

Bend-La Pine Schools
May 8, 2018

The Board of Directors for Bend-La Pine Schools met in a regular session on May 8, 2018 in room 314 at the Education Center, 520 NW Wall Street, Bend, OR 97703.

Board Members Present

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

Call to Order

Chair High called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

Public Input

Chair High asked those who were signed up for public comment to please keep comments between three and five minutes, explained the public input process, and that the Board will follow up individually as needed.

Deb White, middle school teacher in her 25th year of teaching, shared about classroom dynamics and how drastically different student needs are today from when she first started; and how staffing and resources have not changed to meet the increasing needs of students. She noted the increase in mental illness and the need for the district to support students and find more ways to incorporate outside services.

Cara Dodge, special programs teacher, shared her reasons for resigning after working as a resource teacher at Buckingham Elementary for 20 years. She noted increased caseloads, inequity in special programs staffing, the high turnover rate and burnout amongst her colleagues.

Marla Silberfein, 4th grade teacher at Juniper Elementary, expressed her support for elementary resource teachers in the district and shared her concern of large caseloads and lack of staffing to support student needs. She urged the Board and district to consider increasing funding for special program staffing.

Amber Keyser, children's book author, spoke about Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB) and her support for including the book *George*. She noted the importance of inclusion and building empathy, understanding and connection amongst students.

Julie Zwillich, parent and children's book author, shared why she feels *George* was an excellent choice and title to include by OBOB. She encouraged the district to continue to participate in OBOB as a voluntary program and commented on the concerning number of suicides in the LGBTQ community and the need to foster understanding and empathy in children.

Janelle Rebick, BEA president, shared a letter on behalf of Tami Otis, a life skills teacher at Buckingham Elementary. The letter discussed current working conditions and the need for more support to help student's increasing needs.

David Dallas, teacher and parent, shared about his transgender child's experiences in school and advocated for the inclusion of the book *George*. He spoke about the importance of literature in discussion and understanding the human experience and how *George* would allow those conversations to occur and lead to a more supportive, caring and accepting environment for the transgender community.

Laura Clark, Juniper Elementary resource teacher, shared she is retiring early from her positions for many of the same reasons Cara Dodge shared. She asked that the district look at caseloads with a more equitable lens and offer more support for those students with the highest needs to help them be academically successful.

Donna Ruzicka, life skills teacher at Juniper Elementary, shared about her work experiences with veteran teachers like Cara Dodge and Laura Clark and appreciates all they have taught her. She advocated for more programming and funding to support special programs in the district.

Debora Magdalano, grandparent of current high school students, shared her concerns around high school dress code expectations for girls and that there needs to be consistency in the expectations of dress and grooming for male and female students.

Consent Agenda

Ron Gallinat moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Julie Craig seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Reports

EL 7 – Facilities Monitoring Report

Superintendent Mikalson reviewed the EL 7 monitoring report in the board packet and noted the updated version of the facility naming process. He asked Board members to review the suggested changes and be ready to possibly take action on at the June 12 Board meeting.

Peggy Kinkade asked about #5 and said she would like to suggest the Board look at district surplus properties again. Mikalson said an addendum in the EL 11 Asset Protection monitoring report included a summary of surplus property. Kinkade suggested a committee review inventory and make a recommendation of properties, if any, to be sold. Chair High and Julie Craig were on the committee about five years ago that reviewed surplus properties and offered to do so again in partnership with the district's relator of record. Brad Henry clarified the review would be of the district's vacant land.

Craig suggested a five-year cycle for looking at vacant surplus land. Mikalson noted review of property is also part of the Sites and Facilities process. Helt recently attended a Bend Parks & Recreation Board Meeting and at that meeting, they announced their intent to develop fields near Pacific Crest Middle School. Henry said a development / land lease agreement is currently being drafted for Parks & Rec to develop the fields, clarify access and afterhours use, and clarify maintenance expectations. He anticipated the agreement to be finalized in the next months.

EL 12 – Legally Required Policies Monitoring Report

Superintendent Mikalson reviewed the EL 12 monitoring report in the board packet and noted the work of policy monitoring is ongoing. He and his team continue to refine ways to communicate out policy and regulation updates and suggested a quarterly type of report to the Board. Cheri Helt appreciated the information in the monitoring report and was supportive of trying quarterly reports for the next school year.

Board Comments

Julie Craig shared the idea of the Board and Bend City Council holding a joint meeting. Chair High said an invitation was extended to Bend City staff and Council members to join the May 22 Community Linkage meeting. Craig commented on dress code and said she is supportive of teaching male students to be respectful and, of equal level of expectation for male and female students. She would like to continue the conversation around dress code and hear from students on their experiences and feelings.

Stuart Young shared his excitement for the upcoming Community Linkage meeting. He commented on the tremendous and rapid change in student needs and noted the district is working hard to help support and balance

resources. He is committed to continually evaluating where resources are invested and outcomes of those investments.

Peggy Kinkade shared her appreciation for the dedication and impact on student's lives that staff members are making, noting that Teacher Appreciation week is this week. She attended the OSU State of the University event and learned that 100% of those participating in the Juntos program in Central Oregon graduate from high school and 100% of the OSU computer science graduates last year were able to find jobs in their industry in Central Oregon; both are wonderful things to celebrate.

Ron Gallinat attended the Excellence in Education award event honoring staff members and said it was wonderful to hear so many great stories and honor staff members all across the district.

Cheri Helt also attended the Excellence in Education event and enjoyed hearing about staff members going above and beyond in their profession. She attended the multi-cultural lunch at Mt. View High School where nine different countries were represented and thanked teachers for putting together a fun and informative event. Helt also attended the OSU State of the University event and appreciates what a wonderful partner they are with their teaching and mental health programs.

Chair High thanked all those who shared during public comment adding the Board appreciates and takes comments seriously. He met with Carolyn Skidmore last week about ways the district can help to provide gunlocks in an effort to help with safety in our community. He noted the Board Retreat will be held on July 30 and reminded all Board members of upcoming graduation ceremonies.

Stuart Young added he attended a musical event at La Pine High School and there were over 60 students from La Pine Middle and La Pine High who performed. The event was wonderful and he appreciates the extra support the Oregon Community Foundation grant has provided in getting students involved in music.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Wilson
5.8.2018