

**LANDER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
450 E. 6TH STREET
BATTLE MOUNTAIN, NV 89820
March 9, 2021
5:30 P.M.**

A recorded CD is available for review of this meeting in its entirety.

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Mike Chopp called the meeting to order at approximately 5:32p.m. at the Lander County School District Office, 450 E. 6th Street, Battle Mountain, Nevada.

President Mike Chopp led the assembled group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call - Taken by President Mike Chopp

Present:

Mike Chopp	(President)
Doug Staton	(Clerk)
Dr. Todd Thompson	(Trustee)
Laken Sullivan	(Trustee)
Linda McMahan	(Trustee)
Elizabeth Valdovinos	(Trustee)
Manuel Villanueva	(Trustee)
Russell Klein	(Superintendent)
Sondra Torgerson	(Principal)
Lorrie Sparks	(Principal)
Toby Melver	(Principal)
Scott Shakespeare	(Director of Administrative Programs)

Absent:

None

B. PUBLIC COMMENT-*The following may not be verbatim. A copy of this meeting's recording is available.*

- FFA President, Destiny Villanueva, informed the Board of their activities for National FFA week. They gave Valentine's to the long term care residents, front line workers and first responders were given cookies. Three FFA members will be receiving their state degree. Braxton Nield talked about the Ag Mechanics jamboree where NV Gold Mines watched and judged as the students showed their metal working skills. He thanked NV Gold Mines on behalf of all of the competitors. Mr. Martin also thanked NV Gold Mines for providing the judges for the jamboree.
- Mrs. Nield thanked NV gold Mines for giving students the opportunity to show their skills. She also mentioned the future agenda items that were listed in the minutes and encouraged that if the Board really wants clarity throughout the community on these items, then they should be on the agenda for discussion.
- Mrs. Byerly and Mrs. Burkhart expressed their concerns as teachers with having to tell the younger students to keep their masks on and how gross they get throughout the day. The masks also hinder learning capabilities as it pertains to annunciating and being able to be heard while reading to the class and teacher.
- Liz MacDonald handed out the Open Meeting Law manual and the Ethics in Government manual to the trustees.
- Cindy Clark-"I would like to go on record as being in support of masks by choice."
- Colt Nelson- "I asked Russ Klein to give us a written statement that we the public cannot come in without a mask. Russ said he would get us a signed statement."

- January Baker - “Pertaining to the mask mandate, I would like to know if there is denied funding if our district removes the mask mandate for staff and children.”
- Ashley Serna-“My children have been breaking out in rashes on their faces. I don’t understand why our kids don’t get the option to wear masks.”
- James Whisler-“This is medical tyranny, this is not the country I grew up in. You are making decisions that are changing society for the worse and we may not be able to recover from this.”

C. APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF NOTICED AGENDA- For Possible Action

Trustee Sullivan made the motion to approve and adopt the noticed agenda. Trustee Staton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

Vote:

Aye – President Mike Chopp, Trustees Doug Staton, Laken Sullivan, Manny Villanueva, Liz Valdovinos, Linda McMahon and Todd Thompson

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

D. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- 1. Technology Update -** The Board will hear about the current state of technology in the district. Representatives from Oasis Online will be present to answer questions.

Matt Newgard presented the updates

- Go Guardian desktop monitoring program has been installed for the students.
- Oasis hopes to start the camera project next week at the elementary school and the junior high.
- New server has been installed.
- Audio Enhancement servers are in for all classroom cameras

- 2. NASB & Legislative Update-** Trustee Linda McMahon will update the Board with any NASB news and on the Legislative Interim Committee on education.

The annual conference for last year has been cancelled. This month there is a new member training on March 20th and another called Equity 101: Assuring Success for All on March 27th from 9am-1030am.

- 3. COVID Update-**

- All of the district’s schools are back full time as of today (February 16th)
- On Friday the Governor has relaxed the ruling for performance and spectators. If the athletes are wearing masks spectators can be within 6 feet of them. If they are not, then the restriction is 12 feet from the athletes.
- The Governor on May 1st may relax directives and release more to local control.

- 4. Battle Mountain High School Highlights**

Mrs. Torgerson presented her PowerPoint

E. CONSENT ITEMS - For Possible Action

- 1. Approval and Payment of Bills and Warrants totaling \$1,277,588**
(Accounts Payable for Feb 4th \$246,520.17, Feb 11th \$1,700.00, Feb 18th \$111,345.20 and Feb 24th \$15,289.96 ----
Payroll for February \$902,732.67)
- 2. Approval of Minutes for the Meeting Held on January 28th and February 16th**
- 3. Approval of Employee Resignations and/or New Hires-** John Stern as High School Principal, Alexis Paris-Social Studies ELJHS, Robert Pratte-ELA ELJHS, Jordan Woody-6th Grade, Shawna Mabe-Austin.

Mr. Klein informed the Board that the retiring they are approving is for Sally Mills.

Trustee Thompson made the motion to approve the consent items. Trustee Staton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

Vote:

President Mike Chopp, Trustees Doug Staton, Laken Sullivan, Manny Villanueva, Liz Valdovinos, Linda McMahan and Todd Thompson

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

F. ACTION ITEMS- For Possible Action

- 1. Zone Variance Request-**A request from a family will be reviewed for Crescent Valley Elementary School.

A request was never received by the family. No action was taken.

- 2. Approval of the Lander County School District Policy 1st Reading of Distance Learning**

Trustee Staton made the motion to approve the Lander County School District Policy 1st Reading of Distance Learning. Trustee McMahan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

Vote:

President Mike Chopp, Trustees Doug Staton, Laken Sullivan, Manny Villanueva, Liz Valdovinos, Linda McMahan and Todd Thompson

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

G. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- Health Insurance, the district is changing to UMR insurance, it should be a great improvement.
- Sports- relaxed restrictions
- Discussions concerning a weighted GPA have been occurring, feedback will be coming shortly.
- The county is suing CORE Construction, the school district is researching to see if it would be worthwhile for the district to do the same.
- Temperature portals at the junior high are being used to check temperatures of students. About 20-30 students per minute.
- Oasis will start setting up the boardroom for streaming board meetings.

H. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Trustee McMahan mentioned that the Austin school could possibly have 5 additional children in kindergarten and that there may be a need to discuss the addition of another aide.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT *The following may not be verbatim. A copy of this meeting’s recording is available.*

- Mrs. Torgerson gave a special thanks to Mr. Stern for the hard work he has put in creating sports schedules.
- Alicia Price- Expressed her concern with transparency including having live streaming capabilities for the public and the public comment section should be closer to adjournment on the board agenda.
- Bert Ramos- Mr. Ramos’ letter was read as part of public comment

- Lorrie Sparks- Two of her teachers were expressing their concerns during the first public comment and were stopped at the three minute limit. Prior to coming to the Board meeting the teachers questioned if they were going to lose their job if they approached the board with their concerns. They also feel that they are abusing the kids by making them wear masks due to the cleanliness and other concerns. She added that the public just wants the boards support and to be informed, maybe make it an agenda item so that there can be discussion.
- Trustee Thompson thanked Mrs. Torgerson for her years of dedication to the district.
- Neill Jensen-Acknowledges the Board is in a sticky situation and it's tough to follow what constitutes want but at the same time no lose funding.
- Sandy Ayers-Mrs. Ayers understands both sides of wearing or not wearing the masks. Our county is different and shouldn't have to follow the same restrictions as bigger counties. Currently, sports are coming back and giving the students the initiative to do better in school so they can compete. The district can't risk getting that taken away.

J. CLOSED SESSION

The Board may meet in a closed labor session to meet with the District's management representatives to discuss the matter for dismissal of licensed personnel.

Trustee Staton Made the motion to go into closed session at 7:09pm, Trustee Sullivan seconded.

Vote:

President Mike Chopp, Trustees Doug Staton, Laken Sullivan, Manny Villanueva, Liz Valdovinos, Linda McMahon and Todd Thompson

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

President Chopp brought the meeting back to open session at 7:32pm

K. ACTION AS A RESULT OF THE CLOSED SESSION The Board may take action based on information given by the superintendent and the district's labor law attorney.

- 1. Licensed Personnel Dismissal Recommendation.**-Discussion and possible resolution to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for dismissal of licensed personnel.

Trustee Staton made to motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for termination of the employee at this time. Trustee McMahon seconded.

Vote:

Aye-President Mike Chopp, Trustees Doug Staton, Laken Sullivan, Manny Villanueva, Liz Valdovinos, Linda McMahon and Todd Thompson

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

L. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:33 p.m. Trustee Staton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Vote:

Aye – President Mike Chopp, Trustees Doug Staton, Laken Sullivan, Manny Villanueva, Liz Valdovinos, Linda McMahon and Todd Thompson

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

**Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca Killeen, Board Secretary**

These minutes were approved at the meeting of April 13, 2021.

Mike Chopp, President

Doug Staton, Clerk