

**Bend-La Pine Schools
Bend, OR 97703**

The Board of Directors for Bend-La Pine Schools met in a regular meeting and board retreat on August 2, 2016 at the MODA Building, 360 SW Bond Street in the 2nd floor conference room, Bend, OR 97703.

Regular Meeting

Board Members Present

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

Called to Order

The regular meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chair Kinkade. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Public Input

Jennifer Baran, parent and community member, thanked the board for their time and expressed her concerns about microwave radiation, a class 2b carcinogen. Microwave radiation is present in iPhones, iPads, cell phones, and anything that uses wifi. Baran said 12 countries and Los Angeles Unified School District have all made efforts to limit and reduce exposure to microwave radiation. Baran shared handouts of research to better inform about the dangers of exposure to microwave radiation.* Baran urged the district to take immediate action to reduce exposure and offered several suggestions that could help lessen exposure. Baran asked the board to address microwave radiation as a formal agenda item in a future meeting to continue the discussion.

*all articles are available in the Superintendent's Office for review

Paul Sheean, parent and community member, shared he now understands how harmful microwave radiation exposure is after much research. Sheean feels the dangers of exposure are not widely discussed because the wifi industry is huge and many companies stand to benefit financially from the continued growth and usage. He said the most important thing is understanding and educating parents, teachers, etc. about the risks of exposure and ways to help support the health of all children. Sheean also urged the district to take action and make efforts to reduce microwave radiation in schools.

Chair Kinkade thanked Baran and Sheean for their information and said the board will work with Superintendent Mikalson to follow up on this topic and how it relates to student safety. Andy High also thanked both for their time and asked that any additional research or articles they would like to share be emailed to board members.

Lori Bogen thanked the board for their time and said she appreciates the position and responsibility of a board member. She also thanked Superintendent Mikalson and Lora Nordquist who facilitated the evaluation of the Central Oregon Family School Charter application. Bogen feels COFS is ready to open their doors and have worked hard over the last two years to prove themselves a successful school option. First Presbyterian Church has agreed to house COFS and there are numerous parents who are ready to begin and excited about the model of school COFS offers. Bogen said she would appreciate a yes vote to sponsor the COFS application from the board today.

Consent Agenda

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

Cheri Helt clarified the reason she is supportive of IP 65 is because the bill has specifically identified and dedicated funding to go toward education (comments on page six of the minutes).

Unanimous approval of the Consent Agenda with noted update to the minutes.

Action Items

Central Oregon Family School Charter Application

Chair Kinkade noted the materials in the board packet reflect work done by the district's evaluation team and public hearing information. Superintendent Mikalson thanked Lora Nordquist for her work in leading the Central Oregon Family School (COFS) charter application review process. He explained after the public hearing the school board must either approve or deny the application within 30 days. Mikalson reviewed his recommendation to the board and noted the elements of the application that gave him reason not to support approving the application. Mikalson shared his concerns around COFS' ability to meet the needs of all students, curriculum, instructional time and attendance standards. His fundamental concern is that the COFS model is very similar to what Bend-La Pine Online (BLPO) currently offers and is not sure that this charter option would fill an unmet need in the district.

Mikalson said if the board chooses to approve the application today, the next step would be to begin to develop the charter agreement. If the board chooses to deny the application, the district will send COFS a letter to confirm the decision and from that point, COFS could submit a revised application for consideration.

Chair Kinkade asked board members if they had any questions.

Cheri Helt asked Mikalson for clarification of what the BLPO program includes. Mikalson said the district relies on learning coaches (i.e. parent or guardian) do to most of the instruction. There are currently 58 K-5 grade students and 48 6-8 grade students who do BLPO exclusively. A BLPO teacher oversees each of these students and for grades 6-8 there are also teachers through the online course that provides curriculum specific support. Our BLPO teacher offers coordination for outings and field trips, partners with learning coaches, supports the content specific teachers, and arranges for tutoring. There is also a counselor involved in the BLPO program.

Nori Juba asked for clarification about the enrichment opportunities provided with the BLPO program. Skip Offenhauser said there are a variety of offerings including book groups and math help groups that meet at an elementary school site. There are also outdoor experiences and field trips and a robotics club was in place this past school year. There is space within the Education Center to provide a classroom environment for 18-20 students to come and work together alongside BLPO teachers. The district also offers open lab times for families to receive help and work together. Juba also expressed his concerns around the financial plan and the requested amount of funding in the application.

Juba asked if any additional information has been added to the application. Nordquist explained the application was evaluated on what was originally submitted. Any new information will only be considered if the board decides not to approve the application today and is part of the resubmitted application from COFS.

Stuart Young appreciates the value of and the good intent with this type of program, however, he agrees with Superintendent Mikalson and does not feel the application is ready as written.

Ron Gallinat shared his concern for those students who fall behind in the program and strategies available to help them catch up. He asked how BLPO handles this situation. Mikalson said this is a challenge for any school system. His main concern with the COFS application is the lack of Response To Intervention (RTI). He noted what the district currently provides and complimented to work of Sean Reinhart's team with EBISS and RTI being a part of all schools and BLPO. Gallinat asked if there was any concern from the district with the charter being located at a church. Mikalson said no.

Chair Kinkade asked for clarification regarding instructional time concerns. Mikalson explained the recent changes in the laws around instruction time and that a district must guarantee students are receiving a specified amount of instruction, rather than adding up the hours of school in a day to determine instructional time. Each year Mikalson is required to sign Division 22 Assurances to verify the district is meeting hour requirements. He is concerned about the flexibility of the COFS program and trying to make their model fit with a very inflexible law. BLPO students are part of the district's system that allows tracking of attendance, assessment, etc. A charter school is responsible for their own tracking and he needs to be assured that COFS' model had extremely accurate and well documented information.

Andy High asked if the board approved the application today, is it reasonable that COFS could open for the 2016-17 school year? Would it be possible for the charter to open mid-year or at a semester break, noting the amount of time taken to write and fully execute the charter agreement between the district and Bend International School. Mikalson reviewed the timeline for charter agreements once board approved and said he would not support an opening in September at this time. Lori Bogen said, if need be, COFS could start at the second semester of the school year.

Chair Kinkade asked Bogen if South Columbia Charter School is part of the Scappoose School District. Bogen answered yes, and noted she has resigned her position.

Kinkade shared, at the public hearing, she thought COFS seemed to be different than BLPO, but after hearing today about the specifics of the BLPO program she is questioning the differences. She noted COFS' option for families to have a choice in curriculum and asked how rigid is BLPO regarding curriculum. Offenhauser explained the district uses K-12 Curriculum and materials are sent directly to the family to go along with the online program. Our BLPO teacher offers different opportunities, assessments, intervention support and coaching to the learning coaches. BLPO teachers are also able and do monitor student progress through the online program. Nordquist added the flexibility in curriculum is also a concern for the district for reasons of quality and alignment to the common core and meeting public school curriculum standards.

Julie Craig said she is not ready to approve the COFS application at this time and supports the reasons Superintendent Mikalson has provided. She does support out of the box thinking and finding ways to support all kinds of students. The model COFS has presented seems to duplicate what the district offers with BLPO and encouraged further clarification of the differences in COFS's next application submission. Donese Pogue with COFS said they have spent the last 21 days addressing the remediation points provided by the district and feels their proposal is very strong and the revised application is ready as of yesterday. Craig thanked Pogue and the team for their efforts and explained that the board has not seen the new information and for that reason she supports denying the application today. Gallinat agreed to deny the application as written and encouraged COFS to submit their revised materials for consideration.

Ron Gallinat moved to deny the charter application from Central Oregon Family School. Julie Craig seconded the motion. Chair Kinkade asked for any other board comments.

Andy High encouraged COFS to submit a revised application as soon as possible, adding this is part of the process the district and board need to follow. Craig agreed and appreciates the effort and desire to serve all students. She is supportive of unique and different approaches to education and appreciates the work involved in the resubmission to come.

Kinkade added, this is a viable school model and serves the needs of students and families but she is not 100% convinced it is something the district does not currently offer. She would like to understand and see more specifics in how COFS is different. She added, when the district takes on a charter school, it is a big commitment and we need to have a high level of confidence that the charter will be successful. Helt said she is supportive of alternative options for students, but would like to have a better understanding of the COFS teacher's work load and how it compares to that of BLPO teachers. Helt added that she is concerned BLPO is not being marketed well and families may be misinformed about the program. Juba agreed and would also like to see a more detailed budget in the revised application.

Chair Kinkade noted the motion and second previously made to deny the Central Oregon Family School charter application and asked for a vote of the board. The board unanimously agreed to deny the application.

Chair Kinkade thanked Nordquist and the committee for their time and work to review the application. Nordquist said the application materials for Desert Sky Montessori Charter School are currently being reviewed and a public hearing for their application will take place in September. Discussion ensued about the time and investment of staff to review charter applications. Andy High asked if there is a way for the district to elevate our standard of completeness through policy or regulation. Cheri Helt suggested utilizing HDESD services, or something of the like, to help review applications as she feels district staff should not be bogged down with having to review incomplete

materials. Nordquist agreed and said Lauren Lester with the HDES does help review legal requirements, however, the ability to evaluate specific educational standards and business pieces of the application fall to district staff. Mikalson said there have been efficiencies added to the review process and the district will continue to look to find ways to raise the bar of completeness standards.

Juba suggested a statement or position paper from the board be drafted for future charter applicants to better define the district and board's expectations for a charter school application. Superintendent Mikalson said this statement should be a unified voice of the district and board and we would be open to further discussions about the idea and what to include. Young would hope the statement expresses the value of alternatives, but the board and district's desire for high quality programs that do not duplicate current district programs. Helt agreed and would like to include that the board does not support district staff time being spent to help charters develop financial plans, defining services to serve at risk students, etc. The paper could help guide applicants with the questions and the level of quality the district is seeking. Craig agreed and expressed her desire to be very clear in the statement that the board will not support a charter that duplicates services the district already provides.

Reports

Executive Limitation 1 – Global Executive Restraint

Chair Kinkade noted the monitoring report in the board packet, and Superintendent Mikalson added this executive limitation is very broad and the evidence of compliance show how staff work together in partnership with the board to meet this limitation. The areas for improvement noted in the report, specifically related to the recommendations from Plan B, are being considered and reviewed by staff. The district is looking into a district accreditation process through Advanced Ed, a group Lora Nordquist has been a part of in other district accreditation processes like Hillsboro. Jay Mathisen will be part of an accreditation process taking place in Florida later this year and Nordquist in Kentucky. Mikalson feels this will add significant value to our district and should be completed in the next year. Nordquist shared the report back is extremely thorough, is internationally benchmarked and provides scores to show how the district compares with others who have been through the same evaluation process.

Nordquist reviewed the accreditation process and said the site visits are extensive and include board, staff, students, parents and classroom observations. The process exposes strengths and weaknesses of the district and the final report provides recommendations for improvement. The external review takes place every five years and areas for improvement are evaluated every two years.

Executive Limitation 2 – Emergency Superintendent Succession

Superintendent Mikalson reviewed the monitoring report in the board packet and feels the team he has put together is strong. Nordquist, Mathisen and Henry are all capable and knowledgeable about district matters to step into the lead position at any time. Mikalson noted the updated organizational chart is now an addendum report attached to this executive limitation.

Andy High asked how the succession plan is communicated to staff. Mikalson said it is known at the Cabinet level and there is opportunity to communicate to other district administrators and supervisors. Juba asked about the Safety Coordinator recently hired and Mikalson said that position is paid through the local service plan with the HDES and Scott Bojanowski has significant experience with emergency planning and safety and will be an exceptional addition to the team. Bojanowski will help train district staff and work regionally to coordinate safety practices.

Chair Kinkade called a 10-minute break at 10:37 a.m. and said the Board Retreat will begin at 10:47 p.m.