

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

Tuesday, August 11, 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 7:00 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
Joanna Wilson, Clerk
Steve Reynolds, Member
Mr. Richard Stokes, Superintendent
Mike Pavlakis, Legal Counsel

Members Absent
Jim Lemaire, Member
Lynnette Conrad, Member

ACTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Norm Scoggin, 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

- The resignation of Mr. Joe Enge, District 3 Trustee was accepted. The Notice of Vacancy will be published in the Nevada Appeal from August 14th – August 30th. Anyone living in District 3 is encouraged to apply; must be a qualified elector, 18 years of age and reside within District 3. All applicants must submit a letter of interest along with a resume to the District Office by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1, 2009. Interviews will be held at the September 8, 2009 School Board Meeting.
- Mr. Stokes announced upcoming school activities:
 - August 13th Open House at Early Childhood; 5:30 p.m.
 - August 18th Freshman Orientation 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; “Back to School” for Seniors, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.; Juniors, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 - August 19th “Back to School” for Sophomores, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.; Kindergarten Orientation at Mark Twain Elementary School, 4:00 p.m. for Spanish speaking families and 5:00 p.m. for English speaking families
 - August 20th “Back to School” at Eagle Valley Middle School, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.; 1st Grade Orientation at Mark Twain Elementary School, 4:00 p.m. for Spanish speaking families and 5:00 p.m. for English speaking families
 - August 21st “Meet & Greet” at Empire Elementary School, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.; “Meet & Greet” at Mark Twain Elementary School, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.; “Meet & Greet” at Al Seeliger Elementary School, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
- The first day of school for students on the traditional calendar is Monday, August 24, 2009

BOARD REPORTS

Mrs. Howe reminded Board Trustees that the Nevada Association of School Boards is accepting nominations for recognition at their annual fall conference.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

There were no association reports.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PRESENTATION ON ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS (AYP) RESULTS FOR 2008 – 2009

Mrs. Keema provided a power point presentation to the Board regarding 2008-2009 AYP results. A copy is included in the permanent record.

The rules of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) are defined by NRS 385.3762, based on the requirements from “No Child Left Behind” (NCLB). All seventeen county school districts must follow the same requirements. All public schools were evaluated using test, attendance and graduation data.

Mrs. Keema reviewed the criteria required for determining AYP and the results for the District. The presentation included the following information:

Student Assessments:

- Subject areas tested include: Math and English Language Arts (ELA) which includes reading and writing
- Nevada assessments used are:
 - Criterion Referenced Test (CRT) 3rd – 8th; Reading and Math
 - Writing Tests for 5th, 8th & 11th grade students
 - High School Proficiency (HSPE) for 10th and 11th; Reading and Math. Students are required to take a science test for high school graduation; however it is not required for AYP.

Determining AYP:

- Participation must be 95% in each subgroup
- School test data is combined by grade level; Elementary School is grade 3 – 5; Middle School is grade 6 – 8
- Percentage of students required to reach proficiency:
 - Elementary School: ELA – 51.7%; Math – 54.6%
 - Middle School: ELA – 51.7%; Math – 54.6%
 - High School; ELA – 82.3%; Math 61.8%

Additional criteria looked at in making AYP:

- Attendance rate (elementary school & middle school) must be a minimum of 90% school wide; the average attendance rate for the District is 96.3%
- High school graduation rate must be greater than 50%; the graduation rate for the District is 85%
- Calculations are based on the entire school, as well as the nine subgroups
- “Safe Harbor” occurs when there is a reduction in the number of non-proficient students in a subgroup.

Subgroups evaluated:

- Total school population
- Five major ethnic groups; American Indian, Hispanic, White, Asian and Black
- Special Education Students (IEP)
- Limited English Proficient Students (LEP)
- Low Socio-Economic Status Students – Free Reduced Lunch (FRL)

Mrs. Keema explained how the different sub-groups can affect AYP status. There are nine groups; English Language Arts (ELA) is looked at for all groups, then Math, etc. Attendance is looked at for all categories. There is one way to make AYP; however 37 ways are looked at when completing the process. The Carson City School District reports on most of the categories

when determining AYP; Elementary Schools generally report on 25 categories, with secondary schools reporting on 34 categories.

School Designations:

- High Achieving; Significant number or increase in the number of proficient students
- Adequate; meet the standard that has been determined
- Watch List; Failed AYP for the first year
- In Need of Improvement (INOI)
 - Failed AYP for two consecutive years in the same subject area
 - Must make AYP for two years to be removed from INOI
 - Considered as "HOLD" after making AYP for one year

Mrs. Keema announced the Designations for 2008-2009:

- Al Seeliger Elementary – Adequate
- Carson High School – Adequate
- Carson City School District – Adequate
- Bordewich/Bray Elementary – Adequate
- Fritsch Elementary – Adequate
- Mark Twain Elementary – In Need of Improvement (Year 1)
- Eagle Valley Middle School – In Need of Improvement (Year 1)
- Pioneer High School – Adequate
- Empire Elementary – In Need of Improvement (Year 5 – Hold)
- Fremont Elementary – In Need of Improvement (Year 5)
- Carson Middle School – In Need of Improvement (Year 4)

Mrs. Keema reported on the increase in the attendance rate at Pioneer High School from 78.8% in 2007-2008 to 90.8% in 2008-2009. During the 2009 Legislative Session, SB389 was passed, requiring schools in "Year 3" to complete a curriculum audit. All schools "In Need of Improvement" will complete a curriculum audit. SB389 also requires the development of a "turnaround plan" for schools "In Need of Improvement" 4 or above. Mrs. Keema explained that a portion of the "stimulus money" will be used for content area coaches at the schools.

Empire Elementary School was designated "Year 5 – Hold", making AYP for 2008-2009. Mrs. Keema publicly thanked the staff at Empire Elementary School for their hard work. Mrs. Evelyn Allred, Principal, Empire Elementary School highlighted a few things that were accomplished at Empire Elementary School in order to achieve their goal; 80% of the students were proficient in Math, with 62% proficient in ELA. Ms. Ingrid Frenna, ESL Teacher spoke briefly about Empire Elementary School making AYP. Mrs. Jennifer Ward-DeJoseph, Implementation Specialist, Empire Elementary School highlighted the commitment of the staff at Empire Elementary School.

Mrs. Keema reviewed the elementary school and middle school percentages in ELA and Math. The ELA goal for the District was 51.7%; overall the schools saw an increase. During professional development, the district will focus on curriculum mapping for ELA. The Math goal for the District was 54.6%. There will be a 12% increase in ELA for elementary and middle schools, with an 11.3% increase in Math for 2009-2010.

Mrs. Wilson inquired as to the Math scores for IEP students; elementary school vs. middle school. Mrs. Keema commented on some of the additional efforts that will be implemented at the middle schools; curriculum audits, coaching, etc. School visits may also take place.

Mrs. Keema reviewed the goals for the high school ELA and Math; ELA was 82.3%, with an increase in 2009-2010 to 86.4%, Math was 61.8%, with an increase in 2009-2010 to 71.3%. The goal set by the Federal Government in 2013 – 2014 is 100%. Mrs. Keema thanked the Board, teachers and parents in the District for their continued support.

Mr. Steve Reynolds asked about the possibility of a particular class year not making AYP and not being proficient. Mrs. Keema explained that the test results don't reflect information for the same

students each year. Mr. Reynolds inquired about identifying steps or actions necessary to increase student proficiency. Mrs. Keema explained that areas of the test will be reviewed. Trending date will be looked at; each year the test group has a diverse group of students for different grade levels. If necessary, the teacher can look at and adjust what is being taught prior to administering the test.

Mr. Reynolds inquired as to some of the challenges an IEP student may have. Mrs. Keema provided a brief explanation of an IEP student; physically handicapped, may be slow to process on paper, etc. If such a determination is made, an Individual Education Plan is provided to strengthen areas of weakness, assist with coping strategies, etc. If deemed necessary, special accommodations can be made during testing.

Mr. Scoggin congratulated all the teachers in the district. He supports classroom coaches, Professional Development Center, etc.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATE ON THE CONTRACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES WITH ALLISON MACKENZIE LAW FIRM

Mr. Richard Stokes reported on the current contract with Allison MacKenzie Law Firm. The contract is currently effective until June 30, 2011. At this time, there are no changes to fees for services provided by the law firm. Mr. Stokes publicly thanked Mr. Mike Pavlakis for his dedication and work with the District.

REVIEW OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND UPDATE ON EAGLE VALLEY MIDDLE COMPLEX PROPOSAL

Mr. Stokes addressed the Board with information regarding the Capital Improvement Plan for the District. Capital Improvements are non-recurring expenditures or any expenditure for physical improvements including costs for acquiring existing land, interest in land, construction of new buildings, including major additions. During the May 2009 Budget Hearing, information was presented regarding a five year plan. The capital improvement fund is budgeted from the Government Services Tax; vehicle registration. The federal program "Cash for Clunkers" may provide some additional money.

The district has projected a 28% decrease in this revenue source, limiting the amount that can be used for capital improvements. The Capital Improvement Plan, approved in May 2009, listed expenditures in excess of \$5 million. The plan consists of using \$1.4 million of stimulus money and \$4 million in Medium Term Financing. Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB); federally funded bonds that do not need voter approval, however prior to applying for the money, 10% is required from a private business or entity. Another Bond opportunity is available in November 2010.

Mr. Scoggin shared some of his concerns regarding the Eagle Valley Middle School project; with the current economic situation, is this best time and location for the project. If the district borrows money, how will that effect the district's current bond rating. Mr. Scoggin encouraged the community to get in touch with him regarding the issue.

Mr. Stokes provided a brief explanation on QZAB; a low interest means that has a payback to the federal government over nine years. The federal government covers a large portion of the interest; 50% of the cost has to be paid back. The money is intended to be used at sites that have low income students. There will be additional information regarding the affect of the bond rating.

Mr. Stokes provided a brief update on the modifications to the Eagle Valley Middle School site plan. During the town hall meeting held at Eagle Valley Middle School, the community shared concerns regarding the Photovoltaic (PV) panels, location of the greenhouse and pond, traffic pattern, etc. The suggestions from the community generated a revised proposal removing the PV panels, moving the greenhouse away from 5th Street; changing the elevations. The location of the wind turbines did not change. Additional changes to the original proposal include changing

the traffic flow; busses will turn into the school, off-load the students, making a right turn back onto 5th Street. The project is not possible without funding; Bond or QZAB.

Mrs. Howe inquired about possible rebates from Nevada Energy if the solar panels are eliminated. Mr. Stokes explained that with the use of wind turbines alone, 20 – 25% of generated electrical energy could be feed into Eagle Valley Middle School. The solar panels could be built at another site.

Mr. Scoggin suggested the possibility of looking at Carson High School for the solar panels and wind turbines. He also believes the district should use the buildings and property to serve in the best interest of the district.

Mrs. Wilson asked why the solar panels were eliminated and if it were possible to place the solar panels on the maintenance building or greenhouse. Mr. Stokes explained that the PV structure was intended to support the solar panels. Mr. Darren Berger, Architect, Hannafin Design, explained that the Photovoltaic Array could be placed on the maintenance building. There are structural concerns along with additional money that would need to be considered if the panels are placed on the school. The building should be east/west, not north/south. The revised plan reflects changes to the walking paths; perimeter path around the site.

Mr. Scoggin asked if the solar panels could stand alone. Mr. Berger explained that they could stand alone; they can also be mounted in the ground. The plans were changed due to suggestions received from community members.

Mr. Reynolds expressed his concerns with the project; too much emphasis placed on one or two comments. Mr. Reynolds believes it's important to listen to the community; however are the suggestions the opinion of one or the majority.

Mrs. Howe for the record believes the new design is lacking luster and the vision from the original plan.

Mr. Stokes listed several projects that are included in the current Capital Project Plan:

- Boys bathroom remodel at Bordewich Bray Elementary School
- Intercom System at Al Seeliger Elementary School
- Remodel of library at Fritsch Elementary School
- Soffit extension or extend main entrance, Building B at Fritsch Elementary School
- Replace sheet rock soffits at Empire Elementary School
- Remodel staff lounge at Carson Middle School
- New Elevator and Small Gym Floor at Carson High School

Mrs. Wilson believes the bus barn should not be at Eagle Valley Middle School. She also expressed her concerns with the current economic situation and spending money now.

Mrs. Howe asked about the possibility of gathering individual opinions from the Eagle Valley Middle School neighborhood. Mr. Stokes reviewed the original intent of the town hall meeting. Mr. Anderson is attending a Clean Energy Summit in Las Vegas.

Mr. Reynolds believes that clarity and intent of the project along with the money used needs to be identified.

Mrs. Howe reminded the Board that \$1 million of federal stimulus; construction allocation for schools is available. She also asked if there were other district locations or possible City sites that the PV Array or bus barn could be located. Mr. Stokes believes that projects like this should be placed at sites that can benefit the buildings. Space is available at other school locations.

Mrs. Wilson would like to see a plan proposal that meets in the middle. She also believes that other alternatives should be looked at, while keeping the community in mind.

Public Comment:

Mr. Mike Chapman, property owner, south of Eagle Valley Middle School asked if additional town hall meetings were going to be held. Mr. Chapman highlighted some of the proposed changes from the original plan; elimination of the bus barn, moving the greenhouse and removing the restroom facility from the dirt area to the left of the track. Mr. Chapman expressed his concerns with parking along the fence; restriction to the parking area or relocating the parking to Carson River Road and the noise level of 39 wind turbines. He also asked if any thoughts had been given to placing the solar panels at Carson High School or possibly another location. Mr. Chapman asked if this was the appropriate use of the money; are all issues at the schools being looked at and the projects prioritized.

Mr. John McKenna, property owner on Hells Bells Road addressed the Board with his concerns regarding the proposed Eagle Valley Middle School project:

- Would like the entire proposal withdrawn and a comprehensive improvement plan presented
- Proposal was approved at a non-televised meeting, agenda item did not disclose the details and financial aspects of the project
- Original plan; dependent on the bus barn to support the solar panels, wind supplementing the solar panels, fencing supporting the wind turbines and securing the bus barn, installation of greenhouse and pond
- Baseball fields were removed at the request of Eagle Valley Middle School. The open grass area is nice for P.E., baseball games, soccer games, and practices.
- Wind turbines should go wherever the solar panels go. Carson City has plenty of wind; place the wind turbines at Carson High School; freeway would mask the noise.
- Environmental concerns; noise, effects on the wildlife, use of land; owned by Bureau of Land Management (BLM), land has many earthquake faults
- Project approved by the Board, introduced to the community in the newspaper, is this what's best for Carson City, financial concerns; apply for funding now and wait a year, etc.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON SUGGESTED CHANGES TO THE FOLLOWING CCSD POLICIES: FIRST READING: POLICY 911, HARASSMENT/SEXUAL HARASSMENT; POLICY 543, STUDENTS HARASSMENT/SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION; POLICY 702, ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS; POLICY 905 RELATIONS WITH PARENTS

Mrs. Keema reminded the Board that policies are continuing to be reviewed and presented for their information. Changes to the above mentioned policies were suggested due to the recent legislative session and are noted in **bold italics**. The employee groups were notified of the suggested changes.

DISUCSSION AND ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING REVIEWED CCSD POLICIES FOR WHICH NO CHANGES ARE PROPOSED: POLICY 538, CHEATING; POLICY 807, CHILD ABUSE; POLICY 208, PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES; POLICY 106, PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Mrs. Keema reminded the Board that even though no changes were suggested to the above mentioned policies, the reviewed date should be noted on the policies.

It was moved by Mr. Norm Scoggin, seconded by Mr. Steve Reynolds **that the Carson City School District Board of Trustees approve August 11, 2009 as the reviewed date for the following: Policy 538, Policy 807, Policy 208 and Policy 106.** Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Mrs. Joanna Wilson, 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

Mr. Norm Scoggin requested that a review of the H1N1 virus be presented at the August 25th Board Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the Carson City School District Board of Trustees will be on Tuesday, August 25, 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 8:40 p.m.

Joanna Wilson, Clerk

Date