

**NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
APRIL 24, 2019**

Present: Larry Small, Member; Teresa Stoddard, Member (via videoconference); Mark Hansen, Member (via videoconference); Tim Sutton, Member (via videoconference); Sean Hastings, Member (via videoconference); Mark Owens, Member (via videoconference); Dale Norton, Superintendent; Evangelyn Visser, Associate Superintendent (via videoconference); Kyle Lindberg, Associate Superintendent (via videoconference); Ray Ritchie, Chief Operating Officer (via videoconference); Susan Schmidt, Human Resources Director (via videoconference); and Kelly Wood, Executive Secretary (via videoconference)

Absent: Roger Morones, Member (Mr. Morones joined the meeting via telephone at 7:04 p.m.)

Guests: Scott Shakespeare, Joseph R. Burch, Kristy LaBelle, Tonopah; Jim Fossett, Carl Hughes, Billie Goerke, Rusty Anderson, Aaron Bermudez, Jenna Rogers, Ellice Dunsterville, Beatty; Diane George, Dolores Perez, Ma. Teresa Renteria, Kellie Fordice, Vicki Fordice, Joshua Jerkins, Idalia Femat, Gabriela Dumas, Carmen Brown, Sara Granados, Amargosa Valley; Karen Holley, Julie Moen, Bruce Moen, Desiree Castaneda, Alma Williams, Cindy Hampton, Chesney Martin, Deborah Mar, Chuck Fannin, Esther Bracamantes, Salvador Bracamantes, Kay Neely, Tammy Baltutat, Robert Williams, Laura Spencer, Scot Troter, Jodi Martinez, Janice Cullen, Robert Blackstock, Pahrump.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. at the Tonopah District Office and videoconferenced to Amargosa Valley School, Beatty High School, and the Southern District Office, Pahrump. Board members, administrators and guests recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called. The Clerk read the mission statement and goals.

PUBLIC INPUT

Janice Cullen stated she was a Para pro at Hafen ES and wanted to thank Sam Simatos for getting her student a new piece of equipment. She also spoke about the PreK employees that are being rified due to the lack of state grant money. She stated there needs to be an easier way so that it doesn't upset so many households.

Tammy Baltutat stated she was speaking on behalf of the NCCTA and as a parent. She stated there are several rumors going around regarding combination classes and she would like some questions answered. She would like to know the purpose, how it would work, what the classrooms will look like, how they will deal with behavior issues, how it will look on NEPF, etc.

Robert Blackstock stated that his grandson was a student at Floyd and he would like to see the District get a good full time psychiatrist out here to work with the kids.

Kristy LaBelle thanked the Board for all they have done, the community is grateful, and they all look forward to working with the Board in the future.

Dolores Perez stated she is the parent site representative and thanked the Board for listening to the public input last month regarding Amargosa and Beatty schools moving to a 4-day school week. She stated the parents feel strongly about this issue. She said that it is a process and took several meetings for the

parents to understand. She stated most parents are against the change and is asking for more time to understand.

Maria Teresa Renteria stated she does not agree with the 4-day school week, and the students will have nothing to do on Fridays if they are not in school.

Joshua Jerkins stated he was speaking on behalf of the parents that are in favor of the 4-day school week. He said he attended the meetings and there was a lot of good information. He stated there can be community activities and staff volunteers to help students on Fridays. He said a longer day will help students get more one on one time with teachers.

Gabriela Dimas stated she was against the 4-day week. She asked what will happen with PreK. She does not know how adding one hour to the day will be better than being in school a full day on Fridays. She stated the principal talked about tutoring and interventions but how is that better than a regular school day on a Friday.

Carmen Brown stated she works at the school but is speaking as a mother and a community person. She stated local businesses and organizations are working with them to bring youth programs to the area and are able to donate funds to start programs as options for the kids of all ages. She stated she can be contacted for more information.

Sara Granada stated she liked the idea of the 4-day week, but wanted to know if there would be help for Sp.Ed. students or any students that need extra help and are not succeeding on the new schedule.

Idalia Femat stated she is the parent of a 3rd grade student and will have a PreK student next year. She said she agreed with some of the teachers' points but feels it was brought on too quickly. She stated a lot of the parents work at the Dairy and they were unable to make the meetings, or had no transportation to the meetings. She feels this hasn't been thought out thoroughly.

Jenna Rogers stated her son will be in Kindergarten next year and states the 4-day school week has many benefits. She stated if the teachers are supporting it then so does she.

Salvador Bracamontes stated he was the Pastor at Apostolic Assembly Church in Amargosa Valley and is in support of the 4-day school week. He said he was there to speak on behalf of 30 families from his church that all agree with the 4-day school week. He said the church will have activities on Fridays to give the students a safe place to be. Mr. Sutton asked if the 30 families he is representing have children in the school district and Mr. Bracamontes replied yes.

Julie Moen stated she has been involved with the Amargosa/Beatty schools since 1987 and a teacher at Beatty HS since 1991. She is invested as a resident in rural Nye County. She stated there are many reasons to move to a 4-day week and made three key points. 1. Instructional strategies could be optimized, math and language could be handled more effectively. 2. Extended class time can target instruction in the way that students learn; longer periods allow for hands-on learning. 3. A 4-day week encourages others to join staff in Beatty/Amargosa; we must explore all options that encourage teachers to go to rural schools.

Scott Shakespeare, Principal of Tonopah Schools stated the Beatty/Amargosa schools could join the northern group regarding common schedules it would make a bigger impact with scores and student learning.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Sutton moved for adoption of the agenda, Mrs. Stoddard seconded, and the motion carried with a vote all in favor.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Small asked if the Policy Committee has put in writing what the parameters are for the dress code regarding Policy 7331 Dress Code. Mr. Sutton stated that policies are very general while the descriptions and procedures are in the regulations. Mrs. Stoddard moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Mr. Hansen seconded and the motion carried with a vote all in favor.

RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Ritchie congratulated Jodi Martinez, NCSD Food Services Coordinator. Mr. Ritchie noted that the State of Nevada Department of Agriculture has approved NCSD to participate in the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) for the school years 2019-2023. This means that all the students of the District will receive free breakfast and lunch at every school. This is the first time this service has been awarded to an entire District. Ms. Martinez thanked her coworkers Dawna Braithwaite and Eldon Ward for their help gathering data for the application. She stated this is not a grant so there is no funding restrictions and this will be in place for four years. She noted she will continue applying for this every four years. She also noted this means students no longer have to input their PIN numbers which will speed up the lunch lines. This will also take away any stigma from the students that previously qualified for free or reduced lunches – now all students will be treated the same and go through the lines the same. Mr. Small thanked Ms. Martinez for her hard work.

APPROVAL OF A 4-DAY SCHOOL WEEK FOR AMARGOSA VALLEY AND BEATTY SCHOOLS

Mr. Fannin stated Mr. Brockman was not in attendance due to surgery on both of his feet. He then referred the Board to backup that was included in their folders containing articles regarding the 4-day school week. He stated the teacher shortage right now is critical and it is even harder in the rural areas to attract teachers, and that a 4-day school week will help. He referred back to the packet which includes articles about “Four-day Week Helps Recruit, Retain Teachers”, “A Four-Day School Week? Preliminary research suggests district savings are small, and critics contend that low-income kids may suffer more”, “The Advantages of a Four Day School Week”, “After Moving to a Four-Day School Week, There May Be No Going Back”, “Four-Day School Week Overview”, and “How States Implement the Four-Day Week”. He noted that they would like to have the same schedule as the other northern rural schools in order to be able to have collaboration time with them. Mr. Fannin stated they surveyed the parents and staff and held two additional community meetings to address the parent concerns. Mr. Norton stated there are advantages and disadvantages to a 4-day week. He stated the change would put all the northern schools in alignment for PLC which can be positive if done correctly. He stated there still needs to be meetings with parents and community in Amargosa, and to keep open lines of communication to address their issues, but there will always be questions and concerns. Mr. Small asked if there are any further meetings scheduled and Mr. Fannin replied yes. Mr. Fannin also noted they would like to possibly have tutoring on Fridays so they would be able to serve the students breakfast and lunch. He said everything is in the beginning stages right now. Mr. Sutton asked Mr. Fannin to give him the response rates of the surveys again. Discussion ensued. Mr. Hastings asked about the concerns of the Hispanic community as well as the Dairy workers who are frustrated because they cannot be home on Fridays with their students. Mr. Fannin replied they are working on getting buses set up to still pick up students for breakfast, tutoring and activities. He stated there are a lot of possibilities, but he feels this will be beneficial for all students. Mr. Small stated he feels that it is still rushed and that most parents are against it. He also feels there may be a safety issue with students not being in school on Fridays. Mr. Owens noted that the plan needs more detail and he also feels it is being rushed. Mr. Hastings stated they will never have all the answers on how to make it work, but if it is approved there are a lot of good people standing behind it to make it work. Mr. Sutton made a motion to approve the 4-day school week for the 2019-2020 school year, with an annual review in March 2020 showing teacher applications, turnover rate, absenteeism/truancy rates, and a teacher/student quarterly meeting. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion, and the vote was deadlocked as follows: Mr. Sutton: Aye; Mr. Hastings: Aye; Mr. Hansen: Aye; Mr. Small: Nay; Mrs. Stoddard: Nay; Mr. Owens: Nay. A five minute break was taken in order to try and reach Trustee Morones on the phone

to join the meeting. The meeting resumed with Mr. Morones on the phone and Mr. Norton summarized the public input and discussion. Mr. Morones stated he understood the concerns from both sides. Mr. Sutton again made a motion to approve the 4-day school week for the 2019-2020 school year, with an annual review in March 2020 showing teacher applications, turnover rate, absenteeism/truancy rates, and a teacher/student quarterly meeting. Mr. Hansen seconded and the motion passed with a vote 4-3 in favor. The votes were as follows: Mr. Hansen: Aye; Mr. Sutton: Aye; Mr. Morones: Aye; Mr. Hastings: Aye; Mr. Small: Nay; Mrs. Stoddard: Nay; Mr. Owens: Nay.

SCHOOL REPORTS

Joe Burch, Head Teacher for Warm Springs School gave their school report. He gave a presentation which spoke about the location of Warm Springs Ranch, and gave the demographics of the school. He stated the school currently has 10 students representing 5 local families, with one school staff member. He spoke about the school climate and that they do have 100% access to, and the use of, technology every day. He reported on chronic absenteeism, instructional practice, instructional goals, and instructional gains. He stated the students are arranged in learning levels and all district programs are supported, with additional exposure to art, social studies and a town library. Mrs. Stoddard stated that Mr. Burch could shed some light on teaching different levels, and that other teachers could benefit from his experience. Mr. Shakespeare noted that Tom Lyman, Lyn Huston, and Barbara Young collaborate every week and other teachers could lean on them for help with combined classrooms.

Scott Shakespeare, principal of Tonopah Schools gave his report for those schools. He gave a presentation which spoke about Tonopah demographics, staff, chronic absenteeism, 5-year accreditation, instructional goals, and instructional gains. He reported that the school population is 406 students which is up 17 students from 2017-2018. He stated that with the new 4-day week schedule they will focus on reducing absenteeism, and continue to education parents on the importance of being in school each day. Mr. Shakespeare reported that in May 2019 THS will go through their 5-year accreditation process and the official results will come out a month after the official visit. He finished his report by noting that TES remains a 1 Star school, TMS remains a 2 Star school, and THS moved from a 1 Star to a 3 Star school.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

None.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Norton thanked the Board for moving the meeting from April 17th to this date of the 24th so that he was able to attend his son's wedding. April 1-5, he went to Fargo, ND for recruiting; April 8-10 the UVA interviews were conducted. Four years ago the University of Virginia did an assessment of the District and gave a plan to help the District make changes and improve. This is the 4 year mark so they are back to conduct another assessment and he looks forward to receiving the full report. April 11 he attended the BOT Agenda meeting with Mr. Small and Ms. Wood; and also a Coherence Lab meeting. He stated the last Coherence Lab meeting will be in May in Colorado. April 15 he met with the Amargosa staff to recap the 4-day school week conversation; April 16 he attended the NIAA Sportsmanship meeting; April 17, visited the northern schools; April 18 he took part in the weekly superintendents' conference call to talk about future budget changes due to legislative changes and they are keeping on top of the budgeting process. April 22-23 were the District's Family Days. He noted he heard good comments about Spring Break being in March and then having the Family Days after Easter. April 25 is the NIAA Hall of Fame event where two people from our District are being recognized: Larry Goins and Rod Poteete. April 27 is the Student Community Service project, staff are volunteering to help and Desert View Hospital has donated water. Mr. Norton stated that June 4 will be his annual BBQ at his home and invited the Board members to attend. He stated he will also extend the invitation to former Board members as well.

BOARD REPORTS

Mr. Hastings spoke about the NSBA Conference he attended in Philadelphia. He noted the different topics that were discussed and encouraged the Board members to attend this conference next year in Chicago.

APPROVAL OF GRANTS

Ms. Holley presented list of grants to the Board (see backup). Mrs. Stoddard made a motion to approve. Mr. Owens seconded and the motion passed all in favor.

APPROVAL OF 2019-2020 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Discussion ensued regarding the different schedule options, and traveling to the rural communities for meetings. Mr. Owens made a motion to approve Option 2. Mr. Hastings seconded, and the motion passed all in favor.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 18-19 – 2 REAFFIRMING NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT’S COMMITMENT TO CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY, AND CALLING FOR STATE AND FEDERAL ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. Hastings reported that he, Mr. Hansen and Mrs. Stoddard met to rewrite this Resolution that was presented at the March Board meeting. Discussion ensued. He noted that the item title is in error, the title of the Resolution is actually “Resolution Reaffirming Nye County School District’s Commitment to Environmental Conservation and Sustainability”. Mr. Sutton made a motion to approve, Mrs. Stoddard seconded and the motion passed all in favor.

Mrs. Stoddard moved to go into closed session, Mr. Hansen seconded and the motion carried with a vote all in favor. The Board went into closed session at 7:58 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NRS 288.220 FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONFERRING WITH MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND OTHER PERSONNEL MATTERS; OR NRS 241.030(1)(1) TO CONSIDER THE CHARACTER, MISCONDUCT, COMPETENCE, OR PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH OF A PERSON.

Discussion is reflected in Executive Session minutes.

DECISION REGARDING STUDENT RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

None.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

Mr. Sutton made the motion to approve check registers dated 03/08/19 in the amount of \$188.61; 03/20/19 in the amount \$158,237.28; 03/21/19 in the amount of \$19,436.61; 03/27/19 in the amounts of \$29,052.00 and \$121,085.43 and \$76,462.59 and \$106,509.10; 03/28/19 in the amount of \$71,628.33; 03/29/19 in the amount of \$10,850.01; 04/01/19 in the amount of \$23,516.78; 04/03/19 in the amount of \$22,304.10; 04/05/19 in the amounts of \$1,031.03.02 and \$189.26; 04/08/19 in the amount of \$21,848.36; 04/11/19 in the amounts of \$71,698.13 and \$23,147.91; and 04/12/19 in the amount of \$9,971.40. Mr. Hansen seconded and the motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Sutton mentioned the updates that come from NASB and if anyone would like more information to contact NASB or reach out to Ms. Wood. Mr. Norton stated if they would like any information on the lobbyists to let him know.

CHANGE OF DATE/ATTENDANCE AREA OF FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

None.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

None.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Small adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

SCHEDULE OF MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. Mrs. Stoddard made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:58 p.m. The motion carried with a vote all in favor. The regular session resumed at 8:19 p.m., and the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

By _____
Clerk