

Bend-La Pine Schools
Bend, OR 97701

The Board of Directors for Bend-La Pine Schools met in a regular meeting on July 8, 2014 in room 314 of the Education Center at 520 NW Wall Street, Bend, OR.

Board Members Present

Cheri Helt
Ron Gallinat
Nori Juba
Peggy Kinkade
Julie Craig
Mike Jensen
Andy High

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:02p by Chair Helt. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Review of Agenda

Cheri Helt added an Action Item: Zone 4 Resignation and Declaration of Vacancy.

Public Input

No public input.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Wilkinson recognized Denice Blake as the 2014 recipient of the President's Award by the Oregon Pupil Transportation Association. He congratulated Blake and acknowledged in 2013 Tim O'Connell won this award. Blake thanked her team, noting how much she appreciates their work to support her everyday. Wilkinson also recognized Julianne Repman and others who worked on the district's college map, which was the top award winner for National School Public Relations Association. The district's 2013-14 Handbook and Calendar received an award of merit (second place) from NSPRA and a third place award from the National Association of Government Communicators.

Wilkinson shared the district's three School Resource Officers, Ashley Volz, Scott Vincent and Amy Ward were recognized by Bend Police Department and earned Bend Police Department's Unit Citation Award. Wilkinson said he appreciates what an awesome resource these three officers are for our students, schools and community. He also noted Summit High School was recently selected, for the third year in a row, as the OSAA 5A Oregonian Cup winner. He shared Bend Senior High placed ninth and congratulated both schools as this award takes into consideration athletics, activities, academic achievement and sportsmanship of students.

At each Board Member seat he noted a summary of the exceptional grand work done this year by Bruce Abernethy. It has been a record-breaking year in terms of grants and dollars awarded. Wilkinson commended Abernethy for his amazing work.

Consent Agenda

Mike Jensen moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Ron Gallinat seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Action Items

Election of Board Officers

Chair Helt opened up the nominations for Board Officers.

Andy High nominated Cheri Helt and Nori Juba to serve as Board Co-Chairs for the 2014-15 School Year. Ron Gallinat seconded the motion to nominate. Unanimous approval.

Approval of Yearly Business & Board Operations for the 2014-15 School Year

- *Business Resolutions 1797-1808*

Kinkade asked if the business resolutions are all the same from last year. Brad Henry answered yes, with some minor updates. High asked what year the district is in with contracts listed in the resolutions. Henry answered our attorney contract is in year three, and our auditor contract is in year three of five. Juba asked if the substitute teacher salary is set by the state. Wilkinson answered yes; the minimum is listed in the resolution.

Wilkinson noted changes made to the Organizational Chart. Julianne Repman's title has been updated to reflect what she is currently doing and responsible for. He said this does not change Sal Cassaro's position; he is still the Director for Student Safety and will continue to work in that area.

Ron Gallinat moved to approve Business Resolutions 1797-1808. Peggy Kinkade seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

- *Board Leadership Meetings*

Peggy Kinkade moved to approve the Board Leadership Meeting Calendar for 2014-15. Ron Gallinat seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

- *Education Foundation Ex-Officio Members*

Chair Helt said she and Kinkade have been a part of the Education Foundation for a long time and would like to offer other board members the opportunity to be a part of the Foundation's Board. Kinkade agreed and asked if anyone had interest. There were no volunteers. Kinkade suggested taking this item off of the Action agenda today and move it to a later date. The Board agreed.

- *Adopt-a-School*

Kinkade noted her adopted schools are incorrect; Helt has Cascade Middle School and she has W.E. Miller. Craig noted she should also be listed with Mt. View High School.

Peggy Kinkade moved to approve the Adopt-a-School listed with the corrections noted. Ron Gallinat seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Resolution 1809 – Indemnification of Employees & Board Members

Chair Helt reviewed the resolution and noted Greg Colvin, HDES D attorney, was here to answer any questions. Kinkade felt the resolution to be straightforward and there were no questions.

Julie Craig moved to approve Resolution 1809. Andy High seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Approval of Propane Fuel Contract

Brad Henry reviewed the executive summary in the board packet on page 36. He noted it was about five years ago the district moved to purchasing propane fueled school buses and it has worked out well. The district has been working to set up a propane fuel station in La Pine and it is now ready.

The district recently sent out an RFP for propane fuel providers and received three responses from local providers. The recommendation from the committee is to offer a five-year contract with the lowest cost vendor, who happens to be the district's current vendor, Farrellgas. Gallinat asked what the next closest bid was. Henry said it was approximately 10 cents higher per gallon. Kinkade asked if the district would be offering the same contract as currently in place. Henry answered it will be similar, but some changes have been made specifically regarding delivery cost. The cost will be fixed at 23 cents/gallon, an average of what the district paid over the years of the last contract. Gallinat asked if Farrellgas has provided good service. Henry answered yes.

Peggy Kinkade moved to approve a five-year contract with Farrellgas beginning July 1, 2014 for the purchase and delivery of propane fuel at 38 cents per gallon over the refinery index for Anacortes, WA. Ron Gallinat seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Juba asked about the advantage of entering a five-year agreement. Henry said there is risk either way when locking in a rate now, as it could go up or down, but the cost risk is minimal and the longer the contract entered, the better the rate will be overall. Gallinat commented on the competitive rate and feels good about going forward with a five-year agreement. Henry noted there is opt out language built into the agreement.

Zone 4 Resignation and Declaration of Vacancy

Mike Jensen announced his resignation from the Board effective July 31, 2014. He said he and his wife's home is under contract and scheduled to close soon. He noted it is a bittersweet announcement, but they are moving in the direction of retirement. He has enjoyed his work with the Board and feels it is a well-built group and will need a very engaged South County member to continue the good work. He would love to have the communication efforts for recruitment made large and to see someone step up who is very involved in the schools and volunteering.

Chair Helt thanked Jensen for his service and appreciates his advocacy for South County. She said the Board would do their best to replace him. Juba asked how long Jensen had been on the Board. Jensen answered two years, and more time in prior years has been spent volunteering with the district. He said he is hopeful to see four or five community members apply. Gallinat asked where Jensen started his volunteer work. Jensen said at La Pine High School and then through SMART reading. He said he has really enjoyed his interactions in the community with the youth and assisting them in their education.

Chair Helt asked other Board members to review their calendars and set an early date in August for interviews, as she would like to have the new member be able to attend the Board Retreat on August 19. She feels it is important for that person to be a part of the vision process and it is also a great opportunity to learn about the district and the board then.

Andy High moved to accept Mike Jensen's resignation as Bend-La Pine Schools' Zone 4 Board Member, and declared the position open for application immediately. Peggy Kinkade seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

The Board reviewed their calendars and decided the application deadline would be August 8 and the interview date to be August 14 with times to be determined later. High asked if there is not a qualified applicant, could the deadline be extended. Wilkinson answered yes, and noted it would require action by the board to extend the opening, and added Repman will work on community notification immediately.

Policy Monitoring

BD GOV A.8 - Communication and Support to the Board

Superintendent Wilkinson reviewed the updated policy in the board packet on pages 37-38, noting the Board's request of receiving materials, data, etc. was addressed on page 38. He suggested adding another number to the policy if the Board wanted more specific language. High said he is fine with the wording under #8, and emphasized the importance of having information in advance. Kinkade understood the update to be a response to the Board's concerns, but feels it should be more of a goal for the district to work towards rather than a response. She does not feel it necessary to add another number to the policy.

Juba asked if response obligates the Board to meet every Tuesday. Wilkinson answered the response is an explanation to prove the district has met the measure and provide a reflection of what has happened over the past year.

High said he would like to add another number to the policy and would like to make sure it is part of the evaluation process annually. The Board discussed various wording ideas for the policy. Jensen said he

would rather have information ahead of time and suggested putting a due date to give more clarification, adding if the information is not available by that date, then the topic be moved to the next meeting. Gallinat felt that idea might be too limiting for the Board and district. Wilkinson suggested updating the language to say: ‘...the board packet will include, to the extent possible, all materials which will be presented in the public session...’ noting this adds the element of a due date and clarifies the intent of the Board.

Andy High moved to approve the updated language proposed by Superintendent Wilkinson. Peggy Kinkade seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Reports

Community Survey Results

Julianne Repman presented the Spring 2014 Community Survey results, and explained this is a survey done about every other year and this one took place March 14-19, 2014. Juba asked how many community members were surveyed. Repman said 382 with a 95% level of confidence (a statistically valid survey with +/- 5% error factor). Kinkade asked if the same questions are asked each year. Repman answered generally yes, but there are new questions and updates added each year. She noted the survey provided very interesting and useful results overall.

Repman reviewed the positive and negative survey results, noting the impact of other districts in the region and the state can and does affect results in school perception surveys. Repman pointed out in 2008 the performance of the school district percentage went up and has continued to do so with each survey; this was the year Superintendent Wilkinson was hired and she feels he is a strong communicator, which is supported by the survey results.

The quality of staff went down slightly, with some of the negatives noted in the results being over crowded classrooms and too many days off of school. Positive comments were based on personal experience comments and the connection made by employees to the community and students. Repman noted the highest approval rating for student success came from the 18-30 year olds and negative ratings came mostly from the 49-59 year old range.

Repman explained the survey started with yes/no type of questions and then moved to push questions and said the way the questions are delivered is very important. She noted we have a great community relationship and sees these results as being a very positive reflection of the district. Repman offered a hard copy of the survey results for anyone who would like to review the results in more depth. She added the decline in the communications response is an opportunity for the district to look at the methods currently being used to reach out, noting the next steps would be to expand the delivery options with various social outlets, etc.

Wilkinson reminded all of the 5% margin of error, adding when the results start to decline beyond the 5% mark is when he becomes concerned. Jensen asked why the survey is not done more frequently. Repman said it is done every other year and if the district has a bond campaign the survey timing and questions may change because of the election. She noted the expense of the survey is one the district wants to be aware of and it is important not to irritate or train community members how to respond by doing too many surveys.

Chair Helt asked about the teacher quality percentage going down. Repman noted the survey asked about Bend-La Pine Schools’ staff, not just teachers. The negative feedback remarks reported included: lack of communication, too many days out of school, staff didn’t care about students; to which Repman concluded many of these responses seem to be a reflection of more personal experiences.

Gallinat asked if Repman could email the survey and responses to the board. She said the file is quite large, but would be able to provide a hard copy. Chair Helt thanked Repman for her report.

KPI Data

Superintendent Wilkinson explained in recent years the district has set priorities and measures to gauge success. At the board retreat last summer, the board looked at the Achievement Compact and worked to align Key Performance Indicators (KPI) with the compact and as a result, came up with 16 overall measures. Some of the data is not available just yet, however in a few weeks more results will be available and he will continue to update the Board.

Wilkinson noted the reports tonight will look different than previously presented to the Board as the data information has been put on a trend line. He noted the tracking of information using a trailing average, which is difficult in the education world, but is being used tonight with a three-year trailing average to help put together trends.

Wilkinson reviewed first grade reading, noting the changes in cut scores and significant test changes that make it difficult to track. He commented this is an area of concern for him and wants to focus on improving. Third grade reading results were shared and Wilkinson noted the rise in results to meet higher expectations which he is happy to see and said at third grade, it looks like the district is back on a good steady track progressing nicely.

Fifth grade math results show the same trend as third grade reading and eighth grade has been flat since the cut scores changed, Wilkinson noted he would like to start seeing a more upward trend begin.

Wilkinson reviewed the four-year cohort graduation information; more data will be available in January and noted since the district began tracking this data five years ago we currently have the highest graduation rate we've ever had. Wilkinson shared the five-year completer rates, noting this group is tracked as part of the Achievement Compacts and takes into account the students who pass the GED and receive other types of diplomas.

11th grade reading proficiency was shared in two graphs to help show the old cut score, which did apply through this current group of 11th graders. The other graph shows the new college readiness benchmark and shows what percentage of our current students would meet. It is data Wilkinson said he would like to dig into further. Dave VanLoo shared the Explore to Plan data will hopefully help this trend move upward.

Wilkinson reviewed sixth grade attendance, data tracking chronic absenteeism (students who are absent 10% or more of the time). This data reflects the students who are attending and Wilkinson noted this is our highest year of attendance. He added, from the South County board meeting, the efforts shared in how those schools are encouraging student attendance are making a positive impact. Schools across the district are using similar strategies and he is proud of their efforts and results.

Wilkinson reviewed the college continuation rate noting the National College Clearing House is the source the district is using to track the data rather than personally tracking records. He said tracking students after they graduate poses some issues with confidentiality and the state has better access to information.

Explore to Plan Cohort Data

Dave VanLoo gave an overview of PLAN and EXPLORE testing and said this data shows results comparing the same student in eighth grade to tenth grade. He noted, this is not comprehensive of every student in the district.

Chair Helt commented on the low science scores and asked what the district is doing to improve. VanLoo shared there was a change to the college benchmark science test in August 2013 and it did change our data results. He added, as the district moves into the next generation of science testing standards we'll be better able to understand where gaps may be. VanLoo feels there has been a disconnect with OAKS and ACT science testing. Kinkade asked about why there are decreases in the 9th and 10th grade math results. VanLoo said his best guess is that there are different students in the mix of who is being tested. Wilkinson

added 9th grade is a big year where students who have been home schooled or in private school enter into our public school system and that could be a part of the reason our results are affected.

VanLoo said the district is moving into the ASPIRE system and next year testing results will look very different. Kinkade asked if the ACT would still be given to all high school juniors. VanLoo answered yes, and he added it may be possible for students to take it online. ASPIRE will be for grades three through ten with very different type of questions compared to the ACT. He said the district is investigating using ASPIRE at the lower grade levels, noting various pricing options for usage and periodic assessments. The district has through the end of November to make a decision about what options it will use. Kinkade asked about the trial period and if the district is going to move forward with it. VanLoo said the district is still deciding and trying to find a balance of not over-testing students but still getting enough useful data to continue improvement.

Chair Helt said she was pleased with the KPI data and appreciated seeing data results put together in charts and graphs to show the history of our students. The way information was presented tonight was informative and she appreciated the effort made to make data results useful and meaningful especially when tests and standards continue to change. She is pleased to see students are meeting the increased standards and seeing information in this format helps to create goals and allows for the Board to reflect on the results.

Helt changed the order of the Discussion items on the agenda and said the La Pine Urban Renewal information would be discussed first.

Discussion

La Pine Urban Renewal District

Superintendent Wilkinson introduced Ken Mullenex and thanked him for the work he has done for La Pine and the connection he has with the Board. Mullenex thanked the Board for their time and shared how the urban renewal will impact La Pine and the history behind the idea.

Mullenex said nearly every city in Central Oregon, with the exception of Prineville, has had an urban renewal, noting his favorite being Madras and the great improvements they have made in their community with bike paths, skate parks, the airport and business coming into town. He shared in fall of 2013 the La Pine City Council began work with urban renewal consultant Elaine Howard; she helped them form a committee and prepare a plan that specifies the areas of town, the money needed and the work that will be done. The Council moved and accepted the plan and then established a seven-member agency to present the plan, which the final public hearing is tomorrow evening. Following the public hearings, Mullenex explained, there is a 30-day delay before the county votes.

Jensen shared his support of the urban renewal plan and feels it is something highly needed and could possibly benefit the district in the future. He asked if there is any data showing what other community results were 10 years after an urban renewal effort. Mullenex did not have any specific data but shared there is a preponderance of evidence in support of this work; noting economic development, industrial revitalization and community growth. He said there are 115 other cities in Oregon who currently have urban renewal plans in place. Jensen thanked Mullenex for his great work and complimented Rick Allen's work as well.

Chair Helt thanked Mullenex for his time and presentation on this great effort for the City of La Pine. She asked Mullenex to please share with his constituents the open position on the Board of Directors for South County. Mullenex said he'd be happy to pass the message along.

OSBA Proposed Legislative Priorities & Policies for 2015-17

Kinkade shared her concern of the Board possibly advocating the increase funding language suggested by OSBA, noting she wants to make sure these funds are sustainable, and asked about the tax funding

formula. Wilkinson said it is correct and gain-share is an issue that the Board may want to become more involved in. He explained gain-share changes the playing field and OSBA's argument that it does not count in the funding formula is valid, but it is not guaranteed income and it is an issue that convolutes the equity funding formula. Kinkade said she is not excited about supporting the local option equalization grants, as they do not sit quite right with her. Chair Helt agreed and Kinkade commented she would like to see further discussion on this topic.

Gallinat asked where the priorities of OSBA are coming from. Chair Helt said they are based on certain things OSBA wants to have policies and priorities about and some are things the committee is instructed to discuss because of future legislation.

High does not like the language under funding tax authority on page 68, Section 1: Informing Tax Policy. Helt said there was a long discussion about what the state funding system will look like and the end discussion was that OSBA should advocate for funds for education. If it's preschool, then it helps with having student's kindergarten ready, and that is seen as advantageous for all education. The same would be true for college and post graduation education. High said he does not feel that should be the role of OSBA and does not like the idea of supporting the modification of the state's corporate income tax kicker. He would like to see language around the tax tightened up.

Superintendent Wilkinson noted a few years ago, Juba, a committee member at that time, was shocked to see student achievement was not one of the priorities, and this year it is listed as number one. Juba noted OSBA has come along way but there are still things that do not sit well with him in this document and the way it is written. He said if OSBA advocates for the funding they are suggesting, they could actually push money away from education. As a taxpayer, Juba would be appalled to give his money to poorly run districts that are not performing well. Districts should be held accountable and OSBA supporting a concept of funding not tied to accountability is of concern. Helt agreed and said many districts (there are 32 on the board for the committee) fought for 'status quo' during the committee meetings and did not want to push for change. Juba feels OSBA should not support those districts as it is counter to everything that is moving education forward. Juba said he is not in favor of more funding without accountability.

Wilkinson suggested a response from the Board to the document. Kinkade asked if it has more of an impact coming from an entire Board vs. one person. Juba felt it would and noted he feels the Board, philosophically, is all of the same opinion of this document. He feels there is no accountability to this document and would like the Board to make a very general, unified statement. Helt said she would like the statement to be specific. Kinkade suggested Juba and Helt put together a statement and email other Board members for feedback. High said he agreed with Juba's opinions and would support Juba in putting a statement together. Juba agreed to put a response together. Helt commented, she feels OSBA has gotten away from what is best for students and if there is no student achievement, and then a district is not accomplishing anything.

Board Comments

Andy High thanked Jensen for his service and wished him well on his next adventure.

Peggy Kinkade thanked Jensen and praised him for his time and commitment to the Board and the students of South County. She appreciates how many hours he has spent volunteering in our schools and appreciates his dedication, adding he will be hard to replace.

Julie Craig thanked Jensen as well and wished he and his wife well.

Mike Jensen said those who are volunteers and provide a public service cannot be thanked enough. Those people who donate their time and services to the community make it a better place. He thanked everyone for his experience on the Board.

Ron Gallinat thanked Jensen and noted the first time they met was at a La Pine Advisory Board meeting and is thankful Jensen stepped up and has been a part of the School Board. He also thanked Helt and Juba for their Board leadership this past year and is happy they will continue in that role.

Nori Juba thanked Jensen and said he admires his passion for students. He appreciates the discussions he and Jensen have had over the past couple of years. He noted the Board would not meet again until it is time for the retreat, and he encouraged all to bring one aspirational goal to the retreat. Something they would each like to see five years from now in the district. He shared, about six years ago, it was his goal to see every student have a laptop, and here we are in the midst of a digital conversion using iPads. He wants to know what gets each Board member excited and what goals they would like to set to get to the next level.

Cheri Helt thanked Jensen for his service on the Board and time he has spent volunteering. She noted the Ghost Tree Invitational is coming up with many volunteer opportunities still available. The Education Foundation will be one of the recipients of funds raised this year. The funds will be used to award science and technology teacher grant applications. Anyone can contact Julianne Repman or herself to inquire about volunteering. She noted the organizational chart reviewed earlier and said she would really like to have further discussions of how school and student safety is part of our culture and how to include counselors in our schools along with community support. Helt would like to see our EBISS work be tied directly to school safety and feels a continued conversation with our community mental health care providers is critical.

Meeting adjourned at 2:18p

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Wilson
Confidential Supervisor
7.8.2014