

Bend-La Pine Schools Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: December 8, 2020

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Douglass, roll call followed. Chair Douglass noted the meeting will be translated simultaneously on the district's Spanish Facebook page.

Review of Agenda

Chair Douglass reviewed the agenda and suggested moving the superintendent search process update to take place after the consent agenda.

Public Input

Chair Douglass noted the Board received public input in written format and the following comments were read aloud:

- Request to reopen schools: Lindsay Lyon
- Request to revise recent grading mandate: Jim Bright and Lisa Nye (on behalf of 54 teachers at Bend Senior High School)

Consent Agenda

Stuart Young moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Melissa Barnes Dholakia seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Discussion Items

❖ Superintendent Search Process

Chair Douglass shared an update on the superintendent search and said the two finalists will be interviewing next week and invited the public to watch the public forums scheduled for December 16 from 5:00-7:15 p.m. Douglass noted the finalists will be announced next week and a full summary of the search process, candidates and ability for anyone to submit questions for candidates to respond during their public forums will be posted on the district website in the next few days. Melissa Barnes Dholakia commented on the Board's desire to make the process as transparent as possible, and said video recordings of the various portions of the finalist interview will be posted to the district website along with a summary of the search process. She encouraged all to participate and provide feedback through the website.

Reports

❖ **School Reopening Update**

Superintendent Nordquist shared an update and responded to some of the most frequently asked questions from community members and the Board, including impact of COVID-19 to enrollment and how that may impact the district's budget. Nordquist noted county metrics continue to worsen; however, the district continues to serve students in Limited In Person Instruction (LIPI) but are not looking to expand this program with the large number of cases in Deschutes County. Once metrics begin to go down, the district does have plans to expand LIPI and hopefully will get to the point of having students be able to return to school. Tami Pike shared an update on training, contact tracing, health related communications and feels employees and students participating in LIPI are doing well following procedures and protocols. Paul Dean shared an update about testing procedures being discussed at the state and county level and Brad Henry shared an update on OSAA's athletic and activity season calendars and protocols.

Board members shared their frustration in the rising COVID-19 infection rates in Deschutes County, and encouraged the community to continue with best practices to mitigate spread.

❖ **Alternative Learning Options Report**

Chair Douglass introduced Kathy McCollum, HDESD Alternative Learning Options Coordinator, to share the Contract and Charter School Evaluation report. McCollum thanked the Board for their time and asked representatives from each program to introduce themselves and shared their most significant accomplishment over the past year. McCollum noted page 5 in the report included in the board packet also highlights the accomplishments of each program. She reviewed the standards set by state law and the evaluation report and matrix and said all contract and charter schools met all required standards. McCollum's recommendation is to accept the evaluation report as written and approve contracts for the next school year.

Melissa Barnes Dholakia asked about the shifts made in the OYCP program that allowed for the significant growth seen in the report data, including, graduate numbers, GED, credits earned, etc. John Bouchard, from OYCP, shared about the program and work done to expand and continue to see student success grow.

Douglass noted the Board will take action on the evaluation report and contract renewals at the January 12, 2021 board meeting and thanked McCollum and ALO representatives for the thorough report.

❖ **Executive Limitation 8 – Instructional Program Policy Monitoring Report**

Katie Legace noted the executive summary and report in the board packet and reviewed highlights of work accomplished and priorities for the upcoming year.

Legace shared district disciplinary data, reviewing expulsion and suspension data, noting the decrease in numbers of both over the past five years. Legace attributed the downward trend to the behavior intervention work being done at the schools and complimented the efforts made by staff to help find alternative ways to help support students; she also noted there is still some work to be done to help reduce expulsions in certain student population groups. Discussion ensued on expanded training being done at schools and efforts to make discipline practices more systematic across the district.

Legace introduced Jim Boen and Sean Reinhart to share about the district's SEL work. Reinhart shared an overview about SEL and Culture of Care Advisory and the work of their team and the goals and actions they are working to accomplish including hiring a Director of Social Emotional Wellness, adopting a core SEL curricula and integrating Culture of Care practices, identifying metrics and ways to measure SEL and integration of Culture of Care and call out SEL more in the Board Ends including specific data measurement points, and to develop annual professional learning plans.

Amy Yillik, Amber McGill, Erin Taylor and Sierra Jackson shared about the Culture of Care, partnerships in the community, staff professional development, district level collaboration and work being done this year to

support students and how they have expanded and adapted to support students and schools during closures due to COVID-19.

Jen Goodman and Dean Richards spoke about BRYT Intervention work happening in high schools. Goodman shared about the types of students who are typically served in BRYT programs and key features of space and staff to help provide comprehensive support for students. She gave an overview of the components of the BRYT intervention including academic coordination, clinical support, family engagement, care coordination and BRYT supports. Dean Richards shared about the action and systems components taking place in high schools in line with the BRYT intervention program. BRYT is also helping to facilitate conversations with district leadership on equity which is exciting and powerful work that will continue with staff and students.

Julie Craig asked how can the district increase and provide more services to students during distance learning and shared her concern for student's mental health. Discussion ensued on how to support and provide wellness functions that schools normally offer students when in person. Reinhart noted there are family connection teams working to reach out to students and families and noted the importance and power of LIPI in helping support students, and the work being done to support and keep extra-curricular activities going within the parameters of ODE guidance. These are examples of the types of efforts that are helping students and trying to adapt to our circumstances to support students' wellbeing. Yillik added the training and work that continues around trauma informed practices has proven invaluable as we work as a system to connect and create relationships with students and families during these difficult times. Goodman also shared about work being done in behavior programs across the district and students who are participating and accessing program supports as part of LIPI.

Barnes Dholakia shared her appreciation for information shared in the report and the work being done in the Culture of Care as well as the focus on serving students in LIPI who are most in need.

Legace introduced Chris Boyd to share about the All Students Belong initiative. Boyd shared that this is a new Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) that was adopted in September 2020 to prevent, acknowledge and repair harm related to hate, harassment, and bias. Oregon Department of Education has since provided districts with guidelines and a set of rules that districts are being asked to follow, effective January 1, 2021, including adoption of policy and procedure to address bias incidents. Kinsey Martin shared about the next steps the district will be taking to comply with requirements and noted the work the district has already been doing around these initiatives internally as well with community partners.

Shimiko Montgomery asked about how school resource officers will be trained to support and understand district response guidelines. Boyd shared about his connection with community partners, including SRO's, earlier this fall and how stakeholders are excited to learn together and partner with the district to create a system that supports initiatives outlined by All Students Belong. Discussion ensued on training, support and intervention efforts.

Barnes Dholakia shared her desire to see this work begin at the elementary level, as a proactive measure, to build positive behaviors with the youngest learners. Nordquist added the lift of All Students Belong is a heavy one, but it aligns with the district's Strategic Priorities and is not seen as a compliance effort, rather a critical step to support all of our families, staff and students.

❖ **Financial Report**

Leah Bibeau reviewed the financial update provided in the board packet and offered to answer any questions. She noted the second quarter report allows for a more accurate picture for the year and reviewed projections for the remainder of the fiscal year. The 2019-20 fiscal year audit is now complete and no findings were issued and Bibeau shared her appreciation for the Business Office team for their work and the completion of the CAFR.

Action Items

❖ OSBA Board of Directors, Position 3 Election & 2021-2022 Legislative Priorities & Principles Resolution

Chair Douglass reviewed the executive summary and materials included in the board packet and entertained a motion for the OSBA Board of Directors election as well as the 2021-2022 Legislative Priorities and Principles Resolution.

Julie Craig moved to approve that the Board of Directors for Bend-La Pine Schools support Patty Norris for the OSBA Board of Directors, Position 3. Melissa Barnes Dholakia seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Chair Douglass moved to approve that the Board of Directors for Bend-La Pine Schools support the OSBA 2021-22 Legislative Priorities and Principles as recommended by the Legislative Policy Committee. Julie Craig seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

❖ Real Estate Transaction – Sale of Brosterhous Property

Chair Douglass reviewed the executive summary in the board packet. Mike Tiller offered to answer any questions. There were no questions.

Julie Craig moved to approve the sale of the property located at 60860 Brosterhous Road, Bend, OR 97702 for \$320,000.00. Amy Tatom seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Board Comments

Julie Craig thanked Bend Tech Academy at Marshall High School for the face masks they sent to Board members. She recently attended a Restorative Justice Circles training along with Barnes Dholakia and Montgomery and it was a great experience and appreciates the opportunity to be able to attend and see the learning and work being done.

Stuart Young noted Reinhart's examples of efforts to adapt and support students, and thanked every district employee for their dedication, heart and tenacity during an incredibly difficult time. He reminded all that we will get through this and the district is a strong and wonderful place and he is proud of the work being done.

Melissa Barnes Dholakia agreed with Young's sentiments and shared her thanks to local health authorities for their support and expertise and noted the work and preparation being done by district leaders. She shared her appreciation to the ALO programs noting their work is more important than ever as they help support struggling students. She also shared her appreciation for all those who presented during the EL 8 report and the huge lift and efforts being made to move forward with programs and priorities during difficult circumstances.

Craig asked about ALO programs and if their enrollment and in person options over the past fall. Barnes Dholakia noted that many are residential programs and have been able to operate as the state has set a different set of metrics for these types of programs. Jim Boen noted how students in ALO programs enroll, and the differing factors each works under as part of their program.

Chair Douglass thanked all Board members for their time, efforts and dedication during the past months. She appreciates their advocacy for students and returning to school safely.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Recorded by: Andrea Wilson

Minutes approved at 1.12.2021 board meeting