

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

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Carson City School District Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Vice President Norm Scoggin at the Sierra Room, Community Center, 851 E. William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

ROLL CALL: Members Present
Norm Scoggin, Vice President
Joanna Wilson, Clerk
Jim Lemaire, Member
Steve Reynolds, Member
Lynnette Conrad, Member
Joe Enge, Member
Mr. Richard Stokes, Superintendent
Mike Pavlakis, Legal Counsel

Members Absent
Barbara Howe, President

ACTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA

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

It was moved by Mrs. Joanna Wilson, seconded by Mr. Jim Lemaire **that the Board of Trustees convene to close session per NRS 288.240(4) to discuss labor relations with the District's Management Representatives.** Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting reconvened from close session at 7:00 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Members of the All State Choir performed the *National Anthem*. Mrs. Susan Sonnemaker, Choral Director and Mr. Jarod Sorum, Band Director, Carson High School, introduced the All State Choir/Solo Ensemble and Band students. Carson High School had 15 students make the All State Choir and 4 students were selected for the All State Band. The students will be traveling to Las Vegas for the All State Competition. The show *CATS* will be opening and performing on Friday, March 27, 2009.
- Mrs. Penny Reynolds, Culinary Arts Teacher, Carson High School, introduced the State Champion Pro-Start Winners. Pro-Start is sponsored by the National Restaurant Association. As winners the students have been offered \$85,000 dollars in scholarships. Danita Bayer won Gold for Cake Decorating. The Foods Team placed 3rd in the State with the Management Team taking 1st place. The students explained the requirements of the competition. The Management Team will be traveling to San Diego, California to compete in the National Competition against 42 other teams.
- Mrs. Trish Stephenson, Cheerleading Coach, Carson High School, introduced the 1st place All Girls Stunt Team. The competition was held in Las Vegas, Nevada on February 28, 2009. The Stunt Team competed in three categories; pompom routine, a show cheer and an all girls stunt. Out of 17 schools, the team placed 3rd in the pompom routine and 1st place in the All Girls Stunt. Mrs. Stephenson introduced the members of the stunt team.

- Ms. Evelyn Allred, Principal, Empire Elementary School, introduced the students and teachers selected to attend Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. Over \$8,000 was raised to send four students and two teachers to the camp. The students had to be ten years old and submit a letter to the committee explaining why they should be chosen. Finalists were interviewed by a panel of teachers and parents. They will attend camp June 6-12, 2009.
- March 25, 2009 was an Early Release Day for students.
- April 9, 2009 at 6:00 p.m., Eagle Valley Middle School will host their annual talent show.
- The April 14, 2009 Board Meeting will be held during Spring Break, therefore there will be an abbreviated agenda.

BOARD REPORTS

Chelsea Keating reported on the following activities at Carson High School:

- The Senior Auction will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Senator Square
- CATS, the musical will have performances March 27th, 28th, 29th and April 3rd, 4th and 5th; Friday and Saturday shows are at 7:00 p.m. with a matinee on Sunday
- Link Crew is sponsoring a Dodgeball Tournament, April 6th – 10th
- Fairytale Theater Production is April 24th
- Prom Tickets are on sale, the theme is “A Night on the MS Dixie”

Chyanne Clark reported on the following activities at Pioneer High School:

- There was no report from Pioneer High School

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Brian Wallace, President, Ormsby County Educators Association (OCEA), addressed the Board regarding the issue of changing the schedule at Fremont Elementary School. Mr. Wallace questioned the decision on why the year-round schedule at Fremont Elementary needs to be changed. Mr. Wallace explained that if the decision is based on financial needs, please let that be known and if it is something else, let that be known too. He also pleaded that a decision be made regarding this issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Karen Fox addressed the Board regarding the schedule at Fremont Elementary School. The schedule was good for her children and she believes the option of a year-round school is good for children.

Ron Swirzycek addressed the Board regarding the budget. He also reviewed his work history and experience working with budgets. Mr. Swirzycek shared information from research studies and articles regarding year-round education. Mr. Swirzycek explained that School Districts across the United State are changing to year-round schedules. Mr. Swirzycek provided the following recommendations to address budget concerns: job sharing, sharing aides, adjusting professional development and streamline the amount of supplies. Additional suggestions were to freeze administrative salaries and share Vice Principals at the elementary sites. Mr. Swirzycek encouraged the Board and Administration to begin the process in forming the Master Plan Committee.

Char Christensen is a parent volunteer at Fremont Elementary School. Ms. Christensen believes, “*if it isn’t broke, don’t fix it*”. Ms. Christensen commented on a recent article in the Nevada Appeal. She is in favor of the schedule remaining the same at Fremont Elementary School. Ms. Christensen summarized an article in the March edition of *Newsweek Magazine*. Ms. Christensen requested that the schedule remain the same at Fremont Elementary School.

Jennifer Locke, Kindergarten Teacher, Fremont Elementary School and Marla Corletto, Third Grade Teacher, Fremont Elementary School, addressed the Board regarding the schedule at Fremont Elementary School. Ms. Locke and Ms. Corletto reviewed and provided copies of the Master Calendar used by the Clark County School District; where five different tracks, a nine

month traditional calendar and common professional development days are used by staff. All of the schools in Clark County start on the same day. Ms. Locke suggested that all schools in the District should start school on the same day. Ms. Locke and Ms. Corletto provided the Board with copies of the calendar protocol that was discussed at a previous Board meeting.

Lori Eustis, parent of children in the District addressed the Board regarding the budget. Ms. Eustis presented the following suggestions: solar panel retrofitting, power windmill generation, stop providing free lunches to Administrators, eliminate bussing to the community center for high school students for swim class, temporarily change the hours for Fremont Elementary School during the summer to 7:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., suspend staff development, use one less light bulb, purchase reusable food trays, share Vice Principals between elementary schools, charge for use of facilities after hours, no Friday night games, play only on Saturday, close the Professional Development Center, let the teachers control the heat, etc. Ms. Eustis questioned where school districts receive their money. She also provided information on educational funding and per pupil spending for other states.

Paul Brugger addressed the Board regarding budget issues and the calendar at Fremont Elementary School. Mr. Brugger commented on test scores at Fremont Elementary and suggested that other schools be placed on a year-round schedule if they have low test scores. Mr. Brugger expressed his opinion that staff and students experience less of a “burn out” when attending school on a year-round schedule. Mr. Brugger suggested that staff development be scheduled so that the staff at Fremont Elementary School is not discriminated against. He also commented on a vote taken last year regarding the schedule at Fremont Elementary School.

Michael Davis, Custodian, Fremont Elementary School, addressed the Board regarding the staff and schedule at Fremont Elementary School. Mr. Davis is in favor of keeping the year-round schedule at Fremont Elementary School. He also addressed several comments made during the March 10, 2009 meeting. Mr. Mike Pavlakis asked Mr. Davis to finish with his comments. Mr. Davis was upset by comments made during previous Board meetings regarding Fremont Elementary School. Mr. Scoggin asked Mr. Davis to take his seat.

Erin Lehman, PTA President, Fremont Elementary School, addressed the Board regarding Fremont Elementary School. Mrs. Lehman believes that Fremont Elementary School has been attacked and they have a target on them. Mrs. Lehman discussed the issue of trust; she is trusting that the Board will make the right decisions about the schedule at Fremont Elementary School. She also asked the Board to trust and believe in the staff at Fremont Elementary School.

Mr. Scoggin, on behalf of the Board publicly thanked the staff at Fremont Elementary School for their hard work and dedication.

Sarah Opheim, Special Education Teacher, Fremont Elementary School, addressed the Board about the staff at Fremont Elementary School having to defend themselves regarding the year-round calendar. Ms. Opheim explained that the staff at Fremont are very close and treat one another as family. She is in favor of the year-round schedule at Fremont Elementary School.

Darryl Clark, Teacher, Fremont Elementary School, addressed the Board regarding the schedule at Fremont Elementary School. Mr. Clark reviewed last year’s staff vote on changing the schedule at Fremont Elementary School from year-round to traditional. Mr. Clark gave a brief overview of test results from previous years. He also commented on the results of the recent 5th grade writing test. Mr. Clark believes Fremont Elementary School does more with less.

Kim Germaine, parent of a kindergarten student, Fremont Elementary School, shared her concerns with the Board about changing the schedule Fremont Elementary School. She asked that the Board give consideration on keeping the schedule at Fremont Elementary School the same.

Carol Brugger, Para-Professional, Fremont Elementary School, addressed the Board regarding Special Education students on a year-round schedule. Mrs. Brugger believes that Special Education students succeed on the year-round schedule. Mrs. Brugger commented on the impact to her if the staff at Fremont Elementary has to pay back their insurance.

Lynnette Conrad addressed the public regarding Fremont Elementary School. Mrs. Conrad is respectful and appreciative of the work done at Fremont Elementary School. She reminded everyone of why they should be there and asked that the mood of the meeting be redirected.

Marilyn Swirzycek addressed the Board regarding her concerns and investment in children. Mrs. Swirzycek believes that if the Master Plan Committee had been formed; retired teachers, concerned citizens, etc. would possibly serve on such committee. Mrs. Swirzycek congratulated Mr. Enge for asking and being concerned about the future of children. Mrs. Swirzycek commented on a recent fundraiser held at Fremont Elementary School; "Cow Plop"; she suggested that additional fundraisers be held.

Mr. Scoggin called for a ten minute recess at 8:50 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Enge read an additional comment by 2nd grade student, Gillian Mandel, she wants to keep the school year-round because it is a great school and people love it.

REPORT ON 2009 5TH GRADE TRAIT WRITING SCORES

Mrs. Keema presented the 2009 5th Grade Trait Writing scores, which is one item that helps determine Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). The students attend three sessions to create a one page narrative; pre-writing first draft, revision and editing and final draft and proofing. Each student paper is scored on organization, ideas, voice, conventions and scored twice from 1 to 5 for each trait. A passing score is 12, with the highest score being a 20. This year the District utilized a Writing Coach, assigned to Pioneer High School, both middle schools and all the elementary schools.

Mrs. Keema reviewed the test scores for each site and explained that the District is above the State average and has had a 10.9% gain over the last two years. This test is given each year to 5th and 8th grade students.

- Bordewich Elementary had a slight decrease with a 53.1%. At the completion of last year, the students took a mock test, scoring an 18%; November of 2008 scored a 38%.
- Empire Elementary has had positive growth over the last couple of years; this year was 38.2%. They will continue to concentrate on the language portion of the test.
- Fremont Elementary saw a huge increase with a 64.3%. The increase can be attributed to the staff and students.
- Fritsch Elementary adjusted their staff, had a Writing Coach and scored a 61.7%.
- Mark Twain Elementary had a slight decrease with a 44.1%. They will concentrate more on the English Language Learner (ELL) for the coming year.
- Seeliger Elementary utilized their teacher leaders and scored a 69.7%.

The largest percentage of growth at all the schools was with Free-Reduced Lunch. Mrs. Keema reviewed the scores for the various sub-groups; LEP, IEP, Asian, American Indian, Caucasian, etc. Ms. Beth Prause, District Writing Coach has reviewed the results with each site.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON PROPOSED TRADITIONAL AND NON-TRADITIONAL CALENDARS FOR 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR

Mrs. Susan Keema presented the Board with the proposed traditional and non-traditional calendars for 2009-2010. Mrs. Keema explained that various public meetings were held in February to gather comments and suggestions from the public. Mrs. Keema reviewed some of the responses from the meetings and surveys and encouraged the Board to place all the schools on one calendar; a traditional schedule.

Mr. Scoggin suggested that consideration be given and approve the proposed year-round calendar too. Mrs. Keema commented that per the OCEA agreement, both the Spring Break and Winter Break were voted on.

Mr. Lemaire believes that before the year-round calendar is changed, there should be input from a Master Plan Committee.

Mr. Scoggin explained that the Board was voting on the calendar for the 2009-2010 school year, not voting on whether Fremont Elementary School would remain on a year-round schedule.

Jennifer Locke asked for an explanation on when and what determines whether Fremont Elementary School will stay on the year-round schedule. Mr. Scoggin explained the intent; to establish the calendar.

Mr. Enge commented and asked for clarification on the intention of the agenda item.

Sarah Opheim explained that voting on the year-round calendar took place at Fremont Elementary School just prior to Spring Break. Mr. Scoggin explained that the Board would take action to approve both the traditional and non-traditional calendars.

Mrs. Conrad inquired as to whether the Board was voting to approve both calendars. Mr. Stokes addressed the Board and explained the intent of the agenda; to meet the expectations of Policy 803 and have the school calendar set prior to the end of March. District Administration is continuing to look at circumstances prior to determining the schedule for Fremont Elementary School. Mr. Stokes explained that the Board has several options regarding this agenda item; approve the traditional schedule, provide specific direction to Mr. Stokes regarding the 45-15 schedule or approve the non-traditional calendar and have it in place when a decision is made on the schedule at Fremont Elementary School.

Mr. Lemaire asked Mr. Pavlakis if the agenda item was properly posted in order to address the schedule at Fremont Elementary School. Mr. Pavlakis explained that the agenda was posted so that a decision could be made to adopt both calendars and leave the decision open to determine the schedule for Fremont Elementary School.

Mr. Enge commented on discussions that took place during the Board Retreat on February 28th regarding cost saving measures and the protocol required in changing a calendar at a school. Mr. Enge suggested accepting both calendars and not changing the current schedule at Fremont Elementary School.

Mrs. Conrad asked for clarification regarding the year-round schedule for Fremont Elementary School; cost saving measure or something else. Mrs. Conrad believes the public needs to hear from District Administration and Board Members, not the media or rumors on why the schedule needs to be changed at Fremont Elementary School.

Mrs. Keema summarized the two categories for needing to change the schedule at Fremont Elementary School; Fiscal, Operational and Personnel Efficiencies.

- Items for Consideration:
 - Transportation costs; additional 31 hours for bus drivers, \$23,000 dollars
 - Professional development; 3 people working off contract, revisions to the contract would save \$28,287 dollars, excluding benefits
 - Nutritional services; 2 staff members on an extended contract, revising the schedule would save \$11,142 dollars, excluding benefits
 - Delivery hours; 2 additional hours for 30 days, revising the schedule would save \$1,875
 - Electrical demand in July and August; savings would be approximately \$10,000 for a total savings of approximately \$75,000

Mrs. Keema explained that plenty of input has been received from staff, the public, administration, etc. In addition, the small things; unplugging equipment, etc. should be considered in the cost saving efforts. Mrs. Keema reviewed the operational costs and business practices that effect each department; duplicate services and functions, material supplies, training days, extended contracts, new student information system, etc. The traditional schedule was presented in order to have the least impact to staff, students and parents and to have everyone on the same team. Mrs. Keema explained the importance of having everyone on the same schedule and allowing time to look at what schedule might be best for the District in the future.

Mr. Enge commented on the reason to change the schedule Fremont Elementary School; budgetary or convenience? Mrs. Keema commented that the reason is not to save money, but to make the District better and to do what's best for student achievement. Mr. Enge commented on previous Board minutes from last year when the question was brought up about changing the schedule at Fremont Elementary School.

Erin Lehman made several comments regarding Mrs. Keema presentation. Mrs. Lehman inquired about the implementation of Power School, given the recent budget cuts and the outline used during Town Hall meetings, closing a school and the quality of education. Mrs. Towns explained that Pearson Education will no longer service SASIxp. The District will save approximately \$144,000 in fees by implementing Power School, the student information system.

Paul Brugger inquired as to why the presentation made tonight by Mrs. Keema wasn't presented at previous meeting.

Jennifer Locke expressed her opinion on changing the schedule at Fremont Elementary School and explained that 1/3 of 1% is the breakdown of the proposed \$23,000 savings. She reiterated ways to save money if everyone started school on the same day.

Ron Swirzycek encouraged the Board to do what's best of the students of the Carson City School District.

Lori Eustis addressed the Board and asked if the District wanted to see different results on testing, etc. by offering something different in the District.

It was moved by Mr. Joe Enge, seconded by Mr. Jim Lemaire **that the Carson City School District Board of Trustees approve the 2009-2010 traditional calendar as submitted and the non-traditional calendar and abide by it for Fremont Elementary School for the next three years.**

Mr. Scoggin commented on committing for three years, given the current and future economic situation. The motion was amended to reflect the non-traditional calendar for one year.

Mrs. Conrad expressed her concerns with the public thinking that they have not been heard; the Board has been listening and the decisions that need to be made are difficult ones. Mrs. Conrad believes that if the Fremont Elementary School schedule is approved, other sacrifices will need to be made.

Mr. Lemaire publicly thanked Mr. Stokes and Mrs. Keema for their input and hard work.

Mr. Scoggin asked for a roll call vote:

Mr. Reynolds voted No; believes additional work should be done before making a decision; however, he is in support of a year-round schedule.

Mr. Lemaire voted Yes; he would like to hear results from the Master Plan Committee before changing the schedule at Fremont Elementary School.

Mrs. Wilson voted No; supports the staff and presentation made tonight.

Mrs. Conrad voted Yes; with additional information from the Master Plan Committee.

Mr. Enge voted Yes.

Mr. Scoggin voted No.

The vote was tied 3 to 3; Motion did not pass.

It was moved by Mr. Jim Lemaire, seconded by Mrs. Joanna Wilson **that the Carson City School District Board of Trustees approve the 2009-2010 traditional calendar and 2009-2010 non-traditional as submitted.** Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING REVIEWED CCSD REGULATIONS FOR WHICH THERE ARE NO CHANGES: REGULATION 519, BEHAVIOR CODE; REGULATION 515.1, STUDENT EDUCATION RECORDS

Mrs. Keema explained that regulations do not need approval by the Board. She provided the Board with Regulation 519 and 515.1 that have been reviewed with no changes. The Board Meeting of March 24, 2009 will serve as the reviewed date on these two regulations.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON SUGGESTED CHANGES TO THE FOLLOWING CCSD REGULATIONS: REG 204, SELECTION OF MEDIA CENTER RESOURCES AND SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS; REG 204.1, USE OF COMMERCIAL FILMS/VIDEOS/DVD AND OTHER MEDIA IN SCHOOLS; REG 204.2, RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS AND SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS; REG 204.2 FORM, REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS AND SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS; REG 406, CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE TRANSFER PROCEDURE; REG 509.1, REQUEST FOR GED TESTING; REG 509.2 FORM, REQUEST TO WITHDRAW FOR GED TESTING; REG 516, COMPUTATION OF GPA AND CLASS RANK; REG 517.3, UNITS OF CREDIT REQUIRED FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADE PROMOTION; REG 517.4, REMEDIAL INSTRUCTION; REG 519.1, STUDENT REGULATIONS; REG 519.2, DRESS AND GROOMING; REG 519.3, GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR STUDENT CONDUCT; REG 331, TRAVEL AND PER DIEM ALLOWANCES; REG 515.2, STUDENT EDUCATION RECORDS (AUTHORIZED TRAINING PROGRAMS); REG 515.3, STUDENT EDUCATION RECORDS (GRANTING ACCESS); REG 515.4, STUDENT EDUCATION RECORDS (CHALLENGING THE CONTENT); REG 217, LIBRARY PHILISOPHY AND PROCEDURES; REG 205.2, RECONSIDERATION OF CLASSROOM INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL; REG 205.1, TEXTBOOK ADOPTION PROCESS

Mrs. Keema updated the Board on changes to the above mentioned regulations. The suggested changes were made by the appropriate employee groups. The policies and regulations are reviewed on a yearly basis. The Board Meeting of March 24, 2009 will serve as the revised date on the above mentioned regulations.

Mr. Reynolds addressed concerns with Regulation 519.3; publication of slanderous material against other students; does this item need to be addressed. Mrs. Keema will look into the language on the policy and make suggestions to Administrators. Mr. Scoggin believes this concern has been addressed.

2009 NEVADA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: REPORT ON ITEMS OF INTEREST RELATING TO EDUCATION

Mr. Stokes updated the Board on legislative issues; AB429 identifies the amount of money to be spent on textbooks and supplies; adding instructional software. SB330 is proposed by Senator Horsford; reorganizing the State Board of Education and State Superintendents position and revise the organization of the Department of Education. Section 43 of SB330 is regarding other ways a student can receive their High School Diploma without passing the Proficiency Exams with exceptions; the student passes two areas on the proficiency exam, has a GPA of 2.0 and satisfies criteria established by the State Board of Education. Another Section of SB330 is regarding the entry level salary of a new teacher hired after July, 2010. AB348 would require School Districts to post notices of information regarding educational programs.

Mr. Scoggin asked if any additional information regarding "Hold Harmless" has been discussed. Mr. Anderson explained that specific language is usually discussed in the Appropriations Bill.

Mr. Enge commented on information from the Department of Education regarding the different options of the Distributive School Account (DSA) range, \$5,800 to \$6,400.

Mr. Anderson addressed the Board regarding the number focused on by the District; the Governors recommendation; per pupil statewide average of \$5,864. Other variables are being taken into consideration; worst case scenario, the post secondary formula from 2006 is used and the District would have to make up the difference.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Jim Lemaire, seconded by Mr. Steve Reynolds, **that the Carson City School Board of Trustees approve the consent agenda.** Motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

The following are items for consideration for future Board Meetings:

- Fremont Elementary School Year Round Schedule
- Master Plan Committee; Mr. Pavlakis recommended the committee should be directed by the Superintendent

Present agenda items to Mr. Richard Stokes or President Barbara Howe.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the Carson City School District Board of Trustees will be on Tuesday, April 14, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

There will be no further business to come before the members of the Board in public meeting; Vice President Norm Scoggin declared the meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Joanna Wilson, Clerk

Date