

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CARSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Carson City School District Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Barbara Howe at the Sierra Room, Community Center, 851 E. William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

ROLL CALL: Members Present
Barbara Howe, President
Norm Scoggin, Vice President
Jim Lemaire, Member
Lynnette Conrad, Member
Steve Reynolds, Member
Stacie Wilke-McCulloch, Member
Mr. Richard Stokes, Superintendent
Mike Pavlakis, Legal Counsel

Members Absent
Joanna Wilson, Clerk

ACTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Jim Lemaire, seconded by Mr. Norm Scoggin **that the Carson City School District Board of Trustees adopt the agenda as submitted.** Motion carried unanimously.

President Howe adjourned the meeting to closed session per NRS 288.220(4) to discuss labor relations with the District's Management Representatives.

The meeting reconvened from closed session at 7:08 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Mrs. Evelyn Allred, Principal, Empire Elementary School introduced Mrs. Gail Magee, 1st Grade Teacher, Empire Elementary School. Empire Elementary School was awarded a \$3,000 grant from Wells Fargo Bank to purchase seven iPod Touch's, a multi-media learning device for a 1st grade pilot program. The grant also includes downloads of audio books and educational math/science games.
- Mrs. Evelyn Allred, Principal, Empire Elementary School introduced students who participated in Space Camp located at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. The students presented several activities and events that took place while they were at Space Camp. Mr. Roger Churchill, Counselor, Empire Elementary School provided an explanation on the classes that he participated in as an educator; Math/Science classes, flight simulators and presentations by guest speakers. Ms. Irene Huntington, 4th Grade Teacher, Empire Elementary School also attended Space Camp. She has been able to incorporate Science, Technology, Math and Engineering into her classroom teaching. The experience has changed her as a teacher. Mrs. Leann Morris, Computer Teacher, Empire Elementary School thanked everyone for the opportunity afforded the students so they could participate in the experience at Space Camp.
- Mrs. Christina Bourne, Music Teacher, Empire Elementary School announced that a 2nd Benefit Concert was scheduled to take place on Tuesday, November 3, 2009 at Empire Elementary School. Tickets are \$5.00 and available at the door. The proceeds will help to send additional students and staff to Space Camp.
- Ms. Evelyn Allred, Principal, Empire Elementary School recognized Ms. Peggy Sfredo for her volunteer work over the past eight years at Empire Elementary School. Mr.

Stokes presented Ms. Sfreddo with a plaque. Ms. Sfreddo is appreciative of the staff and enjoys working with the students.

- Ms. Jennifer Tartan, Student Activities Director, Carson High School, introduced the 2009 Homecoming King, Merrill Asp and Homecoming Queen, Tiffany Leonard. Tiffany is involved in choir and plans on attending the University Nevada Reno. She is interested in the medical profession, but plans on majoring in Art. Merrill Asp enjoys playing the piano, studying physics and participates in Speech & Debate. He plans on attending Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah majoring in Physics. The theme for Homecoming Week was "Viva Las Vegas." The students participated in many activities. The "Lip Sync" contest had a large turnout of students. The senior class is raffling off a boat to raise money for Prom. There were approximately 1000 students in attendance for the homecoming dance. Ms. Tartan publicly thanked the custodial staff at Carson High School for their hard work.
- Mr. Stokes recognized Mr. Phillip Woodward, AKA Grandpa Phil for his volunteer work in the 3rd grade classes at Fremont Elementary School. Mr. Woodward recently passed away. On behalf of the Trustees and Administration, condolences were extended to his wife, Char Christensen, daughter, Monique Giron and grandson, Noah Giron.
- Carson City School District Employee Benefits Fair was held on October 28th from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the small gym at CHS
- Essays for the School Board Sponsored "American Citizen Essay Contest" were due on Wednesday, October 28th by 5:00 p.m. Winners will be recognized at the November 24th Board Meeting.
- H1N1 Shot Clinics were held on Wednesday, October 28, 2009 and Thursday, October 29, 2009 at the following elementary schools: Bordewich Bray, Fritsch, Mark Twain, Carson Montessori, Fremont, Al Seeliger, and Empire.
- In honor of Veteran's Day, Tuesday, November 10, 2009, the schools have several activities planned.

BOARD REPORTS

- Jessica Dang reported on the following activities at Carson High School:
 - Homecoming was wonderful
 - Senior Class is raffling a boat to raise money for Prom. Raffle tickets will be on sale during the football game Thursday, October 29th.
 - The football team plays against Douglas on Thursday, October 29th beginning at 7:00 p.m.
 - Girl's Soccer Team took 1st place for the Region and will be playing in the Zone Tournament
 - National Honor Society held there blood drive on October 27, 2009
- Cameron Haycock reported on the following activities at Pioneer High School:
 - Halloween Costume Drive was a success
 - Pioneer High School extended a thank you to the community, Pioneer High School students, F.I.S.H., and School Board Trustees for their costume donations. The costumes were delivered to children on October 26th & 27th
 - Pioneer High School is organizing a Bowling Team
 - Members of the Yearbook Class recently attended Project Discovery; a successful team building opportunity

Mr. Norm Scoggin reminded other Board Members their Financial Statements are due to the State Ethics Committee located in the Secretary of State's Office by January 15, 2010.

Ms. Barbara Howe announced that due to her recent resignation, Mrs. Lynnette Conrad will serve on the Partnership Carson City Board and Mrs. Stacie Wilke will serve on the Food for Thought Board. The person appointed to District 6, will serve on the Parks and Recreation Board.

Mr. Scoggin and Mr. Stokes presented Ms. Barbara Howe with a plaque for her dedicated service on the School Board. Ms. Howe publicly thanked the members of the School Board.

Mr. Stokes announced that Dr. Jack Davis, past president of Western Nevada College recently passed away. On behalf of the Trustees and Administration, condolences were extended to the family.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

There were no association reports.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE EFFORT TO ACCURATELY COUNT THE POPULATION DURING THE “2010 CENSUS IN SCHOOLS”

Mr. David Byerman, Chief Government Liaison for Nevada, U.S. Census Bureau provided a power point presentation on how Nevada can benefit from the 2010 Census:

- Power
 - Representation in Congress
 - Electoral Votes
 - Redistricting of State Legislature
- Jobs
 - Approximately 4,800 Nevadans to be hired altogether in February 2010
 - 1,340 Nevadans have already been hired for canvassing operation
 - Census Job Hotline Phone Number; 866-861-2010
- Money
 - Every Nevadan missed by the Census bureau in 2010, equals approximately \$917 per person, per year; \$9,170 over ten years for each person missed. One family missed equals approximately \$36,000 in funding. Nevada’s current population is approximately 2.8 million people.

The census is done every ten years and Nevada has the most to gain in the census process.

Mr. Byerman provided a comparison between Nevada’s 1990 and 2000 census:

- 1990 – There was limited partnership between the Census Bureau and local communities, they relied on national messaging. Nevada had the 5th worst census response rate. Approximately 28,000 Nevadan’s were missed, for an undercount of 2.30%.
- 2000 – Additional partnerships throughout Nevada with community and governmental groups and additional Nevada specific marketing and messaging. Nevada had the best improvement in Census response of any State. Approximately 33,000 Nevadan’s were missed, for an undercount of 1.68%.
- If Nevada keeps the undercount of 1.68%, missing approximately 47,000 Nevadans, the impact could equal \$43.2 million in annual Federal funding. If the undercount was 2.3%, missing 64,000 Nevadans, the impact would be approximately \$59.1 million in annual Federal funding, for a difference of \$15.9 million every year for ten years.

Census in the Schools provides a variety of programs for teachers; lesson plans tailored to each grade level, wall maps and other teaching aids and an interactive Web Site designed for students.

It was moved by Mr. Norm Scoggin, seconded by Mr. Jim Lemaire that **the Carson City School Board of Trustees adopt the Resolution Supporting “2010 Census in the Schools.”** Motion carried unanimously. (Mrs. Joanna Wilson was not present for the vote.)

DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO MOBILIZE THE MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE AND BEGIN COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE WORK ASSOCIATED WITH THE 2010 SCHOOL BOND

Mr. Stokes provided a brief summary on School Bonds that have been approved by the citizens of Carson City since 2001; \$43 million in General Obligation Debt for school maintenance and construction. Historically, the District has been successful with their efforts of using the Master Plan Committee. Mr. Stokes is seeking approval by the Board of Trustees to convene the Master Plan Committee. In the past, the committee was comprised of many community members; Local and State Government Officials, Real Estate, Higher Education, Parents, Board Members, Construction Industry, Chamber of Commerce, Safety Services, Finance and School District Employees. Committee members have helped identify potential projects. The committee will be asked to help project student enrollment numbers for the next five years, look at current facility use and programs in operation and potential proposed programs. There may be several Sub-Committees to include; study the type of finance used, capacity vs. enrollment, facility and accommodations and the use and implementation of "Green Technologies."

With Board approval, the first meeting will take place at noon on November 17, 2009 in the Board Room at the District Office. There will be seven meetings scheduled through March 2, 2010. The meetings will take place at noon. Committee membership will consist of volunteerism, invitation, but not limited in size.

Mr. Stokes is hopeful that the Master Plan Committee will be able to present recommendations during the March 9, 2010 School Board Meeting, followed by the approval of the School Board via an action item during the March 23, 2010 meeting. Once approved by the Board, necessary steps would take place to meet with a variety of interest groups; parents, citizens, etc. As an Administrative Committee, only three Board Members may serve on the Committee.

It was moved by Mr. Jim Lemaire, seconded by Mr. Steve Reynolds that **the Carson City School Board of Trustees approve Mr. Stokes, Superintendent to commence working with the Master Plan Committee and any necessary Sub-Committees associated with the 2010 School Bond.** Motion carried unanimously. (Mrs. Joanna Wilson was not present for the vote.)

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON 2009-2010 CLASS SIZE REDUCTION PLAN AS REQUIRED PER NRS 388.720

Mrs. Susan Keema presented the Class Size Reduction Report for 2009-2010 as required by NRS 388.720. The report explains how the district utilizes the class size reduction funding for kindergarten through third grade.

Mrs. Keema reviewed the current ratios for the District; Kindergarten is 23:1; First Grade is 15.9:1; Second Grade is 15.8:1 and Third Grade is 19.5:1. The District will ask the State for a various request for the increased third grade ratio. The averages are district wide, not school averages. The plan has been recognized by the following Associations; Administrative, Certified and Classified, as well as the Superintendent.

Ms. Howe asked about the higher numbers at individual schools. Mrs. Keema explained that Principals have the ability to move teachers in the building, if it's warranted by increased class sizes. Also, Bordewich Bray Elementary School has a full-day kindergarten.

It was moved by Mr. Norm Scoggin, seconded by Mrs. Lynnette Conrad that **the Carson City School Board of Trustees approve the Class Size Reduction Plan as submitted for grades Kindergarten through 3rd to comply with NRS 388.720.** Motion carried unanimously. (Mrs. Joanna Wilson was not present for the vote.)

INFORMATIONAL UPDATE ON CHANGES TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT GRADE LEVEL CLASSIFICATIONS PER NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Susan Keema introduced Mr. Ricky Medina, District Statistician. Mr. Medina presented information on recent changes to grade level classifications per amended NAC 389.048. The amendment provides flexibility in how students are assigned to grade levels.

In the past, the District classified students based on the number of credits earned. For example, a sophomore had to have a least 5 credits, a junior had to have at least 11 credits and a senior had to have at least 17 credits. The grade level is linked to the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE). Sophomore students are allowed to take the Math/Reading portion of the exam one time, juniors are allowed to take the Writing portion twice and the Math/Reading portion once and seniors are given several opportunities. As a freshman, if you do not earn enough credits, you cannot take the HSPE.

The new flexibility in the law allows one to change the grade level status based on the number of attended semesters; sophomores 2 semesters, juniors 4 semesters and seniors 6 semesters. The District currently determines student grade level by the number of credits received; however, the proposal would be to use the number of completed semesters.

Mr. Medina reviewed some of the Pros vs. Cons:

- Pros – Retained students will be able to test sooner and more often, simplified data analysis, schools held more accountable for credit deficient students, aligned with new graduation rate procedure
- Cons – Credit deficient students may not be prepared to take HSPE, some students may skip being included in the AYP analysis, which may impact AYP
- Additional Information – Other districts have, or are planning on switching to the new policy. A few Districts have decided not to change. If districts select to make the change, there will be a special AYP appeal in place. Students that are credit deficient and don't pass the HSPE as juniors, their scores will not be held against the District. There will be a two year transitional period into the new system.

Mr. Medina explained that with the suggested changes, if a student has been enrolled in two semesters, they are considered a sophomore, regardless of academics grades. Students are still required to fulfill all graduation requirements.

Ms. Howe inquired as to the intention and why the switch? Mr. Medina explained that the change would help simplify data comparison.

Mr. Reynolds expressed his opinion opposing the change. Mr. Scoggin shared his thoughts on student designations of grade levels based on time; social designation vs. academic reality.

Mrs. Conrad believes the student should be given more opportunities to take and pass the HSPE. Is the purpose of the change to be consistent with other districts with regards to statistics or provide an additional benefit to students? Mrs. Keema explained that it would be both; consistency in statistics and to allow students additional opportunities to take the HSPE. Mr. Medina provided information regarding statistics supporting education.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATE ON NEW HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REPORTING REQUIREMENTS PER NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Susan Keema explained that the nationwide graduation rate has been reviewed and the District will implement an Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate.

Mr. Ricky Medina explained that different formulas have been used in the past. The new graduation rate is a nationwide change; the same comparisons, formulas and procedures will be used by everyone. The current formula used by the District "Leaver Rate." The new formula is "Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate." The word "Cohort" is important; when a student enters high school for the first time, they are given an expected year of graduation; four years from when they enter. That is the "Cohort" that the student belongs to and that number never changes. Districts are held accountable for graduating students in four years. The "Adjusted Cohort"; students

transfer in and out of the particular cohort and districts will track the cohort year after year. There are new procedures for students who withdraw.

There are three ways for a student to transfer out of a cohort:

- Student transfers out and enrolls in another school or educational program that culminates in a diploma; standard, advanced or adult. If a student transfers to a program to receive their GED, the student is considered a drop-out. When a student transfers to another educational facility, a request for records will be required in order to show evidence of enrollment. If the evidence of enrollment is not received, the student will be considered a drop-out.
- Immigrate to another country; parent conversations need to be documented in student records
- Death

If a student is attending high school and taking Adult Education classes, the student will count in the high school cohort. If a student leaves high school to attend an Adult Education program, the student is considered a drop-out until the Adult Education diploma is earned. It is important to keep the students in school in our District. If a student receives their Adult diploma within four years, they are not considered a drop-out.

The new procedures for students, who withdraw, went into effect this year for the class of 2011. The graduation rates are reported a year behind. The scores are reported in December. The reported graduation rate is used for AYP the following May. The graduation rate for the Class of 2011 will be reported on December 15, 2011.

Additional changes include; new graduation rate target increased to 75% or 10% reduction in the prior year. The target will be reset each year to the 50th percentile.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON SUGGESTED CHANGES TO THE FOLLOWING CCSD POLICIES: SECOND READING: POLICY 612, STUDENT ACTIVITY FUNDS; POLICY 614, PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS; POLICY 211, CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE); POLICY 812, PROPERTY INSURANCE; POLICY 813, LIABILITY INSURANCE

Mrs. Keema reminded the Board that this is the second reading of the above mentioned policies. There were no additional suggested changes.

It was moved by Mr. Steve Reynolds, seconded by Mrs. Stacie Wilke that **the Carson City School Board of Trustees adopt the revisions as read and approve October 27, 2009 as the revised date on the following policies: 612, 614, 211, 812 and 813.** Motion carried unanimously. (Mrs. Joanna Wilson was not present for the vote.)

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Norm Scoggin, seconded by Mr. Jim Lemaire **that the Carson City School Board of Trustees approve the consent agenda.** Motion carried unanimously. (Mrs. Joanna Wilson was not present for the vote.)

REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

There were no future items at this time. Present agenda items to Mr. Richard Stokes or Vice President Norm Scoggin.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the Carson City School District Board of Trustees will be on Tuesday, November 10, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

There will be no further business to come before the members of the Board in public meeting;
President Barbara Howe declared the meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Joanna Wilson, Clerk

Date