

EUREKA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
OF

May 15th, 2013

Board Room, Eureka Elementary School, Nevada
Room 8, Crescent Valley Elementary School, Nevada
Meeting sites were connected by interactive video.

5:00 p.m. – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Kathy Bacon-Bowling

Roll Call

Present:

Kathy Bacon-Bowling, President
John Brown, Clerk
Darla Baumann, Member
Terrilynn Brown, Member
Sara Simmons, Member

Ben Zunino, Superintendent/Principal
Ken Fujii, High School Principal
Mark Martinsen, District Administrator
Student Advisory Member – Alyissa Williams - Absent

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Action to Adopt the Agenda for May 15th, 2013 Special Meeting and Public Budget Hearing.

--**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**. Motion made by Darla Baumann, seconded by Sara Simmons to adopt the agenda as posted. Motion carries

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Kathy Bacon-Bowling read the following: Comments may be made by members of the public on any matters within the authority of the Board. Please note that Public Comment will be taken on any item on this Agenda marked “**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**” before action is taken on such items, and members of the public are encouraged to comment on such items at the time they are being considered. Although members of the Board may respond to questions and discuss issues raised during the period reserved for Public Comment, no action may be taken on such a matter until the matter is placed on an agenda for action at a meeting of the Board. In making Public Comment, speakers are asked to identify themselves for the record and to limit their comments to no more than three (3) minutes.

Members of the public who desire to have an item placed on an agenda of the Board are asked to submit their request and any supporting information to the Superintendent for review five (5) days prior to the date of a Regular Meeting of the Board.

No public comment.

AGENDA

1. Student Advisory Report – Information Only/No Action – (member absent). President Bacon-Bowling read the written report from Alyssa Williams. The report consisted of activities and events that had or will occur at the high school.
2. Public Budget Hearing: Presentation and discussion of the Final form of the budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014. Various staff members will make presentations and offer discussion and review

of the final form of the Budget. District Finance Officer Lisa Jones will lead the discussion. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY.

Mrs. Jones gave an overview of the FY14 budget, by offering a review of the budget to board members. Since the last time that the board members discussed the budget, the only changes that had been incorporated in the document was the inclusion of the \$10M transfer from the general fund to the net proceeds mitigation fund, and an additional high school request of \$15 thousand dollars. The board was given an explanation of the state budget form and the organization of the major funds, opening and ending fund balances, projected revenues and expenditures. Expenditures by function grouping were discussed (regular programs, special education programs, vocational programs, and extra-curricular/athletic programs). The five year capital improvement plan was also discussed.

3. Public Comment on the final form of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014. At this time, public comment will be taken on the Final Budget. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

No Public Comment

4. Discuss, approve, or deny adopting the Budget in its final form for Fiscal Year 2013-14. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. Public Comment will be taken prior to action.

Terrilynn Brown said that she would like to see another teacher added to the Crescent Valley school budget. Mrs. Baumann said that she thinks that with the addition of Mrs. Bell on the staff, that some of the dynamics at Crescent Valley will change. She pointed out that there are three teachers and three aides for thirty students. Terrilynn Brown said that one of the aides needs to be replaced right now and in lieu of replacing that aide, it would be a good time to not replace the aide and hire a teacher instead. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the staffing and student numbers at the Crescent Valley school. John Brown asked other board members if they wanted to budget the money for it, and if it became necessary later then another teacher could be added. Superintendent Zunino asked Mr. Brown what the “trigger” would be for adding another teacher. Sara Simmons said that she agreed with Darla that with the staffing changes there for next year, that the situation should be monitored for improvement.

President Bacon-Bowling asked board members and audience members if they had any additional budget questions to ask. There were no further comments from the board or audience.

No additional public comment.

Motion made by Darla Baumann, seconded by John Brown, to adopt the FY14 Final Budget. Motion carries with Terrilynn Brown voting nay.

5. Discuss, approve, or deny approving granting sick bank days to teacher Kathleen Iannacchione, pursuant to Negotiated Agreement with Eureka County Teacher’s Association, Section 3-4 of “Sick Leave Bank”, page 44 of 2012-2015 Negotiated Agreement. Presentation by Superintendent Zunino. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. Public Comment will be taken prior to action.

Superintendent Zunino explained that the sick leave bank is available for Mrs. Iannacchione if the teacher’s association agrees and the board agrees. The superintendent recommended that the board approve the request. No public comment.

Motion made by Darla Baumann, seconded by Sara Simmons, to approve request. Motion carries

6. Discuss, approve, or deny revising administrative regulation #4710 (AR) “Classified Salary Scale Placement” to provide for years of job-related experience when determining step placement, (up to

six years) and providing for a one-time retroactive lump sum payment for current classified employees who qualify. Full impact of costs cannot be determined until number of classified employees present verifiable, prior job-related experience but each one step increase has the value of 3.5% over the prior step. Presentation by High school Principal Ken Fujii. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. Public Comment will be taken prior to action.

High School Principal Fujii discussed years of experience that are afforded to the teaching staff. The classified employees are not provided this placement opportunity, even though #4710 (AR) indicates that step experience should be granted, though that has not been occurring when classified employees are hired. Mr. Fujii recommends that employees should be given a onetime retro-active lump sum payment for their past experience. Superintendent Zunino explained the difference between the role of policy and the roll of administrative regulation and how this administrative regulation works with the policy. Comments were heard from Winnona Eversgerd on why the board would limit experience for classified employees when they don't limit experience for teaching staff. Some of the difficulties were discussed if the proposal encompassed all of the classified employees that have worked here and have already reached the top of the scale and started at the first step. The group discussion turned to all of the difficulties that had been raised but no resolution for the questions that were raised. John Brown suggested that Mr. Fujii do more preparation on the proposal. President Bacon-Bowling and other board members requested that more preparation be spent on the proposal because it was not sophisticated enough to address all of the issues and questions.

No action taken

7. Discuss, approve, or deny proposed revisions to the High School Handbook, effective beginning with the 2013-2014 school year. Proposed changes to the existing handbook consist of several new student procedure/rule changes for the upcoming school year. Presentation by High School Principal Ken Fujii. FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION. Public Comment

Principal Fujii discussed several proposed changes to the high school handbook and explained the rationale to the board for the recommended changes. The changes will be incorporated into the handbook that is presented to students when they register for the next school year. President Bacon-Bowling called for public comment with Donna Moyer responding. She asked about the changes to the drug/alcohol use policy as applies to athletic participation. Mr. Fujii answered her inquiry.

Motion to approve the changes was made by Terrilynn Brown, seconded by Sara Simmons. Motion carries

8. Discuss, approve, or deny an application to the Nevada Department of Education to allow the District to provide "Adult Education". This application, if accepted and approved by the Nevada Department of Education, would provide for funding for an adult education program. Funding amount is not yet determined. Presentation by District Administrator Mark Martinsen. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. Public Comment will be taken prior to action.

Administrator Mark Martinsen advised the board that he is proposing a very simple adult education program to facilitate interested adults who are seeking an adult diploma. The program would just evaluate and audit credits earned (for the diploma) and not actually provide adult instruction. Credits from other places would be evaluated to see if the credits meet the criteria for an adult diploma. The application will be sent to the Nevada Department of Education so that they can determine if they will grant the application. President Bacon-Bowling called for public comment. No public comment

Motion to approve the Adult Education application was made by John Brown, seconded by Darla Baumann. Motion carries

9. Discuss, approve, or deny approving out-of-state travel for School District employees Elmer Porter, Patti Reynolds, Kathy Porter, Winona Eversgerd, and Misty Rowley to travel to George for Power School Training, July 20-26 for an approximately cost of \$20,000. Presentation by Technology Director Elmer Porter. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. Public Comment will be taken prior to action.

Elmer Porter addressed the board regarding the Power School Training session to be held July 20-26th. Mr. Porter explained that the training is in Atlanta, Georgia this year. Power School is going through a major upgrade and there are new employees who will be attending, who will be working with Power School. Board member Sara Simmons commented on her utilization of Power School. She said that she uses it frequently and if employees are going to receive this training, she wants to see it utilized a lot more. She stated that in Pershing County they were able to keep track of hot lunch money through Power School, which was very helpful. She thinks that the school district could utilize Power School in other ways and use it for more things. No Public Comment.

Motion made by John Brown, seconded by Darla Baumann to approve out-of-state travel for employees to attend Power School Training. Motion carries

10. Accept correspondence from Nevada Attorney General's Office regarding alleged violation of the Open Meeting Law. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. Public Comment will be taken prior to action.

Superintendent Zunino said that the District received an opinion from the Attorney General's Office that negated the alleged violation of the Open Meeting Law. This correspondence has been brought to the Board's attention and will be reflected in the minutes of the meeting. John Brown asked how the Board had an agenda item that would be questionable as an action item. Other board members asked Mr. Brown for clarification. He said that he wondered how an agenda item was received for approval that could be called into question. He asked who had provided the word "conceptual" that seemed to end up to be so objectionable. The item in question was on the March 12th agenda. President Bacon-Bowling said that she was the person who requested that the item be placed on the agenda, and this was the agenda item that led to the complaint with the Nevada Attorney General's Office. The agenda item and the reasons that led to having the issue on the agenda was discussed. No additional Public Comment.

Motion made by John Brown, seconded by Darla Baumann, to accept the correspondence from the Nevada Attorney General's Office. Motion carries

*Meeting adjourned for 15 minutes
Meeting was re-convened at 6:40 p.m.*

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval of minutes from April 16th, 2013 Special Meeting.*
- B. Approval of Minutes from April 19th, 2013 Special Meeting.*
- C. Approval of Minutes from April 30th, 2013 Board Budget Workshop and Special Meeting.*
- D. Approve adding new employee(s) to district's authorized employee and substitute list. Pursuant to NRS 391.100: Each applicant for employment must submit to the school district a full set of fingerprints for a report on criminal history and if negative results are received, the offer of employment may be withdrawn. Karl Watts, High School English Teacher and substitutes Taylor Widdison and Julie Fisher.*
- E. Approve Representation Letter/Agreement with legal firm of Allison, MacKenzie, Pavlakis, Wright and Fagon for a period commencing July 1, 2013 for a one year period, with no increase in fees over the current fee schedule.*
- F. Accept resignation from High School Spanish Teacher, Ryan Moss effective at the end of his current contract.*
- G. Payroll and Warrants: Payroll check #054771 to #054855 for \$172,779.80, #054913 to #055008 for \$228,153.98. Account's Payable check #'s 020483 to #020528 for \$64,624.90,*

#020529 to #020568 for \$116,479.29, #020569 to #020584 for \$227,044.79, #020585 to #020626 for \$43,821.12. No Public Comment.

Motion made by Darla Baumann, seconded by John Brown to approve the consent agenda.
Motion carries

Reports – Information Only/No Action

A. Clerk of the Works Report: Brief update on District projects.

No Report Given

B. Superintendent's Report: Brief updates to the Board regarding school activities/events.

Superintendent's Report will be moved to the end.

C. High School Principal's Report: Brief updates to the Board regarding school activities/events. The resignation of Ryan Moss, and the hiring of a new English Teacher was mentioned. A Blue Spruce tree was purchased by the high school staff for the Damele family in honor of R.D. Damele. The Industrial Arts teacher that had been offered a position decided to decline the offered position. Principal Fujii provided the board with a lengthy report on additional high school events and activities. Principal Fujii introduced High School Counselor Eversgerd, who provided information about the high school scheduling process. Mrs. Eversgerd explained the High school schedule to the board, and how the class schedule is developed. She provided a Power Point presentation to the board. President Bacon-Bowling asked Mrs. Eversgerd asked that she provide another presentation that parents can attend, that is listed on the agenda so that the public knows about it. President Bacon-Bowling suggested that the presentation be during the summer during a board meeting, such as the June 25th board meeting. The discussion of the scheduling process turned into a lengthy discussion. Mrs. Eversgerd assured the board that the scheduling process includes input from parents, students, and staff.

D. Crescent Valley Report: Brief updates to the Board regarding school activities/events.

District Administrator Mark Martinsen provided a brief update on the Crescent Valley School. The students had taken their requisite testing. They also went on a field trip to the Reno Children's Museum. The teacher's said that it was a great trip. The four 6th graders will be going to Battle Mountain next week for an orientation session.

E. Board Reports (Information Only/No Action): Brief updates and notices from the Board Regarding District activities/events.

No Board Report given

F. Finance Officer's Report: Brief update on District finances. Finance Officer Lisa Jones provided on update on the monthly financial report . The fund balances and the monthly bank statements were reviewed. The new formatting of the monthly report was explained, along with the comparison of the bank balance with the book balance.

Superintendent Zunino gave his report and explained that he wanted to wait until the end of the report section so that Mrs. Eversgerd could provide her scheduling report earlier in the meeting. Superintendent Zunino discussed the activities of the Eureka Elementary School, and the District's events. Some of the students had gone to Cold Springs to release the fish that they had raised from eggs. Other student events were discussed. Testing results were also discussed. As an additional note, the elementary school is being re-keyed to enhance safety. The new locks will provide the ability for classrooms to be locked from the inside. Superintendent Zunino discussed his attendance at the Superintendent's meeting in Carson City and some of the topics they discussed.

Superintendent Zunino presented board members with a letter from his independent contracting company, Benary, Ltd. He advised the board that he will not be asking the board to extend his contract beyond the two year period left in his contract. He stated that he is looking forward to the next two years of his contract period.

President Bacon-Bowling reminded board members that the next board meeting is scheduled for June 25th.

G. Public Comment: Comments from the public are invited at this time on any matters within the authority of the Board. Although members of the Board may respond to questions and discuss Issues raised, no action may be taken on such matters until the matter is placed on an agenda for action by the Board.

Motion made by John Brown, seconded by Darla Baumann to adjourn meeting. Motion carries

Adjournment