

**NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 3, 2023**

Present: Bryan Wulfenstein, President; Larry Small, Clerk; Mark Hansen, Member; Chelsy Fischer, Member; Nathan Gent, Member; Rob Williams, Director of Technology; Brian Kunzi, Legal Counsel; Kelly Wood, Executive Secretary

Absent: Laura Weir, Interim Superintendent; Ray Ritchie, Chief Operating Officer; Brenda Slusser, Executive Director of HR

Guests: Samantha Moore, Amy Veloz, Paul A. Hawkins, Celena White, Robert C. White, Lindsey Ellis, E.G. Jim, Pahrump.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. at the Southern District Office, located at 484 S. West Street, Pahrump, NV. Mr. Small led the Board members, administrators and guests in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called.

PUBLIC INPUT

Samantha Moore has requested to have her public comment published in its entirety. Ms. Moore's public comment is attached.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Small made a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Gent seconded, and the motion passed all in favor.

INTERVIEW OF CANDIDATES TO FILL TRUSTEE AREA II VACANCY

Mr. Wulfenstein thanked all three candidates for coming back for a second interview. He suggested to give each candidate fifteen (15) minutes to speak and answer questions. The BOT agreed. Mrs. Fischer asked if they were going to take time to all agree on what questions will be asked. Mr. Kunzi stated there is nothing that states that have to follow that process. Discussion ensued. The order of candidate interviews was drawn randomly by choosing a number 1-3. The BOT interviewed Lindsey Ellis, Robert White, and Paul Hawkins, in that order.

APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE TO AREA II VACANCY

Mr. Small congratulated all three candidates that applied for the vacancy, and noted that when the election comes they should all run for that position. Mr. Gent thanked the three candidates for applying and stated if they are not selected he hopes they stay involved with the school district. Mr. Gent made a motion to appoint Paul Hawkins as Trustee to Area II. There was no second, and the motion failed. Mr. Small made a motion to appoint Lindsey Ellis as Trustee to Area II. Mr. Hansen seconded. The vote was as follows: Mr. Gent, nay; Mr. Small, aye; Mr. Hansen, aye; Mrs. Fischer, nay; Mr. Wulfenstein, nay. The motion did not pass. Mr. Wulfenstein made a motion to appoint Robert White as Trustee to Area II. Mrs. Fischer seconded. The vote was as follows: Mrs. Fischer, aye; Mr. Hansen, aye; Mr. Wulfenstein, aye; Mr. Small, nay; Mr. Gent, aye. The motion passed and Robert White was appointed to Area II.

INTERVIEW OF CANDIDATES TO FILL TRUSTEE AREA I VACANCY

All Area I candidates appeared via Zoom. Mr. Wulfenstein thanked all three candidates for coming to interview for the vacancy. He suggested to give each candidate fifteen (15) minutes to speak and answer questions. The BOT agreed. The order of candidate interviews was drawn randomly by choosing a number 1-3. The BOT interviewed Jim Miller, LaVey Kindred, and Leslie Campos, in that order.

APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE TO AREA I VACANCY

Mr. Wulfenstein thanked the candidates for applying. Mr. Gent stated all three candidates could serve and do a good job. He noted that Ms. Campos stood out to him because she has six kids in the district and is invested in making the district better. Mr. Gent made a motion to appoint Leslie Campos as Trustee to Area I. Mr. Wulfenstein seconded. Mrs. Fischer stated that she supported all the candidates but thought that since Ms. Kindred already ran in the election that says something. The vote was as follows: Mr. Gent, aye; Mr. Small, nay; Mr. Wulfenstein, aye; Mr. Hansen, aye; Mrs. Fischer, aye. The motion passed and Leslie Campos was appointed to Area I.

APPROVAL OF THE NCS D SUPERINTENDENT HIRING PROCESS

Mr. Gent abstained from discussion and any vote on this item due to conflict, and stated he would exit the meeting now if there were no objections. The BOT had no objections, and Mr. Gent left the meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the questions to be used during the superintendent interviews. Mr. Kunzi stated an option would be to schedule a Closed Session meeting next week before the scheduled Special Meetings for interviews. Mr. Wulfenstein suggested the BOT direct Mr. Kunzi to work with the Nye County HR department to choose questions that would be best for the BOT to use. Mr. Hansen asked if that would include the Rubric as well. Discussion ensued. Mr. Wulfenstein asked the BOT if next week's dates of August 10th and August 11th for Special Meetings for superintendent interviews would work for them. The BOT agreed. Mr. Wulfenstein made a motion to direct Counsel to prepare questions and a rubric for the superintendent hiring process. Mr. Hansen seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor. Ms. Wood stated she will need to know the order of the interviews in order to create the agenda prior to the posting deadline. Discussion ensued. Mr. Wulfenstein made a motion to direct Counsel to pick the order of the interviews. Mr. Hansen seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wulfenstein adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

By _____
Larry Small, Clerk

When I was in high school, my dad picked me up from a football game. We were just sitting there waiting for traffic to start moving when all of a sudden my dad threw the car into park and jumped out of the vehicle. What I couldn't see was the boy being belligerent and aggressive towards the mom parked behind us. So my father went over to intervene. When he returned to the car, my father said to me right is right and wrong is wrong. If you see something is wrong, you need to speak up.

I have been watching every board meeting for almost a year now. Over that time, I have seen discord, bickering and outward hostility amongst the members of this board. Specifically over the past three months this board has dismissed the superintendent and seen the resignation of two board members. I have seen trustees pump their fist in the air after a vote has taken place and sit in the superintendent's chair even before the board had voted to relieve him of his duties. I am not the only one who has seen this. The community has seen this. Neighboring communities have seen this. But most importantly, our children have seen this.

I have taken time repeatedly to invite every board member into JG Johnson both in person at these meetings and through email. Only two members have ever responded or shown up. How many of you can actually say you know who I am? I know who each of you are! I do not say this to mean I am a person of importance. I am in a position of service just as you are, but I should be thought of as a member of your team. All school administrators should be thought of as a member of your team. How can you best serve our students if you don't go into all of the schools? How can you truly know what is happening if you don't take time to talk with our kids, teachers, and parents? Reading Facebook isn't enough. Only listening to grievances and complaints isn't enough. There are a lot of great things happening in every one of our schools that you are missing.

This board has challenged directors of NCSD to ensure that committees had accurate representation of the diversity within our district. Is the board doing the same in its consideration of appointing new board members and selecting a new superintendent? This board has discussed requiring the new superintendent to have a strategic plan in place in the first 3 months of employment. Shall we review what has happened with our school board in the last 3 months?

I am speaking to you today with absolutely nothing to gain. As a matter of fact, I may have just placed a target on my back. This country was built on a system of checks and balances. This board has been a system of checks and balances for the school district, but who has checked you? I stand here today, not just as an administrator but also as the mother of a student about to enter NCSD and a voting member of the community. I stand here today in all three of those roles to say that I need you to do better. How can I

ask my daughter to speak with kindness and respect when you don't do it to each other? How can I expect my parents to show up for their kids at school events when you don't show up to the schools? Right is right and wrong is wrong.

I believe with all my heart that all members of this board want the best for our kids. We will see our students' achievement soar if we, the adults and voices for the children, work together with clarity and unity. Administrators of the Nye County School District have committed to being one team - student centered. Will you do the same?