

**Douglas County School District**  
Special Meeting  
**Administrative Services Building**  
Minden, Nevada  
Friday, August 16, 2013  
11:30 a.m.

*Minutes Approved  
September 10, 2013*

## **MINUTES**

Present:

**Trustees:**

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

Present:

**Personnel:**

Lisa Noonan, Superintendent

### **1. Call to Order**

Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion carried, 6/0.

### **2. Public Comment**

Mr. Moore called for public comment on items not listed on the agenda. There were no comments from the public.

### **3. Board Workshop (Information and Discussion)**

Dr. Noonan began by informing the Board she and Mr. Moore had reviewed possible topics for conversation at this workshop. The result was an agenda allowing for topics of choice to be discussed. The Strategic Plan retreat, to be held in January, was suggested as an area of focus. Recent legislation for Board discussion, SB157, was provided as one topic point. SB157 stated "...the board of trustees of each school district shall establish criteria for budgetary priorities that are directed at improving the achievement of pupils and improving classroom instruction." SB157 could be addressed on or before the Strategic Plan retreat. Dr. Noonan then asked Trustees to provide input regarding what makes the Strategic Plan most meaningful for them.

Board members offered thoughts with regard to the preferred Strategic Plan meeting design, impact to our community and staff and the intent desired for the Strategic Plan Committee in the future. In the past, the Committee helped to provide and support guidelines for student achievement not offered to districts through the Nevada Department of Education. Over the past decade, State Standards, Common Core Standards and the more recent Nevada School Performance Framework

fulfilled the purpose of raising standards for achievement beyond the 12<sup>th</sup> grade level. Board members stated suggestions and thoughts for organizing the upcoming retreat including the following ideas:

- Needed communication with the community is provided. An emphasis of reaching out to the community was desirable. Understanding district operations and buy-in from the community was part of the process. Attendees could be grouped for small discussions and then allowed to voice opinions. Areas of need or waste could be identified from their viewpoint. Some questions raised were, "Has education gotten so technical that there is no need for help from the community?" "What questions might the committee help answer?" If there was no purpose other than public relations, the meeting could change from "Strategic Plan" to "Informational Community Meeting." In this case, terminology overall might need to change.
- It was reiterated that collaborative work performed by the committee, culminating in an end result, answering to needs identified by the district staff through meaningful dialogue, was the preferred format. Staff would provide a basis and structure for the meeting, the committee would provide guidance. Decisions might be made on retreat day or information gleaned from the event to assist with final decision making discussions. Informational presentations would be minimized.
- It was suggested current programs throughout the district be studied.
- The budget was noted to be based on Strategic Plan goals (other than what is designated for personnel) and could be available to review for 2013-14.
- District budget priorities could be shared through addressing SB157.
- A budget spreadsheet created by another Nevada district (Elko Model) and shared with the community was suggested as something DCSD could recreate and incorporate within the Plan. Staff and employees would benefit by having priorities conveyed down to the program level to see the cause and effect of the Strategic Plan on staff responsibilities, resulting in aligned efforts. This would provide a lower level understanding of where resources are going, where funds are coming from and what the restrictions are.
- A meeting format resulting in Board action was desirable vs. only public relations oriented discussions. Obtaining information for review ahead was suggested to facilitate discussion rather than only listening to information presented.
- Using a facilitator was suggested to free up Dr. Noonan and allow her participation otherwise within the Committee. A facilitator would assist in building trust within the committee and help get to the core of issues. This person could be asked to encourage best interaction of all individuals.
- The possibility of outsourcing was mentioned in order to best implement the new teacher evaluation system.
- Meaningful events and school topics could be placed in the calendar section of newspapers.
- A look at efforts in time spent on resources was desired.
- A discussion with the entire committee regarding use of funds available for programs was requested.
- A sequence of meetings could be conducted wherein the Board ultimately reviewed a summary of Strategic Plan ideas provided by a staff and community oriented subcommittee, prior to the retreat. The result of these efforts could be presented to the entire Committee by a representative and/or in a written format.
- The Strategic Plan document could be revised to be more easily used as a district guideline geared to easier public interpretation.
- Ideas relating to the number of persons who should attend were stated and whether or not the same size and make up of the committee should participate.
- The fundamental principles of the new Nevada Education Performance System Principles needed to be fully incorporated into the Strategic Plan document and other areas of focus removed.

The history relating to the purpose for having Strategic Plan Meetings was discussed.

Dr. Noonan reminded the Board that mandated Nevada education reforms, provided as a list of 3 Principles relating to the Nevada Education Performance System, were a focus at this time and created a lot of change within the system. Additionally, implementation of a new teacher evaluation system was underway. A budget format in the Elko Model could be provided to familiarize Trustees this fall. Dr. Noonan recognized the need to reconfigure the Plan document. She noted evaluation of programs would be difficult due to the variables involved. Dr. Noonan offered to hold a pre-meeting to train some Committee members prior to asking them for input at a retreat, rather than have the entire group including Board members and staff, sit through a learning session unnecessary for them. Board members were requested to provide her with questions they would like answered and topics for the Strategic Plan retreat agenda. Dr. Noonan asked again for Trustees to help her know what would make the Strategic Plan retreat meaningful for each of them.

Discussion ensued as to how the NSPF umbrellas fit in as rules of the education game, and how they were incorporated into the current 6 goals. The committee would need to be informed as to what they would be trying to achieve in relation to goals.

Ms. Jamin announced the Run Ed Run event, sponsored by the Douglas County Education Foundation (DCEF), would take place October 6<sup>th</sup>. She asked for 2 or 3 volunteers to help pass out refreshments at DHS.

#### **4. Adjournment (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Chichester moved to adjourn at 1:28 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Chessell.

Motion carried, 7/0.

Submitted by,

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Carolyn Moore  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Approved:

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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.