

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

March 12, 2024

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in a special joint session with the Inyo County Board of Education, at the hour of 12:40 p.m., on March 12, 2024, in the Flower Building, Highway 127, Shoshone, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Matt Kingsley, presiding, Scott Marcellin, Jeff Griffiths, Jennifer Roeser and Trina Orrill. Board of Education members present: Chairperson Chris Langley, George Lozito, Joe Profita, and David Hefner. Absent: Jessica Tex. Also present: County Administrator Nate Greenberg, Assistant County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo, Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Ellis, Inyo County Superintendent of Schools Barry Simpson, and Office of Education Chief Technology Officer Justin Norcross.

Pledge of Allegiance Inyo County Board of Education Chair Chris Langley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment Chairperson Kingsley asked for public comment related to items not calendared on the agenda and HHS Director Anna Scott spoke briefly on the implications for Inyo County if Prop 1 is approved.

Office of Education – “State of the Schools” Report Inyo County Superintendent of Schools Barry Simpson provided the Board with a “State of the Schools” update. Death Valley Unified School District Superintendent Jim Copeland spoke about issues with finding qualified bus drivers.

Office of Education – Annual Fire Inspections at Local Schools Chairperson Kingsley introduced an item regarding the Inyo County Office of Education (ICOE) potentially facilitating a programmatic contract for annual fire inspections at local schools. Superintendent of Schools Barry Simpson said the ICOE is currently seeking quotes from qualified firms. He noted that the ICOE is committed to student safety and wants these inspections performed, but also understands that they have been hit and miss among the school districts due to turnover and other issues.

Chairperson Kingsley thanked the ICOE for looking into the contract and said he hopes the Board of Education will be supportive of it. He noted that not all local volunteer fire chiefs have the time and/or expertise to perform the inspections.

Public comment was made by Southern Inyo Fire Protection District Chief Phil Worsman and SIFPD Board Chair Robin Flinchum regarding the results of an inspection of Death Valley Unified that are being disputed by the Superintendent. She asked for adoption of a follow-through policy for corrections of deficiencies and a formal appeal process. Superintendent Jim Copeland also spoke, saying he enjoys working with CalFire.

Chairperson Kingsley cut the dialogue off, noting there can be no success if the parties aren't working together. He suggested the Chief and Superintendent sit down for coffee and offered to attend as well.

Collaborative Service Delivery Opportunities Death Valley National Park Superintendent Mike Reynolds presented a request to utilize a shuttered school in Furnace Creek for community activities and events.

Reynolds noted that the Timbisha-Shoshone Tribe, Xanterra employees, and National Park Service personnel have nowhere to gather as one community. Using the old school building for consolidating community events would add to the local quality of life and also free up at least three desperately needed housing units for the Park, which has actually run out of housing for employees. He said nothing in his request would preclude the building from being used as a school again in the future if needed.

Chairperson Kingsley asked Death Valley Unified School District Superintendent Jim

Copeland and his school board to seriously consider the Park's request, even if Copeland has indicated he may not be in full support of it thus far.

Public Comment

Chairperson Kingsley again asked for public comment related to items not calendared on the agenda and comment was provided by Regional Broadband Coordinator Scott Armstrong and Southern Inyo Fire Protection District volunteer Billy Eichenbaum.

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2:08 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tuesday March 12, 2024, at the Hurlbut-Rook Community Center in Tecopa.



Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

*Attest: NATE GREENBERG
Clerk of the Board*

by: 

Darcy Ellis, Assistant