

**Bend-La Pine Schools  
Bend, OR 97703**

The Board of Directors for Bend-La Pine Schools met in a regular session on October 13, 2015 in the library at La Pine High School, 51633 Coach Road, La Pine, OR.

**Board Members Present**

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

**Board Members Absent**

Stuart Young

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04p by Chair Juba. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

**Review of Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**Public Input**

There was no public input.

**Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Mikalson expressed his sympathies for Umpqua Community College, the families and community impacted by the recent tragedy. He noted the seriousness of school safety and the proactive work being done and measures that are in place in Bend-La Pine Schools to create positive, safe environments for students and staff. Mikalson shared regular drills take place and are practiced in all schools, all schools have completed lock down drills since the beginning of the school year and will be taking part in the Great American Shake Out earthquake drill coming up. The district partners with the Safe Schools Alliance. He complimented Julianne Repman's leadership and appreciates her work on safety and maintaining positive relationships with our community partners.

Mikalson thanked Marilyn Burwell, a supporter of the restorative justice program, for the books she gave to board and staff members. He also extended an invitation to all to attend a screening of the film, Paper Tigers, at La Pine High School which highlights restorative justice work in Walla Walla, WA. Mikalson also shared the annual Distinguished Alumni Assembly at Bend Senior High will take place this Friday and invited all to attend and help honor Bend High graduates who are making an impact locally and globally.

**Consent Agenda**

**Ron Gallinat moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Cheri Helt seconded the motion. Nori Juba abstained, as he was not in attendance at the last meeting. Five yay votes and one abstention. Motion carried.**

**Report**

*South County Schools Update*

Jim Boen introduced Pam Beasley, Director of the Sunriver Music Festival. Boen shared Beasley is largely responsible for the five-year music and arts grant La Pine Middle School students are currently benefiting from. Beasley said the grant comes from the Oregon Community Foundation and is specifically in partnership with La Pine Middle School. It is a five-year grant, with the first three years being funded at \$70,000 each year, the last two years are funded at \$35,000 each year. Beasley shared a video

highlighting what students are participating in from drama to music at La Pine Middle School and explained their plans for the next three years. Beasley thanked community partner, Stephanie Bright, project leader, Gayle Vidal, La Pine Middle School Principal, Robi Phinney, La Pine Middle and High School music teacher, Michael Chavarin for their support and dedication.

Cheyenne Johnson, freshman at La Pine High School, performed an original piece on acoustic guitar and Phinney noted Johnson has been and continues to be heavily involved in music and writing music thanks in large part to opportunities the grant has funded. Phinney invited all to La Pine Middle School's Evening of the Arts on April 28, 2016 and noted this year they are adding a musical, drama and photography classes to the options available for students to participate in.

Mikalson thanked Beasley for her efforts and is excited about the partnership and opportunities students have available. Chair Juba thanked Beasley and Johnson for her performance.

#### *Financial Update*

Zhai Logan reviewed the financial summary in the board packet and noted there are no major changes with the exception of higher than projected enrollment which has led to hiring additional staff. The projected ending fund balance is \$7.6 million and the district continues to strategize and make efforts to push resources into the 2016-17 year to help offset the state funding formula and potential PERS increases.

Andy High asked about the anticipated PERS costs. Brad Henry said the budget committee set aside dollars for the PERS increase and will be working with a funding formula that is not typical. Vice Chair Kinkade asked about an increase to the administrative / supervisor line item. Logan explained Bend High added a half-time administrative position that was originally budgeted as a certified position, also grant dollars that funded 2.5 FTE of administrative positions ended and was back filled with general funds, an increase of four days the small elementary school principal work calendar and salary steps also caused for some increase.

Juba thanked Logan for the update.

#### **Action Items**

##### *Charter Application for Desert Sky Montessori*

Vice Chair Kinkade thanked those from Desert Sky Montessori for attending the meeting and asked Superintendent Mikalson to review his recommendation to the board. Mikalson noted his recommendation in the board packet was also given to Desert Sky Montessori last week in a meeting.

Mikalson reviewed the OAR criteria in which the evaluation team reviewed the application. He based his recommendation the team's feedback and at this time he is not recommending approval of the application as it is written. Pages 13 and 14 of the board packet describe each factor of evaluation in detail, however the biggest concerns for Mikalson included Desert Sky's ability to deliver a comprehensive program, their request for 400 students without a staggered enrollment approach, and the proposal being limited to first through eighth grades.

Kinkade clarified if the board chooses not to approve the application tonight, and accepts Mikalson's recommendation, Desert Sky Montessori does have an opportunity to resubmit their charter application. Mikalson noted the timeline and process for resubmission and board review.

Mikalson said his recommendation is based on the originally submitted application. He noted the time and efforts made by Bend-La Pine staff members in previous charter applications was extensive and his review and consideration of application materials will look different from previous charter application processes. Chair Juba asked who was part of the application review committee. Mikalson said Lora Nordquist, Dana Arntson, Jim Boen, Skip Offenhauser, Gary Timms, Sean Reinhart, Pam Palmer, Brad Henry and Zhai Logan each carefully reviewed the areas of the application specific to their expertise.

Kinkade asked for board member question or comments with each specific evaluation factor.

- a) Andy High asked how the review committee came to their decision as he felt local support was evident at the public hearing. Mikalson explained the OAR scoring guide and noted it is not entirely up to the public hearing. He was looking for market research, intent to enroll commitments, etc. to be more clearly documented.
- b) Ron Gallinat asked if the district will be providing a specific example of fiscal system the district is looking for. Mikalson said the district will provide specific feedback as best they can.
- c) High asked for clarification on why Mikalson would like kindergarten included in the school proposal. Mikalson explained he is supportive of options, however feels if kindergarten is not offered, it may limit those students interested in enrolling, especially those who are not able to afford a private Montessori kindergarten experience. For many families who start their children in their neighborhood school at kindergarten, they are less likely to move their student to a different school for first grade.
- d) No board questions or comments.
- e) Mikalson said he feels the application needs more specificity to align with current board policies around student discipline.
  - Kinkade asked if all schools and magnet programs are being held to the same standards as this application. Lora Nordquist answered yes and explained the application is not being held to a higher standard than what is currently being done in our schools. She added the charter application process is a tremendous amount of work.
  - Juba asked about highly qualified teachers. Dana Arntson explained the requirements for a charter school and that 100% of teachers have to be able to demonstrate subject area competency, which is what it means to be highly qualified. A charter school teacher has a different route to meeting highly qualified requirements, and seventh and eighth grade teachers are a little more complicated in meeting those requirements.
- f) High asked for clarification on the impact, if it was applicable for each charter or system wide. Mikalson explained the proposed 400 students in the application would account for about 2% of Bend-La Pine students. He noted Bend International School's approach to start small and scale up was an effort to help mitigate the initial pull of students from district schools.
- g) No board questions or comments.

Kinkade asked for any other board comments on the application or Mikalson's recommendation.

Ron Gallinat shared his appreciation to district staff for their work on evaluating the application, noting the time it takes to review. He also thanked Desert Sky for submitting an application, acknowledging the time it takes to put it together and work through the process.

Kinkade said the board is receptive and eager for options and she feels this is a good first draft, however, she can't approve something district staff feels is not quite ready. She would like to support a program with a high probability of success and is receptive to the application, but not ready to approve it as written. She encouraged Desert Sky Montessori to submit a second draft.

High said he has been struggling with the recommendation and noting the two charter applications being submitted close together and being handled differently by two different superintendents. He shared it doesn't feel fair to him, as Desert Sky was most likely following the path of Bend International School, where much district support was offered. High shared he has a child in a Montessori preschool and is struggling with the difference in the application process and hopes Desert Sky continues with their effort.

Julie Craig said she understands High's comments, but she appreciates this process more than the last charter application. She wants a charter application to come to the district and be top notch. She does not feel it is district staff's responsibility to hand hold, noting she appreciates it is an involved process for both

the applicant and the district. She is supportive of options and encouraged Desert Sky to submit another draft as she can not vote for the current proposal.

Cheri Helt thinks the state needs to figure out a better way for charters to apply. She shared with a tight budget, and limited administrative support it is too time consuming for staff to review and guide such applications along with their other responsibilities of serving our current students. She appreciates the effort and acknowledged that as a board, they are supportive of options for students. Helt added, 400 students equate to lost dollars and teachers, and with upcoming PERS changes and other fiscal demands losing 2% of district students will have a negative impact; a staggered enrollment would be her preference. Henry said 400 students being pulled out would roughly equate to 15-20 teachers. Helt said she can not support approval of the application and chooses to support the district's 17,000+ students and what is best for them.

Kinkade agreed with Helt and said she wants to feel sure about the financial side of the application and has seen other charters in the state struggle with finances shortly after opening, she does not want to put the district or Desert Sky in that position.

**Ron Gallinat moved to support the recommendation of Superintendent Mikalson to not approve Desert Sky Montessori's Charter Application as written. Julie Craig seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.** Kinkade thanked Desert Sky Montessori for their application and encouraged them to work on a second draft. She thanked district staff members who were part of the review committee. Mikalson said he appreciates the honest conversations and will continue to communicate with Desert Sky Montessori on their application. Nordquist added, this recommendation is in no way a question of the Montessori educational method, as it is well respected.

#### *Architect Approval: 2016 Bond Projects*

Brad Henry reviewed the recommendation included in the board packet for the summer 2016 bond projects at Juniper, La Pine Middle School, Amity Creek at Thompson, Pilot Butte Middle School and the Education Center. Henry reviewed the RFP process, noting two proposals were received and reviewed by the committee. The recommendation, in the board packet, is to split the projects into two packages. BBT Architects would be awarded the Amity Creek and Education Center projects. Steele Associates Architects, LLC would be awarded the Juniper Elementary, La Pine Middle School and Pilot Butte Middle School projects. Henry noted additional financial information at each board member's seat and offered to answer any questions.

Andy High declared a potential conflict of interest as both BBT Architects and Steele Associates Architects, LLC are members of COBA (High's place of employment) however he does not see any potential personal gain with this selection.

Ron Gallinat asked why the other firms who requested a bid did not ultimately submit a proposal. Mike Tiller was unsure.

Kinkade said many questions have been asked, and while she does not like the size of the fees, she feels her questions have been answered. She too would like to see a change in the state rules around architect selection. High agreed, noting the difficulty in selecting an architect without the ability to negotiate fees until after the selection has been made, a different process than what is used in the hard bid process. Chair Juba agreed, adding current laws make this process difficult for staff, however, there still needs to be care taken in the management of the process.

Gallinat thanked the construction committee for following up on questions and getting more information to board members. He appreciates district staff responsiveness and working to provide as much information as possible. High said he is excited to discuss Executive Limitation 7 – Facilities and work to clarify the process.

**Peggy Kinkade moved to approve the 2016 Construction Projects design contracts with BBT Architects as the design firm for Thompson and the Education Center for a fee of \$582,980; and Steele Associates as the design firm for Juniper, La Pine Middle and Pilot Butte Middle for a fee of \$508,633. Ron Gallinat seconded the motion. Five yay votes and one no vote from Chair Juba. Motion carried.**

## **Policy Governance**

### *Executive Limitation 7 – Facilities*

Chair Juba introduced Steve Lowder who will help the board work through the policy governance discussion. Vice Chair Kinkade reviewed the most recent draft of EL 7 in the board packet and explained where she had updated the language from the last version.

Juba thanked Kinkade for her work and taking board feedback into consideration in the most current draft. Lowder thanked the board and Kinkade for inviting him to help, noting the most effective policies are lean while at the same time express the voice of the board which helps guide the direction for district staff work, not a simple task. Lowder emphasized policies and procedures are really designed to help avoid problems and create a reasonable comfort level for both the board and staff members. It is important and complex work and, when done well, will help the district run more smoothly.

Kinkade noted Carver’s philosophy and the concept of policy governance is to not be overly prescriptive. The board discussed areas in EL 7 where they would like to be more specific and how board committees and district committees work together and when reports, updates, etc. would be made.

High suggested the board work through the current draft and discuss concerns specific to each section. Helt felt the policy was thorough and complimented Kinkade on her work. Lowder agreed, noting it is well written and very comprehensive. Mikalson agreed, adding numbers three and four are areas he would like more clarification from the board.

- 1) No comments.
- 2) High suggested adding efficiency and cost savings.
- 3) Discussion about the current Sites and Facilities Committee process ensued and clarification on what role the board plays in the committee, possibly writing a charge for the committee, and being involved or informed of the committees’ work was discussed. The board agreed they would write a charge for the Sites and Facilities Committee members and regular updates or reports to the board on committee work would be appropriate.
- 4) The board discussed how they would like to work through the approval process of new facilities. Discussion of programming, revising the RFP process and scoring guide used, change order process and after project evaluation ensued with several suggestions on ways to help improve the process for both the board and district staff.
- 5) No comments.
- 6) High suggested looking at programs housed in district schools and how the district maintains a fair and consistent practice with facility usage. He shared his concern with programs that are not district programs, but because they are housed at schools, look to be sponsored or endorsed by the district. Julie Craig agreed and High suggested some review process of programs with contracted partners who have first rights to district facilities. Brad Henry explained the current contract the district is in with Bend Parks and Recreation and will send the board a copy to review.
- 7) A suggestion was made to add wording about board approval for sponsorships.

Kinkade asked board members to send her any other comments. She will have a revised draft ready for the next board meeting, taking into consideration suggestions and discussions. The board decided to discuss Executive Limitation 3 – Treatment of Students, Parents/Guardians and The Public at the October 27 meeting.

Superintendent Milkalson thanked Kinkade for her work and Lowder for his help facilitating the discussion. Juba said he looks forward to seeing what district staff recommends for the RFP and scoring process.

**Board Comments**

Cheri Helt thanked Pam Beasley for her work with students and the student performance tonight. She also thanked Marilyn Burwell for the books.

Meeting adjourned at 10:08p.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea Wilson  
10.13.15