

**Bend-La Pine Schools  
Bend, OR 97701**

The Board of Directors for Bend-La Pine Schools met in a regular session on May 26, 2015

**Board Members Present**

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

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:22p. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

**Public Hearing: 2015-16 Budget**

Co-Chair Helt recessed the regular board meeting at 6:23p and called to order the Public Hearing for the 2015-16 Budget. There was no public comment. Co-Chair Helt closed the hearing at 6:24p. Superintendent Wilkinson noted the board will take action on approving the 2015-16 budget at the June 9, 2015 meeting. Co-Chair Helt reconvened the regular meeting at 6:24p.

**Public Input**

There was no public input.

**Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Wilkinson shared numerous successes at the recent state Track & Field Championship meet at Hayward Field over the past weekend. Summit High School girls won their ninth consecutive title, setting a record score. Bend High School girls took third place and Mt. View girls finished fifth. In the boys state track competition, La Pine High placed fourth at the 3A level, and Summit High placed fifth at the 5A level. The Summit High School boys tennis team won the state Tennis Championship and their coach, Josh Cordell, was awarded the National Federation of State High School Associations Coaches 2014 Sectional Coach of the Year and also awarded Coach of the year for 2014-15 from the Northwest Oregon Athletic Coaches Association. The Bend High girls' tennis team finished third at the state competition with doubles team Sierra Winch and Jesse Vezo winning the state title in doubles. Summit and Bend High came in first and second at the state boys Golf Championship. Madison Odiorne from Summit High won her record fourth state golfing title, a feat no one of any gender or classification had done before.

Wilkinson shared Summit High School's band took first place at their state competition and the La Pine High FBLA team was named the 3A Chapter of the Year, with several of their team members qualifying to compete in the national competition. The Summit High ultimate Frisbee team won the USA Ultimate Frisbee state championship for Oregon, and Summit High's Jules Bard Ginsparg was recently named a National Merit Scholar. Congratulations to all!

**Consent Agenda**

Peggy Kinkade noted corrections to the May 12, 2015 Budget Committee Meeting minutes. Stuart Young's name should take the place of Mike Jensen. On page five, it should note that Trent Gardner voted against the budget and also should note a second vote was taken on how additional dollars would be spent along with whom voted for and against. Brad Henry said the minutes would be updated.

**Ron Gallinat moved to approve the Consent Agenda with noted changes. Julie Craig seconded the motion. Unanimous approval (Nori Juba not present to vote).**

**Reports**

*Pre K-3 Education*

Dana Arntson introduced Kendra Coates, Regional PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> Coordinator with the High Desert Education Service District, and shared a history of the Pre K-3 Education work Coates has been doing over the past couple of years with districts in the Central Oregon region. Coates explained Oregon's vision for PreK work and the P-20 continuum,

noting the fragmentation and gaps in services amongst systems, which ultimately leads to achievement gaps, thus setting the stage for her work.

Arntson and Coates shared a presentation and overview of the what, why, and how for PreK-3 work in the district and region and what the future holds. Coates explained what a PreK-3 Approach is and the goals set in place for the program: improve child outcomes, focus on development, learning and growth; and prevent and close the access, opportunity and achievement gaps. Research and investment was reviewed and Arntson shared what districts and schools can do by implementing a PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> Approach. Coates noted Oregon is slower than many other states in the nation developing PreK-3 strategies, but at the same time Oregon is now benefitting from the work that has been happening across the nation and are able to move at a more rapid pace. Coates reviewed the PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> Context for Oregon and noted the work done from 1993 to present.

Peggy Kinkade asked how children are identified to participate in the 4-year old program. Arntson said Title dollars have been used to implement evaluations and establish district wide programs that will be housed at schools in a targeted assistance model, partnered with Healthy Beginnings. She noted Healthy Beginnings has a great screening process they will supplement with an academic screening. Kinkade asked about transportation services. Arntson said currently transportation for this program is not considered reimbursable, but there is advocacy at the state level to change that, as transportation is the number one prohibitive factor of the program. The program would be a half-day model and locations are being assessed with public transportation access being a large part of deciding location. Arntson said there will be a certified teacher and educational assistant in the classroom. Co-Chair Juba asked how many students per classroom. Arntson said about 32 total students will be split between two classrooms.

Andy High asked how many students are being served by private preschools. Coates said about 50% of 4-year olds are in some sort of formal program, the other half enter kindergarten without any sort of formal exposure to education. High noted the expansion of this program could potentially pull from the private sector. Arntson clarified this program is based on academic need and readiness and Julie Craig added there is great potential to partner with private providers. Arntson agreed and noted many private providers have been a part of this work and are excited about partnering in professional development and sharing of resources.

Co-Chair Helt said she attended a PreK-3 retreat earlier this year and was impressed with the work being done, level of expertise and variety of preschools and various district teachers who were involved. The difference in the level of expectations of private providers versus what the district is looking toward was evident, and the idea of professional development would be a great way to bring this community together. Helt said attending the retreat helped her understand better that this is necessary work to help ensure more and more students are coming into kindergarten ready.

Coates shared what Bend-La Pine Schools has done specifically, since 2011, noting the Preschool Storyline project at Juniper on May 28. The program is a great partnership with Deschutes Public Library and Arntson is hopeful it will continue to grow. Brain Camp will be at Elk Meadow again this summer and will also be at Pine Ridge Elementary and Jump Start to Kindergarten will be held at two sites to help soften the entry into kindergarten along with several other efforts to engage families prior to students entering kindergarten.

Juba noted early learning provides the biggest return on investment and he is on board with the ideas shared. He shared his concern about assessing a 4-year old on academic skills and imposing standards, and is fearful of forcing young children into doing what they are not developmentally ready for. He expressed his concern in the district taking young students into our fold. Nordquist agreed and noted the work around the nation that has reemphasized that preschool should not be treated like first grade. Nordquist noted much of Coates' work has been focused in socio-emotional learning and an emphasis of the regional work is to help understand what is developmentally appropriate for young students. Juba asked about the teachers being hired for these positions. Arntson said teachers will need to hold an Oregon teaching license, and have a passion for early childhood learning, and feels confident the district will be able to hire qualified teachers and educational assistants for these classrooms.

Helt asked how the district and board could work to prevent standardized testing for these students. Arntson said it will take much advocacy and effort at the state level. Coates noted the grant applications they submit are very specific with testing requirements. Craig asked if the teachers could possibly have an alternate degree, like human development, and be qualified to teach. Nordquist said the district must follow the certified contract language and state laws around licensure, but will continue to explore options.

Stuart Young shared his support of the work in teaching and supporting the whole child and Helt shared her thanks and appreciated the information shared and work being done. Bill Reuiter, audience member, invited board members to visit the summer learning program at Ponderosa Elementary with approximately 150 students participating each Tuesday. Nordquist noted the program has been expanded to Lava Ridge this summer.

## **Action**

### *2015-16 Board Elections*

Co-Chair Helt asked for comments or nominations for 2015-16 board officer position.

**Julie Craig nominated Nori Juba to serve as chairman of the board. Ron Gallinat seconded the nomination. Unanimous approval (Nori Juba abstained from the vote).**

**Ron Gallinat nominated Peggy Kinkade to serve as vice chairwoman of the board. Andy High seconded the nomination. Unanimous approval (Peggy Kinkade abstained from the vote).**

## **Discussion**

### *Comprehensive Plan*

Shay Mikalson presented his vision and handout showing the movement from Student A to Student B, noting the district is here to prepare students for their futures, not our pasts. He highlighted the 4 C's and social and emotional skills are what allow students to achieve and succeed in and beyond school.

Mikalson reviewed parts of the current Comprehensive Plan that reflect the Student A to Student B goal. As new superintendent, a goal he has set will be to continue gain traction in this work and help the board set their own goals and define their desired outcomes. He shared a sample handout that could be used and become a real-time tool for the board and district to look at data from the district's DART (Data Analysis and Reporting Tool) system.

Co-Chair Helt thanked Superintendent Wilkinson for the work he has done during his career to set the stage for these next steps. She is proud of what the district has done and noted there was a great deal of discussion in the superintendent search process about the future and how to carry the good work forward. She asked board members to look at the Comprehensive Plan's first page and think of the visioning retreat the board had in August 2014, the vision articulated during with the decision to hire Mikalson and make sure what is written reflects the intentions of the board.

Co-Juba shared his thoughts, noting he is okay with what is in the plan, but would like to see the words personalized or individualized learning be more predominant as part of recognizing the powerful vision of Student B. Andy High suggested changing out the word 'excellent' in Goal 1. Young commented this is an excellent foundation with a huge amount of information. Taking the transition plan presented by Mikalson into consideration, Young would like to study and review the Comprehensive Plan and suggested making it the board's summer homework. He is not ready to wordsmith and suggested working in teams or in mini sessions to make a plan of the future direction of the board and district.

Helt agreed and said she brought this discussion forward because she wanted to make sure she finished the work she started as Board Chair. She asked board members to give Mikalson permission to continue his visioning work through the summer as the board studies the Comp Plan more in depth. Juba affirmed Student B is what the board is interested in moving toward and suggested using the summer as time to process what goals and measures the board would like to establish. All board members agreed. Helt reiterated the board is not changing direction, but using the solid foundation laid to continue moving toward world class. The board shared suggestions and priorities and agreed to review and work on the Comprehensive Plan over the summer.

### *Board Governance & Transition*

Co-Chair Juba reminded the board of the challenge Mikalson gave to them during his interview about defining what it means to be an effective board. Juba feels the board needs to audit district performance and would like to establish an audit committee of the board to look at performance in areas like finances and instruction. Juba shared about an audit done at one point during his tenure on the board and the benefits of the work done. He proposed the board take a more active role in audit function, which will ultimately help the board do their work. Juba called for nominations for Board Secretary Officer to help oversee the school board budget. Ron Gallinat asked if current board bi-laws need to be updated in order to form the committees suggested. Young supported Juba's recommendation and the concept of reviewing the roles of the board. Superintendent Wilkinson noted there are not any bi-laws, but there are Board Governance Policies to look at regarding committee formation. Juba suggested a Policy Governance Committee also be formed to help review policies and more clearly establish board and superintendent responsibilities to work

together more efficiently. Peggy Kinkade said she is willing to do work with policy review and noted in the current version of BD GOV B it does not seem that the board would be in violation if they move forward with formation of committees. Juba asked if all board members were in favor of moving forward.

Juba said he would like to establish an Audit Committee and appointed Andy High to chair that committee. Juba also would like to establish a Policy Governance Committee and appointed Peggy Kinkade to chair that committee. He called for a vote to elect a Secretary / Treasurer for the board.

**Peggy Kinkade moved to elect Andy High as Secretary / Treasurer for the board. Julie Craig seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.**

Juba said he would like to begin work immediately, and for the board to deliberate with each charge for the committees. He asked Ron Gallinat to write up a charge for each of the committee chairs for the work to be done. Mikalson agreed looking at policy governance is important work in creating an effective district and focusing on the big picture. Juba agreed and said many good conversations have started about reorienting board mindset and focusing on big goals and embracing goals that are independent of 'district work.' Juba feels, as a board, they need to come up with some 'break the box' goals and deliver on them. Stuart Young will spearhead a taskforce on alternative funding models. Juba said there are pockets of excellence in the district and would like to see these pockets spread to become district-wide. He said there are also judiciary duties and responsibilities that the audit committee will be a key part of ensuring the nuts and bolts are being taken care of.

Juba feels the framework of the board is good, but the board also needs to be world class in processes and policies. There is a need to redefine roles and processes for the board to work more effectively.

#### *Summer Meeting Schedule: June & July 2015*

Co-Chair Juba suggested setting aside time for a two-hour workshop with MacPherson and Jacobson to talk about policy governance. Once the meeting is scheduled a follow up will be sent to board members.

Co-Chair Helt asked when the board would like to have their board retreat. Board members suggested options and it was decided August 4. Details on time and location will follow.

Stuart Young will host a board social and will let the board know of a date and time.

Co-Chair Helt proposed cancelling the June 23<sup>rd</sup> board meeting. All board members agreed.

**Ron Gallinat moved to cancel the June 23, 2015 board meeting. Julie Craig seconded the motion. Unanimous approval (Andy High not present to vote).**

Co-Chair Juba would like to clarify the summer board leadership schedule. Mikalson offered to coordinate with board members on dates and times.

#### **Board Comments**

Co-Chair Helt thanked all the teachers and principals who attended the Excellence in Education awards, adding it is fun to meet and celebrate great teachers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17p

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Wilson