

**NEVADA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2020
BOARD ROOM AT 1035 15TH STREET**

PRESENT: BOARD MEMBERS: Tori Carsrud, Joe Anderson, Marty Chitty, Leanne Harter, Tom Maier (see **Call to Order** below)
STAFF: Steve Gray, Kody Asmus, Chris deNeui, Dave Kroese, Joe Wakeman, Brian Schaeffer.
COMMUNITY MEMBERS: Ben Humpal-Pash

1. Call to Order at 6:30 p.m. All participants attended the meeting via Internet Stream as allowed by Board Policy 210.6.

a) Budget Hearing - Presentation Per the hearing notice published in the *Nevada Journal* on March 26, 2020, this was the time and place for the Budget Hearing on the 2020-21 which will set the tax levy rate for that year. Schaeffer reviewed the Certified Budget Proposal report. State Supplementary Aid has been set by the current Legislature at 2.3%. Based on October 2019's student enrollment, the increase in State Supplementary Aid is \$294,134. Compared to other school districts with similar enrollment, Nevada's per student financial information, Unspent Balance, Cash & Investment Balances, Unassigned Fund Balance, and Solvency Ratio, is nearly the same as other districts. The total tax levy rate being proposed is \$14.71656, down from the current year's \$16.81079 as the District will remain in a stable financial and cash position with this lower levy.

b) Public Comment Schaeffer said he had not received any written comments for the Budget by today's 4:00 p.m. deadline. The Budget Hearing was closed.

c) Approval of the Budget Motion by Chitty to approve the Published 2020-21 Budget and Levy, second by Maier. Motion Carried 5-0.

2. Approval of Agenda Dr. Gray asked that an appointment to a food service position noted in the Board packet be removed from consideration for this meeting. Motion by Maier, second by Harter to approve the agenda as amended. Motion Carried 5-0.

3. Public Comment Schaeffer said he had not received any written comments for the meeting by today's 4:00 p.m. deadline.

4.1 Full-Day Early Kindergarten (EK) Programming – Principal deNeui Mrs. deNeui said that Ms. Solomon and Ms. Gray taught two half-day classes for EK of 41 and 45 this school year. Mrs. deNeui said she is suggesting that a full-day program for EK be established for next year with a cap of 30 students total. She said the cap of 30 is lower than the class sizes this year, but it would allow for the program to narrow its focus to reach the neediest students that might not come to the program due to the current half-day setup. Carsrud asked about using three teachers in the program. Mrs. deNeui said that the Preschool program's current enrollment numbers are low, but there are parents who are "on the bubble" with enrolling their children in the program. (April 26 was to be the date to do the screening but has been tabled due to the COVID-19 Virus.) Dr. Gray said that he would bring this item back for Board consideration at their next meeting.

4.2 INVISION Architects Presentation – postponed Dr. Gray said he would be in touch with INVISION yet this week. INVISION was discussing a potential site visit soon to the Middle School.

NEVADA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF APRIL 6, 2020 (CONTINUED)

4.3 Superintendent Update: COVID-19 Dr. Gray noted that he has been sending out information resulting from the statewide shutdown of schools due to the COVID-19 virus. When the shutdown was announced, the District posted student learning on-line resources to its website. A free meal program was quickly set up using the same funding stream which would typically be for the summer lunch program. Cubbie's Cupboard food pantry is under high demand but is receiving large amounts of community support. Teachers are connecting remotely with their students but this could use more structure. A remote connection to the teachers is being established by the District.

Dr. Gray said that administration is sorting through the guidance being provided by the Iowa Department of Education (DE) and other sources. DE has made a recent directive to schools for learning with the following options: (1) no learning, days must be made up; (2) educational resources for learning are offered to students remotely; and (3) classes are resumed remotely for credit. Equity issues are a problem with requiring remote instruction as not all students may receive the same help. Administration is researching High School barriers and is gathering information on individual students. A full picture of the situation will be known by Friday, April 10, the day schools are to report their learning option to DE. A concern for senior class students is any waiver of requirements for CPR learning. Dr. Gray said the District is committed to holding the senior class events of graduation and prom, with whatever schedule can be accomplished. He said this situation was the "new normal" but temporary.

Maier asked about the possibility of using Credit Recovery courses for students affected by the shutdown. Dr. Gray said there has been mixed messages on this for guidance from the DE. Anderson asked if there was any flexibility to Iowa school districts on what is to be stated by the District as a learning plan to DE on Friday, April 10. Dr. Gray said "yes", this decision would be flexible.

5.1 High School Course Additions 2020-21 Mr. Asmus asked approval for two additional courses to be offered at the High School for 2020-21: Project Lead the Way - Cyber Security and Biology in the Community. Motion by Anderson, second by Chitty to approve the High School course additions for 2020-21. Motion Carried 5-0.

5.2 Approval of Tentative Agreement – Nevada Community Education Association Dr. Gray said he is requesting approval of the tentative agreement with the Nevada Community Education Association bargaining unit for a total package of 2.49% for 2020-21. Dr. Gray said he appreciated the Association's work and quick settlement for next school year. Motion by Chitty, second by Maier to approve the tentative agreement for 2020-21 with the Nevada Community Education Association. Motion Carried 5-0.

5.3 Resolution Authorizing the Redemption of General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2012 Schaeffer explained that this was the third of the annual resolutions authorizing the pay down of the Series 2012 General Obligation bonds when they are eligible for call in June 2021. The District has been levying debt service at the full \$2.70 per thousand limit to pay down these bonds. The estimated interest savings for this bond redemption would be \$577,668 through 2021. Motion by Chitty, second by Anderson to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Redemption of General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2012. Motion Carried 5-0.

5.4 Roof Repair Bids – Central Elementary Mr. Kroese said he had two responses to his request for bids for roof repair at Central Elementary. He said the low bid was higher than anticipated so work on the gym entrance roof on the east side will be postponed as it is not urgent. Mr. Kroese said he was

NEVADA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF APRIL 6, 2020 (CONTINUED)

requesting Board approval of the bid from Central States Roofing for \$124,670. Motion by Anderson, second by Maier to approve to roof repair bid from Central States Roofing. Motion Carried 5-0.

6. Consent Agenda Motion by Chitty, second by Maier to approve the consent agenda items:

- Board Minutes of the meeting of March 2
- Bills
- Financial Reports
- Appointments: Kris Arganbright – 5th Grade Language Arts Teacher; Kelsey Callihan – First/Second Grades Multi-Age Teacher; Cathryn Carney – Middle School/High School TAG Teacher; Jennifer Cornelius – Third Grade Teacher; Wendy Daiker, MS Volleyball Coach; Sarah Gilchrist – Volunteer MS Girls’ Track Coach; Seth Meyne – MS/HS Industrial Tech and MS Football Coach; Annie Noble – MS Special Ed Teacher; Cooper Patterson – Associate; Allyson Simpson – Elementary Special Ed Teacher and Assistant Girls’ Basketball Coach; Tim Shill – Volunteer Golf Coach; Bennett Thompson – Third Grade Teacher and HS Football Assistant Coach
- Resignations: Katie Borton – First Tech Sponsor; Ashley Moffitt – Elementary Special Ed Associate
- First Reading of a change to Board Policy 505.7

Motion Carried 5-0.

7.1 Board Member Comments The Board thanked Dr. Gray, the Administration, the teachers, and Mrs. Gindt on their work for the COVID-19 virus school shutdown. Carsrud complimented Student Board Member Ben Humpal-Pash on his role in the Musical.

7.2 Board Calendar was reviewed. The next regular Board meeting is Monday, April, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. which will be in the same Internet Stream format.

8. Adjournment at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Board President

Board Secretary