

**Bend-La Pine Schools**  
**Bend, OR 97701**

The Board of Directors for Bend-La Pine Schools met in a regular meeting on September 23, 2014 in room 314 of the Education Center, at 520 NW Wall Street, Bend, OR 97701.

**Board Members Present:**

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

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:36p by Co-Chair Helt. The Zone 4 Board Candidate Interview process was explained.

**Zone 4 Board Candidate Interviews**

*John Arriagada, Jeffrey James, W. Edward Myers, Dr. Michael Way & Dr. Stuart Young*

The Board interviewed five candidates for the vacant Zone 4 Board position. The candidates were asked a series of questions by Board members. At the conclusion of the interviews, the Board discussed the candidates and next steps of the appointment process. The Board concluded they would do some follow up with each candidate and at the October 14, 2014 meeting they would take action on their appointment.

Co-Chair Helt recessed the meeting at 6:15p.

Meeting resumed and regular session was called to order at 6:20p. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

**Review of Agenda**

Co-Chair Helt noted the updated agenda.

**Public Input**

Carol Higgins addressed the Board regarding handwriting. She thanked the Board for their time and noted she was a teacher in the Education Center years ago before moving to Africa and starting an elementary and secondary school along with a medical center and developing clean water systems. She noted upon her return to the United States she is extremely concerned about the lack of handwriting, cursive in particular, in the core curriculum. Handwriting is foundational and Higgins shared an article from Readers Digest that suggests the unique connection between the brain and hand and how it affects memory. She feels handwriting is essential and needs to be a priority in our schools. Higgins handed out a letter summarizing the concern for the Board to review. Co-Chair Helt thanked Higgins for her time.

**Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Wilkinson congratulated Janet McLain, a first grade teacher at Three Rivers K-8, as she was recently named an Oregon finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching. Wilkinson reviewed how the finalist selection process works and the timeline of when the awards are determined. He also extended his congratulations to five National Merit Semi-Finalists; from Bend High: Maxwell Farrens, Ella Feldmann and Ernest Finney-Jordet, and from Summit High: Jules Ginsparg and Matthew Sjogren.

Wilkinson said student safety is a District priority and shared he taught how to safely ride and evacuate a school bus each year. He appreciates all of the drivers in the District, acknowledging it's not the easiest

job and they do incredible work everyday. Wilkinson reminded all to register and vote in the upcoming election.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

### **Reports**

#### *Enrollment Update*

Brad Henry noted the most recent numbers on the hand out at each Board member's seat. Since the last report on September 9, the District has grown by 62 students, which is typical for this time of year. Currently the student count is at 17,180.

Peggy Kinkade asked if the District has made all of the FTE adjustments needed to keep up with the growth. Superintendent Wilkinson said 7.3 FTE have been added and there are still some nursing staffing needs the District continues to work on. All of the additional elementary FTE have been hired and at the secondary level, there are some counseling services still being processed.

#### *Bend-La Pine Online Update*

Skip Offenhauser and Tres Tyvand reviewed the Bend-La Pine Online (BLPO) program, current staff members serving the program, and how it has changes since it's inception in 2004 as a charter option for the District.

Ron Gallinat asked how each of the BLPO staff members serve the program. Offenhauser explained the newest addition is half-time K-5 teacher, Tanya Everts, who has been hired to serve the elementary population. As the K-5 enrollment continues to grow, Everts' FTE could increase to help serve increasing enrollment. The other five staff members for BLPO are full time. Tyvand explained Michelle Oliver serves secondary students who are online only, and not in a building for classes. She offers both counseling and teaching support to these students. Christie McCormick serves all five high schools and the students who are enrolled in school and taking supplemental online courses.

Offenhauser reviewed current online course offerings and shared how student enrollment breaks down in the program. Co-Chair Helt commented she recently attended the BLPO open house and learned incredible things about the program. Offenhauser noted the elementary students enrolled rely heavily on a 'coach', which are often times a parent who supplements the online curriculum with materials provided by the program. Everts works in close connection with elementary parents to help provide them support and understanding of their role in the student's learning. He noted there is also a Pre-K program available for a \$240 fee.

Currently 1,350 students are enrolled in supplementary online courses. Helt asked who monitors student progress, etc. Tyvand answered McCormick is largely involved with these students along with other classroom teachers around the district. Kinkade asked about the staffing for BLPO and how they deliver assistance, office hours, etc. Offenhauser explained there are a few different approaches to support. Everts offers both daytime and evening office hours to help accommodate schedules and is currently working to develop professional development for coaches of elementary students, which she plans to deliver in a workshop style format. He noted having a contact for the elementary students has been an incredible asset for not only the program, but also the families. Tyvand noted other BLPO staff members are on site and in the schools to offer student and staff support. They also offer office hours for full-time online secondary students.

Offenhauser shared there are approximately 350 students enrolled who are using online tools to support their classroom learning, what the program calls Blended Classrooms. Tyvand reviewed how Blackboard, the District's current vendor, allows teachers to have an account where they can use pre-developed online

courses or create their own online courses. In August nearly 50 teachers took advantage of training to learn how to access and build coursework to help vary their classroom teaching. Tyvand anticipates more training to occur throughout the year for teachers grades 6-12. Wilkinson noted the expanded efforts and conversations a few years ago were a vision of blended classrooms and this is a significant step in expanding the vision and developing professional development opportunities. Offenhauser noted a 91% pass rate for high school students in blended classrooms and feels the face-to-face support plays a huge factor to student success.

Wilkinson commented on the focus a few years ago to meet the needs and interests of families and students whom were asking for more options. Through Tyvand's leadership with Offenhauser and Mikalson the District has worked tremendously hard in finding ways to grow this program. Co-Chair Juba complimented the great work and feels the support we are offering students with the BLPO staff is a great use of dollars. He asked how the cost of an online teacher compares to a brick and mortar teacher. Brad Henry said approximately 60-70 students are served by an online course versus a traditional classroom setting, but it's hard to get a really good count as an online schedule is much more flexible and the workload is very different for teachers serving these students. At this time, Wilkinson said, it is cost neutral and the District continues to monitor the balance of keeping it so. By having options online, it frees up some of our classrooms to be able to offer courses that would otherwise not be available.

Juba asked where students are finding the most success in using online courses. Offenhauser answered students who might have medical needs that keep them from the physical classroom, or a student who is driven to earn additional credits are examples of who takes advantage of the blended options. Wilkinson added many students use the online courses for credit recovery or take courses that cannot work into their schedule during the regular school day.

Helt asked about the success rates of various types of students in the program and if there is any history available yet on graduation information. Offenhauser said it is a little early in the program to have much historical data, however there are ways for them to dig down deeper into the 91% success rate information. Mikalson noted the wide range of students accessing BLPO makes it difficult to create categories to track, and most students using the program are in blended classrooms, so the coursework is deeply integrated into schools.

Superintendent Wilkinson noted a few years ago the District was losing students to other online options, which was worrisome as there was question to the quality and support in the other programs. The support that Tyvand and her team have created and are offering now far exceeds any other program he knows of. He noted the amazing support of the BLPO staff and how the program truly serves the needs of our students and community. Lora Nordquist agreed, and added the support of our new K-5 teacher is not the norm with other online programs, and the thought of adding professional development options for the coaches is pretty incredible and speaks to the continuing success and growth of the program. Peggy Kinkade complimented the BLOP staff and program, feels it is an exciting option for students.

#### *New Middle School Update*

Chris Boyd thanked the Board for their time and noted the amazing support he has received in making the transition to Bend-La Pine Schools and move to Bend overall. Each month he plans to provide a Board update on the new middle school.

Boyd reviewed the construction progress, noting this is a unique project sitting between two current school sites. He shared the collaboration and cooperative effort of Miller Elementary, Summit High School and other stakeholder have helped make this a manageable process. In the next few weeks, the new roads around the schools will be opening which will make a dramatic difference in the traffic impacts. Additionally, there is a strategic safety plan in place to help lessen the impact of when the water line down Skyliner Road and connection to the school site takes place. Steve Hill and the City of Bend have been

instrumental in developing this plan. Boyd noted the Facilities Department continues to do an incredible job as well in managing timelines and ensuring the quality of projects.

Boyd reviewed the staffing update and noted currently, there are teacher leader positions posted for both the new elementary and middle schools. These teacher leaders will help build the design, identity and ultimately create the culture for the schools. The positions close on Sept. 26 and the goal is to have teacher leaders for both new schools in place by mid-October. Wilkinson noted the teacher leader positions are internal only postings as they are individuals we will need to have available throughout the building process.

Boyd added the teacher leaders will help refine the instructional framework, leadership and community for the schools. He noted the importance of staff engagement to really build a strong culture. This group will also take capacity through design into consideration and will be asked to think innovatively about how the building can meet the needs of students.

The next steps for the new middle school include the naming process, which Boyd shared the timeline and proposal. He noted picking a name is a critical part of a school's identity and he is hopeful the Board supports the outlined process and moving forward. Juba asked how the District will put together a naming committee. Wilkinson answered it is his responsibility and with Board approval, the District will begin to solicit community input, through surveys, etc. to gather name suggestions. Juba asked how many teachers will be a part of the teacher leadership team. Boyd said it would depend on how many applied, but is hopeful for five to six. He added, he has been out in buildings meeting with staff to share his plan and explain the process for opening the new middle school and has answered many questions for those interested in applying. Wilkinson noted this group is like ICCLs in buildings now, and Mikalson added these teachers would ultimately be teachers at the new school and would then be part of the leadership team within the building. Boyd shared there is quite a diverse group of individuals who have applied thus far, with a variety of content areas being covered, which he is thrilled about.

Juba said he feels this team is critical in forming an identity and naming, it should be a respectful representation of the vision, identity and goals of the school. Boyd agreed and noted the goal will be for teacher leaders to work in conjunction with community members to come up with a proposed name by mid-November.

Andy High asked about the naming process for the new elementary school. Wilkinson noted the middle school process is happening first as there are other pressing issues that stem from a name, like the mascot and colors which factor into ordering certain building supplies, etc. Nordquist said it will be in January sometime that the elementary naming will occur, however the vision work will mirror the middle school timelines.

Helt thanked Boyd for the update and the great work he is doing for the new middle school.

### **Action**

#### *OSBA Board of Directors – Position 3 Nominations*

Co-Chair Helt explained Position 3 on the OSBA Board of Directors is up for reelection and is currently held by Doug Nelson and Nelson has expressed interest that he would like to continue in this position. Helt asked Board members for nominations.

**Ron Gallinat moved for the Bend-La Pine School Board to nominate Doug Nelson for the OSBA Board of Directors Position 3. Peggy Kinkade seconded the motion.**

Andy High asked for clarification in the voting process and Helt explained Nelson's name will be put on the ballot with Board action taken.

**Unanimous approval.**

## **Policy Monitoring**

*BD GOV A – Executive Limitations*

*BD GOV A.5 – Emergency Succession*

Superintendent Wilkinson noted the policies in the board packet and reviewed the intent of the Board having authority for everything, except for what is delegated to the Superintendent's authority by the Board. BD GOV A is the foundation of the authority and limitations the Board agrees to give the Superintendent. BD GOV A.5 is the emergency succession planning and has been updated with the changing of some positions within the District. There were no questions.

## **Board Comments**

Andy High thanked each of the Zone 4 applicants for their interest and time tonight. He shared he has some questions and concerns with Measure 91, the legalization of marijuana, and asked fellow Board members to allow him a few minutes to comment on this topic. No one opposed.

High asked Jay Mathisen what will happen with our employees and the policies our District currently has in place if Measure 91 passes. Mathisen answered, in initial conversations with legal counsel, there will not be any impact to policy around students or staff, as our practices will remain the same based on Federal Law.

High asked what happens if there is suspicion regarding an employee possibly under the influence and if we do random drug tests. Julie Craig asked how often the District does random drug tests. Mathisen explained the District does not perform random drug tests with the exception of the Transportation Department, as it is part of state law. High asked if there was suspicion though, could it possibly lead to a drug test. Mathisen said the key to testing really is employee conduct, behavior and pattern.

High noted his concern, not only as a Board member, but also as a community member and parent around legalization and the potential impacts it has to our community. He cited problems Washington and Colorado are running into with their recent legalization and asked Mathisen what concerns he has heard from the community. Mathisen said he has not had any direct conversations but he has indirectly heard of general concern around increased usage, not just of marijuana; and general concerns around safety. Craig asked if he knew of any available data from other states as a result in the legalization. Wilkinson said antidotal data shows an increase in marijuana usage in schools, however, the primary source being medical marijuana, which is an entirely different discussion than Measure 91 presents. Craig asked if usage is on the rise, is discipline as well? Mathisen said he would follow up, but he would guess most likely yes.

Co-Chair Helt asked the Board if there was interest in bringing this topic to the next meeting for discussion. Peggy Kinkade said she would be interested and believes it will affect students and our community and feels a public conversation is appropriate. Helt agreed. Wilkinson said he would help coordinate a discussion and work to find data on the questions presented tonight. High asked to have the discussion at the next meeting. Craig added she would like the conversation to begin as she feels it is probably inevitable marijuana will be legalized at some point. She would like to have a plan at some level of how the District is going to handle and deal with it in our schools. Helt asked Wilkinson and Mathisen to make plans for a follow up discussion at the October 14 meeting.

Ron Gallinat thanked each of the Zone 4 applicants and appreciated their time. He noted his attendance at several open houses and feels the school year is off to a great start.

Peggy Kinkade thanked Gallinat for encouraging Zone 4 applicants and was impressed with the quality of all five and is interested to learn more about each of the applicants to find who will be the best fit for the Board to represent the District and students. She noted her son is in high school and she recently attended his back to school night and was excited about the professionalism and enthusiasm of the teachers she met with. She added it was fun to see parents' reactions and be receptive to some of the innovative and new ways teachers are working together, like using online curriculum in the classroom and blending

subjects like History and Language Arts. She is eager to hear how Phase 2 of the digital conversion is going as well.

Co-Chair Juba thanked Gallinat for leading the effort in recruiting Zone 4 applicants and noted it will be a tough decision as all were very qualified candidates. He added, it is a very important decision to make as to who the Board decides will best fit with the Board's vision and plans to move the District forward. He thanked the candidates and looks forward to making an appointment at the next meeting. Juba shared his appreciation for the new middle school presentation, especially Boyd's understanding of the importance of vision and building a culture. He looks forward to the continued design process.

Co-Chair Helt thanked and noted the hard work Gallinat put into recruiting excellent Zone 4 candidates. She thanked all for a great start of the school year and has heard positive feedback from many sources. She encouraged those who are interested to apply for the boundary committee, as the application deadline will be closing soon. Helt noted the boundary process is very important for the District.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38p

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Wilson  
Confidential Superintendent & Board Assistant  
9.23.2014