

Bend-La Pine Schools
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: April 13, 2021

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

Melissa Barnes Dholakia

Caroline Skidmore (*joined at 5:13*)

Amy Tatom

Julie Craig

Stuart Young (*left at 7:07*)

Shimiko Montgomery

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Douglass at 6:13 pm, roll call followed.

Review of the Agenda

National Board Certification Pinning will be moved to the first agenda item.

Public Comment

Chair Douglass reviewed the process for submitting requests for live public comment and noted that instructions for submitting requests are at the top of each meeting agenda. There were no public comments received.

National Board Certification Pinning

Michele Oakes and Heather Anderson presented on the mission and goals of National Board Certified Teachers (NBCT) as well as the process for certification. They recognized the following eight individuals for becoming newly certified: Marci Adams, W.E. Miller Elementary; Jenny Brown, Pacific Crest Middle School; Sarah Durfee, Pacific Crest Middle School; Sydney Murphy, Silver Rail Elementary; Savanna Sanders, Bend Senior High; Jane Shein, Pacific Crest Middle School; Vikki Staudinger, Bend Senior High; and Jane Ward, Pacific Crest Middle School. They also recognized three individuals for renewing their certification: Michele Oakes, Teaching & Learning Department; Marla Silberfein, Juniper Elementary; and Tom Wojtkowiak, Bend Senior High.

Oakes mentioned that the District's NBCT recruitment in the upcoming months will be focused on the BIPOC community as well as early career educators thanks to a new OSEA NBCT grant that helps offset the costs of certification for these individuals.

Consent Agenda

Julie Craig moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Caroline Skidmore seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Reports

❖ Strategic Priority – Recruitment and Retention

Deon Logan, Director of Recruitment and Retention, shared about the work that he is doing in his new position. He mentioned that the District has participated in many events recently at universities across the state as well as at the Oregon Professional Educator's Fair. He is working on implementing retention strategies as he gets to know the community. Trainings are being offered including an upcoming Bias Awareness training to add tools to hiring administrators. The training will help hiring administrators recruit and select candidates in alignment with our equity and excellence goals. Along with the training, he has also created a screening matrix that aligns with the equity and excellence goals. Brainstorming has begun around retention efforts for classified staff and Logan has started a strategic initiative to build relationships with minority serving institutions to communicate what Bend-La Pine Schools has to offer and how they can be impactful to our students and community.

❖ Financial Update

Leah Bibeau shared the 3rd quarter financial statements ending on March 31, 2021 (found on page 17 of the Board Packet). She stated that projections have stayed in alignment for the fiscal year.

❖ Bend International School Charter Renewal Update

Lora Nordquist reported that a request from Bend International School to renew their charter agreement has been received. A public hearing will be held at the next Board Meeting as well as a presentation from Meera Dayal Rupp, Director/Teacher at Bend International School, regarding the program.

A discussion ensued regarding the charter application process and equity around charters and magnet schools. The Board will add a session on Oregon Charter Law to a future Board Meeting.

Action Items

❖ Resolution 1910: Teacher Appreciation Week

Chair Douglass invited Melissa Barnes Dholakia to read the resolution aloud to declare May 3-7, 2021, Teacher Appreciation Week. Douglass thanked the teachers for all of their hard work.

❖ Resolution 1911: Collective Impact Bend Charter (CIB)

Chair Douglass invited Shimiko Montgomery to summarize the Collective Impact Bend Charter agreement. Montgomery shared the work they have been doing as a group, how they will be sharing their knowledge and resources, and how excited she was to see this get started for the community of Bend. Chair Douglass read the resolution aloud.

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

Board Comments

Julie Craig congratulated all nationally board certified teachers that were honored tonight. She looks forward to a school reopening update now that all students are all in as well as a discussion about state testing.

Amy Tatom reiterated the interest in discussing the District's plans for state testing and the validity of the data. She also expressed the need to heal rifts with our teachers in regards to many not feeling listened to; they are the backbone of our district. She gave a shoutout to the CDL program and mentioned how much all of our educators are valued.

Melissa Barnes Dholakia was thankful to have had the privilege of helping staff move classrooms at Highland to accommodate the distancing guidelines for our students to return to all in. She thanks all staff for their hard work. She also recognized the many staff that are retiring after 20+ years of service to the District. She also thanked the budget team for their thoroughness with the budget documents provided.

Shimiko Montgomery shared that she is excited to get into schools in the coming weeks to see how everyone is doing. She is also excited about the CIB Charter and to getting the work started. She is feeling hopeful now that students are all back in school.

Carrie Douglass echoed the comments regarding staff appreciation, the need to be aware of the continued staff concerns, and was also thankful to have had the opportunity to help at Highland to better understand what teachers are going through. She also mentioned that she has heard some concerns about our county moving into a higher risk level and reiterated that schools fall under different guidance due to our ability to have strict safety and mitigation measures in our schools. We continue to monitor everything closely and she looks forward to hearing another school reopening update at the next Board Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Recorded by: Janet Bojanowski

Minutes approved at 5.11.2021 Board Meeting