

Bend-La Pine Schools Board of Directors Meeting Work Session Minutes

Meeting Date: October 27, 2020

Meeting Location:

To support Governor Brown's executive orders for social distancing, the Board of Directors conducted the Board Meeting Work Session virtually, through Cisco Webex. The meeting was also live streamed to the BLS Schoolboard YouTube webpage.

Board Members Present

Julie Craig
Carrie Douglass
Shimiko Montgomery
Amy Tatom
Stuart Young
Melissa Barnes Dholakia
Caroline Skidmore (*joined meeting at 5:40 p.m.*)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Chair Douglass, roll call followed. Douglass thanked all for attending, noting that the agenda tonight will be a work session format.

Update

❖ **School Reopening Update**

Superintendent Nordquist shared an update on schools reopening, and reviewed the most recent metrics for Deschutes County. She noted there has been an increase in COVID-19 cases in Deschutes County and under the current metrics, November 30 would be the earliest dates students could return to some form of in-person instruction. Nordquist shared about possible updates that maybe coming from the state level about revised metrics and updates to the metric timeline, Limited in Person Instruction opportunities, and looks at all elementary grades rather than just K-3. There is still much to be determined and Nordquist noted these potential changes are in draft form and she will continue to keep Board members updated.

The Board asked clarifying questions and discussed metrics and scenarios surrounding the return to in person instruction at various grade levels. Douglass thanked Nordquist for the information and said she is looking forward to the update from the state.

Work Session

❖ **Equity Coalition Update**

Superintendent Nordquist introduced Chris Boyd and Sonya Littledeer-Evans who are working together to lead and facilitate the Equity Coalition. Boyd shared background of the Equity Coalition and the process used to develop the coalition's goals. Boyd noted the district's Excellence & Equity Review that took place in 2019, the Educational Equity policy, JBB-AP, and how both help define the work of the coalition.

Littledeer-Evans, thanked the Board and district for their time and commitment to equity. She shared about coalition's work thus far and the process for selecting community coalition members. She noted the desire to include those who don't typically have social and positional power in the community and the importance of their voices being heard in this work. Building relationships and trust is critical to the work of the coalition and building community engagement.

Boyd said the coalition will have about 20 members; comprised of 4-5 community members, 4-5 parents of students in the district, 4-5 district staff members, and 4-5 students. The coalition is considering current and/or recent graduates from the district as student representatives.

Chair Douglass thanked Boyd and Littledeer-Evans and asked how they foresee the coalition members working with district leadership and the Board. Littledeer-Evans said once the full coalition is together there will be collective discussion and decisions about where members have a desire to invest their time and work. Douglass is excited to partner with the coalition and shared the Board's desire to welcome and include members of the coalition to participate with the Board and work together on governance.

Nordquist noted future work sessions on the Board calendar and suggested those meeting dates could be a great time for the Equity Coalition to share and work together with the Board. Shimiko Montgomery shared her excitement in the progress and future of the work and appreciates the continuum of community engagement that was shared.

❖ **Executive Limitation Review Process**

Melissa Barnes Dholakia highlighted the updates in Executive Limitations 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 11 including overlapping themes of: calling out or defining organizational culture, need for translations "other than English," elevation and modeling of civility during trying times, and efforts to intentionally elevate historically underrepresented voices. Barnes Dholakia walked through the individual EL's and noted the following:

- EL 3: the addition of a common plan and protocol to ensure schools work to improve and continue to be a safe place regarding immigration, a goal that aligns with safe and secure campuses in general. Elevating the use of surveys and expectations of annual surveys in alignment with Board Ends was also added.
- EL 4 & EL 5: updated language that helps accomplish the fifth Board End, about internally developing, externally recruiting, and retaining highly qualified diverse staff. Recognition of innovation and risk taking were also added.
- EL 6: updates are related to use of surveys adopted by the district.
- EL 8: updates focus on social emotional learning and cultural and global relevancy in curriculum and classrooms across the district and efforts to align curriculum across all levels.
- EL 9: updates include emphasis on equitable access and connectivity for all; adherence to common expectations and core best practices for students and staff.
- EL 11: no have any significant updates.

Barnes Dholakia said the goal is for the Board to adopt the updated ELs at the November 10 Board meeting. She will send out the drafts for Board members to review and make suggestions. Douglass shared her thanks for the thoughtful, diligent work and reflecting the discussion and desires of the Board in the updated drafts. Shimiko Montgomery suggested highlighting a desire for culturally sensitive schools. Discussion ensued on where this idea may fit best and if it might already be incorporated. Caroline Skidmore suggested specifically calling attention to screen time as part of EL 9. Barnes Dholakia said there will be a full technology review in spring 2021, and would suggest a possible edit to this EL after the technology review process is complete. Stuart Young thanked Barnes Dholakia for her work and looks forward to reviewing

Discussion

❖ **Superintendent Search Update**

Julie Craig shared an update on the search, interview process, and timeline; noting some calendar and procedural changes. Craig, Douglass and Barnes Dholakia will be putting together a semi-finalist interview schedule and questions and will share with Board members and the interview committee once complete. Craig said the semi-finalist interviews will be held virtually and there is still discussion about how to conduct the finalist interview process and considerations of how to possibly have finalist interview in person for a portion of the process.

Craig noted the Board will be meeting with Valerie Pitts, HYA Search Consultant, in executive session after the work session, to review applicant materials and select semi-finalist candidates.

Chair Douglass noted the Board would be meeting in Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.
Douglass recessed the Work Session at 6:48 p.m.
Douglass resumed and adjourned the Work Session Board Meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Recorded by: Andrea Wilson

Minutes approved at 11.10.2020 board meeting