

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

Tuesday, September 22, 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
Lynnette Conrad, Member
Steve Reynolds, Member
Stacie Wilke-McCulloch, Member
Mr. Richard Stokes, Superintendent
Mike Pavlakis, Legal Counsel

Members Absent
Jim Lemaire, Member

ACTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Steve Reynolds, seconded by Mrs. Joanna Wilson **that the Carson City School District Board of Trustees adopt the agenda as submitted.** Motion carried unanimously. (Mr. Jim Lemaire was not present for the vote.)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Mr. Stokes introduced Ms. Sherri Kelley, Web Design Teacher, Carson High School. Ms. Kelley introduced the following students that qualified in Job Interview and Web Design; Ashley Saarem, Justin Otero and Ali Thompson. Justin and Ali placed 2nd in Web Design at the 2009 National USA Skills Competition. Ashley competed in Job Interview, preparing for competition by using mock interviews. Ashley gave a brief explanation of the competition; allowed her to meet many students from across the United States. The teams are motivated and ready for competition this year. Justin summarized activities of the competition. The students were awarded scholarships; second place, \$5,000 to the Art Institute and \$10,000 to Boston Art Institute.
- Mr. Stokes introduced Mrs. Casey Gilles, Principal, Fremont Elementary School. Mrs. Gilles has worked for the District for 20 years. She is excited about her new position. She explained how the staff is committed to academic excellence. Mrs. Gilles expressed her goals; to explain to parents what is being done at Fremont Elementary School, allowing their children to be prepared for the next steps in their lives. She also believes in working with the Administration and staff at Fremont and staying focused on what needs to be done in order for students to be successful. Mrs. Gilles publicly thanked Mrs. Susan Keema, Mrs. Valerie Dockery and the staff at both Al Seeliger Elementary School and Bordewich Bray Elementary School.
- Fremont Elementary School is currently on Fall Break, classes resume on Monday, October 12, 2009.
- Mrs. Conrad presented a plaque to Ms. Leticia Servin for her dedication, hard work and outreach to the Hispanic community in the District.
- Mr. Stokes updated the Board with information regarding DNA kits for children. The program is available through the Carson City Sheriff's Office. The kits provide parents the ability to collect DNA samples of their children. The District is looking at ways to fund the project.

- International Walk to School Day is October 7th; however as a District, schools will participate on October 14th. Parents and students are encouraged to participate.
- Early Release Day; Wednesday, September 23rd, dismissal times are as follows:
 - Pioneer High School – 12:15 p.m.
 - Carson High School – 12:30 p.m.
 - Eagle Valley Middle School & Carson Middle School – 12:50 p.m.
 - Elementary Schools (except Fremont Elementary) – 1:30 p.m.
- Open House at Carson Middle School, September 23, 2009 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

BOARD REPORTS

- Jessica Dang reported on the following activities at Carson High School:
 - Homecoming Week is October 12th – 17th; theme is “Viva Las Vegas”
 - Monday, October 12th – Lip Sync Contest
 - Tuesday, October 13th – Board Game Night
 - Wednesday, October 14th – CHS Drama Production “Oh Horrors! It’s Murder”
 - Thursday, October 15th – Parade and Bonfire, Open to the Public
 - Friday, October 16th – Football game against Galena Grizzlies
 - Saturday, October 17th – Dance
- Cameron Haycock reported on the following activities at Pioneer High School:
 - The students and staff extended a thank you to everyone for a successful yard sale.
 - Halloween costume drive donations can be dropped off at the office through October 26th. Costumes will be distributed on October 26th & 27th from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
 - Mr. Johnson was publicly thanked for his work in collecting donated woodworking equipment valued at \$20,000. The school is working on developing a woodworking program.
 - Students and families of PHS were recognized for increasing their attendance rate for the first month of school from 90% to 93%.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

There were no association reports.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION ON “2010 CENSUS” IN THE SCHOOLS

Ms. Leticia Servin introduced Ms. Consuela Garcia, Census Specialist regarding the Census in the schools. Business cards were provided to Board Members. Ms. Servin explained the importance of the Census. Ms. Servin updated the Board on an upcoming event that will target the Hispanic Community. “Bingo Census” will be held at the schools to explain the importance of the Census. Additional information will be sent home with the students.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RE-APPOINTMENT OF SHEILA STORY, MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVE; GREGG BERGGREN, PARENT REPRESENTATIVE; REBECCA LYNN PALMER, PARENT REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE AN ADDITIONAL 3 YEAR TERM ON THE FAMILY LIFE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Keema explained that per NRS 389.065, the Family Life Committee consists of five parents, one representative from the medical field, one from the religious field, one counselor, one teacher or one student within the District. The Family Life Committee Members serve a three year term. The following positions are currently open for renewal; Ms. Sheila Story, Medical Representative, Ms. Rebecca Lynn Palmer, Parent Representative and Mr. Gregg Berggren, Parent

Representative. Each representative is in good standing and expressed a desire to continue serving on the committee for an additional three year term.

It was moved by Mrs. Joanna Wilson, seconded by Mr. Steve Reynolds, **that the Carson City School District Board of Trustees approve Ms. Sheila Story as the Medical Representative, Ms. Rebecca Lynn Palmer and Mr. Gregg Berggren as the Parent Representatives to serve on the Family Life Committee for an additional three (3) year term.** Motion carried unanimously. (Mr. Jim Lemaire was not present for the vote.)

SELECTION OF FAMILY LIFE COMMITTEE MEMBER; TEACHER CATEGORY

Mrs. Lisa Schuette, Family Life Committee Chairperson, introduced Ms. Bonnie Preston, Health Teacher, Eagle Valley Middle School. Ms. Preston submitted her application and is interested in serving on the committee as the Teacher Representative. Mrs. Schuette recommends her appointment to serve on the committee.

Ms. Bonnie Preston is a lifelong Carson City resident and teaches at Eagle Valley Middle School. She summarized her teaching career and expressed an interest in serving on the Family Life Committee.

It was moved by Mrs. Stacie Wilke-McCulloch, seconded by Mrs. Joanna Wilson, **that the Carson City School District Board of Trustees approve the selection of Ms. Bonnie Preston to serve on the Family Life Committee as the Teacher Representative.** Motion carried unanimously. (Mr. Jim Lemaire was not present for the vote.)

INFORMATIONAL UPDATE ON THE STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM; POWER SCHOOL

Mrs. Towns updated the Board on the conversion process of the Student Information System from SASIxp to Power School. Staff training will continue on Early Release Days and Professional Development Days.

Power School provides a Parent Portal, allowing parents the ability to access grades, attendance, bulletins, etc. Grades will not be available at the elementary school level until 2010-2011 school year. Information and applications were provided to parents on creating a User ID and Password. The information is also available on the District website; www.carsoncityschools.com.

Mrs. Towns provided a brief tutorial on navigating within the Parent Portal. Once you have logged into the system, parents have access to the following:

- Grades and Grading History; view historical grades, percentages
- Attendance and Attendance History
- E-mail Notifications; allows you to sign up to receive e-mails weekly, monthly, etc. on a variety of topics
- Teacher Comments; are displayed if a particular gradebook is being used by the teacher. Parents can also e-mail teachers.
- School Bulletins; sites will be able to post current events and newsletters.
- Class Registration; used at the secondary level for selecting course requests.
- Balances; money owed for meals, fees, etc.
- Calendars; upcoming events at the school site

Multiple User ID's and passwords are required for parents with more than one child in the District. Power School has a lot of features and continues to be a work in progress. Students are also able to access the system and view the same information.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE TOPIC SELECTION FOR THE 2009-2010 CARSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPONSORED AMERICAN CITIZEN ESSAY CONTEST

Mr. Stokes addressed the Board on the history and timeline of the Board sponsored American Citizen Essay Contest. The contest is open to home school, private, charter and public school

students in Carson City. Wells Fargo Bank has partnered with the District to purchase one of the savings bonds to be awarded.

The essays are due to the District Office on October 28, 2009, where winners will be recognized at the November 24, 2009 School Board. The first place winners will read their winning essay. The first place winners will receive a \$250 savings bond. The essays will be judged on adherence to the topic, quality of writing and originality of thought.

After several suggested topics and discussion amongst Board Members, a topic was agreed to and voted on.

It was moved by Mr. Steve Reynolds, seconded by Mrs. Joanna Wilson, **that the Carson City School District Board of Trustees approve “Ask Not What Your Country Can Do For You, Ask What You Can Do For Your Country” as the 2009-2010 topic for the Board sponsored American Citizens Essay Contest.** Motion carried unanimously. (Mr. Jim Lemaire was not present for the vote.)

UPDATE ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2009 – CCSD OFFICIAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT COUNT

Mr. Stokes reported that September 18, 2009 was official count day. The District has seen a decline in enrollment since 2003. The student count for 2009 is 7659, a decrease of 351 students from the previous year.

Mrs. Keema reported that there are 99 out of county variances. The district projected the enrollment to be 7,706 students, 47 students fewer than projected. The district did however, budget for the higher projected number. Mrs. Keema reviewed the counts by grade level; 156 fewer elementary school students, 132 middle school students and 62 at the high school.

Mr. Stokes commented on the current economic conditions in Carson City. The District continues to take a conservative approach to programs, staffing, etc.

Mr. Reynolds asked for information regarding student enrollment at the charter schools. The Strategic Advisory Committee looked at ways to increase some of the programs used in the District that might possibly increase student enrollment.

Mr. Scoggin commented on the current unemployment rate in Carson City at 12.7%.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING BOND 2010

Mr. Stokes updated and reported to the Board the importance of seeking a bond for the District in 2010, allowing the District to keep their current bonding capacity. The building sites are currently in excellent shape. If the District is unsuccessful in acquiring a bond in 2010, the District stands to lose the ability to maintain their bonding status.

Mr. Stokes provided information regarding previous bonds; general obligation bonds. General obligation bonds are paid back through revenue received from property taxes. The bonds have also been used for specific projects; Bordewich Bray Elementary School, Carson Middle School and upgrades at Carson High School. The approval of a bond will not increase taxes to the residents of Carson City.

With the current economic times, the District is recommending a “Roll-Over Bond”; allowing the District to access the money, with the ability to use the money over a time period of ten years. This type of bond also allows time for the Master Plan Committee to look at and make recommendations on particular needs in the District.

Mr. Marty Johnson, President, JNA Consulting Group, LLC will provide additional information at the October 13, 2009 board meeting. Mr. Stokes would like the Master Plan Committee to begin meeting again, allowing three board members to participate.

Mr. Scoggin explained that if the District does nothing, the tax rate will not decrease and the District stands to loose money.

Mr. Delfin announced that the Director of Fiscal Services position is still vacant. The position announcement is posted on the website at www.carsoncityschools.com. The candidates should have experience in state and local economic systems.

Mrs. Wilke-McCulloch made suggestions on the approach that should be taken by the District for a bond in 2010.

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. (Mr. Jim Lemaire 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 President Barbara Howe.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the Carson City School District Board of Trustees will be on Tuesday, October 13, 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 8:03 p.m.

Joanna Wilson, Clerk

Date