

Bend-La Pine Schools Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: March 10, 2020

Meeting Location:

Bend-La Pine Schools Education Center
520 NW Wall Street, Bend, OR 97703

Board Members Present

Julie Craig
Shimiko Montgomery
Caroline Skidmore
Melissa Barnes Dholakia
Amy Tatom
Stuart Young *attended via teleconference*
Carrie Douglass *attended via teleconference*

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Co-Chair Craig. The Pledge of Allegiance and review of the agenda followed.

Public Input

Co-Chair Craig reviewed the process for public comment.

Several community members addressed the board about naming the new high school after Robert D. Maxwell. Those in support noted Maxwell's service in the U.S. Army during World War II and that Maxwell was awarded a Medal of Honor. After his military service, Maxwell turned to education and eventually taught auto mechanics at Bend Senior High and Central Oregon Community College. Those who spoke felt that naming the new high school after Maxwell would be an excellent way to honor and recognize his service and character. They asked the board to reconsider the naming policy and name the new high school in honor of Maxwell. Those who addressed the board included: Ted Lyster, Jacob Iyes, J.W. Terry, and Linda Maxwell daughter.

Lyster also presented the board with signed petitions, asking the board to reconsider the naming process and name the new high school after Maxwell. Co-Chair Craig thanked those who spoke and in attendance to show their support of Mr. Maxwell. She noted the board has received and read or listened to all the letters and messages from community members who have also shared their support for naming the new high school after Maxwell. She said the board will discuss the naming of the new high school later in the meeting as shown on the agenda.

Judy Fuentes, artist in residence at Pine Ridge Elementary, thanked all the Veterans in attendance for their service and shared a handout with the board about the importance of art in elementary education. She invited board members to visit Pine Ridge during an art lesson and is hopeful the district will continue to fund arts with the Student Success Act funds.

Sharon Bellusci shared a flyer and invited board members to the upcoming Central Oregon Dyslexia Conference for educators in Bend-La Pine and Redmond School Districts. She shared about the presenters, topics and desired outcomes for the conference.

Consent Agenda

Amy Tatom moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Shimiko Montgomery seconded the motion. Unanimous approval

Reports

❖ Education Foundation

Superintendent Mikalson introduced Wendy Graunitz and Michelle Johnson from the Education Foundation to share about the Foundations work to support classroom grants, athletic and activity fee scholarships, perseverance awards, Latino student scholarships and mental health support grants. Johnson shared about the recent expansion of the classroom grants which are now twice a year. A new scholarship in honor of Charlotte Van Valkenburg has been established for schools in Central Oregon to support robotics programs. Johnson invited all to the 15th Annual Trivia Bee at the Tower Theater on Friday, April 17, noting there are still a few business sponsored teams that are available. She thanked board members and the district for their continue support. Co-Chair Craig thanked Graunitz and Johnson for their leadership and the amazing work they do to support students, teachers and schools. Mikalson agreed, and commented on the tremendous growth the Foundation has seen under the leadership of Graunitz and Johnson.

❖ Desert Sky Montessori Charter Review

Lora Nordquist introduced Jodie Borgia, Head of School at Desert Sky Montessori (DSM) to share about their program and what has taken place at their school since it was established as a charter school in the 2017-18 school year. Borgia shared about their program, classrooms, enrollment and growth over the past three years. There are now 165 students enrolled in the K-5 program. Borgia highlighted DSM's hopes to continue to grow enrollment and that they are continuing to evaluate and possibly pursue a different location. Co-Chair Craig shared her appreciation for the program and alternative education model DSM offers students. Melissa Barnes Dholakia appreciated hearing about how the school was started, and thanked Borgia for taking the time to educate new board members about their school.

Superintendent Mikalson expressed his appreciation to Borgia for her leadership and partnership with the district. He noted DSM's initial charter contract with the district expires on June 30, 2020. DSM has submitted a written request to renew their charter contract and the public hearing, scheduled later in the meeting, is the first portion of the renewal process. He encouraged the board to continue to support Desert Sky Montessori's charter.

❖ Secondary Attendance Area Announcement

Superintendent Mikalson noted the executive summary in the board packet which reviews the work of the Attendance Area Committee and their recommendation for secondary attendance areas. Mikalson shared his appreciation for the committee's work and noted there are maps available on the district's website with the new attendance areas. Co-Chair Craig shared her thanks to all committee members for their time and dedication throughout the process.

Mikalson said he is supportive of the committee's recommendation and the new secondary attendance areas will go into effect with the 2021-22 school year.

❖ Financial Update

Brad Henry reviewed the third quarter financial executive summary in the board packet and offered to answer any questions. He added the district's projected reserves has increased since the last financial update which will help make the payment to PERS which is scheduled to take place in August 2020.

Public Hearing

❖ Desert Sky Montessori Charter Contract Renewal

Co-Chair Craig recessed the regular board meeting and called the Desert Sky Montessori Charter Contract Renewal Public Hearing to order at 6:32 p.m. There was no public testimony. Superintendent Mikalson reviewed the process for charter renewal and said the final contract would come back to the board for approval. Co-Chair Craig closed the hearing and called the regular meeting back to order at 6:33 p.m.

Action Items

❖ Approval of Desert Sky Montessori Contract Renewal

Amy Tatom moved to approve Desert Sky Montessori's Charter Contract Renewal request, and that the district begin contract negotiations with Desert Sky Montessori. Caroline Skidmore seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

❖ Approval of Student Investment Account Plan

Superintendent Mikalson noted the Student Investment Account Plan (SIA) in the board packet, the SIA application and proposed resolution at each board member's seat. Mikalson said the application is also posted on the district website, and if approved by the board, will be submitted to the state. Mikalson said after the application is submitted the district will enter negotiations with the state, and the final plan will come back to the board for approval. He thanked district leaders who helped coordinate efforts for the plan and application. He said he is hopeful the board approve Resolution 1894 : Student Investment Account Application Approval as presented.

Amy Tatom read Resolution 1894 : Student Investment Account Application aloud. Caroline Skidmore moved to approve Resolution 1894 as presented. Stuart Young seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Marcus LeGrand asked for clarification on the district's efforts to hire a diverse work force for the new positions afforded by SIA funds. Jay Mathisen shared the district's goal continues to be that the staff members working in schools reflect the demographics of students; noting there is room to improve and challenges in finding qualified staff members to fit that role. He shared about the district's expanded recruitment and retention efforts to hire and maintain a more diverse work force.

❖ New High School Name

Co-Chair Craig reviewed the new high school naming executive summary in the board packet. She noted the process and proposed names from the naming committee and asked board members for comment.

Co-Chair Douglass thanked those who came to speak and who took time to communicate with the board to share their desire for the new high school to be named after Robert Maxwell. She noted her appreciation for not only Maxwell's service, but for all Veterans and those who are actively serving our country. Douglass shared thoughts the importance of developing and following policies and feels the work of the naming committee should be honored. Douglass added, Principal Boyd led a thorough and thoughtful process with the naming committee, aligned with district policy. She supports the names brought forward by the committee. As an alumni of Bend Senior High School, Douglass said she would like to see a portion of the Bend High campus named after Maxwell. She thanked community members for their passion and encouraged them to stay engaged with all areas of the district.

Co-Chair Craig shared her appreciation to Veterans and their families and to those who have shown support of Maxwell. Craig noted several comments have been made alluding to the board not valuing or having respect for those who have served; which she clarified is not at all accurate. She too would like to honor the work of Boyd and the naming committee. She shared her excitement for what a new high school brings to a community and

feels the focus and attention should be on what happens within the walls of a school rather than a name. She said she is supportive of the committee's recommendation and is in favor of the new high school being named Caldera High School. Craig added, if the board would like to discuss a revision to the naming policy, that could take place in June when the board is scheduled to review EL 7 – Facilities.

Amy Tatom thanked everyone who shared their support for Mr. Maxwell. She said she is not thrilled with the names proposed by the naming committee, however, she will support the work of the committee. She is looking forward to the board revisiting the naming policy and would like to continue to discuss naming of facilities after people.

Melissa Barnes Dholakia shared her appreciation for those who have served in armed serves and feels strongly that the legacy of Mr. Maxwell will carry on in the community. She also shared her appreciation for the work and process of the naming committee, especially their lens of inclusivity. She too is supportive of the committee's recommendation for Caldera High School; and would like to find a way to honor Mr. Maxwell by naming a portion of the Bend High campus after him.

Shimiko Montgomery agreed with fellow board members and shared her appreciation for those who have served our country. She also shared her appreciation for the work of Boyd and the naming committee and supports their recommendation to name the new high school Caldera High School. Stuart Young also agreed with fellow board members and would like to see the board consider a way to honor Mr. Maxwell. He shared his support for naming the new high school Caldera High School.

Shimiko Montgomery moved to approve the new high school be named Caldera High School. Melissa Barnes Dholakia second the motion. Unanimous approval.

Board Comments

Caroline Skidmore expressed her gratitude and appreciation for the Veterans who spoke and would like to further at ways to honor Mr. Maxwell at the Bend High campus. She noted the decision to name a school is difficult, however she supports the process and appreciates the work of Principal Boyd and the naming committee.

Amy Tatom also thanked those who attended and spoke on behalf of Mr. Maxwell. She reiterated her desire for the board to review the naming of facilities policy.

Co-Chair Craig recessed the regular meeting at 7:01 p.m. for the board to move into executive session. Co-Chair Craig resumed and recessed the regular meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Recorded by: Andrea Wilson

Minutes approved at 4.14.2020 board meeting