

**Douglas County School District
Music & Arts Study Group Meeting
DCSD Administrative Offices
Thursday, April 23, 2015
4:00 p.m.**

***Minutes Approved
May 21, 2015***

MINUTES

Present:

Committee Members:

Rita Borselli, Teacher
Mary Stoll, Teacher
Cindy Schnaare-Quarry
Amy Sando, Teacher
Jane Oling-Greenard, Teacher
Shannon Sedlock, Teacher
Kimberly Brennan, Teacher
Robin Reyes, Teacher
Brian Fitzgerald, President Carson Valley Arts Council
Robert Schilling, Paren
Shannon Brown, GES Principal
Keith Lewis, PWL Principal

Present:

Lisa Noonan, Superintendent
Brandon Swain, Education Services Director Area 4

**1. Call to Order
(For Possible Action)**

Mr. Swain called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Brown moved to adopt the flexible agenda, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald.

Motion carried, 9/0.

2. Public Comment #1

There were no public comments offered.

3. Work Session Reports and Discussion

Brandon Swain, Education Services Director, Area 4, introduced himself and asked that all in attendance introduce themselves.

Dr. Noonan handed out a guide for use with completing committee assignments necessary to answering the questions the Board of Trustees had asked a Fine Arts Committee to answer.

The committee was charged with gathering information about what each school is doing in the area of arts; looking at rigor and standards; disseminating their ideas into

categories of those with additional expense to the district and those that could be implemented for no cost; providing a variety of suggestions for options offered and for increasing student exposure in the area of arts; and ultimately compiling a report to present the findings to the Board.

Music teachers had completed a similar process; therefore, the music committee report was provided as an example of the end result for the committee's work.

The group discussed completing this project by the end of the year vs. finalizing their report in the fall. It was noted, the music teachers had used part of a collaboration day for discussion to brainstorm and create a frame of reference. Dr. Noonan offered half day substitutes should teachers prefer to get together on a specific date during working hours.

Other options offered, were to have committee members work independently and then meet to fine tune the information or to meet after school.

Ms. Schnaare left the meeting early.

Discussion ensued regarding scheduling changes coming in the next year with grade reconfigurations in the district. Dr. Noonan stated full time positions were not being reduced and sample schedules with creative options were currently being considered at the administrative level. Teachers were informed these changes would be shared prior to the end of the school year. High school teachers commented with regard to students having just chosen their elective preferences for next year.

Mr. Lewis arrived at 4:38 p.m.

Dr. Noonan offered to email the template with the questions that needed to be answered for the committee's use.

The art teachers stated their preference was to take the half day option to meet and prepare information. Consensus was to schedule the afternoon of Thursday, May 21st for this discussion. Administration would join the group later that afternoon, at 3:30 or 4:00 p.m., thus confirming that this would be the next publicly noticed meeting time for the Fine Arts Committee.

Robert Schilling arrived and introduced himself.

Teachers briefly discussed pros and cons of an A/B week rotating schedule for the arts. Drama was stated to be the weakest area, in need of the most improvement. A suggestion was made to replace Speech courses with art (due to Speech no longer being a graduation requirement). It was concluded some ideas would cross over with the music committee findings, such as the wish list item of having an auditorium. All suggestions would need to be listed. This committee was allowing teachers from all schools, across all grade levels, to meet and discuss ideas that could be implemented at no cost, and to create a wish list for reference in the future.

Mr. Swain would compile information provided to him for the upcoming meeting. Requests for Leave, for a half day the afternoon on May 21st, would be approved through the Superintendent's Office.

Dr. Noonan stated how proud she was to offer arts in the Douglas County schools. Some neighboring counties were unable to maintain the arts. With regard to the school district

budget, declining enrollment is a concern as well as, Bills currently in the Legislature that could drop the per pupil funding allotment. Douglas County was commended for working on economic vitality to encourage families to move into the area.

4. Public Comment #2

There was no public comment offered.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

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.