

Bend-La Pine Schools Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: January 14, 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 *attended via teleconference*

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. by Co-Chair Craig. The Pledge of Allegiance and review of the agenda followed.

National Board Certified Teacher Pinning

Lora Nordquist introduced Michele Oakes and Heather Anderson who lead the NBCT cohort in Bend-La Pine Schools and announced that the district was recently named an Accomplished District by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Oakes and Anderson shared about the district's cohort and the rigor involved to earn National Board Certification and noted that there are now 38 NBCT teachers in the district. Superintendent Mikalson thanked Oakes and Anderson for their support and leadership and congratulated the four newly certified teachers. Board members presented a pin, rose and congratulated the following:

- Sarah Barclay, Buckingham Elementary
- Michelle Zeigert, R.E. Jewell Elementary
- Heather Marr, Pacific Crest Middle School
- Sara Trakselis, Pacific Crest Middle School

OCF Grant Award

Lora Nordquist introduced members of the Restorative Justice Equity Group and shared that the group was recently awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Oregon Community Foundation. The grant will help fund Town Halls for Bend-La Pine and COCC students. Superintendent Mikalson shared his appreciation for the work being done by the Restorative Justice and Equity Group in the community and thanked OCF for their support to help continue the momentum of good work.

Superintendent Mikalson took a moment to thank and recognize Board members. January is School Board Recognition Month and Mikalson shared his appreciation for the work and dedication of the Board to students, staff and community. Mikalson introduced Tiggy Dierdorff and students from Marshall High School who presented Board members with laser engraved nameplates made as part of their CTE program.

Public Input

Katie Hayden-Lewis and students, Sophia and Riley, shared a follow-up about feedback they received from Deschutes County for their teen psychosis poster project. A portion of the letter from the county was read aloud and a request made for the district and Board to help meet with the county so that the posters could be updated to meet their standards. They asked for the district and Board to support the posters being hung in schools across the district. Co-Chair Craig asked Julianne Repman to comment on the district's distribution of materials policy and how the district works with special interest groups to help with messaging, etc. Repman noted KJA-AP and KJA-AR: Materials Distribution and offered to follow-up with Hayden-Lewis and students on next steps.

Avery Gerber, kindergarten teacher at La Pine Elementary, spoke about the icy and snowy road conditions from Bend to La Pine this morning and that she felt the district should have delayed the start of the school day to account for the treacherous conditions. She asked that the safety of staff and students, especially on days like today, be at the forefront of decision making.

Romir Chatterjee, gave a letter to Board members on behalf of Restorative Justice & Equity Group, Embrace Bend and the Latino Community Association. This group would like to see a plan of action developed in response to what was learned in the Excellence & Equity Review. He asked that their group also be a part of the selection process for the new superintendent.

Tammy Hite and Kristin Albano, parents, addressed the Board about the proposed secondary attendance area maps and asked that the district reconsider boundaries around Silver Rail Elementary school, noting safety concerns and how the current proposals split their community apart as students move on to middle and high school.

Consent Agenda

Co-Chair Douglass moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Amy Tatom seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Action Items

❖ Approval of 2020-21 Alternative Learning Option Contracts

Co-Chair Craig noted the presentation made at the December Board meeting and the executive summary in the Board packet which explains that action tonight would be to approve contracts for the 2020-21 school year.

Co-Chair Douglass moved to approve the Alternative Learning Option Contract and Charter School Evaluations as presented at the December 10, 2019 Board meeting, and to approve new contracts for the 2020-21 school year for all the Contract and Charter Schools evaluated. Melissa Barnes Dholakia seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Reports

❖ Division 22 Assurances

Superintendent Mikalson noted the executive summary in the Board packet and shared that by February 1 of each year, school district superintendents are required to report to their local School Board the district's standing with respect to all Standards for Public Elementary and Secondary Schools as set forth in OAR 581-022-2035, commonly referred to as Division 22 Assurances. Mikalson said Bend-La Pine Schools is in compliance with each of the Division 22 Assurances for the reporting year of 2018-19 and will be posting the district's report to the district website and submitting a completed report to the state, as required, by February 1. There were no questions from Board members.

❖ **Strategic Investment Account Update**

Superintendent Mikalason shared an update on the district's planning efforts for the Student Investment Account (SIA) dollars that will be coming as part of the Student Success Act. At this time, districts are still awaiting a firm number from the state, but planning efforts are well underway. Mikalson shared what the district learned through the recent Excellence & Equity Review and how the district is taking those findings into consideration as an investment plan is created. The state has given districts investment parameters for SIA funding: reducing class size, addressing students' health and safety needs, increasing instructional time, and expanding students' access to well-rounded learning experiences. Once the specific amount of funds is released, the district will share a detailed investment plan recommendation with the Board, most likely at the February Board meeting. Mikalson explained the timeline which includes Board approval of the SIA Plan, submission of the SIA Application to the state, a grant agreement process with ODE, a public review and Board approval of grant agreement, and then finalization of the grant agreement.

Co-Chair Douglass asked if the new positions hired from SIA funds will be considered permanent. Mikalson said yes, as the new funding is dictated in state statute. Melissa Barnes Dholakia asked when Board action will take place. Mikalson said that the district needs to submit the SIA Plan to ODE by April 15, at the latest. He is hopeful the Board will be able to take action at the March meeting to allow ample time for submission. The Board will need to take action again, once the SIA Grant Agreement has been established with ODE.

❖ **EL 10 : Financial Planning & Administration Policy Monitoring Report**

Brad Henry noted an updated executive summary for the EL 10 policy monitoring report. He reviewed the major accomplishments for 2019 and priorities for 2020. Caroline Skidmore asked, as part of the bus fleet replacement cycle, if the district is considering electric buses. Henry said the district is looking into electric options and there are incentives that may be available to help offset the cost, as an electric school bus is about twice the cost of a fuel or propane powered bus. Another factor to consider with electric busses is the infrastructure that would be necessary for charging purposes.

❖ **Quarterly Policy Update : 2 of 4**

Andrea Wilson reviewed the policy and regulation update in the Board packet, noting this is report two of four the board will see as part of the EL 12 – Legally Required Policies monitoring effort.

❖ **EL 12 : Legally Required Policies Policy Monitoring Report**

Andrea Wilson noted the executive summary for the EL 12 policy monitoring report. She reviewed the major accomplishments for 2019 and priorities for 2020.

Discussion

❖ **Superintendent Vacancy Next Steps**

Co-Chair Craig shared an update on the superintendent search process. HYA Associates has been hired to lead the search process and are currently meeting with staff, community members, hosting small focus groups and public forums to listen and create a leadership profile. An online survey will go live later this week to gather feedback from those who are not able to attend sessions in person. Co-Chair Douglass added there is also a page on the district's website dedicated to the search process. The survey link, timeline, and process is fully outlined on the website.

Board Comments

Amy Tatom noted with the start of a new year comes a feeling of renewal and is excited for the district to grow and opportunities that lie ahead.

Shimiko Montgomery shared her appreciation for those who work in South County who continue to attend and speak at Board meetings. She appreciates their dedication and sharing ways the Board can continue to support their work and community needs. She congratulated the Restorative Justice & Equity Group on their grant award and thanked them for their incredible outreach efforts to students.

Melissa Barnes Dholakia shared her appreciation for the Excellence & Equity Review and commends the district for being so transparent with what was learned and believes this will lead to great change. She attended the OYCP graduation and shared her appreciation for the value they add with providing students an opportunity to succeed. She shared the superintendent search committee is hard at work and is appreciative of all the feedback being shared with Board members and consultants.

Co-Chair Douglass thanked all those who spoke during public comment and appreciates that more and more people are attending Board meetings and signing up to speak. She apologized to Avery Gerber for her commute experiences and that she felt unsafe. Douglass said that most of the Board will be participating in a training through OSU Cascades about unconscious bias that can occur during an interview / hiring process.

Caroline Skidmore thanked all of those who spoke during public comment and appreciated hearing from students who are so committed to helping their peers and for having the passion to step up in their schools and community to support one another.

Stuart Young shared his excitement for the SIA funding and the opportunity it provides the district to help support needs identified in the Excellence & Equity Review. He noted that even with the new funding, public education in Oregon is still significantly underfunded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Recorded by: Andrea Wilson

Minutes approved at 2.11.2020 board meeting