

Bend-La Pine Schools
Bend, OR 97703

The Board of Directors for Bend-La Pine Schools met in a regular meeting on July 12, 2016 in room 314 of the Education Center, 520 NW Wall Street, Bend OR.

Board Members Present

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Charter School Hearing

Chair Juba recessed the regular board meeting and called to order the Public Hearing for Central Oregon Family School (COFS). The hearing was called to order pursuant ORS 338.055, to review the application for public charter presented by Central Oregon Family School. Juba reviewed the process for the hearing and explained after the hearing, Superintendent Mikalson will draft a recommendation to the board, who will then have 30 days from tonight to make their decision.

Superintendent Mikalson thanked Lori Bogen for attending and welcomed her to begin their presentation. Bogen thanked the board and district for their time and invited Leanna Long to speak. Long shared a story of her successful home education experiences with her own children and how she has helped other home schooled children. She explained her connection to the Central Oregon community members who are interested and do home school their children and the partnership she has with COFS. She clarified COFS is not a virtual or online program and noted the number of students, approximately 130 at full capacity, will not hinder the district or public school system if they choose to be a part of the charter proposed. Long believes that COFS and Bend-La Pine's online program can co-exist to better serve the needs of the community and feels there will be plenty of students to enroll in both programs.

Long introduced Donese Pogue, a long time Bend resident and supporter of the district and COFS. Pogue shared her history with COFS and the district and how she became involved in helping write the proposal. There are 45 families who have signed intent to enroll cards and she is excited to get the 2016 school year started. Pogue feels there needs to be a shift with the stigma of home based education and is hopeful this partnership can change the culture and conversation. Home based enrollment happens for a variety of reasons and provides families a choice to find the right educational fit for their child. Pogue shared what a typical day and week looks like in the COFS model, adding a group of students met this year at the Environmental Center to try out the model, which was a great success.

Bogen reviewed COFS's application process with the district and shared additional documentation with the board to show more support from families and also updated information about their facilities. Bogen thanked the board for their time and feels COFS is ready to open their doors for the 2016-17 school year. Juba thanked Bogen and invited those who signed up for public comment to speak.

Krystal Loverin, shared about her experiences in homeschool and benefits of home-based education. Her family is able to travel and live abroad while maintaining educational progress because of home-based education. Loverin said there are very few charter schools and it is difficult to be accepted into those that do exist. She feels a partnership with COFS will allow her to continue to help develop and guide her home-based education strategies.

Allison Sternberg shared she has four children and greatly values education but realizes education is not one-size fits all. She appreciates children having access to creative options for their education and shared how COFS has helped support her children when other options (Connections Academy and Bend-La Pine Online) were not a great fit. Sternberg appreciates the extra support COFS offers to parents and building curriculum on what is best for each child.

Emily Gibson shared how educating her four children at home has been a successful experience for her family. Her children were part of the group who met at the Environmental Center this past year and she appreciated how COFS offered a variety of options children could participate in and the ability for her children to be part of a team, work in groups and have social interactions with other students. She said COFS adds a special component to home-based education that online options just can't do.

Chair Juba thanked those who commented and opened up the hearing to board questions.

Cheri Helt asked Sternberg to share reasons why the online program didn't work for her students and for any suggestions on what the district could do differently to improve. Sternberg said she has drafted a letter to the board that explains the reasons for why her children did not excel in Bend-La Pine Online. She emphasized a balance and blend of interpersonal and online interactions will lend itself to a well-rounded student. Anita Fairbanks, community member, added the main reason she chose not to have her young children enroll in an online program is that she would rather have her children engage with peers and spend as little time in front of a screen as possible. She appreciated the face to face connection COFS offered.

Peggy Kinkade asked what a typical week would look like for a COFS student. Bogen shared there is one community day per week that looks much like a regular school day. Kindergarten students are limited to 10 for their half-day program. 1st and 2nd grade, 3rd and 4th grade, 5th and 6th, 7th and 8th grades are paired up for blended levels, but as their population dictates they are flexible in those groupings. Bogen reviewed the rest of the week days that include scheduled direct instruction, math labs for students who need additional help, one day a week is an enrichment day for students to participate in fieldtrips, etc., and conferences are also available on days that students do not attend classes. In summary, classroom or community work is two days a week and instruction at home is three days a week, with families still having access to teacher support those days. COFS requires community day attendance, however, will work with families who are unable to attend.

Kinkade asked about staffing and enrollment. Bogen said there are five full-time teachers, one administrator and one office manager along with a few instructional assistants. Bogen said they look to open with 45 students and then increase enrollment each year thereafter to max out at 130 students.

Ron Gallinat asked Superintendent Mikalson about the charter process after the hearing. Mikalson said after the hearing tonight, the board has 30 days to take action to either approve or deny the application as currently presented. If the application is not approved, the district would provide remediation recommendations to COFS and they could then resubmit their application which the board would then review.

Helt asked how curriculum coordination happens between teachers and parents, and how will progress be monitored, specifically for those who do not attend every week. Bogen explained if parents have specific curriculum interest teachers will work alongside with them, but families are also provided a mapped out core curriculum plan to follow. The weekly conferences are valuable in tracking progress and help teachers hold parents accountable. There are also regular assessments given throughout the year to help monitor.

Juba clarified if the core subjects are being taught by parents. Bogen said yes. Juba asked about instructional time required by law and how that is tracked and met. Bogen said there are a few ways to look at instructional time requirements and that the online rules defined in the law are what COFS would follow, even though they are not an online program. COFS's model incorporates checking in with parents to verify instructional time, reviews work samples, etc. to help validate that time requirements are being met.

Juba noted one of the challenges of a charter school is that the school can't select who attends. He asked what is the plan for families who have never homeschooled and how are struggling families held accountable to requirements. Bogen said COFS offers a monthly learning coach meeting for parents to share and discuss struggles and successes. They also provide special training for parents in core instructional areas. New to home-based education families will be asked to use the COFS curriculum initially. She did note some tough conversations do have to happen with parents and they plan to make every attempt to support and guide them as best they can.

Juba thanked Bogen and others for their presentation and comments and said the board understands that not all students learn the same way, adding Superintendent Mikalson supports personalized education. It is a responsibility of the board and the district to ensure the charter application and plan is viable and that it meets an unmet need for students. He noted there are some deficiencies in the application that need to be addressed.

Chair Juba closed the hearing and recessed the regular board meeting at 6:21 p.m. The regular meeting reconvened at 6:25 p.m.

Public Input

Chair Juba invited Nunzie Gould to share her comments, not part of the hearing. Gould asked the board to support the request for tax abatement by Pacific Crest Affordable Housing. She is supportive of the work they have done in Central Oregon and their current proposal.

Consent Agenda

Peggy Kinkade moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Stuart Young seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Action Items

Election of Board Officers

Chair Juba explained election of board officers traditionally happens during the first meeting in July. He opened up the floor for Board Chair nominations.

Andy High nominated Peggy Kinkade as board chair for the 2016-17 school year. Stuart Young seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Kinkade thanked Juba for his leadership and said it was a pleasure to serve as vice chair this past year with him. She appreciates the time he invested and his service to the district and board.

Chair Kinkade opened up the floor for Vice Chair nominations.

Julie Craig nominated Andy High as vice chair for the 2016-17 school year. Nori Juba seconded the motion.

Juba thanked Kinkade for her work as vice chair. He expressed his appreciation for her efforts in writing executive limitations and governance polices in an effort to move toward a policy governance model. This work was the most important work the board completed this year. He added the leadership model has worked well with the chair and vice chair taking on different responsibilities. He would like to see this continue moving forward. Cheri Helt asked what Kinkade plans to focus on and why the desire to be in a leadership position.

Kinkade said she is really invested in the vision Superintendent Mikalson has articulated for the district and she wants to continue to support his work. She is interested in seeing the board model the 4 C's as well as finding ways they can help parents be more and more invested in their children's education. High said, after serving in the treasurer position this past year, he has a much better understanding of what board leadership entails and feels prepared for the role. He would like to continue to support the governance model established this year and is excited to how it continues to evolve.

Chair Kinkade noted the motion and second previously made to elect Andy High as Vice Chair for the 2016-17 school year and asked for a vote of the board. Unanimous approval.

Approval of Yearly Business & Board Operations for the 2016-17 School Year :: Resolutions 1838-1847

Chair Kinkade noted Resolutions 1838-1847 in the board packet. Helt noted the board meeting scheduled on February 14 and suggested it be reconsidered. Kinkade agreed and said a suggestion had been made by staff to move board meetings from Tuesday to Thursday evenings. Majority of board agreed they would like to keep meetings on Tuesday. High suggested starting board meetings earlier and when necessary, hold executive session after the regular meeting. Majority of the board agreed a 5:00 p.m. start time would work and to hold executive sessions after the regular session.

Stuart Young moved to approve Resolution 1838 : Board Meeting Schedule with the following amendments: move the February 14, 2017 meeting to February 16, 2017 and start meetings at 5:00 p.m. Julie Craig asked for a 5:15 p.m. start time due to work schedule and parents or students who may want to attend. Young amended his motion for a 5:15 p.m. start time. Ron Gallinat seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Julie Craig moved to approve Resolution 1839. Ron Gallinat seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Andy High suggested approving the remaining business resolutions all together.

Andy High moved the approve Resolution 1840-1847. Julie Craig seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Pacific Crest Affordable Housing :: Resolution 1837 Property Tax Abatement

Superintendent Mikalson introduced John Gilbert, Rob Roy and Rita Wilson from Pacific Crest Affordable Housing to review the projects summarized in the board packet. Gilbert shared about the history of their group and work they have done in the community. In 2003 and 2007 the board supported tax abatement for senior housing projects and he's hoping for continued support. The proposed projects are non-age specific. He shared details and location of Canal Commons and Azimuth 355.

Juba asked why these are not specifically senior housing projects. Gilbert explained the current need in Bend is within all age groups. Kinkade confirmed the attendance areas for the projects: Canal Commons would be Ponderosa Elementary, Sky View Middle School and Mt. View High School. Azimuth 355 would be High Lakes Elementary, Pacific Crest Middle School and Summit High School.

Gilbert said the request is for a 20-year property tax abatement for each of these projects and reviewed the minimal financial impact to the district. Rob Roy added reasons why he feels the board should support the request. He also explained how competitive affordable housing projects across the state are, and limited to 14 projects per year, it would be extremely helpful in their application to have the board's support. Andy High shared his frustrations with affordable housing limitations set by the state and commended Pacific Crest Affordable Housing for their work, specifically working with state regulations. Cheri Helt is happy that these projects will support kids and the needs they have for housing. She asked who else is in support of these two projects. Gilbert explained the percentage of needed support and said the City of Bend has already approved their request and they plan to approach COCC. Deschutes County is also supportive of the projects. Helt asked if Bend Parks and Recreation is supportive and Gilbert said they have not asked specifically, but they have made a request for relief of SDC's in years past and were not approved. Helt suggested taking the application to Bend Parks and Recreation for their support and approval. Gilbert agreed.

Stuart Young feels this is a terrific project and provides the board an opportunity to support the community. The amount of tax dollars lost in return for what will be provided is negligible and encouraged his colleagues to support the request. Roy thanked the board for their past support and noted all facilities have common spaces available for public use and would be happy to welcome the board any time. Kinkade thanked Gilbert, Roy and Wilson for their work to invest in affordable housing, noting the significant need for it in Bend.

Kinkade read Resolution 1837 : Property Tax Abatement aloud authorizing property tax exemption for Pacific Crest Affordable Housing's Azimuth 355 and Canal Commons affordable housing projects in accordance with ORS 307.515 to 307.527, by adopting the provisions of ORS 307.515 to 307.527.

Andy High moved to approve Resolution 1837. Cheri Helt seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Gilbert thanked the board and district for their time and continued support.

Reports

Performance Audit Review

Andy High gave a copy of the report from Plan B, the firm hired by the board to review specific projects from the 2013 bond, which was received today. He asked board members to review the summary and be prepared for a presentation in September from Plan B. He noted two specific projects were evaluated: the construction of Pacific Crest Middle School and the remodel at Bend Senior High. Plan B met with numerous staff, architects, contractors, etc. and their summary report is mostly positive, provides the district with a good baseline on what is being done well and areas for improvement.

Helt asked how the recommendations made apply to policy and should the report be reviewed in conjunction with related policies. Juba explained staff are just now reviewing the report and are going to help work information from Plan B into executive limitations if necessary. Staff and board members need a chance to fully review the document and, from Juba's understanding, this is a very clean and good report and shows that the district's biggest bond projects ever followed best practices. The recommendations included are minimal.

High explained there were many more project a part of the 2013 bond, but at the direction of the board, these two were focused upon. He noted this is a new process and feels it was a successful effort in reporting back on executive limitations. Juba would like to see this type of self-assessment be a part of every bond and feels 100% confident that the recommendations implemented will be a great return on the board's investment. Helt agreed and would like to continue to discuss the appropriate dollar amount for these reviews and feels this is a responsible way for the school board to validate that tax dollars are being well spent. Kinkade thanked High for his effort and taking the lead on this review process.

Discussion

IP 28 & IP 65 Follow Up Discussion

Chair Kinkade asked board members how they would like to move forward taking into consideration the presentations on IP 28 and IP65 previously heard. Julie Craig suggested each board member voice their opinion on the measure, but is not comfortable with the board taking a collective stance, noting how controversial IP 28 is and the varied opinions of board members.

Cheri Helt said she has strong opinions about using kids to raise tax funds and feels the state has used them too many times without return and the board needs to support kids. She expressed her frustration with IP 28, as a board member who is part of a board that makes decisions on what is best for kids, noting that IP 28 is poorly written, does not specify how much money would go to education, and would personally like to see the board take a collective stance against IP 28. She does not think the dollars promised will ever make it to the classroom and it is time to send a message to legislators that it is not okay to use kids for measures that ultimately do not fund our schools. Kinkade understands Helt's concerns but agrees with Craig in that the board should not take a collective position. It could be construed that the board is supportive of taking money away from students. She noted the hard work of educators across the state who believe and support IP 28. She would like the board to remain neutral. Ron Gallinat agreed, adding the board has not taken a position on issues thus far and does not want to begin that practice.

Andy High shared his frustrations and feels that if school boards really want to change education, they need to take positions for or against. He is not supportive of IP 28. He said the long term effects will be substantial and as a board member, he is frustrated about the continual decline in education funding. He does not believe IP 28 will fund education. He wants the state to communicate on what the dollars earned will be spent on. He is okay being in the minority on taking a collective position, adding he is just as frustrated about the estimated \$30 million that will be spent on the campaign. High would like the board to take a position, noting Portland and Eugene both have.

Nori Juba agreed with High and feels leaders need to take a position. Juba noted it is hard, because he and Don Stearns are both excited about the possible \$40 million IP 28 could provide the district, but Juba is skeptical in the likelihood of that actually happening. He believes more resources are needed to move Oregon forward and

expressed his frustrations with the Governor. Juba said he has a hard time supporting something that could have serious economic consequences and worries that it will impact those who are struggling the most and result in a loss of private sector jobs. If the money was guaranteed as new money to what we already receive, then he would advocate for IP 28, but he has no reassurance of that and feels the board should collectively oppose the measure, adding he feels if the board takes no position they are being negligent leaders and was disappointed in OSBA for not taking a position.

Stuart Young expressed how complicated the debate is, as there is not one board member who does not want more funding for education and feels it is poor practice for the board to take a position, however, he said this is an exception. IP 28 is a bad bill and in this rare case he feels the board should take a position against IP 28, and hopefully the board is wrong.

Chair Kinkade asked for a motion.

Cheri Helt moved that the Bend-La School Board of Directors oppose IP 28 as it does not fund students directly. Nori Juba seconded the motion. Julie Craig agreed the bill is poorly written and doesn't think the money will ever make it to the classroom but her bigger concern is how horribly taking a stance against IP 28 could back fire, but fully supports the decision of the board. Andy High said he ran for the school board because he wanted to do what is right for students, and based on the information he has about the bill, it will hurt the backbone of Central Oregon. Opposing the bill is what he feels is best to do at this time, but noted his opinion might change, as it has before on certain issues.

Chair Kinkade called for a vote.

Andy High, Cheri Helt, Nori Juba and Stuart Young voted in favor of the Helt's motion. Peggy Kinkade, Ron Gallinat and Julie Craig opposed.

Juba agreed with Young that the board not take a position on every bill but feels this is significant enough to warrant a stance by the board. He said he would be in favor of supporting IP 65. He explained it is not a perfect bill either, but it has a better chance of funding making its way to students. Juba asked the board to take a stance in favor and support IP 65. He asked if Superintendent Mikalson had any thoughts.

Mikalson shared his concern with IP 28 but also said that he is not a fan of targeted funding which is the intent of IP 65, because districts lose control on how dollars are used and staff time has to be spent to verify targeted dollars are spent appropriately. Mikalson added the district needs more resources and does not want to be theoretical about funding. Lora Nordquist echoed Mikalson's sentiments adding IP 65 does not fit every district's needs and it would be better if dollars could be used where the most impact would be made; however, agreed that she would not turn away funds to support students. Jay Mathisen added his distaste for educational funding and wants nothing more than funds to support classrooms directly.

Julie Craig shared she feels hypocritical opposing one measure and supporting another. Helt said one of the reasons she supports IP 65 is because it supports good practice in education and the proposed dedicated funding of IP 65 is the exact opposite of IP 28. Young is supportive of IP 65 but does not feel it is necessary for the board to take a collective stance on. Gallinat reiterated he would rather the board not take positions one way or the other. High said he would like the board to take a position and feels taking positions on measures are part of a board member's duties. Juba agreed and feels the board should take a collective stance to support IP 65, adding since majority of the board has opposed IP 28, they should be supportive of an alternative funding proposal.

Nori Juba moved that the Bend-La Pine School Board of Directors support IP 65. Andy High seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Board Retreat Agenda Discussion

Chair Kinkade suggested the following items for the board retreat on August 2: review and recommit to the Carver policy governance model, look at executive limitation language for any revisions or clarifications, discuss the various roles of board members, reflect upon the past year as part of a board self-evaluation, and discuss how board members can take a greater role statewide to support education.

Cheri Helt suggested continuing the discussion of vision for students, staff, and the district. She would like to revisit board ends and the idea of Student B. Young suggested focusing on Student B and what type of work needs to take place to move that vision forward. Juba suggested looking at board ends results and how those results could be used to assess where the district is at in getting students career ready. High suggested a discussion around student and community member/business recognition and ways to thank those who support career readiness. Kinkade will take these ideas and work to incorporate them into the retreat agenda.

Board Comments

Andy High thanked Nori Juba for his chairmanship over the past couple of years, noting specifically the time commitment and dedication he gave to the district. He looks forward to working with Chair Kinkade.

Stuart Young agreed with High and felt Juba was a great leader. He shared his appreciation for Kinkade's policy work and thanked Superintendent Mikalson and all staff members for a remarkably good year. He is excited about the future.

Cheri Helt thanked district leaders for working so hard to make the district one of the best, taking charge and helping staff really focus on students. She feels more money is needed and noted the discussion around funding will and needs to continue. She thanked Juba for his leadership and looks forward to working with Kinkade.

Chair Kinkade thanked her fellow board members for their support and will work hard to provide good leadership and continue the good work they are doing together. She is appreciative to be a part of a high functioning board.

Kinkade recessed the regular meeting at 8:12 p.m. and called for a 5-minute break. Executive session immediately followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Wilson
7.12.2016