



Bend-La Pine Schools School Board Regular Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location:

Virtual with live streaming available at <https://bls.fyi/boardmeeting>

Meeting Date: October 12, 2021

Board Members

Melissa Barnes Dholakia:	Present
Marcus LeGrand:	Present
Janet Sarai Llerandi Gonzalez:	Present
Carrie McPherson Douglass:	Present
Shimiko Montgomery:	Absent
Shirley Olson:	Present
Amy Tatom:	Present

1. Call to Order

Speaker(s): Chair Barnes Dholakia

Discussion: The meeting was called to order by Chair Barnes Dholakia at 5:34 p.m. It was noted that Janet Sarai Llerandi Gonzalez was joining the meeting virtually and that the ASL interpreters were Erin Trimble and Kayla Celedon.

Barnes Dholakia exercised her right as Board Chair to make a statement regarding the National School Board Association's request of the federal government to provide relief, protection, and action in terms of the organized and concerted attacks on school boards across the country. She shared the importance of public engagement, collaboration and communication without harassment, intimidation, and targeting of board members, especially BIPOC board members.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Speaker(s): Chair Barnes Dholakia

Discussion: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Barnes Dholakia.

3. Review of Agenda

Speaker(s): Chair Barnes Dholakia

Description: Any changes to the Agenda after posting on October 8, 2021, are shown below.

Discussion: There were no changes to the agenda.

4. District Recognitions

A. Champion for Students Award

Discussion: Superintendent Cook presented the Champion for Students award to Family Access Network (FAN) for the tremendous positive impact they have had on thousands of families within Bend-La Pine Schools; for connecting families with essential services, removing barriers that allow students to stay in school, offering hope to those who need it most and ultimately helping improve the lives of thousands of our students and their families. Dana Pederson accepted the award on behalf of FAN.

5. Public Comment

Speaker(s): Chair Barnes Dholakia

Description: This is the time provided for individuals to address the Board. Public Comment is accepted via Google Form until 12:00 p.m. on October 12, 2021.

Discussion: Chair Barnes Dholakia reminded the audience that the Board and District leadership value communication from students, families, staff, and community members as it helps to guide the work of Bend-La Pine Schools. She reminded the audience that board meetings are a meeting in public and not with the public. She advised the audience that public comment would be heard in the order of the agenda, with a maximum of 10 minutes per agenda item and a total of 10 minutes for non-agendized items. Individual speakers are afforded a maximum of two minutes.

Tyler Dickenson, senior at Bend High School in the Design Justice class, spoke regarding the new dress code policy. He thanked the district for their willingness to implement a dress code that is based on the draft created in his class and urged the Board to ensure the policy is equitably enforced across the district.

Jamie Cordell, Deschutes County resident, spoke on behalf of students that have had school experiences taken away from them due to COVID. She pleaded that dances and school events be allowed to take place if the city can hold events.

6. Consent for Action

Speaker(s): Chair Barnes Dholakia

Description: Items that are routine in nature are placed on the Consent Agenda. Any item placed on the Consent for Action may be removed at the request of any Board member prior to the time a vote is taken. All remaining items of the Consent for Action are then disposed of in a single motion.

Action(s): I move to approve the Consent for Action as presented. This motion, made by Carrie McPherson Douglass and seconded by Marcus LeGrand, Carried.

Voting Detail: Melissa Barnes Dholakia: Yea, Marcus LeGrand: Yea, Janet Sarai Llerandi Gonzalez: Yea, Carrie McPherson Douglass: Yea, Shimiko Montgomery: Absent, Shirley Olson: Yea, Amy Tatom: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

A. Approval of Minutes

Description: September 14, 2021, Regular Board Meeting and September 24, 2021, Board Work Session
Reference: ORS192.650 and ORS 332.057

Attachments: 9.14.21 Minutes – DRAFT and 9.28.21 Minutes - DRAFT

B. Approval of Personnel Recommendations

Description: Administrative, Licensed, Classified, and Confidential Staff Recommended Hires, Resignations, and Retirements

Reference: ORS 332.505

Attachments: Administrative & Licensed Board Report 10-12-21 and Classified Board Report 10-5-21

7. Discussion

A. Board Policies in Review

Speaker(s): Chair Barnes Dholakia

Description: Board Policies, Governance Processes, Executive Limitations, Board Ends, and Board Staff Linkages that require School Board review. Public feedback regarding the policies in review is accepted beginning Wednesday, October 13, 2021, through Tuesday, October 26, 2021, via Google Form.

Attachments: Executive Summary - Board Policies in Review

Discussion: Chair Barnes Dholakia shared that as part of policy governance, the governance processes, executive limitations, board ends, board staff linkages, and specific district policies require board approval. The following policies, GP-6 Governance Process; Executive Limitation 3: Treatment of Students, Parents/Guardians, & the Public; Executive Limitation 4: Treatment of Staff; and Executive Limitation 10: Financial Planning & Administration, are currently being reviewed by the Board.

Barnes Dholakia noted that the recommended changes to GP-6 include updates to revise the process for prioritizing speakers during the public comment portion of the meeting, clarifying the typical time allotted for public comment during meetings, and clarifying item 4 in regards to the majority "4 of 7" voting requirement, as only a quorum is required not the full 7 members. She stated that Executive Limitations 3, 4, and 10 have minor grammatical corrections as recommended changes. It was shared that the process is for the policies to be reviewed for the next 30 days and public feedback accepted via Google Form, which is linked in the board packet and available on the district website, until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 26, 2021.

1. **GP-6 Governance Process**

Speaker(s): Chair Barnes Dholakia

Attachments: GP-6 draft 9.21.21

2. **Executive Limitation 3 - Treatment of Students, Parents/Guardians & the Public**

Attachments: EL-3 - DRAFT 10.12.21

3. **Executive Limitation 4 - Treatment of Staff**

Attachments: EL-4 - DRAFT 10.12.21

4. **Executive Limitation 10 - Financial Planning & Administration**

Attachments: EL-10 - DRAFT 10.12.21

8. **Reports**

A. **Executive Session Findings**

Speaker(s): Chair Barnes Dholakia

Description: Report out from October 12, 2021, 5:00 p.m. Executive Session regarding a complaint the Board received and the findings of the investigation.

Discussion: Chair Barnes Dholakia shared that the Board met in Executive Session at 5:00 p.m. pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(b) and (2)(f) to review the findings of an independent investigator that was hired to ensure impartiality in the investigation. The findings were that the claims were unsubstantiated and that the complainant misrepresented the actual events that happened. She stated that the Board sees that there are no findings to cause any further action against Vice Chair Marcus LeGrand.

B. **Choice Options Data Report**

Speaker(s): Deputy Superintendent Nordquist

Attachments: Executive Summary - Choice Options, Magnet and Choice School Data, and Choice Options Data Report Slideshow

Discussion: Deputy Superintendent Nordquist provided the board with a comprehensive list of all magnet/choice school options in the district which included entire schools as well as programs within schools. In regards to neighborhood walking zones, she noted that the smaller choice schools have small walk zone areas, whereas the larger schools that have programs within the school have walking zones that incorporate the entire attendance area of that school. It was also shared that because REALMS was originally a charter school, it does not have a neighborhood attendance area. Specifically related to the neighborhood walking zone at Bear Creek Elementary, Nordquist explained there are four categories of

students that are considered in the lottery process and how complicated the process can become.

Nordquist shared that the dual immersion programs, EL education schools (Realms), the middle years program at Pilot Butte Middle School and the IB program at Bend Senior High School all receive extra funding to provide financial support for the purchase of curricular materials, additional professional development, and certification costs for certain programs.

Waitlist information was shared with the board, noting that some of the wait lists are currently shorter than they have been historically during this time period, which could be related to the pandemic. It was also pointed out that the dual immersion program model is 50/50 (Spanish as a first language/English as a first language), so more students with Spanish as a first language would need to be enrolled in the program before it could grow with additional English as a first language students. Discussion ensued about the importance of maintaining that model so as to not diminish the importance of incorporating culture and native language in the learning environment. It was also discussed how important reviewing and incorporating the concepts of choice programs and magnet schools is when opening new schools within the district.

C. Division 22 Assurances

Speaker(s): Deputy Superintendent Nordquist

Attachments: Executive Summary - Division 22 Assurances and Bend-La Pine Schools Division 22 Report

Discussion: Deputy Superintendent Nordquist reported on the annual Division 22 Compliance Report. She noted that in the 2019-20 school year, the state waived nearly all requirements due to the pandemic and that this past year approximately six were waived. Districts that are out of compliance have a full year to take corrective actions. The district is currently out of compliance in regards to instructional time in choice and magnet schools, mostly due to transportation issues and in regards to adoption of instructional materials for Bend-La Pine Schools Online (BLSO). Katie Legace, Director of High School Programs, will work with leaders of Bend Tech Academy and Realms High School to ensure the transportation issues are resolved for the 2022-23 school year. Amy Tarnow, administrator for BLSO, is leading a team in the adoption of curriculum for the program and will present a recommendation to the Board in the spring.

There was some discussion involving the waived requirements and whether the district was meeting them even though they were waived. Nordquist pointed out that some of the waived requirements were assessments that will be returning as we come out of the pandemic. Another requirement that the district is working on is the PE requirements for grades K-8 due to the instructional time requirements.

D. Executive Limitation-7: Facilities Report

Speaker(s): Mike Tiller, Executive Director of Facilities

Description: Update on Executive Limitation-7: Facilities, to include update on District Sustainability Plan

Attachments: Executive Summary -Executive Limitation-7, Executive Limitation-7 Report October 2021, and BLS owned real estate with acreage and comp plan designation 10-08-21

Discussion: Mike Tiller, Executive Director of Facilities, reviewed Executive Limitation 7 (EL-7). He provided highlights of projects from the past year, including LED upgrades throughout the district and HVAC control system upgrades. Tiller also provided a list of bond projects that had recently been completed, including Caldera High School, two new school gyms, Bend High School Phase One, and cafeteria additions at two schools. The priorities for 2021-22 are to continue projects that maximize energy savings across the district. He mentioned that the Sites and Facilities Committee has convened and they are in the process of completing the charge to refresh the 20-year-long range plan set forth by the board.

Sharon Smith, legal counsel for the district, provided a brief overview of the district's sustainability plan.

She noted the five-year plan will be updated every five years and includes 12 goals and strategies to meet the goals that will be implemented in the coming years. Smith shared that the plan is imbedded within bond projects when buildings are designed to ensure they are as energy efficient as possible. She shared that Jackie Wilson, Sustainability Coordinator, was instrumental in the development of the plan and highlighted that our district is the first and only district east of the cascades to have an electric school bus.

E. Student Investment Account (SIA) Update

Speaker(s): Superintendent Cook

Attachments: Executive Summary - SIA Update and SIA Update Slideshow

Discussion: Superintendent Cook shared that the Student Success Act was passed in Oregon in 2010 and called for 50% of monies allocated to be dedicated to the Student Investment Account (SIA). The district undertook the task of preparing for the funds by conducting listening sessions, compiling information, and strategically planning. Cook shared that the district was given nearly \$13 million and that half of the funds were spent on class size reduction and the other half on social emotional learning (SEL). He introduced Sean Reinhart, Executive Direction of Student Services, and Jennifer Hauth, Director of Social Emotional and Mental Well-Being, to discuss how the funds are being used in regards to SEL.

Reinhart shared that social and emotional support for students is not only for struggling students, for students who need some help, but should be embedded into everything we do, Tier 1, and worked down through the system to the students who need more, Tier 2, and those that need even more, Tier 3. He discussed in more detail how the district came up with its plan for the funds and where the initial investments were made. Jennifer Hauth shared a roadmap preview of where the district is now and where it is going. She gave an overview of what social emotional learning is and how that is integrated into classrooms and building cultures. It was discussed that the goal of implementation is that SEL become part of the core and integrated practices of BLS and that one of the biggest challenges will be defining and measuring outcomes related to the work.

Vice Chair LeGrand inquired as to how and when the district plans to incorporate stakeholder voice in the process. The importance of including those voices early in the process of developing practices and curriculum was noted by Reinhart and Hauth.

Shirley Olson inquired as to the challenge of professional development for this work. Reinhart shared that digging deeper and finding more ways to train people and ways to get SEL practices integrated into schools will take practice and time.

Chair Barnes Dholakia shared her excitement about this work and noted that this is not about curriculum adoption but more about practice adoption.

Janet Sarai Llerandi Gonzalez reemphasized the need for student, staff, and administrator voices in helping to identify needs to help drive the intention of the work. She also encouraged district staff to hear student voices in ways that aren't traditionally heard to paint a more honest picture of the needs of the community.

Carrie McPherson Douglass asked for additional information at a future meeting regarding the district's plans regarding partnership with families around SEL.

F. Finance Report

Speaker(s): Leah Bibeau, Finance Director

Description: Finance Report 1 of 4 for the year including an enrollment update.

Attachments: Financial Statements October 2021 Final

Discussion: Leah Bibeau, Finance Director, reviewed the first quarter finance report. She shared that the auditors are currently on site to finalize the annual comprehensive financial report for last year. In regards to enrollment, as of October 1st the district is down 932 students from the original projection, which results in a \$7.7 million decrease in funds. Bibeau shared that other districts across the state are seeing similar trends in enrollment. Expenditures are still being processed due to late hiring and classified staffing is likely to be underspent due to inability to fill certain positions. Open positions and natural attrition will be monitored throughout the year to even out staffing needs caused by decreased enrollment.

Chair Barnes Dholakia inquired as to the overall budget final fund balance falling below the total reserve of 5% as required by board policy. Bibeau shared that once hiring, student enrollment, and the state rebalancing of funds are complete, the reserve should be met.

9. Action Items

A. General Obligation Bond Refunding

Speaker(s): Brad Henry, Chief Operations and Financial Officer

Action(s): I move to approve Resolution 1923 Advance Refunding of the 2013 Series B General Obligation Bonds. This motion, made by Amy Tatom and seconded by Janet Sarai Llerandi Gonzalez, Carried.

Voting Detail: Melissa Barnes Dholakia: Yea, Marcus LeGrand: Yea, Janet Sarai Llerandi Gonzalez: Yea, Carrie McPherson Douglass: Yea, Shimiko Montgomery: Absent, Shirley Olson: Yea, Amy Tatom: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Attachments: Executive Summary - Advance Refunding of the 2013 Series B General Obligation Bonds - Authorizing Resolution and Resolution 1923 - Advance Refunding of the 2013 Series B General Obligation Bonds - Authorizing Resolution

Discussion: Brad Henry, Chief Operations and Financial Officer, presented that the district has an opportunity to refund some of the general obligation bonds that are set to mature between 2023-2033. The current projection would save the district approximately \$7.5 million over the lifetime of the bonds. He clarified that if the market were to change and the refunding would not benefit the district, the district could stop the process.

10. Administrative Policies and Regulations Reports

Speaker(s): Chair Barnes Dholakia

A. Administrative Policies and Regulations for Adoption

Speaker(s): Superintendent Cook

Description: List of District Policies and/or Regulations that the District is adopting.

Attachments: Executive Summary - 10.12.21 Administrative Polices and Regulations for adoption

Discussion: Superintendent Cook shared that policies and or regulations, DLCA-AR: Staff Travel, JFCA-AR: Student Code of Dress, INB-AP: Studying Controversial Issues, INB-AR: Studying Controversial Issues, and IIA-AR: Instructional Materials Selection are being adopted by the District.

DLCA-AR: Staff Travel was updated with per diem meal rates for employee travel. No public comment was received.

JFCA-AR: Student Code of Dress was last revised in 2004. The recommended updates included more inclusive language and clarification of the goals and values Bend-La Pine Schools seeks to uphold in regards to student dress. The only comments were received during board member discussion at the 8/24/21 board meeting, which resulted in minor edits. Those edits are shown in green on the policy attached to the board packet.

INB-AP: Studying Controversial Issues is a new policy to provide context and purpose for studying controversial issues. There is a corresponding INB-AR which reviews the detail and process. No public comment was received.

INB-AR: Studying Controversial Issues includes updates clarifying the process to be used when studying controversial issues. No public comment was received.

IIA-AR: Instructional Materials Selection was rewritten to align with the process and practices currently taking place in Bend-La Pine Schools. No public comment was received.

Chair Barnes Dholakia thanked the district for the new policy and regulation review process for the transparency that it provides.

1. **DLCA-AR - Staff Travel**
Attachments:
DLCA-AR travel procedure 8.9.21 DRAFT
2. **JFCA-AR - Student Code of Dress**
Attachments:
JFCA-AR draft 10.12.21 updated
3. **INB-AP - Studying Controversial Issues**
Attachments:
INB-AP draft
4. **INB-AR - Studying Controversial Issues Process**
Attachments:
INB-AR draft
5. **IIA-AR - Instructional Materials Selection**
Attachments:
IIA-AR draft

11. Board Comments

Description: Board members will each have an opportunity to provide any comments or thoughts before the meeting is adjourned.

Discussion: Shirley Olson noted that she stands with Chair Barnes Dholakia's opening statement regarding the status and direction of the board and thanked her for being so explicit.

Carrie McPherson Douglass shared that she had an opportunity to have a conversation with the group Black History 365, which included a great demonstration of a sample student lesson in regards to studying controversial issues. She shared that the format encouraged everyone to listen and be heard and she found it to be a productive and thoughtful conversation with people of varying views.

Amy Tatom appreciated Chair Barnes Dholakia's opening statement and the hard work that everyone put into the meeting.

Vice Chair Marcus LeGrand shared that he met with a group of students recently and they mentioned how tired they are as the curriculum is really ramping up right now in their classes. He encourages students to advocate for breaks and for teachers to take this into consideration.

Janet Sarai Llerandi Gonzalez thanked Melissa for her opening comments and for the very full agenda.

Chair Melissa Barnes Dholakia shared about some of her work since the last board meeting. She met with Heart of Oregon Corps students recently regarding the work around the district's dress code as well as a

constituent this morning and always values the opportunity to have discussions and conversations with community members. Along with a few other board members, she met with city council members and members of Bend Senior High to discuss working together regarding the houselessness problem and the planned managed camp near the school. She also gave a shout out to Kay Duncan, Support Person of the Year, and Tami Pike, Administrator of the Year.

12. Adjourn

Description: Meeting will be adjourned with Board Work Session scheduled for October 26, 2021, and the next Regular School Board Meeting scheduled for November 9, 2021.

Discussion: Chair Barnes Dholakia adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Recorded by: Janet Bojanowski, Board Clerk

Minutes approved at 11.9.21 Board Meeting