curriculum Report (Administrative Report/Program Review)

Rommy Cronin, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, provided a report as requested by Trustees, on music education in the District. Elementary teachers were credited for developing the music critical content for grades K-6 in 2007. The Content Standards had been created for grades 1-9, but were due for review. Scope and sequence was used for band, chorus, world drumming and a guitar class (not currently offered). Class offerings were based on enrollment and auditions required for advanced band. Elementary students in 5th and 6th grade band attend class prior to the school day, 4 or 5 days per week. A bus is provided to JVES and PHES students with one bus stop, as a transportation opportunity to aid in student participation. The location for band varies with the exception of the class held at PWLMS. ZCES students were able to attend band class 2 days a week at their site. Flyers are sent home to invite band participation and families are invited to attend an open house at the start of the school year.

At the high school band level, students sign up for band and other electives. Teachers also recruit students to increase participation. Principals make course offering decisions in the spring based on enrollment requests for those classes. While there is no beginning band at Douglas High School, George Whittell High School does offer it. Marching band is offered as an after school activity. Students are also offered symphonic band at the middle school level; jazz band and chorus at high school.

Mrs. Hales stated her desire to have the Board support a higher quality music program, noting particular segments of the music curriculum were exceptional and other areas might be improved upon. Mrs. Hales added she would like to further discuss music programming, but was uncertain what meeting format might be the most desirable.

Mr. Moore called for public comment due to this topic being controversial in the past. There were no comments offered.

8. Closed Session

At 5:09 p.m., Mrs. Chessell 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 left during Closed Session to tend to other business. Mrs. Chessell chaired this meeting for the remainder of the evening.

Public Comment

At 6:00 p.m., Mrs. Chessell called for public comment. No comments were offered.

9. Consideration of 2013 School Improvement Bond Resolution (Discussion and For Possible Action)

Marty Johnson, JNA Consulting, stated approval of the Bond Resolution in the amounts of \$8.5 million dollars in bonds would allow for sale of the bonds, delegating Holly Luna, Chief Financial Officer, to accept the highest bid. The Douglas County Debt Management Commission had

authorized the selling of bonds for three years. In the previous year \$9 million in bonds were sold. At this time interest rates were expected to be offered at 4.5 – 4.75%. Payback would be scheduled for 20, rather than 30 years due to the belief of purchasers that interest rates were increasing. The bond sale date was planned for September 24th.

Mrs Chessell called for public comment. There was none.

Mrs. Hales moved to approve the 2013 School Improvement Bond Resolution, #13-04, as submitted, seconded by Ms. Jamin.

Motion carried 5/0.

10. Superintendent's Report (Administrative Report)

Dr. Noonan reported having dealt with heavy smoke in the district, due to the Rim Fire that began just a few days after the start of school. Students and staff did well by staying inside and handling sports cancellations for approximately two weeks.

Count day was noted to be this coming Friday. Student enrollment had stabilized this year, for the first year, following eight years of declining enrollment.

Dr. Noonan reported she would meet with principals this week regarding participation in a validation study of the new teacher performance evaluation system. The study was a result of the Nevada Teachers and Leaders Council. A form had been submitted to the State expressing interest in participation; although, it was unknown at this time if the district would be chosen.

11. Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) Report

Mrs. Hales announced the annual NASB conference was scheduled for November 22 – 23, at the Atlantis Casino in Reno. Mrs. Hales also stated she would be attending the upcoming NASB Executive Committee and Board of Directors Meeting.

12. Possible Agenda Items for Future Board Meetings

Mrs. Hales stated she would like the Board to discuss supporting higher quality music programming throughout the district, seconded by Mrs. Chessell.

13. Board Reports

Mr. Chichester offered that expulsion hearings attended by several Trustees at a time, had begun early in the year.

14. Correspondence

Mrs. Hales stated she received a request to check if a book that was found to be inappropriate was on the approved list of novels for DCSD. Staff noted while Common Core has a list, DCSD maintained a list that coincided, but did not contain all possible novel options.

8. Closed Session (Continued)

At 6:15 p.m., 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, 5/0.

15. Adjournment

The Board returned to open session and Mr. Chichester moved to adjourn at 7:43 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Hales.

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.