

Douglas County School District
Airport Training Center
Tuesday, March 8, 2016
3:30 p.m.

Minutes
Approved
April 12, 2016

MINUTES

Present:

Trustees:

Ross Chichester, President
Neal Freitas, Vice President
Cynthia Trigg, Clerk
Robbe Lehmann, Member
Teri Jamin, Member
Thomas Moore, Member

Absent: Karen Chessell, Board Member

Personnel:

Teri White, Superintendent
Christi Hines-Coates, Director Area 1
Brian Frazier, Director Area 2
Rommy Cronin, Director Area 3
Brandon Swain, Director Area 4
Holly Luna, Chief Financial Officer

Others Present:

Rick Hsu, Legal Counsel

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

Mr. Chichester called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Chichester stated Item 4 would be pulled from the Agenda.

Mr. Moore moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Mr. Lehmann.

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

Motion carried, 4/0. Mr. Chichester, Mr. Freitas, Mr. Lehmann and Ms. Jamin were present.

2. Consent Items **(For Possible Action)**

Mr. Chichester asked if there were any Consent Items to be pulled. There were none.

Mr. Freitas moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Ms. Jamin.

Motion Carried, 4/0.

- A. Approve the Minutes of the Strategic Plan Committee Meeting.
- B. Approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 9, 2016.
- C. Approve personnel actions in Personnel Report No. 16-03.
- D. Approve the revised submittal for the December Amendment for the Food Services Fund as

- submitted.
- E. Approve Special Run Voucher Numbers 1626 and 1627; and Regular Run Voucher Number 1628 for FY2015-16.
 - F. Approve receipt of report under NRS 388.5295.
 - G. Approve the Budget Voucher Adjustment for March 2016 as submitted.

3. Principal's Report (Minden Elementary School) (Administrative Report/Program Review)

Ken Stoll, Principal, Minden Elementary School, stated data would not be the focus of his report due to the SBAC test results not being provided to Districts this year. Educational activities with regard to student achievement and family involvement were shared.

The MES logo located on the outside of the school building was noted to be important for families and shown as it existed prior to replacement of HVAC system equipment. Families used the wall to compare their child's growth as they moved through the years at school. The wall had been blocked by the HVAC equipment and Mr. Stoll was working to have maintenance recreate the wall mural for everyone's enjoyment.

Data driven instruction is being used to guide student achievement. Curriculum is embracing the new dyslexia and Read by Third Grade state initiatives. Teachers across the grade levels meet monthly to assure alignment of curriculum. Eureka math curriculum is now being used at MES. Tutors have been added as a result of SB405 that focus on English Language Learners (ELL). A Read by Third Grade tutor is also now a part of the staff.

Mrs. Trigg arrived at 3:38 p.m.

Mr. Stoll informed the Board retired teachers are helping to run groups of student learning circles. Other outside assistance is provided by GE employees, that partner with COSTCO, who come to school and help. Materials used are provided by COSTCO. With regard to technology improvements, 140 devices are available at this time for students. 90 more computer devices would be added in the future.

Families receive classroom newsletters, are invited to Food for Thought and Literacy/Science Nights as well as Back to School Night. MES also holds a fitness night and bingo events.

Services to students provided by the counselor include digital citizenship, MIND UP (instruction on the brain and mindfulness), social thinking, self-control, career exploration, anti-bullying, goal setting, communication, healthy choices and self-esteem. Training is provided for safe school ambassadors to help students know when they witness mistreatment of others on the playground. Great acts of kindness are embraced wherein all students participate. Sheets with the recorded act of kindness are collected and placed in a random prize drawing. Student Council works to hold a canned food drive, collect Box Tops For Education and to hold fundraisers. Student Council also assists with field day and with other activities such as working with seniors in the community on a variety of projects. Sierra Nevada Journeys (SNJ) provides for extra science in the classroom and related field trips for students. SNJ also provides a Science Camp for 5th graders put on by college age students for elementary kids, which is located in Portola, CA.

MES was reported to buddy with ASPIRE Academy High School and DHS in order to have older students work with their elementary kids.

Board members expressed appreciation for having been provided with creative ideas being used at MES in lieu of receiving a data report.

4. Principal's Report (Gardnerville Elementary School)

(Administrative Report/Program Review)

Item 4 was pulled from the Agenda.

5. Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) Report

Mrs. Trigg announced Mrs. Chessell had recently attended a NASB Directors meeting. Mrs. Chessell would be speaking to President Chichester in the near future regarding a project for the Board to come together on and complete for the fall annual conference.

**6. Board Reports
(Information and Discussion)**

Ms. Jamin stated she had attended the Career and Technical Education Advisory Technical Skills Committee Meeting. She recommended to everyone they attend an upcoming meeting to see what's happening with CTE and the new STEM building at DHS. It was noted DCSD was in line with the State Board recommendations for CTE. The emphasis within broadened courses at DHS such as bio-medical was not just vocational but aimed to teach a variety of skills to students.

**7. Superintendent's Report
(Administrative Report)**

Mrs. White reported she worked to be at each school twice a month to view Depth of Knowledge instructional levels in classrooms. Board members were invited to visit sites with her and walk through classrooms. Mrs. White shared classroom activities she witnessed this week at various schools. Examples of quality instruction included unique techniques for transitioning small children through reading stations; students working with fractions using area models to visualize number increments; and a reading teacher helping struggling readers.

It was announced Mrs. White would sit on a Title IX panel this week to provide K-12 perspective for use at the college level.

The recent NASS meeting included a presentation from Switch Communications who partnered with National Geographic on 7th grade technology integrated curriculum. Students would be able to access scientists directly. Earth sciences would be the focus, tied to next generation science standards.

Mrs. White and Mr. Lewis had attended the CADA Conference held for student leaders. The keynote speaker was author, Mark Scharenbroich. Attendees were informed how important it is to provide enthusiasm and acknowledgement to students about their work. The book presented was *Nice Bike, Making Meaningful Connections on the Road of Life*. Using this theme, the District might adopt some ideas for the future.

8. Correspondence

There was no correspondence offered.

**9. Annual Redevelopment Zone Update
(Administrative Report/Program Review)**

Mrs. White reported having attended this month's County Commission Meeting to advocate for taxes that could potentially be deferred from the District in years to come. The possibility existed of losing approximately \$300,000 per year, due to a redevelopment zone just approved by the County Commissioners for the Lake area. The County would not entertain an agreement at this time as there are too many uncertainties. Mrs. White proposed an annual review to keep this need in view as continued revenue for the future. This being a 30 year tax deferment, the Board would want to understand redevelopment tax and possibly enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the County in the future.

10. Lake Tahoe Unified School District Memorandum of Understanding

(Discussion and For Possible Action)

Mrs. White stated a Lake Schools Study Group met during the last school year. As a result, some ideas were offered that could offer more opportunities for students. One was the possibility of entering into an agreement with the Lake Tahoe Unified School District in order that a larger variety of coursework would be available to GWHS students. Following meetings between District Superintendents, an agreement had been reached and reviewed by attorneys. This would allow students to drive across the California state line for elective classes, providing space is available in a class, and attend the neighboring school. Advanced Placement (AP) courses could also be attended. Students would need 2 periods free to have the flex time necessary to do so. Online opportunities were also available. Following approval by the Lake Tahoe Unified School District and DCSD School Boards, the Agreement would go into effect for the 2016-17 school year.

Mrs. White explained it had taken time to arrive at an agreement due to varying state laws and discussions necessary to determine to what degree students could attend classes across county lines. Appreciation was shown for Dr. Noonan's work during the past year to bring this opportunity to fruition.

Board Members asked questions about details of the program. They learned the path is not wide open for students to move between the state lines, only for attendance in particular classes. Discussion included allowing students to come down the hill from GWHS to DHS to attend some classes.

Mr. Chichester called for public comment.

Sandy Fitzpatrick, DHS parent, stated the driving conditions on Kingsbury Grade were prohibitive for students. She inquired about regularly funded transportation for students to go from the Valley up the mountain in order to take a block of electives.

Mrs. White responded the Agreement addressed Lake area schools. Enhancement to class offerings for GWHS students, at a minimal cost, would be the benefit of the Agreement. Moving students between DHS and GWHS and supplying transportation had not been discussed.

Mrs. Trigg moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Lake Tahoe Unified School District and Douglas County School District permitting students who attend George Whittell High School to enroll in elective courses at Lake Tahoe Unified School District, seconded by Ms. Jamin.

Mr. Moore arrived at 4:33 p.m.

Motion carried, 5/0.

11. First Reading Board Bylaw No. 010, "Name and Classification"
(Discussion and For Possible Action)

Mrs. White stated the only revision upon review of Bylaw No. 010, "Name and Classification," is the change to the official address.

Mr. Freitas moved to approve for First Reading Board Bylaw No. 010, "Name and Classification," seconded by Mrs. Trigg.

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

Motion carried, 6/0.

12. First Reading Board Bylaw No. 020, "Authority, Powers, Rights and Responsibilities"
(Discussion and For Possible Action)

Mrs. White offered this time for the Board to revise Bylaw No. 020, "Authority, Powers, Rights and Responsibilities," if deemed necessary; otherwise, there were no recommended changes. There was some discussion regarding the Board's roll as an oversight agent rather than being in the active supervisory role and whether or not Policy language should reflect this. The Policy was left as offered.

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

Mrs. Trigg moved to approve for First Reading Board Bylaw No. 020, "Authority, Powers, Rights and Responsibilities, seconded by Mr. Moore.

Motion carried, 6/0.

**13. First Reading Board Policy No. 802, "School Organization"
(Discussion and For Possible Action)**

Board Policy No. 802, "School Organization," was offered for review. There was no discussion and no suggested changes.

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

Mrs. Trigg moved to approve for First Reading Board Policy No. 802, "School Organization," seconded by Mr. Moore.

Motion carried, 6/0.

**14. First Reading Board Policy No. 803, "School Year Calendar"
(Discussion and For Possible Action)**

Mrs. White stated revisions to Board Policy No. 803, "School Year Calendar," were due to last month's calendar discussion and approval. The new language authorizes the Superintendent to develop school calendars under Nevada law, with guidelines provided by the Trustees.

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

Mrs. Trigg moved to approve for First Reading Board Policy No. 803, "School Year Calendar," seconded by Mr. Moore.

Motion carried 6/0.

**15. First Reading Board Policy No. 804, "School Day"
(Discussion and For Possible Action)**

Mrs. White stated two words in the first paragraph were inadvertently duplicated that would need to be deleted. They were the words "no less." The other revision in the first paragraph was a small word change in order that the Policy read correctly. In the second paragraph, language was added to have the Policy be equivalent to state law pertaining to the reference to instructional minutes.

There was no further discussion.

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

Mrs. Trigg moved to approve for First Reading Board Policy No. 804, "School Day," with the minor revision suggested, seconded by Ms. Jamin.

Motion carried, 6/0.

**16. First Reading Board Policy No. 213, "Credit By Examination"
(Discussion and For Possible Action)**

Ms. Cronin, Education Services Director, Area 3, offered revisions to Board Policy No. 213, "Credit By Examination." Revisions would align the Policy to the Nevada Administrative Code and Nevada Revised Statutes. Specific courses were listed as designated by law. These courses, for which high school credit could be received through examination, were offered to students who had not previously taken the course in order to receive credit.

Ms. Cronin added she would be working with principals and secondary teachers to determine the best

method for carrying out this testing. An Administrative Regulation would be developed in the future.

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

Mrs. Trigg moved to approve for First Reading Board Policy No. 213, "Credit by Examination," seconded by Ms. Jamin.

Motion carried, 6/0.

17. SB411 Committee Update (Information and Discussion)

At 4:44 p.m., the presentation for Item 17 was placed on hold in order that the conversation could be heard closer to the timeframe listed.

18. Possible Agenda Items for Future Board Meetings

Mrs. Trigg inquired whether or not number 6 on the future agenda item list could be scheduled for July. Discussion began regarding the Board President and Superintendent setting the monthly agenda.

Mr. Chichester called for new suggestions for additions to the list.

Mr. Lehmann asked if someone else might like to change the date of the August Board Meeting due to the meeting being scheduled right before school starts. Mrs. Trigg seconded the idea.

Mr. Freitas stated he would like to discuss the instrument to be used for the Superintendent's annual review. Mrs. White responded other district had been contacted in order that their current formats could be compared.

A recess was taken from 4:51 p.m. – 5:05 p.m. Mr. Lehmann left the meeting during the recess.

17. SB411 Committee Update (Information and Discussion)

At 5:09 p.m. the meeting was called back to order and this Item was heard.

SB411 Committee Chairman, Dave Brady, was introduced. Mr. Brady presented an overview of work performed by the SB411 Public Schools Overcrowding and Repair Needs Committee. The Committee members were commended for providing their time, assistance and input in this effort. Legislation allowed for a Committee to meet and determine at the local level, needs for building repairs and to address issues of overcrowding. In DCSD, it was determined overcrowding is not an issue; although repair needs for buildings is. KIDS Committee building repair recommendations of the past were analyzed along with the Facilities' Master Plan. Two criteria for viewing site project needs were determined. They were health and safety concerns for students and critical needs. Critical needs included ADA and County Code compliance necessities. The District Office building is not included in the facilities repairs.

The Committee reviewed the lists of repair needs and funding necessary for improvements. The \$7 – 12 million dollar amount needed for repairs did not include extra expenses that typically add to the budget, such as asbestos abatement. The list was broken down into two tiers of needs.

Marty Johnson, JNA Consulting, addressed the committee and discussed all taxing options. It was determined sales tax was the most appropriate tax method to offer to the voters for approval. It was suggested a combination of funds be used that included bonding and pay as you go funds. The District has the capacity to do both. If approved, the bond would be a ten year bond. Ten years was noted to be the approximate timeframe for useful life of materials and construction projects. Legislation allowed for a higher ceiling than the ten year cap, but the Committee believed ten years was a long enough timeframe. The 3/10's (approximately a quarter) of a cent requested for building repairs would equate to \$10 million dollars over a ten year period. The ballot question would need to be submitted for presentation to the County Commission by April 2nd. Following review of all

information, the Committee felt it best to let the public decide whether or not using sales tax to improve schools was preferred.

Ms. Jamin thanked Mr. Brady for his service.

Mrs. White stated initially there were 7 pages of projects for review. Health/safety and critical needs were the two criteria decided upon to identify projects for funding. The criteria greatly reduced the number of projects from the original list reviewed. Hazardous material abatement could become a factor depending on what construction projects are started.

Mr. Moore stated the District Office building would need to be addressed in some manner in the future.

Mr. Brady wrapped up by saying the language would be prepared for the ballot question and submitted to the Commission in order that the question could be placed on the November ballot.

Public Comment

At 5:26 p.m., Mr. Chichester called for the start of public comment.

Linda Niday, elementary computer technician, stated her job duties had completely changed this year and blamed the Board for reductions to responsibilities and positions. Various job duties for librarians and technicians were stated along with the need to have both positions available in schools as a best scenario for student learning.

Steve Dolan, parent, supported the SB411 Committee's idea to sunset the sales tax obligation at ten years. The belief was the public would have more trust in allowing the taxation with this timeline. Also, with regard to Common Core curriculum, Mr. Dolan asked that parents be provided an option to opt out of testing.

A break was taken from 5:35 – 6:00 p.m.

19. Closed Session

There was no closed session held.

Public Comment

Public comment resumed at 6:00 p.m.

John Eppolito and Virginia Starrett stated Common Core is a tool being used by the government. The prize is student data. The SAIN system fed nightly by Infinite Campus database software is a result of an agreement with the U.S. Department of Education. The SBAC assessments were noted to be a federal requirement - not State. The Board was asked to allow parents the ability to have an option of not having their student involved with SBAC testing. Student data was noted to be feeding corporate reform, while educators were being told how transformational the system of education is currently. Biometric information on students was believed to be included in the data and information gathered from SBAC assessments. It was believed minimal security is being used to protect personal information.

State Assemblyman, Jim Wheeler, stated he would be running for a third term this year in this conservative county. Forcing testing on children without having an allowance for families to opt out was highly discouraged. Mr. Wheeler added that the State Superintendent had issued a letter to District Superintendents allowing for parents to opt out of the SBAC assessments. Board members were asked to not agree to cutting parents out of the decision making process when it comes to testing children.

20. Adjournment

At 6:10 p.m., Mrs. Trigg moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Moore.

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.