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Thursday, November 14, 2013

Schools and city promote collaboration

By John Barrette

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Melding the strategic plans of Carson City government and the city's school district won unanimous support from their governing boards and supporters in attendance Wednesday night.

A joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors and the school district Board of Trustees provided a forum not only for passage of the resolution to collaborate and forge forward with greater fusion in community and school working relationships, but also to showcase the \$10 million Race to the Top grant progress and partnership efforts of various kinds.

"It takes a community to do all these things, and it takes a partnership," said Mayor Robert Crowell as the session began.

"Without education our children will not succeed," said Lynette Conrad, school board president.

Ben Contine, community engagement coordinator for the district's Race to the Top team, acted as an informal master of ceremonies for presentations that preceded the board voting. He prefaced them with this remark: "We have two amazing strategic plans that we intend to

COLLABORATE, A4



CATHLEEN ALLISON / NEVADA PHOTO SOURCE

Carson City Mayor Bob Crowell speaks at a special joint meeting of the Carson City School District Board of Trustees and the Board of Supervisors on Wednesday.

Library auditorium space goes digital

Nevada Appeal Staff Report

News of a "digitorium" on the Carson City Library's main floor was announced Wednesday evening during a joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors and city school

district's Board of Trustees.

The digital auditorium space, dubbed a digitorium by the Carson City Library Foundation and Friends of the Library, will provide space for additional computers where the auditorium and

the friends' bookstore have been located. The Friends of the Library Bookstore will move across the street to 711 E. Washington St., to expanded headquarters.

DIGITAL, A4

COLLABORATE

From page A1

meld this evening."

The initial presentation included Leann Morris from the district, Tammy Westergard, Carson City interim library director, and Jonathon Begley of Dream It, Do It, a manufacturing education and training program.

Morris focused primarily on digital age education and ways the local district is providing a curriculum making mobile 1-to-1 technology work for pupils at schools.

"We take the walls down and the world is really our classroom," she said.

Westergard followed that with an explanation of the library's technological toolbox to link school, community and home aspects for young persons' daily lives.

Begley talked of his program backed by local manufacturers, praising local progress toward engaging students in the STEM fields — science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"This is something that's already happening in Carson City," Begley said. He also praised local involvement in Nevada Manufacturing Day recently, which included 1,200 people.

A team from the district took over next, with teacher Allen Gosselin leading a presentation on Race to



CATHLEEN ALLISON/NEVADA PHOTO SOURCE

Community Partnership Coordinator Ben Contine speaks at the special joint meeting of the Carson City School District Board of Trustees and the Board of Supervisors on Wednesday.

the Top activities that are aimed at infusing excellence through all classrooms. He said it will remove mystery and promote mastery in education, as well as work toward collaboration involving instructors, students, parents and all involved.

Gosselin also said the five goals of the district's plan and the nine of the city's are well aligned, something with which both boards obviously agreed as they took up the resolution. It called for collaboration and the adoption by each board of the other's plan. The only addition was one suggested by Supervisor John McKenna,

who called for language about safety and security.

The boards also agreed to meet again in May.

After the formal board action, public comment lauding the resolution came from several people. Among them was Rob Hooper of the Northern Nevada Development Authority, who said the western region in which Carson City must compete is projected to grow 33 percent by 2040 and to create 2.8 million new jobs. He said work force development will help the city compete well.

DIGITAL

From page A1

Completion is expected some time next year.

The announcement came from Phyllis Patton, president of the friends' organization, and Pam Gruber, president of the foundation, both of whom also serve on the Library Board of Trustees.

At the same time, the foundation issued a news release in which it said \$33,000 has been committed toward renovating and furnishing the library auditorium-bookstore space to house the new unit with a build-out for 20 MacBook Pro computers.

"This is a win in so many ways," said Gruber. "The library stands tall to serve the needs of its patrons, the

Friends of the Library will have more space and more bookstore hours, and the foundation is delighted to help make it all happen."

Tammy Westergard, interim library director, said this is another step in providing tech innovations that are addressing the "facts of life in the 21st century." She said it will further library ability to be a meaningful link for proper generational skill sets.

"Focus is on the youth, particularly teens, to help them become makers of digital content and in the process develop marketable skills," she said.

The Wednesday evening meeting was to meld city and school board strategic plans for community-wide collaboration on education and related issues.