

Bend-La Pine Schools Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: February 11, 2020

Meeting Location:

Bend-La Pine Schools Education Center
520 NW Wall Street, Bend, OR 97703

Board Members Present

Julie Craig
Carrie Douglass
Shimiko Montgomery
Caroline Skidmore
Melissa Barnes Dholakia
Amy Tatom
Stuart Young

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Co-Chair Craig. The Pledge of Allegiance and review of the agenda followed.

Public Input

Co-Chair Craig reviewed the process for public comment.

Judy Fuentes, art teacher at Pine Ridge Elementary, shared a handout with the Board and spoke about the importance of art education at the elementary level. She encouraged the district to consider using Student Investment Account funds to support art teachers and programs at the elementary level.

Sharon Bellusci, community member, read a statement from the district website about reading. She shared her disappointment in the 3rd grade reading scores. She noted there is no mention of improving of reading outcomes in the district's Strategic Investment Plan and she urged the district to invest funds to ensure that staff are trained in strategies for teaching effective literacy.

Kayla Lind-Krumvieda and Avery Gerber, teachers, asked if a date had been scheduled for South County staff input on Student Investment Plan. Co-Chair Craig said the Board is coordinating schedules and will communicate once a date is determined.

Jamie Bowman, parent, spoke about the Black Lives Matter curriculum and the importance of having it in schools. She is hopeful that hiring a diverse workforce will be a priority with Student Investment Account funds. She shared that she read the Student Investment Plan and saw no mention of helping LGBTQ students and her desire that the district put more focus on intersectional identity, not just race, or trauma, so that all students are supported.

Jen Jennings, parent, shared a handout with the Board, and spoke on the importance of the Black Lives Matter curriculum and urged the district to continue to include this curriculum, or similar, in a consistent format across all schools. She thanked the district for seeing the importance in hiring a diverse staff as noted in the Student Investment Plan.

Consent Agenda

Stuart Young moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Co-Chair Douglass seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Action Items

❖ Resolution 1893 – Classified Employee Appreciation Week

Amy Tatom read Resolution 1893 aloud.

Amy Tatom moved to approve Resolution 1893 – Classified Employee Appreciation Week. Stuart Young seconded the motion. Unanimous approval

❖ Appointment of Budget Committee Members

Amy Tatom noted the two vacancies on the Budget Committee and reviewed the process she and Caroline Skidmore led to interview candidates. Skidmore noted that all of the applicants were impressive and shared her thanks for their desire to be engaged with the district. She encouraged those who are not selected to be on the Budget Committee to continue to find ways to serve and volunteer in the district.

Co-Chair Craig noted there would be three separate action items as Matt Hilman would like to be reappointed, one vacancy is to complete the remainder of Tatom's term and the other vacancy is a three-year term.

- **Amy Tatom moved to reappoint Matt Hillman to a three-year term on the Bend-La Pine Schools' Budget Committee. Stuart Young seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.**
- **Amy Tatom moved to appoint Marcus LeGrand to a three-year term. Melissa Barnes Dholakia seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.**
- **Amy Tatom moved to appoint Sharon Bellusci to complete the remainder of Tatom's term, which is one-year, on the Bend-La Pine Schools' Budget Committee. Co-Chair Douglass seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.**

❖ High Desert Education Services District Local Service Plan

Superintendent Mikalson introduced Paul Andrews, HDESD Superintendent, to share about the 2020-2021 Local Service Plan. Andrews introduced HDESD board members and staff and reviewed the process and timelines for approval. He noted the services provided are in a menu-style format that each district negotiates with the HDESD. Mikalson noted the Board is being asked to approve the plan tonight, from there the district will enter negotiations on services and contract details.

Co-Chair Craig shared her appreciation for the partnership between the district and the HDESD. She thanked Andrews for his leadership and the support the HDESD provides to districts across Central Oregon. Amy Tatom noted her appreciation for the support the HDESD provides to pre-school aged children so that they are coming to school more prepared to learn.

Stuart Young moved to approve the 2020-2021 High Desert Education Service District Local Service Plan as presented. Amy Tatom seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Reports

❖ New High School Naming Committee Recommendation

Superintendent Mikalson introduced Chris Boyd, principal of the new high school, to share about the process he led for naming the new high school. Mikalson noted the executive summary in the Board packet which includes the district's naming process. Tonight, the Board will hear the naming committee's recommendations and will take action on a name in a future board meeting.

Boyd introduced members of the naming committee and thanked them for their time and thoughtful participation. Committee members shared about the survey process, research and how they prioritized and vetted suggested names. The committee's decision-making framework included a name that would: transcend cultures, be unique to south / southeast Bend, convey pride for the area, and evoke emotion.

The three names recommended by the naming committee, in rank order:

1. Caldera High School
2. Woodlands High School
3. Vista High School

Amy Tatom asked, of the students the committee worked with, what was their favorite. Boyd shared that Caldera High School was the student's top choice. He noted once students understood what a caldera was and what it represented; they were very much in favor of the name.

Superintendent Mikalson thanked Boyd and the naming committee for the recommendations. He complimented Boyd on the thorough process and thoughtful recommendations brought forward. He noted the names and a summary of the rationale for each at each Board member's seat.

❖ **Secondary Attendance Area Committee Recommendation**

Superintendent Mikalson noted the executive summary in the Board packet which summarizes the work and final recommendation for secondary attendance area boundaries by the Attendance Area Committee. He thanked committee members for their time and efforts over the past couple of years, working to review and reestablish both elementary and secondary attendance areas. Mikalson said he will review community feedback on the final attendance area recommendation and will announce his decision in early March. He encouraged parents, students, staff, and community members to review the map and share feedback via the online survey which closes on February 19.

❖ **Strategic Investment Account Plan Update**

Superintendent Mikalson noted the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) at each Board member's seat, which is also posted on the district's website. He shared about the work the district has done, starting with the Excellence & Equity Review and how the district has taken what was learned through that process to establish investment priorities for the Student Investment Account (SIA) funds and ultimately formulate the Strategic Investment Plan. He reviewed the parameters, set by the state, for how SIA funds are to be invested: reducing class size, addressing students' health and safety needs, increasing instructional time, and expanding students' access to well-rounded learning experiences.

Mikalson noted that funding dollars provided to the district will change, as the initial amount is based on the current school year's demographic and enrollment data. Mikalson reviewed the ways in which the district plans to invest new funds. He added, that while the investment dollars are exciting and historic, public education in Oregon is still significantly underfunded.

Mikalson encouraged all to dig into the investment plan as well as the other resources provided to help understand the district's investment strategies. He reviewed the timeline and next steps in the process, which includes Board approval of the SIP, submission of the SIA application to the state, a grant agreement process with ODE, a public review and Board approval of the grant agreement, and finalization of the grant agreement with the state.

Co-Chair Craig asked when more detailed information for new positions will be available. Mikalson said the district intends to provide staffing plans to schools by March 13 which will have specific details about FTE being

added to each school / department. Melissa Barnes Dholakia shared her appreciation for the process the district has used through the Excellence & Equity Review and the alignment of the investments to needs identified in the review process. She encouraged staff and community members to dig into the reports on the district website. Barnes Dholakia added, that she is thrilled the district will be hiring a person to support, lead and train staff members in diversity, equity and inclusion which will ultimately support all students. Young agreed with Barnes Dholakia and noted this truly is a wonderful opportunity.

Discussion Item

❖ Superintendent Vacancy Next Steps

Co-Chair Craig introduced Dr. David Cash, with Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates (HYA), to share an update on the superintendent search process. Cash noted the work done to date, including several listening sessions which provided opportunities for HYA to hear from community, staff, parents and students. He shared a handout with Board members, highlighting strengths and challenges heard from constituents about the district.

Cash reviewed identified and desired character traits for the next superintendent and said HYA intends to meet the challenge of finding a candidate that will uniquely fill the role of the superintendent. He will be attending the AASA Conference in San Diego in the next days to help in the recruitment process. Co-Chair Douglass commented that she would like HYA to prioritize and condense this information before including it in the job description. Stuart Young added he would like to see visionary as a desired quality.

Board Comments

Amy Tatom thanked all who were still in attendance and appreciates the vested interest from community and staff members.

Co-Craig reflected on the incoming freshman orientation she attended at Bend Senior High recently. She appreciated the enthusiasm and excitement staff generated for incoming students. She also thanked members of the Attendance Area Review Committee for their time and thoughtful approach to the recommendation provided to Superintendent Mikalson. Craig also complimented the Excellence & Equity Review process and is grateful for the valuable information it provided to the district and how it has helped guide investments.

Caroline Skidmore commented on the Latino Family Night recently held at Mt. View High School. She thought the event was excellent and was excited to see so many families and students engaged. She noted efforts being made at various schools in the district in honor of Black History Month as well as ongoing climate action work taking place in schools.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Recorded by: Andrea Wilson

Minutes approved at 3.10.2020 board meeting

