

**NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 20, 2023**

Present: Bryan Wulfenstein, President; Mark Hansen, Member; Chelsy Fischer, Member; Nathan Gent, Member; Laura Weir, Interim Superintendent; Ray Ritchie, Chief Operating Officer; Brenda Slusser, Executive Director of HR; Rob Williams, Director of Technology; Brian Kunzi, Legal Counsel; Kelly Wood, Executive Secretary

Absent: Larry Small, Clerk

Guests: Lisa Ford, Arthur Hodge, Jean Alexander Booth, Nate Cardinal, Michelle Beecher, Amy Veloz, Ben Veloz, Becky Coleman, Robert White, Celena White, Kyera Glenn, Robin Lumos, Brian Lumos, Manny Roa, Paul A. Hawkins, Brittney Varao, Christopher Schulte, Nichole Walters, Mary Doucette, Kelley Hodge, Martin Johnson, G. Hafen, II, Dubb Mapp, Jill Harris, Jessica Hargis, Larry Slusser, Kaye A. LaPointe, Nathaniel Boley, Chelle Wright, Pahrump.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:39 p.m. at the Southern District Office, located at 484 S. West Street, Pahrump, NV. Mr. Gent led the Board members, administrators and guests in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called. Mrs. Fischer read the mission statement and goals.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Mr. Hansen made a motion to adopt the agenda. Mrs. Fischer seconded, and the motion passed all in favor.

**RECOGNITIONS**

None.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Nichole Walters spoke on behalf of No Opinion News, and she thanked the Board for allowing her five minutes to speak. She stated that OMG Media has put out some concerning videos of an employee at a school in Pennsylvania who was removed due to content posted online, and for what was being done in the teacher's classroom. She said parents were trying to fight this, and that the Board can go to her Facebook page for more information. She then asked the Board that future agendas always have a public input item because the public should always be able to have input.

Arthur Hodge stated he has had no feedback from people in positions, and communication is the key component in any business. He asked why is there so much prepackaged food and no home cooking done at the schools. Food services are supposed to make food better, and every parent should be concerned on what the kids are being fed. He then asked about the special education process; what does the special education department have in place to monitor students three years after they have left school. He stated this would give an idea on how successful the program is, there needs to be a benchmark and goals in place for students after they graduate. He noted that he has given the Board business cards from a young

person who has a business that focuses on youth. The business cards were for Keith Hall, Certified Bio-Neurofeedback Tech.

### **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Gent made a motion to approve. Mr. Hansen seconded, and the motion passed all in favor.

### **SCHOOL SPOTLIGHTS**

None.

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

None.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mrs. Weir reported that Mrs. Veloz has submitted both the NDCC and the JROTC applications to the military. Mrs. Veloz has been in communication with Mr. Pratt, who confirmed that the NDCC application has been sent to USACC for processing. Once we obtain program approval from the military we will post positions and schedule accordingly. The expectation is to offer JROTC to students starting the 2024-2025 school year.

Mrs. Weir also noted that she met with GBC two weeks ago, and they are here tonight for a presentation. She stated they discussed field experience placements, needs, processes and struggles. Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Brittney Varao, will be NCS D's main point of contact with GBC, and she has scheduled a meeting with them for tomorrow.

Mrs. Weir then stated that on Tuesday and Wednesday the administrator meetings were held. She said the administrators had time to collaborate with each other and it was a wonderful experience for all directors, administrators, and team members. The meetings had a theme which was "One Team, Student-Centered".

### **BOARD REPORTS**

The BOT stated they appreciated all of Mrs. Weir's efforts.

Mrs. Fischer noted that she attended the funeral of RCMS student, Kadee Sparks, and asked everyone to keep the family in mind.

### **APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION DESIGNATED AS THE "2023 MEDIUM-TERM BOND RESOLUTION"; PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE BY NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, NEVADA, OF ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION (LIMITED TAX) MEDIUM-TERM BOND, SERIES 2023 IN THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING MOTOR VEHICLES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT TO BE USED FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF PUPILS; AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER OR THE SUPERINTENDENT OF NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT TO ACCEPT A BINDING BID FOR THE BOND; AND PROVIDING THE EFFECTIVE DATE**

Marty Johnson from JNA Consulting Group explained the Resolution. Discussion ensued. Mr. Gent made a motion to approve. Mrs. Fischer seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor.

## **NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

Marty Johnson and Director of Transportation, Mike Hush, presented the plan. They spoke about the projected funding model, and the vehicle replacement schedule. Mr. Hush stated that all school buses should be replaced by the end of the 2027-2028 school year. Discussion ensued. Mr. Gent thanked the staff for getting aggressive with this because it was a big concern for parents.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Assemblyman Gregory Hafen, II gave an update regarding assembly and senate bills that were passed during this Legislative Session. He spoke about the following bills: AB519 (grants for tribal land and capital projects); AB65 (no action can be taken in a public meeting after 11:59 p.m.); AB517 (legislative auditor/performance audits); AB400 (school improvement/accountability); SB98 (interim study on school funding/accountability); SB71 (task force for recruiting teachers); SB72 (state committee to look at teacher workloads and requirements); SB442 (Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact); AB428 (teacher recruitment and professional development); SB231 (\$250 million state money directly to teachers' salary); SB434 (principals to be at will employees for the first 3 years of employment); AB234 (required financial literacy courses and revision of restorative justice); AB330 (suspensions, expulsions, hearings, appeals); AB264 (excused absences for religious holidays); AB73 (traditional cultural attire allowed at graduation ceremonies); AB400 (Read by Grade 3, \$140 million in grants for child literacy programs). Discussion ensued. Mr. Hafen then spoke about per pupil funding and noted that by the year 2025 the per pupil funding for Nye County should be \$14,259. Mr. Gent and Mrs. Fischer both thanked Mr. Hafen for the update.

## **GREAT BASIN COLLEGE AND NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FUTURE PRESENTATION**

GBC Dean of Arts & Sciences, Mary Doucette, Education Instructor, Michelle Beecher, and Elementary Education Program Supervisor, Denise Padilla presented. They introduced GBC Interim Director, Becky Coleman, new GBC Director, Dr. Christopher Salute, and MMT Instructor, Manny Roa. Ms. Doucette, Ms. Beecher, and Ms. Padilla spoke about Early Childhood Programs, Elementary Education Programs, Secondary Education Programs, Practicum Courses/Placements, Student Teaching Experiences, Improvements So Far, Instructors at the Pahrump Campus, and Dual Credit Opportunities. Discussion ensued. Mr. Wulfenstein thanked Ms. Doucette for coming to the meeting. Mrs. Fischer apologized for the past years of miscommunication with the school district.

## **INTERVIEW OF CANDIDATES TO FILL TRUSTEE AREA II VACANCY**

The following candidates were interviewed: Paul Hawkins, Lindsey Ellis, and Robert White.

## **APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE TO AREA II VACANCY**

The BOT thanked all candidates for their interest in applying for the vacancy. Mr. Gent made a motion to appoint Paul Hawkins, and Mr. Wulfenstein seconded. The call for votes went as follows: Mr. Gent: aye; Mr. Wulfenstein: aye; Mr. Hansen: nay; Mrs. Fischer: nay. The motion failed. Mr. Kunzi suggested that the BOT do a ranked voting. The rankings were as follows: Mr. Hansen: 1. Ms. Ellis; 2. Mr. White; 3. Mr. Hawkins; Mr. Gent: 1. Mr. Hawkins; 2. Mr. White; 3. Ms. Ellis; Mrs. Fischer: 1. Mr. White; 2. Mr. Hawkins; 3. Ms. Ellis; Mr. Wulfenstein: 1. Mr. Hawkins; 2. Ms. Ellis; 3. Mr. White. Discussion ensued. Mr. Hansen made a motion to appoint Mr. White. There was no second, and the motion failed. Mr. Gent made a motion to appoint Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Wulfenstein seconded. The call for votes went as follows: Mr. Gent: aye; Mr. Wulfenstein: aye; Mr. Hansen: nay; Mrs. Fischer: nay. The motion failed. Mr.

Hansen made a motion to table Item No. 28 to the August Board meeting, and Mrs. Fischer seconded. Mr. Gent asked to remove the specification of “August” from the motion because they could schedule a Special Meeting. Mr. Hansen amended his motion to table Item No. 28 to the next Board meeting. Mr. Wulfenstein seconded, and the motion passed all in favor.

### **APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION CONSTITUENT COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION AND CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN**

Lisa Ford, Director of Special Education and Support Services, explained the complaint and the corrective action plan. Discussion ensued. It was suggested to add the following sentence to Paragraph 2 of the corrective action plan: “In addition, the District will investigate job sharing and hybrid work environments.” Mr. Hansen made a motion to approve the corrective action plan with the additional sentence to be added to Paragraph 2. Mr. Wulfenstein seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor.

### **APPROVAL OF THE HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Brittney Varao, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, introduced the Committee members as follows: Cynthia Small, Kelley Hodge, Paul Hawkins, Jean Alexander-Booth, Jessica Hargis, Nate Boley, Jamie Woodworth, Oleta Bandazian, and Krystal Golay. Serena Grudjenski and Brenda Pinion were named as alternates. Discussion ensued. Mr. Wulfenstein made a motion to approve. Mr. Gent seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor.

### **AWARD OF A BID FOR FOOD SERVICES LOTS 1-3**

Kyera Glenn, Coordinator of Food Services, presented the bids. Discussion ensued. Mr. Wulfenstein made a motion to award the bid to Nicholas and Company, Inc. for a total of \$1,193,571.40. Mr. Hansen seconded, and the motion passed all in favor.

### **NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUR-DAY WORK WEEK**

Dr. Slusser introduced Chelle Wright, Senior HR Generalist, who gave the presentation. Ms. Wright talked about the Committee, gave two options for a four-day workweek, four-day workweek advantages, and challenges/things to consider. She stated that per feedback from the teachers, Option #1 is the most desired choice. Mr. Hansen asked if they will continue researching through this next school year. Dr. Slusser replied yes, and they also plan to be reaching out to parents and the community. Discussion ensued, and the BOT thanked Dr. Slusser and Ms. Wright for the information.

### **AWARD OF A BID FOR THE NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPANE GAS SUPPLY CONTRACT**

Joe Schmidt, Director of Maintenance/Operations, Safety/Security, explained the bids. Discussion ensued. Mr. Hansen made a motion to award the bid to Suburban Propane. Mrs. Fischer seconded, and the motion passed all in favor.

### **AWARD OF A BID FOR THE PAHRUMP VALLEY HS PRACTICE FIELD RENOVATION**

Mr. Schmidt explained the bids. Discussion ensued. Mr. Hansen made a motion to award the bid to Centercut for the amount of \$87,723.00. Mr. Gent seconded, and the motion passed all in favor.

**AWARD OF A BID FOR THE SPORTS FIELD PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

Mr. Schmidt explained the bids. Discussion ensued. Mr. Gent made a motion to award the bid to Pegasus Low Voltage for the amount of \$265,171.00. Mr. Hansen seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor.

**AWARD OF A BID FOR THE DISTRICT-WIDE INTERCOM INSPECTION**

Mr. Schmidt explained the bid. Discussion ensued. Mr. Gent made a motion to approve FPS for the amount of \$35,000.00. Mr. Wulfenstein seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor.

**AWARD OF A BID FOR THE DISTRICT-WIDE GYM FLOOR REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

Mr. Schmidt explained the bids. Mr. Wulfenstein commented that one of the bidders did not have a valid license at the time of the bid. Mr. Schmidt replied it is currently valid at this time. Discussion ensued. Mr. Kunzi asked for time to look at the legal requirements. Mr. Hansen suggested to table the item. Mr. Wulfenstein made a motion to table Item No. 22. Mrs. Fischer seconded, and the motion passed all in favor.

At a separate time during the meeting Mr. Kunzi requested to reopen this item. The BOT agreed to do so. Mr. Kunzi stated that NRS requires a valid license at the time of bidding in order to be a responsible bidder. The bids by Hur Flooring are not valid. Mr. Gent made a motion to approve FSI Specialty Products and Services for \$543,877.46. Mr. Wulfenstein seconded, and the motion passed with a majority vote in favor.

**AWARD OF BID FOR THE J.G. JOHNSON ES HVAC REPLACEMENT**

Mr. Schmidt explained the bids. He invited Nate Cardinal, Mechanical/Electrical Tech, to speak to the BOT regarding the project's timeline. Discussion ensued. Mr. Gent made a motion to approve Emcor Services Nevada for the amount of \$375,972.00. Mrs. Fischer seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor.

**APPROVAL OF THE DEBT MANAGEMENT POLICY, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN & INDEBTEDNESS REPORT**

Mr. Ritchie explained the policy and report guidelines. Discussion ensued. Mr. Gent made a motion to approve. Mr. Hansen seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor.

**APPROVAL OF THE SOCIAL MEDIA MASS-LITIGATION COMMUNICATION, AND ATTORNEY-CLIENT CONTRACT**

Mr. Ritchie presented the item. Mr. Kunzi stated the difference between a mass action lawsuit and a class action lawsuit. He stated in class action lawsuits there is a set award which gets divided among the joining parties. In a mass action lawsuit, the district would have to prove the amount of damages that was suffered. He recommended to the BOT to table this item in order for further legal research, and discussion with Mr. Ritchie. Mr. Wulfenstein tabled this item.

## **APPROVAL OF WARRANTS**

Mr. Gent made a motion to approve check vouchers: No. 1000 for \$2,277.00; No. 1001 for \$227,937.21; No. 1401 for \$7,741.66; No. 1402 for \$204,120.91; No. 1403 for \$61,793.35; No. 1404 for \$99,746.64; No. 1413 for \$66,599.56; No. 1414 for \$25,976.45; No. 1415 for \$190,772.31; No. 1418 for \$236,484.25; No. 1419 for \$57,183.60; No. 1420 for \$63,647.60; No. 1421 for \$230,559.04; No. 1422 for \$226,143.36; No. 1423 for \$1,055,534.44; No. 1424 for \$268,633.94; No. 1425 for \$85,962.01; No. 1426 for \$1,259,078.00; No. 1436 for \$10,955.88; No. 1437 for \$1,817.50; and No. 1438 for \$27,023.64. Mr. Hansen seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor.

## **APPROVAL TO DETERMINE THE NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT HIRING PROCESS**

Mr. Gent abstained from taking part in this item. Mr. Wulfenstein asked Mr. Hansen how the process went with the last superintendent search. Mr. Hansen replied that NASB took in all the applications and forwarded the top four applicants to the BOT for interviews. He said they also were given a rubric and a set of questions they could use. He noted that Ms. Wood could send those to the BOT. Mr. Wulfenstein asked Dr. Slusser how many applications were received. She replied eight all together, with two of them not being viable due to not meeting all the listed requirements. Discussion ensued. Mr. Wulfenstein made a motion to direct staff to distribute the rubric, questions, and completed viable applications to the BOT. Mr. Hansen seconded, and the motion passed with a majority vote in favor. Mr. Gent abstained.

## **DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE BOARD MEETING TOPICS**

Mr. Hansen would like to get the rubric and questions, and set meetings to hold interviews.

Mr. Gent would like to set a priority to fill vacancies on the Board, and set a meeting for next week.

## **CHANGE OF DATE/ATTENDANCE AREA OF FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS**

Mr. Hansen made a motion to set the following Special Meetings:

July 27, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. to further go over the superintendent hiring process, and appoint Trustee vacancies;

August 3, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. for superintendent applicant interviews;

August 10, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. for superintendent applicant interviews;

with the decision to be made at the August 17, 2023 Regular Meeting. Mr. Wulfenstein seconded, and the motion passed with a majority vote in favor. Mr. Gent abstained.

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

Kelley Hodge spoke on behalf of the NCCTA in regards to the four-day workweek. She said the goal is teacher recruitment: happy teachers, happy schools. She stated in speaking with teachers she learned they are tired from lack of respect from kids and parents. Pay and expectations are hurting teaching. Retention and retirement are the goals. She stated that a four-day workweek will help the district recruit from outside counties and universities. When she went through surveys that were sent out, the vast majority were in favor of Option #1. She noted that the four-day workweek reduces the time that teachers have to be at work and away from their families.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Wulfenstein adjourned the meeting at 10:21 p.m.

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Small, Clerk