

Bend-La Pine Schools
Bend, OR 97701

The Board of Directors for Bend-La Pine Schools met in a regular meeting on April 14, 2015 in room 314 of the Education Center, at 520 NW Wall Street, Bend, OR 97701.

Board Members Present

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:09p by Co-Chair Helt. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Public Input

Grant Mattox, teacher from Elk Meadow Elementary and 5th grade Elk Meadow student Joyce Lopez celebrated Elk Meadow's recent Lopez's recent accomplishment of being selected as a 2015 Oregon School Wellness Award winner and Lopez being selected to attend the Fuel Up to Play 60 Summit this summer in Chicago. Lopez was one of two students in the state of Oregon invited to attend. Mattox noted this is a great honor is very proud of Lopez and her accomplishments. Peggy Kinkade asked how Lopez was selected. Lopez said she filled out forms, tracked her activities and submitted a video about what she does to promote wellness at school. Julie Craig asked Lopez what she would learn about in Chicago. Lopez said she would be learning about food, nutrition and healthy lifestyle habits. Co-Chair Helt thanked Lopez and Mattox for sharing and looks forward to hearing about the trip.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Wilkinson shared Gary Whitley, counselor at Bend Senior High, was recently named the SAGE Citizen of the Year by the Bend Chamber for his commitment to serving others. Wilkinson noted Whitley's long-time service to the students in the district and shared his appreciation for his work and dedication. He also thanked the Education Foundation for their continued support with their most recent fundraising effort, the Trivia Bee. A team from La Pine Middle School won the bee. Bend-La Pine employees donated more than \$25,000 this year to United Way, which Wilkinson appreciates the generosity of staff members investing in our community. He also congratulated Bend Senior High freshman, Cassandra Shaffer, who was named to the U.S. Paralympics swimming team roster, noting she will compete in the 2015 Parapan American Games in Toronto. He also noted athletic accomplishments and OSAA's recognition of Tommy Brewer and Nick Mason from Summit High School, Ellyana Ferrin from Bend High School, and Davis Holly and Ments Haugen from Mt. View High School as Athletes of the Meet during their State Championship competitions.

Consent Agenda

Andy High moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Ron Gallinat seconded the motion.

Co-Chair Helt noted there are four teachers retiring with a combined 100+ years of service. She thanked Bob Markland for his multiple times serving as the BEA president and will miss working with him.

Unanimous approval.

Action

Resolution 1814 – Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4-8, 2015

Superintendent Wilkinson read aloud Resolution 1814 and encouraged the Board to support and recognize teacher appreciation week.

Ron Gallinat moved to approve Resolution 1814. Peggy Kinkade seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Reports

Elementary English Language Arts Adoption Update

Lora Nordquist introduced Julie Walker and reviewed the executive summary in the board packet noting the Elementary English Language Arts Adoption Team has spent several months reviewing best instructional practices, a variety of curriculum materials and information from district pilot sites to make their final recommendation.

Julie Walker reviewed the work done by the adoption team and said they are recommending McGraw-Hill's *Reading Wonders* as the district's elementary core reading program. She said the core beliefs of the adoption team are to have a program aligned with the Common Core State Standards and a commitment to all students' success as literate, thriving citizens. McGraw-Hill's program provides an excellent roadmap for meeting standards and teams' core beliefs. Walker reviewed the adoption process and at decision making time there was 100% consensus amongst the team because McGraw-Hill met all of the non-negotiables for the team: strong foundational skills, balance of literacy vs. informational text, strong instruction in academic vocabulary, etc. Walker explained the core program and shared a video demonstrating digital access and clips of students using the program and why they too preferred it to others. She added this program is aligned with the dual immersion curriculum used to teach Spanish.

Andy High asked about the amount of research and process of during the adoption. Walker said the process started last school year with five programs being considered. From there, two finalists were selected and at that point much research was done, time was spent with publishers and the adoption team worked through the pilots and took the programs into classrooms. Co-Chair Helt asked who was a part of the adoption team. Walker noted the list in the board packet with all members and their positions in the district identified.

Nordquist said she is hopeful the Board would consider approval of the McGraw-Hill program recommended tonight. She said the district is currently in negotiations on price and working on initial professional development training models. Kinkade asked about price and if there is a difference for digital vs. hard copy. Walker said it's about the same cost. If approved, the district would enter a six-year agreement and the digital books are an annual update and subscription cost, which allows for the district to monitor what is truly needed.

Stuart Young was impressed the adoption team was in 100% agreement and Peggy Kinkade said she really liked the materials she was able to see. She found the books she read to be very interesting and engaging and feels it is a great program and appreciated seeing students being a part of the pilot, using materials, and hearing their feedback. Helt added she too enjoyed seeing the video of students in the classroom and hearing what they thought about the program.

Superintendent Wilkinson said the Board could choose to adopt the materials recommended tonight and the purchase price can still be negotiated. **Stuart Young moved to approve the adoption of McGraw-Hill's *Reading Wonders* as the district's elementary core reading program. Julie Craig seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.**

Shay Mikalson noted the middle and high school levels are continuing to work and finalize their Language Arts adoption materials, a tremendous effort being led by Jana Clemons. A recommendation will come to

the Board in the next couple of weeks. Helt thanked the adoption team members for their time and recommendation.

STRIVE Update

Sal Cassaro thanked the Board for their time and reviewed the Second Chance program report at each Board member's seat, noting this report reflects where the program was about three years ago and includes concepts of the program, which serves 6th – 12th grade students, who serving an expulsion. About 175 expelled students were served in the old Second Chance model and he and his team have worked hard to revamp and restructure the program now known as STRIVE. STRIVE is doing bigger and better things with the same population of students who are often low in math and literacy skills, credit deficient, struggling with drugs and/or alcohol use and whom often times have no connection to school.

Cassaro shared in the old Second Chance model, students would return to the program multiple times and the new STRIVE model has made significant strides in reducing the recidivism rate by creating new paths for success and connecting students with their home schools. Cassaro reviewed the vision of STRIVE and shared some of the significant changes: college day visits for students, having access to a counselor (a new to STRIVE position) who helps establish a personal profile for each student when they arrive to the program, electives such as photography, drivers education, PE, personal finance, robotics, C.A.S.T (Coping and Support Training) are offered as part of the program. Students are earning an average of 3.8 credits in six months, some students are receiving one-on-one counseling from mental health experts in the community and a new ½ day CTE transition program is also being offered to help make a STRIVE student's transition back to their home school successful.

Cassaro reviewed the downward trend in expulsions, noting in 2011-12 there were 141 and to date, for the 2014-15 school year there have been 34. He believes STRIVE should offer the best options for Bend-La Pine School students who are expelled and feels the new model meets the needs of these students well and is pleased to see a reduction in the number of overall expulsions. Wilkinson noted the recommendation of going to a full day program generates more ADMw and while the STRIVE model is new, he feels it is cost effective along with being the right thing to do for students.

Peggy Kinkade asked about recidivism and how students transition back into their regular school. Cassaro explained if the expulsion is for the full school year, they work with the student in STRIVE and at the halfway point of the year STRIVE sends a recommendation to the home school to reenroll the student on an academic probation plan. 99% of the time schools take students back on academic probation. Cassaro shared September and October, mid-December and January are the busiest months, with the most students entering STRIVE. Kinkade would like to hear more about the success of STRIVE as the program continues. She is pleased with the changes and appreciates their efforts.

Shay Mikalson said the ½ day CTE transition program efforts are excellent. He added there are three full time teachers, two educational assistants and a part-time counselor in the STRIVE program and each of those employees are making a huge difference with STRIVE students. Wilkinson noted the court school program of old has been folded into STRIVE and there is work being done to convert the current Second Chance program in La Pine to the same model as STRIVE. High asked what the future looks like for STRIVE. Cassaro said he would like to include La Pine and offer a drop out prevention program along with more short-term intervention options for students who have not been expelled, but need extra help. Wilkinson noted the rules and regulations around expulsions have tightened up and additional work is being done in the legislature, but this model the district is moving toward fits and makes sense for not only expelled students but at-risk students in general.

Julie Craig asked about restorative justice and Cassaro was not sure how well it would work into the STRIVE model, noting they currently use PBISS, RTI and Trauma Informed models to help assess students. He will look into restorative justice. High said he would like to hear from STRIVE students in the next update.

Cassaro agreed and invited any to come visit, meet students and see STRIVE in action. Co-Chair Helt thanked Cassaro for his work and efforts to meet the needs of this population of students.

Buckingham STEM Focus School Update

Sunshine Dandurand introduced Josh Hayden and Nichole Reiland, Buckingham Elementary teachers, and shared a video about STEM at Buckingham that highlighted teacher testimonials and student activities. Reiland said students show up early to school for STEM projects and are engaged and active learners who are excited to problem solve with science, technology, engineering and math integration.

Hayden reviewed the vision for Buckingham's STEM focus and how it started a few years ago as an answer to how they could serve their students and community better. Hayden complimented the staff at Buckingham for the extra work and commitment over the past few years to push and engage themselves and students in the STEM program. Parents, professionals in the community and volunteers are more engaged with the school since the STEM focus began. He shared the future plans for Buckingham using the digital conversion to support STEM, creating a STEMWeek, using Project Lead the Way Launch curriculum and Next Generation Science Standards. Outside of the classroom events include; STEMghetti Feed, STEM Forums, Buckybots – a Lego robotics club, Bend Christmas Parade float, etc.

Reiland shared her thanks and how proud she is of all grade level teams and the lesson planning and work done to move STEM forward at Buckingham and reviewed what K-5 classrooms are doing throughout the year in their STEM Sequence. Dandurand agreed with Reiland and is extremely proud of the Buckingham staff, specifically moving forward while facing funding issues. She feels STEM is an incredible opportunity for Buckingham students who might not have models at home to look at themselves as scientists or engineers. She shared her passion for equal access and breaking down walls so all students have an opportunity to be engaged with real world learning experiences.

Co-Chair Helt enjoyed seeing Buckingham's float in the Christmas Parade and appreciated hearing a teacher speak about failure in the video shared, noting it is nice to hear a teacher say it's okay to try and fail and how to learn from those failures. Nordquist noted Hayden is a leader in elementary science work for the district and the idea of a teacher being an engineer is a great metaphor he uses often. Hayden shared, as a teacher; he does more engineering work than he did in his previous career as an engineer.

Financial Report

Brad Henry reviewed the summary and report in the board packet prepared by Zhai Logan, noting better news than the last time they reported. The projected ending fund balance is \$7.9 million and this is the figure the district will use as the beginning fund balance for the 2015-16 budget process.

Policy Monitoring

BD GOV A.1 – Treatment of Students and Families

BD GOV A.1.A – Treatment of Public

BD GOV A.2 – Treatment of Staff

Superintendent Wilkinson reviewed each of the policies in the board packet and offered to answer any questions. Peggy Kinkade asked about #7 on page 24 – who is on the Commercialism Committee. Wilkinson explained it is not a standing committee, but one that was sanctioned about five years ago. Terry Cashman headed the committee and the report is from the work done a few years ago. Kinkade felt it is time to freshen the report and Wilkinson agreed it would be a good project for next year.

Andy High asked about #6 on page 24 – how are fundraising activities are communicated to families. Wilkinson said that is also part of the work of the Commercialism Committee and language really speaks to fundraising efforts must directly benefit students in school. He added, he would love to eliminate the need for fundraising but it is one of the balancing efforts the district is continually looking at as many of the greatest price tags come with the opportunities for students to travel. High suggested looking into what

other districts are doing as part of revisiting the commercialism study. Wilkinson agreed. Shay Mikalson said he would put the commercialism committee on his task list for next year.

Board Comments

Andy High appreciated the time and commitment of all those who have been involved in recent administrative interview processes and search committees. He shared his frustration and disappointment in the most recent legislative funding decision and he is tired of the way they continue to underfund education. Since 2002 education has been underfunded and he is extremely disappointed, noting the current budget proposed is a joke. He would like to see more formal support from fellow Board members for Superintendent Wilkinson to be a spokesperson about the budget, even if it pushes political lines, and he would like to see support for Shay Mikalson to continue that push, that Bend-La Pine Schools will not put up with underfunding education.

Julie Craig appreciated and agreed with High's comments and would like to continue the discussion and find better ways to make voices heard about funding.

Ron Gallinat attended the IB Luncheon at Bend Senior High a few weeks ago and was inspired by a student he met who is succeeding despite having severe health issues. He appreciated hearing about her efforts and achievements.

Stuart Young said STEM integration is a model that needs to expand into all schools. He believes STEM skills are the skills students need to learn in preparation for the world they will enter. He agreed with High's comments and noted the fact that a school has to fundraise for something like STEM to be in their building is sad.

Co-Chair Juba also supported High's comments and added it is embarrassing, as a state, in a time like this, that political and tax games are being played with the student's futures at stake. He feels the message from the Board has not been strong enough, nor heard, and suggested changing the tune of the message being sent to legislators to help get more traction and help them understand what really is going on in the classroom.

Co-Chair Helt shared about recent school visits to Rosland, La Pine Middle School, La Pine Elementary, La Pine High School and Amity Creek. She enjoyed seeing authors present motivating messages about grit, student appreciation week, math coaching and teacher interaction, college day, and student research projects resulting in a writing celebration. Helt also attended a Town Hall meeting with Senator Merkley and has been to Salem to advocate for more K-12 funding. She noted High Desert ESD Superintendent, John Rexford, is putting together a unified letter to legislators, representing the Central Oregon region, to advocate for more funding.

Helt noted her concern for a medical marijuana dispensary opening up on Galveston that is 1,002 feet from Westside Village Magnet School. She is nervous about the future with recent law changes and the legalization of marijuana. The law states marijuana dispensaries must be over 1,000 feet from a school and she is concerned that is too close. Andy High suggested working with the City Council to see about increasing the distance. Wilkinson noted the distance is part of statutory language, however, some cities have expanded on state requirements to make things more restrictive in their community. High was supportive of expanding the distance and would like to include preschools in the provision. Helt said she would contact City Council members. Wilkinson suggested Helt draft a letter with the Board and send it to councilors and the Mayor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18p

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Wilson