

Bend-La Pine Schools Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: April 14, 2020

Meeting Location:

To support Governor Brown's executive orders for social distancing, the Board of Directors conducted the special session meeting virtually, through Cisco Webex.

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 6:10 p.m. by Co-Chair Craig, roll call followed.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Consent Agenda

Amy Tatom moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Melissa Barnes Dholakia seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Action Items

❖ **Resolution 1895 : School Bus Purchase Financing**

Brad Henry reviewed the executive summary in the board packet and offered to answer any questions. Should the Board approve the financing, the district would begin to solicit quotes from financial institutions and look to close the financing in May.

Stuart Young moved to approve Resolution 1895 : School Bus Purchase Financing. Melissa Barnes Dholakia seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

❖ **Resolution 1896 : Certified Employee Appreciation Week**

Melissa Barnes Dholakia read Resolution 1896 aloud and, noting that while certified employee appreciation week is celebrated May 4-8, 2020; all staff members should be celebrated and recognized for the tremendous work and efforts to support students and their families during the COVID-19 situation.

Melissa Barnes Dholakia moved to approve Resolution 1896 : Certified Employee Appreciation Week. Co-Chair Douglass seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

❖ **Superintendent Nordquist Contract for the 2020-21 School Year**

Co-Chair Craig reviewed the contract proposed for Lora Nordquist to serve as interim Superintendent for the 2020-21 school year. There were no questions or discussion.

Stuart Young moved to approve Nordquist's contract as presented. Amy Tatom seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Reports

❖ **EL 9 : Technology Policy Monitoring Report**

Lora Nordquist introduced and thanked Ben Hansen and Skip Offenhauser for their leadership and efforts over the past weeks as the district transitioned into remote learning as a result of the COVID-19 closures. Nordquist noted that their forethought and leadership allowed the district to implement remote learning options for students incredibly fast with minimal disruptions.

Offenhauser reviewed major accomplishments made in Instructional Technology over the past year. Remote learning, instructional tools and tutorials for staff, students and families, and the expansion of the Bend-La Pine Online program are just a few of the highlights of the work done in 2019-20. Hansen reviewed the major accomplishments in Information Technology over the past year. He noted the work to transition and implement remote learning, increased security measures, upgrades to the district's network storage system and implementation of a district-wide audio/video conference system are a few of the highlights of the work done in 2019-20. Offenhauser and Hansen each noted the priorities and work they would like to focus on in their respective areas for the 2020-21 school year.

Hansen shared the Cisco Webex system is being used by district staff and students for meetings and classes. Since the COVID-19 closures, over 2,000 individual Webex meetings are occurring each day. The district has been supporting students and families with connectivity limitations by partnering with BendBroadband for free or discounted internet services, and the district has ordered 1,000 hotspots from T-Mobile to distribute to students. 500 hot spots should arrive next week and Hansen reviewed the distribution plan established to serve students in need. Nordquist said schools and FAN Advocates have been collecting information for students in need and with initial numbers, the district will be able to deliver a hotspot to all identified students.

Co-Chair Craig asked about timing and process for the digital review. Offenhauser said the district is still planning to do the review, however timelines have been delayed. The district is hopeful to start the work in fall of 2020 and will follow the same process as previously discussed.

Stuart Young complimented Offenhauser, Hansen and their teams for their incredible work over the past weeks. He is looking forward to the digital review and learning more from the experiences with remote learning. Barnes Dholakia agreed and would like the district to use the current circumstances to reflect on experiences, effectiveness of devices, and access for all students.

❖ **Policy Update 3 of 4**

Andrea Wilson reviewed the executive summary and quarterly report of policies and regulations that have been updated and offered to answer any questions. There were no questions or discussion.

Discussion Items

❖ **Visioning**

Co-Chair Craig said the Board would be meeting on April 28 and May 26 in a Special Session, via Webex, to discuss the Board's vision. Co-Chair Douglass suggested she and Melissa Barnes Dholakia work together to develop an agenda and put materials together. Board members agreed.

Board Comments

Melissa Barnes Dholakia shared her appreciation to all staff members for their tremendous efforts and care during these unprecedented times.

Amy Tatom also shared her thanks and appreciation to staff members and added she is looking forward to next school year.

Shimiko Montgomery shared her appreciation for the work to shift to digital learning in a matter of weeks. She noted her concerns for students who are struggling with internet connectivity and appreciates the district's efforts to work with students and families to provide them resources during these times.

Co-Chair Craig thanked district staff for their work and would like to continue to look at ways to support students without or who have limited connectivity beyond the COVID-19 closures. Superintendent Mikalson said the district is continually working to provide equal access for all students, and access will be a key element in the digital review process. Offenhauser added that the work being done now, to identify student needs, will be very helpful as it provides hard data to plan for and implement next steps.

Caroline Skidmore thanked the district for the incredible work over the past few weeks and expressed her appreciation for the efforts being made by Special Education staff members to help support students and families.

Stuart Young echoed fellow Board members and shared his appreciation for all staff members. He congratulated Nordquist and thanked her for her willingness to step in as superintendent during these times. He added, her leadership over the next year will be vital and he is confident in her abilities. Young thanked Brad Henry and the finance team for their work to prepare and present the 2020-21 budget.

Co-Chair Craig and Douglass thanked all for attending and participating in a virtual meeting format.

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Recorded by: Andrea Wilson

Approved at 5.12.2020 board meeting