

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

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Carson City School District Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Norm Scoggin at the Sierra Room, Community Center, 851 E. William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

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

Members Absent
None

ACTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Joanna Wilson, seconded by Mr. Steve Reynolds **that the Carson City School District Board of Trustees adopt the agenda as submitted.** Motion carried unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Mr. Stokes introduced Ms. Robinette Bacon, School Health Education Coordinator, Nevada Department of Education's Office of Child Nutrition and School Health. Ms. Bacon introduced Mrs. Lisa Schuette, Health Teacher, Carson Middle School. Mrs. Schuette was recognized as the 2009 Natalie Silva Wallin HIV Educator of the Year. Ms. Wallin was the first HIV positive public speaker that was approved to share her story with students. Mrs. Schuette has promoted health classes and sex education, which consist of the following content areas; HIV/AIDS, human reproductive system, puberty, sexually transmitted diseases and sexual responsibility. As of today, 91.2% of the secondary students in the Carson City School District have received information in these areas. Mrs. Schuette has worked as a health teacher at Carson Middle School for the past nine years and serves as the Advisor for the Family Life Committee. She is a role model for students, staff and the community. Mrs. Schuette was presented with a plaque that will be located outside the office of the Superintendent of Education at 700 East Fifth Street. Mrs. Schuette thanked everyone for the award and believes this award is shared by all health teachers.
- Mr. Stokes introduced Mr. Tim McCarthy, Wrestling Coach, Carson High School. The wrestling team has 31 members with a cumulative GPA of 3.5. Dating back to last year, the team has won their last 22 matches and is undefeated this season in dual matches at 13-0. The team has several upcoming tournaments, including Regionals and State, which will be held in Las Vegas. Mr. McCarthy introduced Mr. Paul Carter, Assistant Varsity Coach and P.E. Teacher at Carson Middle School. Mr. Carter graduated from Carson High School in 2003. While attending high school he participated in the wrestling program, and won the State Championship during his senior year. Wrestling taught him self-discipline, determination and allowed him the opportunity to receive a higher

education. Mr. McCarthy introduced the senior team captains; Ricardo Ugarte, Nick Schlager and Junior Valladares. Ricardo has been wrestling for 4 years. He would like to win at the State Tournament. Nick has been wrestling for 7 years. During his sophomore year he placed 2nd at the Regional Tournament as well as the State Tournament last year. Nick hopes to win a State Title this year. Currently, his record is 35-3. Junior, beat two defending State Champions during the first two weeks of the season this year. He wants to become a Regional and State Champion.

- Parent Teacher Conferences began on Tuesday, January 26th and will conclude on Thursday, January 28th. The elementary schools will be dismissed at 12:30 p.m.
- Testing will begin soon with the 5th grade writing test from February 1st – 5th and 8th grade writing test from February 8th – 12th.
- The Master Plan Committee will meet on Thursday, January 28th at 11:30 a.m. in the District Office, 1402 W. King Street

BOARD REPORTS

- Jessica Dang reported on the following activities at Carson High School:
 - Winterfest Week began on Monday, January 25th and will conclude on Friday, January 29th. The week was full of many activities and will end with the basketball game against Wooster at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, January 29th. The Winterfest dance will be held on Saturday, January 30th from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
 - Student Body Officer Elections will be held in two weeks
- Cameron Haycock reported on the following activities at Pioneer High School:
 - Distance Education Classes began on Monday, January 25th
 - 57 students submitted poems for a poetry contest, where 45 poems were published
 - Blood Drive will be held on Tuesday, February 16th, everyone is welcome

Mrs. Conrad reported that Hispanic Parent Meetings are still being held at Bordewich Bray Elementary School. Mrs. Conrad recently met with Ms. Susan Squires, Vice Principal, Bordewich Bray Elementary to discuss a Science Fair project.

Mrs. Wilke-McCulloch announced that the next Carson Middle School Parent Meeting will be held on Monday, February 8th at 6:00 p.m. in the library.

Mr. Scoggin visited the following schools:

- Carson High School, where Mr. Mike Longero was recognized as the "Teacher of the Year." Nevada Interscholastic Athletic Association (NIAA) recognizes teams with the highest cumulative GPA. Over the years, Carson High School has received several of these awards.
- Fritsch Elementary School recently had a snowshoe contest. Ms. Lori Tureson has a program, "Trout in the Classroom." Trout eggs are raised and released in the Carson River. Mr. Scoggin also welcomed Secretary, Ms. Heather Fox to the district.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

There were no association reports.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jen Landman with AmeriCorp Vista, Youth Transition Project presented information on the program that comes from the University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada Center for Excellent and Developmental Disabilities. The program is offering free services to young people age, 16 – 24 years old, which includes customized employment, self-determination lessons, and grant writing for employment opportunities, etc. Please contact the Youth Transition Project, call 775- 687- 5162 x 328 or e-mail jen.landman2009@gmail.com for additional information.

SELECTION OF FAMILY LIFE COMMITTEE MEMBER; RELIGION CATEGORY

Mrs. Lisa Schuette, Health Teacher, Carson Middle School, reminded Board Trustees that Mr. Ken Haskins has recently stepped down, therefore creating a vacant position in the religious category. Mrs. Schuette introduced Mr. Gene Munnings and Mr. Doug Stewart. Mrs. Schuette thanked each applicant for their interest and willingness to serve.

Mr. Munnings wants to serve on the committee because he has personally lived with AIDS for approximately twenty years and believes he can bring first hand knowledge to the committee.

Mr. Stewart is the Youth and Family Minister at St. Teresa's Avila Catholic Church. Mr. Stewart worked as a motivational speaker for twenty two years, traveling and working with young people at schools. Mr. Stewart believes curriculum in the schools is important and wants to be involved in the process.

Mrs. Schuette explained that the Family Life Committee is comprised of five parents, a counselor, a teacher, a representative from the medical profession and a representative from the religion community. The committee meets once a month to review materials, films, games, etc. to determine if the material is appropriate for students.

Mrs. Conrad believes Mr. Munnings has a lot to offer, however, she asked Mr. Munnings what religious experience he has to serve on the committee. Mr. Munnings follows the beliefs of the Methodist denomination and has been an active member since 1970. He believes he has the background to serve on the committee.

Mr. Scoggin asked the candidates if they were aware of the time necessary to serve on the committee. Each candidate understands what's necessary and is willing to serve. Mr. Scoggin also reminded the candidates of the importance of serving on the committee.

Mr. Carlson thanked each candidate and asked the following two questions; what do you think you will be doing in this position and how will it be benefitting the students in the District? Mr. Stewart believes that while serving on the committee, he will review, read, observe, watch and research material that will be discussed amongst other committee members and decisions will be made on what is taught to the student in the classroom. Mr. Munnings understanding of the committee is to review and decide on the material that will be taught to the students. He will also bring personal experience and the ability to relate to students one on one.

Mr. Scoggin asked for a role call vote:

Mr. Lemaire voted for Mr. Stewart

Mrs. Conrad voted for Mr. Stewart

Mr. Reynolds voted for Mr. Stewart

Mrs. Wilson voted for Mr. Stewart, however, she would like Mr. Munnings to be invited to speak to the health classes

Mr. Wilke-McCulloch voted for Mr. Stewart

Mr. Carlson voted for Mr. Munnings

Mr. Scoggin voted for Mr. Stewart

Mr. Doug Stewart was selected for the appointment by a vote of 6 to 1.

PRESENTATION ON STATEWIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (PATHWAYS)

Mrs. Janice Arthur-Towns, Director of Management Information presented a power point presentation on the Statewide Professional Project, Pathways (A copy is in the permanent record.) The project is a statewide initiative of professional development targeting middle schools, creating a technology rich model classroom.

The project was originated through the Nevada Educational Technology Plan to address the statewide concern regarding student engagement.

Mrs. Arthur-Towns reviewed the framework for 21st Century Learning; standards/assessments, curriculum/instruction, professional development and learning environment. The framework feeds into the core subject areas; life/career skills, learning and innovation skills, information, media and technology skills to compete on a global level.

The plan is to teach students to be more engaged in the learning process and to possess critical thinking, problem solving, communication and collaborative skills.

The main goal of the project is to increase student achievement by providing engaging and motivating instruction. To accomplish this, teachers will receive professional development to increase technology integration into the core areas, provide technology for implementing the project and build collaboration amongst their peers in the State.

The project has statewide participation with 120 middle schools, administrators from each participating school and approximately 16,000 students. The Carson City School District will have two administrators and approximately 387 students participating in the project.

There are four models of professional development:

- Module 1; 21st Century Learning: Building Knowledge & Skills – January 20, 2010 through May 11, 2010. There are several topics to be covered in Module 1; curriculum mapping, lesson planning, exploring iPod's and web tools. The teacher can receive 3 units of graduate credit or \$750 stipend for each completed module.
- Module 2; Setting Goals and Project Planning for the 2010-2011 school year, to be completed during June and July, 2010
- Module 3; 21st Century Learning in Action – September 2010 through December 2010, with the expectation that the program will be used in the classrooms and the students will be engaged
- Module 4; Reflection on any necessary changes that might need to be made on the program – January 2011 through May 2011

Professional development is completed online and is free to educators. The classes can be used towards a Master's Degree and each administrator at the middle schools can see and use the same curriculum as the teachers. Administrators will not receive graduate credits, but are eligible to receive five continuing education credits.

Each classroom will have a projector, an interactive slate, a classroom set of iPod's, along with a mobile laptop cart, which has sixteen laptops to be shared between the classrooms. An interactive slate is a computer that will interface with the SMART Boards. The iPod's will have an internet connection; explore podcasting and video, along with educational software applications.

The following staff members from the Carson City School District will be participating in the program:

- Wade Greenlee, 8th Grade Math Teacher, Carson Middle School
- Robert Maw, 8th Grade Math Teacher, Carson Middle School
- Sam Santillo, Supporting Administrator, Carson Middle School
- Noel Hazard, 7th Grade Math Teacher, Eagle Valley Middle School
- Andrew Hagen, 6th Grade Science Teacher, Eagle Valley Middle School
- Chris Butson, Supporting Administrator, Eagle Valley Middle School

The program is being paid for with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant funds. The cost of the project statewide is approximately \$4.2 million.

Mr. Lemaire shared his thoughts on the project and was happy to hear that the teachers have been given the opportunity to learn and use the equipment properly.

Mr. Reynolds asked if there have been any projections on how the project might expand to the rest of the District. Mrs. Arthur-Towns explained that the project is still in the beginning stages, but will be monitored for use and availability. Mr. Reynolds commented on the possibility of reducing the number of textbooks in the future.

Mr. Carlson asked if the size of the iPod screen is appropriate for students. Mrs. Arthur-Towns believes the screen size is adequate.

Mrs. Wilke-McCulloch is excited about the math and science applications that will be used on the iPod.

Mr. Carlson suggested that during Module 4; reflection of the project, that comments from the teachers that are using the program be given consideration.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATE ON THE MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

Mr. Mike Mitchell, Master Plan Consulting Manager presented updated information on the Master Plan Committee. The goal of the committee is to complete the facilities assessment and present information during the first Board meeting in March, 2010. The next Master Plan meeting is Thursday, January 28, 2010 at 11:30 a.m. at the District Office, Board Room. The meetings are open to the public.

The Facilities Sub-Committee will be presenting information on enrollment projections vs. school capacity analysis. The committee has been in contact with the state demographer, realtors in the area, etc. There are several capacities at each school; educational, programmatic, code compliance capacities, etc. The committee is also looking at efficiencies in the schools, classroom environment, educational support, workrooms, labs, etc. The district is currently operating with 80% of the space dedicated directly to the student's educational environment.

The Educational Sub-Committee has been asked to look at the current educational programs, future educational programs that could be implemented and communicate their findings to the other sub-committees so that plans could be made for the educational needs in the future. The committee is also addressing a variety of topics; participation with WNC regarding facilities, are the facilities adequately able to develop core-curriculum and allow the teachers to do the best they can, technology, performing arts, etc.

The Finance Sub-Committee has had presentations from the City of Carson regarding taxes, revenues, bonds, etc. The committee is also looking at the districts past bonding history, along with current and future projections. During the next Master Plan meeting, Mr. Marty Johnson, JNA Consulting Group will be making a presentation on future bonding opportunities.

The Public Relations Sub-Committee is looking at how the school district relates with the city, community, etc.

Mr. Mitchell encouraged Board Members to attend the Master Plan Committee meetings.

PRESENTATION OF MANAGEMENT LETTER RECEIVED FROM AUDITORS, SOLARI AND STURMER

Mr. Stokes presented the Management Letter from Solari and Sturmer, Auditor. In December, 2009 the audit report was presented to the School Board. At the completion of each audit, a management letter is presented, providing recommendations on changes that could be made in the District.

The following three observations were noted in the letter:

- Due to the vacant Director of Fiscal Services position, staff members in fiscal services have been allowed to override particular controls in order to process transactions in a timely manner. The Director of Fiscal Services position has been filled, therefore

fulfilling the recommendation of segregating duties amongst fiscal services staff members.

- Maintain accurate Capital Assets; items purchased with a value of \$5,000 or more, school buildings, etc. It was recommended that additional training with software personnel take place to ensure the program is being used to its fullest potential.
- Suggested that grant applications, reporting and outstanding checks be monitored and reconciled according to state laws and regulations.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATE ON “RACE TO THE TOP” AND THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO THE CARSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mr. Stokes presented information on “Race to the Top”, a \$4.35 billion initiative from the Federal Government. Mr. Stokes recently attended meetings with Dr. Keith Rheault, State Superintendent of Public Education. There are 40 States that have applied for Phase I of the funds; several requirements are expected to be met. During the first round of financing, Nevada did not qualify to participate. States that apply cannot have any barriers regarding student data. Currently, Nevada has statutory language prohibiting the use of teacher evaluations in association with student achievement.

The Governor may utilize this funding process to assist school districts. There’s the possibility of Governor Gibbons calling for a Special Legislative Session to address the current economic conditions along with statutory language.

Nevada is a category four (4) State; possible receive approximately \$60 and \$100 million from the Federal Government. The Carson City School District could receive approximately \$735,000, to be spread out over a four year period. The amount could fluctuate based on the number of applicants and awards distributed.

In order for Nevada’s application to be considered, the following individuals must sign the application; State Superintendent of Public Education, Governor, President of the State School Board and State Attorney General. If Nevada receives “Race to the Top” funds, school districts would be required to buy into the same application content and through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be held accountable for the different facets of the grant. The money associated with federal grants have particular requirements; develop and adopt common standards, implement state longitudinal data systems, develop and produce good teachers and leaders and turn around the lowest achieving schools. Mr. Stokes will provide additional information as it become available.

Mr. Lemaire commented on the State’s plan for implementing the program.

Mrs. Wilson asked if the School District will be receiving any money. Mr. Stokes explained that at this time, Nevada does not qualify; however, applications are due by June, 2010.

Mr. Carlson inquired as to the amount of money the District would be receiving. He also shared his concerns on meeting the requirements necessary to receive the money that would benefit the students. Mr. Stokes is aware of the requirements necessary to receive the funds.

Mrs. Conrad asked, why as a State or School District has it taken so long to get on board with the process. Mr. Stokes explained that the State of Nevada didn’t qualify earlier. Mr. Scoggin explained that unless a Legislative Special Session is held, the District can’t do anything. For clarification, Mr. Lemaire explained that if statutory language is changed, each county still has to option to participate or not, with the final decision being made by the Board of Trustees.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Randy Carlson, seconded by Mrs. Lynnette Conrad **that the Carson City School Board of Trustees approve the consent agenda.** Motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

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

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the Carson City School District Board of Trustees will be on Tuesday, February 9, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

There will be no further business to come before the members of the Board in public meeting; President Norm Scoggin declared the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Steve Reynolds, Clerk

Date