

## **Bend-La Pine Schools Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date: September 10, 2019**

### **Meeting Location**

Bend-La Pine Schools Education Center  
520 NW Wall Street, Bend, OR 97703

### **Board Members Present**

Julie Craig  
Carrie Douglass  
Melissa Barnes Dholakia  
Caroline Skidmore  
Shimiko Montgomery  
Amy Tatom  
Dr. Stuart Young *via teleconference*

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Co-Chair Craig. The Pledge of Allegiance and review of the agenda followed.

### **Public Input**

Co-Chair Craig noted several community members had signed up for public input. She reviewed the format for public input and asked that those speaking to be mindful of the three minute time limit.

Several community members and parents addressed the board about the dangers and shared concerns about the cell phone tower being constructed near Elk Meadow Elementary. Areas of concern included possible increased EMF and radiation exposure and the lack of communication or notification from the district to students and families about the land use proposal. Community members asked that the board and district consider increasing parent notification regarding proposed land use that are adjacent to schools and to support the petition that is currently circulating to stop the construction of the cell phone tower.

Those who addressed the board included: Russel Morley, Christine Meyers, Elizabeth Hanley Szabo, Scott Compton, Chris Pollard and Beth Lyons.

Several community members and parents addressed the board about dyslexia. Concerns were shared around the need for more staff awareness and training, improved diagnosis efforts, and increased resources in schools to support students with dyslexia. Board members were asked to declare October as dyslexia awareness month and encouraged the district to consider using some of the Student Success Act funding to support students with dyslexia. Those who addressed the board included: Tara Farstvedt, Jenny Hendrickson and Sharon Bellusci.

Megan Perkins, a volunteer with Moms Demand Action, addressed the board about safety concerns and asked the board and district to consider increased communication efforts about gun safety. She shared about the Be SMART program, noting the materials and resources of the program would be an excellent part of the increased communication efforts.

Co-Chair Craig recessed the meeting at 6:02 p.m. The meeting resumed at 6:06 p.m.

## Public Hearing

### ❖ **CM/GC Contracting Method for Juniper Elementary School Projects**

Co-Chair Craig recessed the regular board meeting and called the Public Hearing to order for the CM/GC Contracting Method for Juniper Elementary School Projects at 6:07 p.m.

There was no public testimony.

Co-Chair Craig closed the hearing at 6:08 p.m.

### ❖ **CM/GC Contracting Method for Thompson Elementary School Projects**

Co-Chair Craig called the Public Hearing to order for the CM/GC Contracting Method for Thompson Elementary School Projects at 6:08 p.m.

There was no public testimony.

Co-Chair Craig closed the hearing and called the regular meeting back to order at 6:09 p.m.

## Consent Agenda

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

**Unanimous approval.**

## Action Items

### ❖ **Issue Naming Charge for New High School**

Superintendent Mikalson reviewed the executive summary and process for naming new facilities in the board packet and noted that the first step in the process is that the board issue the naming charge. Mikalson shared that the new high school planning principal, Chris Boyd, will lead the naming committee. **Melissa Barnes Dholakia moved to issue the naming charge for the new high school in south east Bend. Co-Chair Douglass seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.**

### ❖ **Resolution 1890 : CM/GC Contracting Method for Juniper Elementary School Projects**

Mike Tiller reviewed the executive summary and documentation provided in support of using the alternate bid, or CM/GC process for the Juniper Elementary School projects which include a new multi-use instructional space and upgrades to the existing buildings. He noted, due to the complicated nature, schedule and timing of the project, staff is recommending use of the CM/GC contracting method.

**Co-Chair Douglass moved to approve Resolution 1890 as presented. Amy Tatom seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.**

### ❖ **Resolution 1891 : CM/GC Contracting Method for Thompson Elementary School Projects**

Mike Tiller reviewed the executive summary and documentation provided in support of using the alternative bid, or CM/GC process for the Thompson Elementary School projects which include architectural upgrades, seismic upgrades and a new roof. He noted, due to the complicated nature, schedule and timing of the project, staff is recommending use of the CM/GC contracting method. **Amy Tatom moved to approve Resolution 1891 as presented. Co-Chair Douglass seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.**

## Reports

### ❖ **EL 1 – Global Executive Restraint Policy Monitoring Report**

### ❖ **EL 2 – Emergency Superintendent Succession Policy Monitoring Report**

Superintendent Mikalson reviewed the EL 1 and EL 2 reports, noting that both reports are without an executive summary as little changes from year to year. There were no questions or comments about either report.

❖ **EL 3 – Treatment of Students, Parents / Guardians & The Public Policy Monitoring Report**

❖ **EL 4 – Treatment of Staff Policy Monitoring Report**

Jay Mathisen reviewed the executive summaries for EL 3 and EL 4 in the board packet noting the major accomplishments and targets the district has set for the upcoming year. A major part of the work for the 2019-20 school year is the Excellence & Equity Review. Mathisen noted the Sites and Facilities Review the district undergoes every five years to identify facility related needs across the district. The district is taking a similar approach with the Excellence & Equity Review to listen, learn, and gather a better understanding about the experiences of students and families. The district's intention is to do an Excellence & Equity Review every three years with the goal of creating a relevant, rigorous and regularly-occurring process that will allow the district to dig deep into the academic, social and emotional experiences of students, particularly those from underserved populations.

The Excellence & Equity Review process will help the district strategize for the future and prioritize funding allocations, including funding provided by the Student Success Act. The feedback will also be used to help guide the district's comprehensive plan and budgeting process.

Starting in October, listening sessions with students, families, staff and community members will be used to gather feedback about what the district is doing well, ways the district can improve and recommendations about funding priorities. Surveys will also provide an opportunity for feedback.

Co-Chair Douglass thanked Mathisen and shared her excitement about the Excellence & Equity Review. Melissa Barnes Dholakia agreed, and asked for clarification on the survey and encouraged the district to provide opportunities for populations, like LGBTQ, to be heard. Superintendent Mikalson noted the efforts to listen to a diverse set of groups and populations with special attention given to the underserved student and their families. The district will provide regular updates to the board on the process. He explained how this work will also help the district with the Student Success Plan that will align the needs of the district with the resources being provided from the Student Success Act. The plan is to be submitted to the state in Spring of 2020. The plan will align with direction given by legislation and the Department of Education.

❖ **Enrollment Update**

Brad Henry shared an enrollment update and said the district is 238 students larger than this same date last year, and roughly 100 students over projections. The district has added additional FTE to help with the growth and continues to evaluate needs at all schools. The district reports enrollment to the state on October 1 of each year. Henry will bring an updated enrollment report to the next board meeting.

Co-Chair Douglass asked if there was more information specific to class size. Mikalson reviewed the district's target class size ratios and what is budgeted for. Caroline Skidmore asked how FTE is allocated and what the district takes into consideration when determining if a school will receive additional FTE. Mikalson said there are multiple factors like ratios, demographics, need, etc. that plays into the decision. Mikalson thanked Henry for his leadership and expertise with budgeting and projections which allow for the district to make quick and accurate decisions around funding allocations.

❖ **Attendance Boundary Process for Middle and High Schools**

Superintendent Mikalson noted the executive summary in the board packet and reviewed the attendance boundary process for middle and high schools. The Attendance Boundary Committee, who worked on the elementary boundaries, will begin their work reviewing middle and high school boundaries in October. Mikalson reviewed the charge, parameters and timeline of the work and said Chris Boyd, Lora Nordquist and Brad Henry will lead the committee along with in-house GIS specialist, Shawn Hasse and members of the Transportation

Department. The committee is targeting February 2020 as the time period to present Mikalson with a recommendation and from there he will make a final boundary decision. The change in secondary boundaries will be effective for the 2021-22 school year. Mikalson invited board members to attend committee meetings and noted there will also be larger community engagement sessions as part of the process.

Co-Chair Douglass thanked the committee members and district staff leading the work for their time and expertise. She encouraged the district to communicate early and often to families and make sure there are efforts to hear and gather community feedback. Co-Chair Craig noted community feedback from the elementary boundary process was heard and did make an impact in Mikalson's final decision. She also thanked volunteers for their time and participation on the committee.

## **Discussion**

### **❖ Education Foundation Ex-Officio Member**

Co-Chair Craig introduced Michelle Johnson and Wendy Graunitz from the Education Foundation and they shared about the focus of their work, success over the past years, and about the Foundation's new back to school classroom grants. Craig thanked the Education Foundation for the incredible work they do to support schools. She noted that there is a non-voting seat on the Education Foundation's board for a school board member. Ron Gallinat has held this position in years past and she opened up the opportunity for any interested board members to consider. Board discussion ensued and members agreed they would follow up with a decision on who would serve for this school year.

### **❖ OSBA Legislative Policy Committee : Position 3 Nominations**

Co-Chair Craig reviewed the executive summary in the board packet, noting that OSBA is accepting nominations for the Position 3 on the Legislative Policy Committee. Courtney Snead from the Jefferson County 509J School Board currently holds this position and is interested in continuing. The Jefferson County 509J Board will be nominating Snead. OSBA will send out ballots in mid-October for boards to vote no later than December 13.

### **❖ Welcoming Week Proclamation**

Superintendent Mikalson noted the district has participated in Welcoming Week during the past years and the proposed proclamation is an opportunity for board members to publicly sponsor and support local efforts that are underway. Caroline Skidmore read the Welcoming Week Proclamation. **Co-Chair Douglass moved to approve the Welcoming Week Proclamation. Co-Chair Craig seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.**

## **Board Comments**

Caroline Skidmore shared about her visit to Bend Tech Academy at Marshall High School and appreciated seeing the programs, the growth and beautiful remodel that was just completed.

Amy Tatom commented on the EL 4 policy monitoring report and asked for further clarification on supplies and staff training in regards to First Aid and Stop the Bleed. Mikalson will follow up with Tami Pike and the district's nursing team.

Shimiko Montgomery shared her excitement for the Excellence & Equity Review as well as the Welcoming Week Proclamation. She feels the school year is off to a great start and is excited about the direction the district is headed.

Melissa Barnes Dholakia said she is also very excited about the Excellence & Equity Review, noting this is a topic she is very passionate about and appreciates the thoughtfulness that has gone into the planning thus far and thanked all who will be a part of this important work.

Co-Chair Douglass said she is looking forward to the discussion around making school visits more meaningful and a tool to help inform board work. She shared her appreciation for Mikalson and the Cabinet team's help in organizing the recent board retreat as well as the Excellence & Equity Review.

Stuart Young thanked Brad Henry for his accuracy with projections and staffing and applauds the efforts laid out for the Excellence & Equity Review, adding the information gathered will help with aligning Board Ends and Goals. He also thanked the Education Foundation for their amazing support.

Co-Chair Craig thanked everyone for a great start of school and looks forward to the work ahead.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Recorded by: Andrea Wilson

**Minutes approved at 10.8.19 board meeting**