

**Douglas County School District  
Music & Arts Study Group Meeting  
Administrative Services Building  
Minden, Nevada  
Thursday, January 29, 2015  
4:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

Present:

**Committee Members:**

Shannon Brown, GES Principal  
Brian Fitzgerald, Douglas County Parks & Recreation Department/ President,  
Douglas County Arts Council  
Heather Kuehner, Music Teacher  
Keith Lewis, PWL Principal  
Robert Schilling, Community Member  
Alissa Teachout, Music Teacher  
Tammy Owens, Music Teacher

Present:

**Personnel:**

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

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

Dr. Noonan called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was taken.

**2. Minutes of Meeting on January 15, 2015 (For Possible Action)**

Mrs. Teachout addressed a few changes to the minutes: Solution 1 – there are twenty-days missed, should read twenty-two class periods missed. By using the 54 days, should read 54 class periods for make-up. If there are extra make-up classes, should read make-up slots.

Mr. Brown motioned to approve the minutes as amended; seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald.

**3. Public Comment #1**

There were no members of the public in attendance; therefore, no public comments were offered.

**4. Work Session Reports and Discussion**

Dr. Noonan stated that the goal for this meeting would be to try and finalize the report for the School Board. A spreadsheet was provided with the no-cost choices from the last meeting. It was decided that the 4-day rotation would be taken off the table due to the fact that it would be too complicated as far as scheduling is concerned. The A/B alternating week of instruction would require that there be a designated room for music and for art. 5<sup>th</sup> grade band would have to be held at the middle schools so that students are not jumping from school to school. Band would be held before school for the elementary schedule and first period for the middle school schedule. A separate shuttle would be needed for each elementary school. Currently, there is shuttling daily from PHES to JVES and MES and GES, so the cost could be minimal. This year the north end of the valley had about 40 students participating in band. Dr. Noonan inquired as to what would happen if there is a week with no make-up days. It was stated that the time would be used for rehearsal time or collaboration

time. Dr. Noonan requested a table which would give an example of how the time would be used for make-up utilizing the proposed schedule. Mrs. Teachout will provide this.

It was stated that music needs to have a room with sound requirements (acoustics) which would help with disruption in nearby classrooms. Some schools may already have this, but it would be a cost item for schools that do not.

Mr. Fitzgerald, noted that this is a phase approach which was indicated at the last meeting. First phase would be dedicated rooms, next we approach the cost items which would be purchasing the instruments for each room at each school (this could be grant funded) and then ultimately additional personnel.

Keith Lewis arrived at 4:38 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding support of fundraising. Fundraising would fall under the no-cost option. The Ventura County website was reviewed and how they currently do a community boosters club which helps support funding for their programs. Mr. Fitzgerald posed the question as to whether this would be something that can be done in our district. This would mean that rather than each site having their own booster club, there would be a district-wide music boosters club. It was suggested that a hybrid of the two would work best, a music program that engages with partnership in the community. At the high school level there are parents that volunteer and help with uniforms, etc. and each school having control of what is needed at their particular site might be best. In looking at a system wide group, it would have to be a 501(c) 3 (non-profit) or money would have to be handled through the school activity fund. Carson Valley Arts Council may be interested in collaborating with the group initially until they can take off on their own and work in supporting the school district. Another option would be finding an entity that may be able to donate an annual gift. Mr. Fitzgerald encouraged the group to look at the California district model to see if this is something the district could do.

The group discussed the cost options that are desired. These would fall under the general fund or some could be grant funded:

- Build elementary instrument inventory at each school (possibly grant funded) is a priority if the A/B instructional week schedule is chosen.
- Additional staff so that there is one music teacher per school.
- Additional staff at the secondary level to teach within their specialty (vocal and instrumental). Schools would have to share staff.
- An auditorium for the entire school district. This is in the master plan for Douglas High School. Dr. Noonan stated that this would occur 10 years down the road. The Arts Council would be willing to have the district use their venue when it is completed. The capacity of this venue has not been determined. The school district cannot use general fund money to help build the venue, but it may be able to lease it.
- Establish a string instrument program. This would add an elective option at the middle schools. Would be 5-12 grades and would be set-up just like band or choir.

Dr. Noonan would like to present what is being proposed to the principals and then try to give the Board a report at the March 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Dr. Noonan asked the committee members to attend the Board meeting. Dr. Noonan thanked everyone for their time in serving on the committee.

Mr. Fitzgerald motioned to approve the final report, seconded by Mrs. Kuehner.

## **5. Public Comment #2**

There were no members of the public in attendance; therefore, no public comments were offered.

## **6. Adjourn (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 p.m., seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald.

Submitted by,  
Margaret Guzman, Administrative Secretary  
Education Services; Area 4