

**Douglas County School District
Music & Arts Study Group Meeting
Administrative Services Building
Minden, Nevada
Thursday, December 4, 2014
3:30 p.m.**

***Minutes Approved
January 15, 2015***

MINUTES

Present:

Committee Members:

Shannon Brown, GES Principal
Brian Fitzgerald, Douglas County Parks & Recreation Department /
President, Douglas County Arts Council
Sharla Hales, DCSD Board Member
Heather Kuehner, Music Teacher
Keith Lewis, PWL Principal
Robert Schilling, Community Member
Allison Smith, Music Teacher
Alissa Teachout, Music Teacher

Present:

Personnel:

Lisa Noonan, Superintendent

1. Call to Order (For Possible Action)

At 3:30 p.m., Mrs. Noonan stated due to only two persons being present, the meeting would begin at 4:00 p.m. It was believed a mix up in start times had occurred and those present decided to wait for the arrival of other members.

Those in attendance were thanked for offering their time and assistance to work with the study group. It was noted that all DCSD music teachers were invited to participate on the committee. Dr. Noonan stated she would follow up with those who were invited, but not in attendance today. Brandon Swain would conduct the meetings following this initial startup. Mr. Swain was unable to attend this particular date.

Committee members introduced themselves, stated their connections to music and arts and their desires for working to improve program offerings throughout the school system. Consensus was that future meetings would begin at 4:00 p.m. (with the exception of January 5th, a non-student contact day, wherein this committee could meet at 3:30 p.m.) Four meetings were scheduled concluding at the end of January, in order to implement any program changes for the 2015-16 school year. Additional meetings could be scheduled if necessary.

Community members and teachers expressed their desires to learn from one another to develop opportunities that would be both community and school oriented.

Dr. Noonan called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comment

There was no additional public in attendance. No public comments were offered.

3. Work Session Reports and Discussion

Dr. Noonan stated the committee had been formed at the request of the School Board. It was recognized that a lot of resources were used for other areas of education, such as STEM. The Board had developed a fund entitled Board Intervention Funds, used for interventions for students for many years and would be working to assist with the music and arts programs in the same vein.

Two phases would be implemented. The first phase would be music; and the second, arts.

Meetings would be conducted as Open Meetings under the Nevada Open Meeting Law. The Open Meeting process was explained that included meetings would be recorded for public availability.

A binder was provided to committee members that included the Board Policies and Regulations regarding fine arts and graduation requirements; study group membership, the basic detail for creating a report to the school board, ideas to research and consider and future meeting dates; a PowerPoint presentation provided to the Board in July 2014; Content standards; and the Critical Content for music.

The committee would establish the overall status of music in DCSD. The committee would be charged with developing suggestions to improve exposure for students, without increasing expenses to the district as well as, to develop suggestions that would involve additional spending and the prioritization of those recommendations.

Guiding questions were provided to spur the group to report current facts regarding site and grade level offerings and the number of students involved. A comparison to other districts and states could be conducted for review. Creative ideas would be encouraged that could be incorporated without increasing costs.

Ms. Smith, DHS music teacher, stated new national music standards were online that allowed teachers to tailor to their subject and grade level. Another teacher was reported to have attended a national association meeting and could help with lesson planning and grading to course content. Common Core Standards were noted to be very similar to current teaching strategies.

Dr. Noonan asked that each individual state if the purpose of the committee met their goals and intentions and to provide feedback on any additional outcome they were hoping for.

Committee members supported collaboration to help students and the community through increasing opportunities for everyone. Interest was expressed in learning specifically what is available to kids overall in the area of music and how the current curriculum connects in order to help students learn. Increased involvement in music and the arts was desirable for future community aspirations, such as opening a performing arts center in town. Ideas to improve the current half year course schedule for elementary students receiving music as a regularly scheduled class were discussed. Losses to drama program offerings were noted to have occurred over recent years and the desire to recreate opportunities for students was desired. Additionally, hiring of high quality personnel was noted to be a key to success for student involvement in music and arts. Placing a music teacher on the hiring team for bringing in new personnel was desirable. Building a foundation for learning music was important, as music is a language unto itself, which becomes more rewarding for individuals, following conquering the basic fundamentals. Ideas were raised including differentiating music instruction within other coursework. Learning how to incorporate digital music was suggested.

Work to update Board Policy would result following committee recommendations and Board approval.

A poster was provided for an upcoming music concert, December 13th, at St. Galls Church, being presented through combined efforts of the DHS music department and the Carson Valley Arts Council.

Dr. Noonan informed the committee the next meeting date is scheduled for Monday, January 5th, a non-

student day for teachers. Involved teachers could ask inform their administrator they are involved in the committee, in order to leave school and begin the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Additional ideas included grant writing in order to purchase more instruments; minimizing personnel moves for teachers; looking at availability of classroom space; being cognizant of holiday programming for equality in elementary scheduling and student participation; adding the arts into STEM programming (STEAM); increased exposure for elementary students; off campus opportunities; and the desire to build in community opportunities such as additional assemblies at schools and/or productions to be held in town.

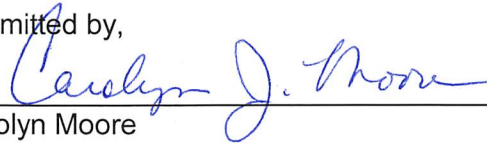
4. Public Comment

There were no public comments offered.

5. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 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.