

MINERAL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
751 A. STREET
Hawthorne, Nevada 89415
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 1, 2020

The Mineral County School District held a public meeting on July 14, 2020 beginning at 5:35 pm at the Mineral County School District.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Candice Birchum, Kathryn Castagnola, Tyler Viani

MEMBERS ABSENT: Schyler Hagen, Keith Neville

ADMINISTRATORS: Karen Watson, Superintendent; Stephanie Keuhey, Principal HES; Lance West, Principal SES

OTHERS PRESENT: Ann Kee, Crystal Sasser, Diane Rodriguez, Jeremy Williams, Tricia Schumann, Meshanna Huntley, Hope Blinco, Kathy Trujillo, William Bruni, Mrs. Bruni, Julia Viani, Tashina Williams, JayDee Porras-Grant, Toni Dodge, Brianna Hatfield, Karry Larramendy, Marty Waggoner, Erika Sanchez, Hope Blinco

CALL TO ORDER: 5:33 pm.

1. Certification of Public Notice, Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance
Approval of a flexible agenda. (For Possible Action) - ***ITEMS 3-6 HAVE BEEN TABLED UNTIL THESE POSITIONS GO TO NEGOTIATION***
2. Person or Group Recognition - **NONE**
3. Presentations - **NONE**

CONSENT ITEMS: (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

1. Minutes: June 16, 2020; July 14, 2020; July 28, 2020 (this one will be brought back to the next meeting); August 11, 2020
2. Payroll Vouchers: 1008,1009,1012,1013,1156,1157,1160,1161
3. Payroll Checks: 85636-85702
4. Warrants: 22631-22656
Personnel Report
*Tyler Viani made a motion approve the minutes from June 16, 2020; July 14, 2020; August 11, 2020; Payroll Vouchers 1008,1009,1012,1013,1156,1157,1160,1161; Payroll Checks 85636-85702; Warrants 22631-22656 as presented. Kathryn Castagnola seconded the motion.
Kathryn Castagnola-Yes, Candice Birchum-Yes, Tyler Viani 3-0-0*

ACTION ITEMS: (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

1. **Recommendation:** Discussion and Possible Approval of the contract with Speech Pathology Solutions, Inc. (Holly Qualls)
*Tyler Viani made a motion to approve the contract with Speech Pathology Solutions, Inc. (Holly Qualls). Kathryn Castagnola seconded the motion.
Kathryn Castagnola-Yes, Candice Birchum-Yes, Tyler Viani. 3-0-0*
2. **Recommendation:** Discussion and Possible Approval for Unpaid Leave (Leave without pay)
*Tyler Viani made a motion to approve the Unpaid Leave. Kathryn Castagnola seconded the motion.
Kathryn Castagnola-Yes, Candice Birchum-Yes, Tyler Viani. 3-0-0*

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3. **Recommendation:** Discussion and Possible Approval of Independent Contract for Tashina Williams, Bachelor of Social Work in the Safe Schools Professional Program
Discussion Only – Candice asked why the price is different. Because Tashina is still going through the program at the UNR campus during the day so she cannot work full time.

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4. **Recommendation:** Discussion and Possible Approval of Independent Contract for Julia Viani, Master of Social Work Intern in the Safe Schools Professional Program
Discussion Only - Stephanie these positions are very crucial right now and she is frustrated that these people are not able to be working at this time. Tyler commented that they would get this done on Thursday in a negotiations meeting. He realizes how important these positions are and just wants to make it right these employees. Another board member is going to have to take his place on this because of being related to Julia. Lance and Stephanie agree this is bad timing. Julia would like to make sure there is still going to be four positions under the teachers union so that everyone still has their jobs. Lance and Stephanie are available if needed to discuss the financials on this issue.
5. **Recommendation:** Discussion and Possible Approval of Independent Contract for Kathy Trujillo, Social Mental Health Work II in the Safe Schools Professional Program
Kathy talked about the issue that we are dealing with right now. She has been here for 15 years and she is ashamed and embarrassed about the contacts being such a big issue. Mineral County cannot afford to not have these employees when school starts. She does not understand why the Board cannot just sign right now, so we can have it taken care of when school starts next week. They are affecting the ability for her to do her duties. Tyler agrees but if we sign it now there could be legal ramifications to the district. It should have been finished already. She suggests that the board signs tonight. Jeremy Williams asked isn't there anything that can be done? They will still be getting paid as they work. This could go on for weeks or months waiting for the union to approve this plan. Mr. Bruni asked what is it we are so worried about with them being a contractor. Steph – She has been pushing to get the SSP's on as an employee so they can have the benefits and get the money that they deserve. The timing of this issue is just really bad. Everyone agrees that these positions are needed. I cannot hire a contractor to take place of a bargaining unit position. Tyler believes there will a consensus on Thursday to agree upon the positions in the union. Kathy – any way we can get this done so they can work on Tuesday. They will work and continue to be paid. They will continue to work and be paid until this is taken care of. Kathy-This is not a time to cut the staff, these positions are completely needed. Jeremy asked about the MOU that was agreed upon at the last meeting. This was not brought forward when they were in negotiations. Where would the money come from to pay for four extra employees? It would come out of the general fund. Diane explained how the budget process works at the school district. Tyler said something would be remedied on Thursday. Karry Larramendy asked about the grant funding and was told grant money comes in at different times throughout the year.
6. **Recommendation:** Discussion and Possible Approval of Independent Contract for Amanda Wachsmuth, Master of Science, Professional Counseling, in the Safe Schools Professional Program
Lance West said Amanda has not been in contact with the Union. She just meant the union president last week.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS: (FOR DISCUSSION ONLY)

1. Correspondence & Announcements-*NONE*
2. Board Member Reports-*NONE*
3. Superintendent Report-*Letter to the Board for her resignation at the end of the year.*
4. Principals Report-
Stephanie Keuhey– We have 80% of the students that are returning. We will be checking out 35 tablets for distance learning kids. Most of the distance-learning students will be using the tablets for their classes. Preschool of course will be more hands with their programs. The teachers had Google classroom training last week. We are making sure the teachers are all ready for next week. GRC mining company gave the

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elementary school \$25,000 for chrome books. They will be ordered by Friday possibly through Dell. The Mount Grant challenge group donated water bottles for all the kids in the school district since they will have no water fountain access.

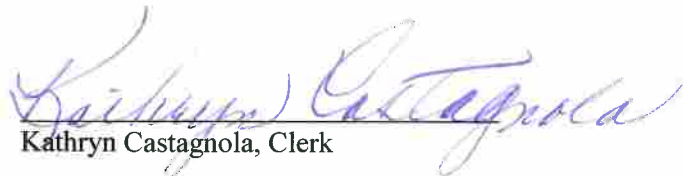
Lance West – Schurz Elementary -Teachers are working on google classroom and giving out tablets. 50% of the kids will be coming to school. 36 in person students at this time. The kindergarten has a large class of 18 this year. There is a total of 68 kids coming to school. We are working with the tribe on getting kids ready in school. Lots of communication with tribe, who is helping quite a bit. The tribe is willing to let school employees at take the Covid test at any time. They need to work on how they are going to communicate if someone at the school tests positive. They are doing Rapid and state testing at the tribe.

High School – There are around 31 kids distance learning right now at the high school. 80% of students will be in the classroom. The students have a two-week time limit to either enroll in class or distance learning. We are ready for next week.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

ADJOURNMENT: 6:40 PM

Respectfully submitted:


Kathryn Castagnola, Clerk