

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

The Board of Directors for Bend-La Pine Schools met in a regular session on September 22, 2015 in room 314 of the Education Center, 520 NW Wall Street, Bend, OR 97703.

**Board Members Present**

Peggy Kinkade  
Andy High  
Ron Gallinat  
Julie Craig  
Cheri Helt

**Board Members Absent**

Nori Juba  
Stuart Young

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01p by Vice Chair Kinkade. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

**Review of Agenda**

Vice Chair Kinkade noted the updated agenda.

**Public Input**

John Laherty, Pacific Crest Middle School parent, shared his concerns for the lack of safe school / pedestrian crossings on Mt. Washington Drive. He noted how dangerous the walking commute is for students to school and urged board members to help encourage the City to put these crossings at the top of their list. He also shared that three weeks into school, his daughter still does not have a math teacher and is concerned for she and her classmates and would like to have this resolved as quickly as possible. He thanked board members for their time and Kinkade thanked Laherty for sharing his concerns.

**Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Mikalson shared his thanks for all the efforts in making the start of school a great success. He noted Bill Ruitter, a Ponderosa Elementary volunteer, was recently honored by the Governor for his service and thanked Ruitter for the numerous hours he gives to students in the district. Pilot Butte Middle School will be hosting 27 students and chaperones from Toyota City, Japan. The delegation visits annually and will be touring Bend with a stop at the Education Center. Mikalson shared his appreciation for the work of Skip Offenhauser, Amy Tarnow and their entire team who helped deploy over 15,000 iPads.

Mikalson also thanked Brad Henry and Jay Mathisen for their work leading the Boundary Committee last spring. Because of their work, school numbers are well balanced, noting the enrollment report at each board members seat. Henry reviewed the report and enrollment across all schools and levels. As of today, there are 355 more students enrolled than October 1, 2014. Henry said the Sites and Facilities process will begin soon and he is working to form the committee. Henry shared the results of the environmental study from Troy Field came back clean for phase one and phase two, which is great news as the district continues to move forward on the removal of the public facilities designation request. The application to remove the designation will be submitted to the City of Bend by the end of the month.

Cheri Helt asked how many teaching positions remain unfilled. Mathisen said there are a few open positions but are in the process of interviewing and finalizing hiring. He said the math position at Pacific Crest will be, has not already been, offered to a great candidate.

**Charter School Hearing**

Vice Chair Kinkade recessed the regular board meeting at 6:17p and called to order the Public Hearing for Desert Sky Montessori School. The hearing was called to order pursuant ORS 338.055, to review the

application for public charter presented by Desert Sky Montessori School. Kinkade reviewed the process for the hearing and explained after the hearing, Superintendent Mikalson will draft a recommendation to the board, who will then have 30 days from tonight to make their decision.

Shelly Phillips, with Desert Sky Montessori, thanked the board for their time and shared her excitement along with a presentation that highlighted Montessori school program qualities, their plan for opening a school, hiring staff and the training and efforts they would use to ensure high quality instruction. She explained where they project most of their student population to come from: home school, private schools, or students who would transfer into the district, all helping to reduce the negative impacts on Bend-La Pine Schools. Phillips shared they have 690 intent to enroll forms to date and have strong interest in the community. Phillips introduced Aaron Kitchell, treasurer, to speak about their budget.

Kitchell reviewed the budget plan and shared additional budget information. Kitchell noted the partnership with Axiom who has been a huge support in this process. Kinkade thanked Phillips and Kitchell for the presentation and information and began the public comment portion of the hearing.

Mary McClure-Ahlman shared she has a kindergarten student at Westside Village Magnet School, prior to entering kindergarten, her student attended Montessori school. She values the Montessori model, has seen how children flourish, would like to see the opportunity extended in Central Oregon, and shared how it would have been beneficial for her when she was a young student in school.

Rose Archer said she represents hundreds of parents who are currently enrolled in Montessori preschools and who are passionate about the Montessori method of teaching, even at the cost of tuition. She shared the success her son has had being a part of the Montessori environment and would love to have him be able to continue his education through the charter school program.

Meredith Tufts, a Montessori preschool teacher and regional liaison for the Oregon Montessori Association, spoke to the values of Montessori education and how positive it is for both students and the community. She is excited for families to possibly have another option and for the potential it brings to each student to learn in an environment where they are most successful.

Kristin LiaBraaten, parent of a six and nine-year-old at Bear Creek, is thankful for the schools and teachers in Bend-La Pine. She shared her children loved the Montessori school they attended and thrived with confidence and she is hopeful that students will have this as an opportunity for their education.

Marilyn Shattuck, was a special education teacher and administrator at a Montessori school in Illinois and recently retired and moved to Bend. She shared how Montessori education can help children with special needs and wishes every child had the opportunity to experience Montessori education.

Brooklyn, a seven-year-old student, submitted a written statement as to why she loves Montessori school.

Vice Chair Kinkade thanked all for their time and advocacy for Desert Sky Montessori and took an audience poll on who was in attendance and: 1) interested in Montessori school, 2) currently have students enrolled in Bend-La Pine Schools, 3) currently have students in a homeschool program, 4) how many live outside Bend-La Pine Schools' attendance areas, 5) currently have students enrolled in a Montessori school, and 6) currently have students enrolled in a private school. Kinkade then opened up to board members for questions about the application.

Ron Gallinat asked about the age range proposed for classrooms. Phillips answered grades 1-3, 4-6, and 7-8 would be grouped together, noting students spend three years with the same teacher and older students in the classroom serve as mentors to the youngsters in the Montessori model. Gallinat asked about staffing plans. Phillips explained there is a lead teacher and an assistant in each classroom.

Gallinat asked about possible locations for the school. Phillips shared some leasing and buying options they have researched but would ultimately depend on how many seats they are awarded by the district. Cheri Helt asked about what part of town they are looking at. Phillips said NE Bend would be there preference to

help accommodate students who would be attending from out of district. Julie Craig asked about facility preference. Phillips shared they would prefer to build a school; Axiom would help them with the build but requires a minimum of 300 students to do so.

Cheri Helt asked for clarification about their partnership with Axiom. Phillips explained Axiom is a development company with a specific mission to help build Montessori Schools. Axiom is supportive of Desert Sky and would be a partner in facility development during the first years.

Vice Chair Kinkade asked why the application does not include kindergarten. Phillips explained there are several thriving programs currently in Central Oregon and they do not want to compete with them, but would look into a partnership for the pre-k and kindergarten. Eventually they would like to implement and expand to have a kindergarten program.

Andy High asked for clarification in the additional budget information, specifically how they plan to have a reserve fund established after three years. Kitchell reviewed the plan and explained how Axiom would help establish the reserve fund. High asked about substitute teacher time and the hours and wages. Kitchell said substitutes are budgeted at 6 hours per day and paid at minimum wage with a projected annual percentage increase in their budget projections.

Craig asked about their application in Redmond School District and their plans for timing. Phillips shared they are hoping to open a school as soon as possible, be it in Bend or Redmond, and their ultimate goal is to have a school in each district as they have the numbers to support two schools. Helt asked if Desert Sky was approved in Bend, would they continue to pursue their Redmond application. Phillips said yes, noting they would ultimately like to have a 400 student school in Bend and a 300 student school in Redmond.

Kinkade thanked Phillips and everyone in support of Desert Sky Montessori for attending the meeting tonight. The presentation, public input and information shared would be considered as part of their application. The board will review Superintendent Mikalson's recommendation at the October 13 board meeting, discuss and vote on the application. Helt closed the hearing and recessed the regular board meeting at 7:10p. The regular meeting reconvened at 7:14p.

### **Consent Agenda**

The board reviewed the Consent Agenda.

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

### **Action Items**

#### *Resolution 1829: OSBA Legislative Policy Committee Nomination*

Vice Chair Kinkade noted the board packet and the updated Resolution. Doug Nelson was recently appointed as the President Elect for OSBA, which opens up the Region 3 Board Member seat. Kinkade asked for nominations to fill the Region 3 Board Member position. **Ron Gallinat nominated Cheri Helt. Julie Craig seconded the nomination. Unanimous approval.**

#### *Executive Limitation 2 – Emergency Superintendent Succession*

Kinkade reviewed Executive Limitation 2 in the board packet noting no changes had been made from the last meeting. It has been vetted through district attorneys with no recommended changes. **Andy High moved to approve Executive Limitation 2 – Emergency Superintendent Succession. Ron Gallinat seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.**

#### *OSEA Contract Ratification*

Kinkade clarified the board would be taking action, pending OSEA member ratification which is anticipated to happen on September 29, 2015. Mathisen shared his appreciation for the leadership of the OSEA group, especially Linda and Bob Bradetich and Sarah Stearns and is thankful for the agreement they worked together on with the district. A summary of the contract agreements was provided to each board member. **Ron Gallinat moved to approve the OSEA contract, pending membership ratification. Andy High seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.**

## **Policy Monitoring**

### *Ends / Results: Academic Excellence 1 & 2 : Purpose, Mission & Goals*

Superintendent Mikalson reviewed the information included in the board packet and explained how it relates to the Ends / Outcomes Policy the board agreed on at their retreat earlier in the year.

Mikalson shared district ACT and SBAC results compared to Oregon and to a few other states and highlighted the success of middle school students in our district. He noted high school results were not quite as high as other like sized districts. The board asked questions about results and historical trends of results when tests and cut scores have changed and when we might begin to see a trend with SBAC results. Mikalson explained, historically, there has been a drop in scores with each change of tests or cut scores and complimented district staff for continuing to rise to the challenge of increased standards. He said we now need to really look at how we are evaluating student and focus on the Student B aspects because students are now being asked to explain their results more than ever before.

High asked how we will measure or create a trend when parents now have the choice to opt out. Mikalson said it's a challenge, but ultimately the district holds the responsibility to help our students achieve and he likes that the board chose to combine measures in looking at student achievement as it's a more balanced approach. More data will become available in October and will be included with student report cards and he will continue to update as more information becomes available.

Mikalson noted the executive summary in the board packet that summarized Academic Excellence #1 and #2 results as part of his first update in monitoring this policy. He shared the opt out option will most likely increase and will cause us to really take a look at our student population. The opt out is the same for SBAC as ACT and he is hopeful, at some point, parents would eventually opt into these types of assessments because they see and understand the value. Kinkade asked what the district's strategy is in looking at the correlation of ACT to SBAC results and sharing that information. Mikalson said Dave VanLoo is currently working with Beaverton, who has similar results and data to Bend-La Pine, and are working to set a meeting with ODE to show the correlation and discuss better options for standardized testing. He noted his support of the SBAC test specifically for the challenge and rigor of what it is asking students to do, but feels the time commitment and length of the test to be most concerning. Mikalson will expand more on the measures of #2 at the October 27 board meeting and be able to talk about specific results at school levels, etc. as he will have more thorough data from the state.

## **Discussion**

### *Community Engagement*

Julie Craig shared that she, Julianne Repman, and Superintendent Mikalson have met and tonight would like to hear what board member goals are in terms of communication and what they would like to achieve in their outreach efforts. She noted the importance of Student B messaging and shared a list of speaking engagements Mikalson will be a part of throughout the year and is hopeful board members could participate with him.

Kinkade said she would like to connect with the community and hear what their concerns are and at the same time be able to share the board vision and goals. She noted the importance of board members being out in the community, engaging themselves at various places with a variety of audiences.

Andy High shared a recent visioning retreat he was part of with EdCo and the opportunity he had to talk about Student B. He said the business community understands and wants Student B type of graduates. Craig added that she and High are going to meet with Eric King to discuss ways board members can engage with City Council members to share and understand each others vision and goals.

Mikalson appreciates the conversations and efforts to clarify work and define board goals on communication. He encouraged board members to consider how they will use community feedback and what would a response look like. Craig said they are working on developing a consistent message and talking points for board members and she will continue her work with Repman in creating a plan of action.

Kinkade shared her thanks and feels great progress is being made. She asked that board members be made aware of any dates Mikalson is scheduled to speak to community groups.

Cheri Helt suggested the messaging developed be short and to the point. She added that if she is elected to the OSBA Region 3 position, she will make outreach a focus of hers from the state level. She feels we need to push OSBA to expand their communications regarding financing and how community members and business can help partner and support education.

High and Craig will continue to work as the committee chairs for Community Engagement and will bring back a recommendation to the board for approval. Craig asked board members to contact her with any other venues, goals, or ideas they think of.

#### **Board Comments**

Ron Gallinat attended four open houses and feels the year is off to a great start.

Cheri Helt commented about SBAC test scores and it is clear that the Student B focus is important even in standardized testing scenarios. She applauded the efforts of staff as we move toward Student B and digging in to understand how to maximize student potential. Helt believes the 3 R's are just as important as the 4 C's and reiterated they are not separate of one another and students need all of these skills to be successful today. She is excited to see pockets of excellence in the district expand. Helt thanked parents and staff for working through the kinks of boundary and bus route changes to start the school year off.

Andy High visited Sky View Middle School today and was excited to see students able to navigate through less crowded halls and is appreciative of the balanced enrollment we are seeing.

Peggy Kinkade said she is enjoying the #superintendentshay postings on social media and seeing all the places he is visiting across the district to learn what employees are doing. She commented on the recent Bulletin editorial on naming facilities after people and appreciated the notion of honoring and celebrating those who have positively impacted education. She is intrigued by the idea and would like to explore that option. Kinkade added she is excited to visit more schools and complimented all for a great start to the school year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09p.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea Wilson  
9.22.15