

Bend-La Pine Schools
Bend, OR 97703

The Board of Directors for Bend-La Pine Schools met in a Community Linkage Meeting followed by a regular meeting on January 22, 2019 at Mt. View High School, 2755 NE 27th St., Bend, OR.

Board Members Present

Andy High
Carrie Douglass
Peggy Kinkade
Stuart Young
Julie Craig
Ron Gallinat
Cheri Helt

Call to Order

The Community Linkage Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Welcoming Remarks and Review of Community Linkage Agenda

Superintendent Mikalson welcomed families to the Latino Family Night & Bilingual Event for Families and introduced Chair High and board members. Mikalson thanked families and staff members for attending and shared information about the district and reviewed the format for the evening. He invited attendees to attend the sessions that were of most interest and noted sessions in the library that would allow time for community members to connect with board members individually.

Community members attended breakout sessions with facilitators and translators assisting.
The Community Linkage Latino Family Night & Bilingual Event for Families ended at 7:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Chair High.

Community Linkage Event Board Reflection

Chair High led a conversation to reflect on the linkage event asking board members for feedback of the evening. Peggy Kinkade was pleased with the turnout and number of community members and families who came to talk with board members directly. She appreciated the desire of families to be more involved in their children's education. Hearing about their experiences of where barriers and challenges exist helped Kinkade better understand their needs and overall, she appreciated the opportunity to dialogue with Latino families.

Carrie Douglass agreed with Kinkade's comments and felt this was a great opportunity to learn how the district can improve with access and communication for families whose first language is not English. Douglass added, that she is hopeful there could be a Latino representative on the school board at some point in the near future and would like it to be a priority of the board to seek more diversity.

Ron Gallinat said he was surprised to hear so many comments about families struggling to access schools and volunteer. He's hopeful our schools can provide more clarification and support to help families be a part of their child's education. Julie Craig agreed and noted there seems to be some discrepancy in the district and is hopeful there can be a more consistent effort made for families to feel welcome and a part of their school community.

Cheri Helt thanked district staff who organized the event and appreciated learning more about the Latino culture and hearing from families. She too would like to see more effort made in balancing safety efforts while still making schools feel welcoming. Stuart Young agreed and noted the value of community linkage events where board members can listen and hear directly from families and students. He appreciated the number of community members who attended and spoke with board members. Chair High echoed fellow board member's comments and thanked Kinsey Martin and Lora Nordquist, amongst others, who helped coordinate the event and are working to support Latino families and students in the district.

Board Vacancy Discussion

Chair High noted Cheri Helt's recent email to board members and Superintendent Mikalson, announcing her intentions to resign from the Board. He said the district will notify the Deschutes County Clerk's office of the resignation and the Zone 1 vacancy tomorrow. The board can choose to appoint or leave Helt's seat vacant for the upcoming May election. Should the board appoint, the appointment would go through June 30, 2019. If the board chooses to leave the seat open, the winner of the May election would serve the remainder of Helt's term, which ends June 30, 2021. High asked board members for thoughts on how to proceed.

Julie Craig, Peggy Kinkade and Carrie Douglass all said they were in favor of leaving the seat open and were also supportive of appointing whomever wins the seat in the May election to join the board immediately. Ron Gallinat and Stuart Young were both in favor of appointing a board member and felt previous appointment processes have worked out well and noted the value of operating with a full board. Chair High said he would like to leave the seat vacant and send it to an election.

Peggy Kinkade moved accept Cheri Helt's resignation, effective January 22, 2019 and to leave the seat open for the upcoming May 2019 election. Carrie Douglass seconded the motion. Cheri Helt abstained from the vote. Four yay votes and two nay votes. Motion carried 4-2.

Superintendent Mikalson expressed his sincere thanks to Helt for her 8 years of service on the board, adding she has been a true leader and should be proud of the successes in the district. He said Helt will be missed, she is a true champion for students, noting her tireless dedication and work ethic will allow for her to make a significant impact in our community and state as she moves into her new role representing Central Oregon in the Oregon House of Representatives.

Board members thanked Helt for her service, for her passion and dedication to students and education, for her time and partnership as a board member and friend, all agreed she would be deeply missed. Helt thanked fellow board members and the district, adding it was her honor to serve on the board. She said being a school board member has been a really big, but easy job because of the people she has had the privilege of working with.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Recorded by: Andrea Wilson

Minutes approved at 2.12.19 board meeting