

Bend-La Pine Schools

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: May 11, 2021

Meeting Location

To support Governor Brown's executive orders for social distancing, the Board of Directors conducted the Board Meeting virtually, through Cisco WebEx. The meeting was also live streamed to the BLS Schoolboard YouTube webpage.

Board Members Present

Carrie Douglass
Melissa Barnes Dholakia
Caroline Skidmore
Amy Tatom
Julie Craig
Stuart Young
Shimiko Montgomery

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Douglass at 5:24 p.m., roll call followed.

Review of the Agenda

No changes.

Public Comment

Chair Douglass noted one written Public Comment was received as well as one request to speak during Public Comment.

Shelly Baker, parent, thanked the Board for their time and shared her feelings and thoughts requiring students to wear masks during school class time and activities. She asked the District and the Board to stick to education policy, to review and remove the mask policy, and let parents decide on the health of their children.

Vice Chair Melissa Barnes Dholakia read a written message submitted by Stephani Scott, parent. Stephani wrote in support of the in-person vaccination clinics provided by the District.

Report

❖ Bend International School Charter Renewal

Superintendent Lora Nordquist reflected that this is the second charter renewal for Bend International School. Nordquist noted that the District is highly supportive of the school and that the school provides fantastic options for our families.

Meera Dayal Rupp, Principal Bend International School, thanked the Board for their hard work. She noted that the school is in their sixth year with an enrollment of 220 students in grades K-8 and that they are proud to be the only international school in the District. Rupp gave a presentation which included the racial diversity of staff and students in the 2020-21 school year, academic data from 2018-19, SEL survey results, enrollment data, an update on the new gym that is under construction, and the different programs that occur within the school year. Rupp thanked the District for their support and looks forward to the coming years.

Tran Miller, Bend International School parent, and her daughters shared their positive experiences at Bend International School and praised the school for the extra experiences available in regards to music, second languages, and smaller class sizes.

Public Hearing

Chair Douglass recessed the regular board meeting and called the Bend International School Public Hearing to order at 5:50 p.m. There was no public testimony so Chair Douglass opened the meeting to questions from the Board.

Melissa Barnes Dholakia appreciated the District's support for different school choice options. Barnes Dholakia complimented Meera Dayal Rupp on her culture data in regards to student connections at school with the return to school. Barnes Dholakia asked for clarification in regards to meeting expected growth data. Dayal Rupp noted there is growth and due to small grade sizes, only one class per grade level, the data can be swayed by just one student absence on test days.

Amy Tatom inquired as to how the school is handling COVID-19 contact tracing. Meera Dayal Rupp discussed how they frequently consult with Tami Pike at the District and also utilize contract nurse services. Contact tracing is done at the school and they currently have their first-grade class out on quarantine due to a positive test. Dayal Rupp thanked the nurses for all of their hard work and for all of their support.

Julie Craig thanked Bend International School for all of their hard work and for what they offer to the community.

Chair Douglass echoed all of the comments of fellow board members and looks forward to attending the Bend International School Gala again soon. She values what a K-8 school can provide to students and appreciates the opportunity Bend International School provides the community.

Chair Douglass closed the hearing and called the regular meeting back to order at 5:56 p.m.

Chair Douglass noted that before moving forward with the Consent Agenda, Superintendent Nordquist had a few comments.

Superintendent Nordquist noted that she will meet with Meera Dayal Rupp in the coming week to negotiate contract amendments prior to the vote on the charter renewal at the June Board Meeting.

Superintendent Nordquist reflected on a mission moment. She announced that the District had recently hired Luis Navez Dircio, a Bend Senior High School graduate. Steve Wetherald, Bend High School Special Education Teacher, had a deep influence on Luis and mentored him. Luis was hired by the District at 19 years old as a Community Liaison with the intent to finish his degree to become a teacher. He completed his goal and was recently hired as a Special Education Teacher.

Consent Agenda

Julie Craig moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Melissa Barnes Dholakia seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Report

❖ Naming of new Building at Bend Senior High School

Chris Reese, Bend Senior High School Principal; Kevin Cooper, Social Studies Teacher; and Maggie Hodson, student, presented on the process used to name the new multi-purpose building at Bend Senior High School. The 14-member naming committee reviewed Robert Maxwell's connection to Bend Senior High and what he means to the school. The naming process began on April 28, 2021, with a discussion on building uses and naming options. In lieu of a solicitation process, they deferred to the name Robert D. Maxwell due to its popularity during the naming process for Caldera High School. Reese again reviewed Mr. Maxwell's connections to Bend Senior High School and recommended the Board make an exception and waive the 5-year deceased requirement in the administrative regulations and approve the naming of the building to the Robert D. Maxwell Center. The building is set to for a grand opening on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2021.

Chair Douglass thanked Chris Reese and his team for their proposal and noted that the board will review the proposal and vote on the proposal at the next Regular School Board Meeting.

Melissa Barnes Dholakia thanked the team for their presentation and reflected on the community's feelings regarding Mr. Maxwell when the name for the new high school was chosen. She wants to go on record that she

is in favor of the board making an exception to the naming process. Stuart Young and Julie Craig echoed Barnes Dholakia's feelings.

Chair Douglass noted that a Public Hearing and vote on the building name will occur at the June 15th Board Meeting.

Chris Reese thanked the Board for their time and consideration.

❖ **Return to School Update**

Superintendent Nordquist discussed the recent schedule changes at middle and high schools this past week and that the change was made to provide additional time for teachers to provide support to students on quarantine and those that are in need of additional supports. There are currently approximately 550 students on quarantine and 75 students that have tested positive since May 1st. The District is watching the numbers week-to-week before determining any future schedule changes.

Over 600 students have been vaccinated at the school vaccination sites. Approximately 40% of the 16–19-year-old age group in the county have started their vaccination series.

CDC has approved the Pfizer vaccine to be administered to children age 12-15; however, Oregon has an additional approval step before it can be administered. The District is already planning for additional clinics once administration has been approved.

In the Governor's press conference today, it was announced that if 65% or more of the county's eligible population is fully vaccinated, the county will move to the low risk level. Deschutes county is very close to meeting the metric. If the metric is met, graduation ceremonies will be opened to additional guests.

Superintendent Nordquist reflected on what the fall is going to look like. Bend-La Pine Schools intends to be all in, five days a week. Opening Caldera High School will reduce overcrowding at all area high schools. Bus routes will return to two routes with middle and high schoolers riding together which will allow for a return to normal start and end times for middle schools. The RSSL will still exist and there will be requirements that the District will be required to meet. The current word from ODE is that masks will be required for all students and staff at the beginning of the school year as will distancing requirements.

Caroline Skidmore inquired as to whether or not we might anticipate metrics that we might be able to meet to reduce restrictions in schools. Superintendent Nordquist said that nothing to that effect has been discussed at this point.

Chair Douglass shared her frustration with the state's slow movement with keeping up with science in regards to masks and quarantining. Superintendent Nordquist stated that the response from the state is that they refer to CDC guidance and that they won't make any changes until the CDC does. Nordquist noted that the District is constantly re-calibrating and getting tighter about who needs to be quarantined to keep quarantine groups as small as possible. Douglass stated that she will continue to advocate for change at the state level.

Julie Craig inquired as to how long it will take for the 12–15-year-old age group vaccination to be approved in Oregon. Superintendent Nordquist shared that Julianne Repman told her that it is possible approval could come within a week. The District is already in the planning stages for additional clinics once approved.

Chair Douglass gave a huge thanks to the District for their time and hard work during this time.

Action Items

❖ **High Desert Education Service District (HDESD) Bend-La Pine Schools Board Position Election**

Chair Douglass reviewed that the HDESD Board of Directors is a nine member board, of which six seats are elected by a school district. She noted that Scott Reynolds, who has represented Bend-La Pine Schools on the HDESD Board since October 2008 has opted not to run for re-election leaving an open seat as of July 1, 2021. She noted that the HDESD advertised the board position with a filing deadline of May 1, 2021, and provided the

applicant materials to the Bend-La Pine School Board Members to review and cast a vote to elect the new representative.

Carlos Perez was the only applicant. Chair Douglass highlighted Mr. Perez's achievements. Melissa Barnes Dholakia shared her excitement around Carlos Perez representing Bend-La Pine on the ESD Board of Directors.

Amy Tatom moved to elect Carlos Perez to serve as Bend-La Pine Schools' District Representative on the High Desert Education Service Board of Directors. Julie Craig seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

❖ Meeting Schedule Changes

Chair Douglass reviewed GP-6: Governance Process, which states the Board will establish an annual meeting schedule, and, with proper notice, the Board may change the meeting schedule. Douglass reviewed conflicts with the May 25, 2021, Work Session Meeting, and the June 8, 2021, Regular Board Meeting. It was recommended that the May Work Session be moved to May, 21, 2021, at 7:30 a.m. and the June Regular Board Meeting be moved to June 15, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.

Chair Douglass moved to approve the recommended schedule updates as presented. Amy Tatom seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Board Comments

Stuart Young reinforced how grateful he is for the professionalism of the budget team and noted how exceptional Brad Henry's leadership style is and wanted to remind the Board not to take that for granted.

Melissa Barnes Dholakia reflected on the student and family enthusiasm at recent vaccination clinics and gave a huge shout out to Mosaic for all of their work at the clinics.

Amy Tatom gave a big thank you to our district nurses for going above and beyond in these times. She encouraged everyone to be kind to others. She also encourages vaccine hesitant people to have a discussion with a trusted healthcare provider.

Julie Craig echoed the excitement she felt at the high school vaccine clinics and to Mosaic for their help. She recently visited Bend Tech Academy to tour the new gym and buildings. She said it was awesome to see all of the changes as she was led by students that shared their love of the school and programs offered there. She noted that the school is an exceptional gift to students looking to choose something different. She also visited Pilot Butte Middle School and saw how students have adjusted to working with COVID restrictions and wished Steve Stancliff the best in his new position.

Shimiko Montgomery thanked Meera Dayal Rupp and Chris Reese for sharing what they are working on in their schools. She wishes Jim Boen the best in his new position and noted how much he will be missed.

Carrie Douglass thanked Brad Henry and his team for the months long work they did on the budget. She reflected on her recent visits to several schools this week delivering plants to nurses and volunteering at vaccine clinics. She saw kids following policy and tons of joy and learning happening. She commented on how confident she is in our team during this tough year. She also implores the public to get vaccinated to keep our case counts down and to do the right thing for the community.

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Recorded by: Janet Bojanowski

MINUTES APPROVED AT JUNE 15, 2021, BOARD MEETING