

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

**Monday, March 1, 2010**

**5:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A Board Workshop of the Carson City School District Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Norm Scoggin at the Board Room, Carson City School District, 1402 West King Street, Carson City, Nevada.

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

Members Absent  
Lynnette Conrad, Member

**ACTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA**

It was moved by Mrs. Stacie Wilke-McCulloch, seconded by Mr. Jim Lemaire **that the Carson City School District Board of Trustees adopt the agenda as posted.** Motion carried unanimously.

**ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION AMONG BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF TO SHARE THOUGHTS, IDEAS AND REVIEW THE CURRENT LANGUAGE ASSOCIATED WITH THE DISTRICT'S EDUCATIONAL GOALS AND VISION**

Mr. Scoggin explained the intent of the meeting; Board members will be given time to express their opinions regarding the mission statement as well as the vision, goals and values for the District. No action may be taken at the meeting. The Master Plan Committee will present their recommendations and findings at the March 9, 2010 Board Meeting.

Mrs. Wilson asked for clarification on the intent of the Master Plan Committee; determine bonding issues, ideas for the future, etc. Mr. Scoggin would like to make decisions regarding the bond after the presentation has been made by the Master Plan Committee.

Mr. Lemaire shared his thoughts regarding the growth and development of the District. He also believes there are a variety of things the District could focus on; bring up the bottom students, provide for students at the top, etc. Mr. Lemaire is in favor of a broader approach to education, focusing on resources to benefit all students equally. The vision of the Board and the District is important. A possible Vision Statement might be, "Learning for all kids in a safe and nourishing environment." Mr. Lemaire expressed the importance of knowing where the District wants to go. He read the current mission statement for the District: "The mission of the Carson City School District is to contribute to the development of successful young adults who will make healthy contributions to themselves, their families, the State of Nevada, our great nation and the world."

Mrs. Wilson asked Mr. Lemaire why he thought the statement was narrow. Mr. Lemaire believes there is more to it than just healthy contributions.

Mr. Scoggin expressed his thoughts on a mission statement; it's a broad outline of what someone would like to see and where to go, not specific, however a growing document. Mr. Scoggin personally believes the statement should be broad and general with the ability to modify.

Mr. Lemaire wanted to know that if the mission statement is used to grade the district by and if someone fails to contribute in a way someone else believes isn't healthy, does the district ultimately fail the student.

Mr. Carlson believes the mission statement should be more specific, achievable; something to look to for consideration of policies and it should reflect values of the community and engage students, parents, etc. It should also inspire action, otherwise, why should we have one. The mission statement should be; simple, doable, specific, and with the ability to achieve.

Mrs. Wilson feels a mission statement is not a goal, however something general that defines the role of the School Board in the District. If a mission statement has an end, what does one do when you arrive? A mission statement should last indefinitely. Goals are then based on the mission statement; improve on math, etc. If a mission statement is specific, there is no room for growing, therefore possibilities are limited.

Mr. Lemaire would like to discuss the direction of the District, not necessarily the vision statement. As a district, what do we want to see for the students in the District; push the top students, address all students equally, etc? Mr. Lemaire believes that while serving on the Board, the main focus of the District has been to get as many students as possible to read and take tests in specific subject areas. This is not what Mr. Lemaire wants to do for students. In order to pursue other important items, it's important to have support from the State and Federal Government.

Mr. Reynolds would like to discuss strategies, philosophies, etc. In looking ahead, Mr. Reynolds would like to find ways for younger students to develop a love and respect for learning. A strategy might be to focus looking ahead and not losing high school students while in middle school and middle school students while in elementary school. Mr. Reynolds believes the high school should look more like a community college. He also believes that middle school students should be required to achieve a certain level of accomplishment which would better prepare them for high school. Mr. Reynolds would like to see the high school proficiency tests passed as a sophomore, not as a senior. He is also concerned that middle school students are not well prepared and become disillusioned in school. Given the limited available resources, move resources down a grade level and focus on how a student progressing from grade to grade might acquire a "love of education."

Mrs. Wilson likes the ideas shared by Mr. Reynolds; however, middle and high school students cannot be abandoned. Board Trustees are policy makers. It's also important that teachers learn to love education. Mrs. Wilson doesn't believe the board should micromanage the District.

Mr. Carlson agrees with Mr. Reynolds; engage students to be successful as lovers and learners of education.

Mrs. Wilke-McCulloch shared her understanding of the statements; vision statement is directional and the mission statement being goal oriented. A vision statement should get people excited about the School District; mission statement addresses how to engage students.

Mr. Scoggin believes a mission statement should be broad, general in terms and a growing document for today and tomorrow. The statement is developed from the philosophy and goals, describing specifics on how to get there. Carson High School is a comprehensive high school with strong academic programs for college bound students. There has also been an increase in the vocational education programs. Mr. Scoggin commented on a recent article published in the Sunday, February 28, 2010 edition of the Nevada Appeal. He feels the mission statement is serving the district well, however that doesn't mean it can't be reviewed and revised yearly.

Mrs. Wilson is currently serving on the Master Plan Committee. She made several suggestions beginning in the classroom with reading, writing and math; what do we need and how many students can we teach in a particular classroom? If computers, iPODS, etc. are needed, how do we adapt for that? What do we want the future classroom to look like in terms of size, technology, etc?

Mr. Lemaire commented on the use of technology in the classroom; one doesn't necessarily need a classroom to have and use computers. Students have the ability to learn electronically either through distance education or in a classroom. Mr. Lemaire inquired as to the life expectancy of some of the proposed improvements for the classrooms.

Mr. Stokes provided information on items of interest in the District and explanations on things he would like to see:

- Given the current economic conditions; more flexibility with other entities involved in student education
- Grants are more competitive and have certain specifications that need to be met
- District Improvement Plan Team (DIP) is comprised of educators that are interested in educating students
- Efforts in mapping of curriculum for science, language arts, etc. are ongoing in the District. Teachers have the ability to access information on the State Standards and apply it to what is being taught in the classroom. High school credit is offered for certain 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes, providing students additional resources and help.
- The District recognizes the need for flexibility and with the support of the Board; the vision is here and now.
- The Management Team believes in the following statement "Learning First"; with many ways of getting there
- Additional information regarding the 26<sup>th</sup> Special Legislative Session will be provided at the March 9, 2010 Board Meeting

Mr. Scoggin believes consideration should be given to the things that are working in the schools and the district. If necessary, make modifications so that growth and improvement can continue and students develop necessary social skills.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Karen Abowd shared her thoughts regarding the mission statement; format might be to promote classroom achievement in a progressive, challenging and engaging learning environment for all students that they come to realize the power of knowledge. The vision statement defines what the classroom is. The mission statement should reflect from the inside, out.

Ms. Monique Giron agrees with Mr. Jim Lemaire's comments. Ms. Giron is the parent of a 4<sup>th</sup> grade GATE student at Fremont Elementary School. She believes that her son has not been challenged; he receives two additional hours of enrichment each quarter. Ms. Giron would like to see more money and programs available to students in the middle, rather than those at the top. She encouraged parents to get involved. Ms. Giron made several suggestions; provide a home school environment in the district, with the district receiving the funding, develop a love of learning in the mission or vision statement, have continual changes to think "outside" the box and offer additional support to teachers.

Mrs. Wilson asked Ms. Giron to provide ideas on how to get more parents involved and how can things be done differently regarding No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Mrs. Wilson explained that charter schools not sponsored by a District do not have to comply with NCLB.

Mr. Carlson shared thoughts regarding NCLB and asked if the district is constrained with "tracking" students.

Mrs. Keema explained that research doesn't support tracking, however it does support flexible grouping; students in particular curriculum are assessed every six to eight weeks. Mrs. Keema explained that the District Improvement Team, comprised of parents, teachers, and administrators have also had similar discussions regarding NCLB. One goal is to increase the student achievement of ALL students in the Carson City School District. All parents in the district, with the exception of CHS parents were surveyed last year. The survey information is available for review.

Mr. Scoggin explained that NCLB has had some affects on the District. He also believes that teachers are not just teaching to the test, there are many great things being done in the District.

Ms. Debbie McDonald addressed the Board on concerns of promoting students whether they are ready or not. She believes attention should be focused on getting 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students to their appropriate grade level. She transferred her son to another school and his test scores increased by 35 points.

Mr. Ron Swirzcek addressed the Board regarding current and future goals and visions for the District. The District does not have "Schools of Choice", if so there wouldn't be a decline in enrollment. Mr. Swirzcek would like to engage parents and teachers to assist in determining the vision for the District. A handout was provided with a suggested vision and mission statement. (A copy is included in the permanent record.) Mr. Swirzcek suggested that meetings be held to allow for community input and he encouraged the Board to take the necessary steps to adopt a shared vision in the District.

Mr. Walter Sullivan, Master Plan Community Relations Sub-Committee member recommended the Board take the time to develop a mission and vision statement. He believes it's important to have a plan for the future and make modifications when necessary. A mission and vision statement reflects the resources in the District and opinions of the community. Mr. Sullivan publicly thanked Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Stokes for their work on the Master Plan Committee.

### **REQUEST FOR FUTURE TOPICS**

At this time, no requests for future topics were made.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There will be no further business to come before the members of the Board during the Board Workshop; President Norm Scoggin declared the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

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Steve Reynolds, Clerk

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Date