

Bend-La Pine Schools
Bend, OR 97701

The Board of Directors for Bend-La Pine Schools met in a regular meeting on April 28, 2015 in room 314 of the Education Center, at 520 NW Wall Street, Bend, OR 97701.

Board Members Present

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:15p by Co-Chair Helt. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Public Input

Co-Chair Helt noted several individuals signed up for public input and said each person would have two minutes to speak.

Peter Grube thanked the board for their time and shared his support for keeping Open Gym as an option sighting key points: Open Gym is a necessary and effective program, alternatives are unrealistic and unacceptable, there are potentially serious unintended consequences with eliminating the program and the process of decision making was not done well. He is hopeful for a win-win solution between the district and families who use Open Gym, if not, he fears there will not be enough room for all those that need access to Kids Inc. and children will be left at home before and after school without supervision, thus creating a child safety issue.

Wesley McGovern, a third grade student at Miller Elementary, read aloud a paper he had written in favor of keeping Open Gym. He asked the board to consider keeping Open Gym and thanked them for listening.

Brandon McGovern, parent, supports keeping Open Gym and shared numbers and dollar figures in an approach to make the Open Gym program work financially to the district's favor. He said he would rather have his dollars go to the schools directly than to a Parks and Recreation program.

Kirsten Heron, parent, thanked the board for their time and shared her family relies heavily on the Open Gym program at High Lakes Elementary. She shared the positive effect of students having playtime at the beginning of the day before school starts, so they come to class ready to learn. There are about 150 students at High Lakes who participate in Open Gym, including teachers' children. She said most parents had no idea the program was at risk and was told by her principal that it was a staffing issue rather than a funding issue. Heron urged the board to try and come up with a better solution and keep Open Gym.

Dan Pyle, parent, thanked the board and shared both parents work full time and their two children are very active in after school activities. Open Gym allows their family to bridge the gap of time after school so that their children can participate in after school activities without he or his wife missing too much time from work, nor having to pay an expensive monthly rate through Parks and Rec. for after school care. He noted Kids Inc. is a costly program and their family would not be using the full amount of time they pay for each month. He urged the board to keep the Open Gym program.

Suzanne Scholsberg, parent, said she is in the same boat as many other families and she also runs the mileage club program at Highland which requires extra time each day to support the program. Open Gym allows her the flexibility to volunteer at school. She said the district's response to her email was surprising, as she did not realize the program was not cost effective, adding she is willing to pay a little more for the same type of program to continue.

Charonne Sutherland, parent, said for her family, the financial implications of having to pay for Kids Inc. would most likely mean her children would not be able to participate in sports and extra curricular activities. She would like to see the district keep the Open Gym program and continue the conversation in how to make it sustainable.

John Lucey, spoke about the proposed marijuana dispensary located at 1233 Galveston, approximately 1,000ft. away from Westside Village Magnet School. He said the dispensary's provisional license expired today, however the plan is to still pursue the location. He has been working with the Department of Justice and written an appeal letter, which he shared with the board. He feels the new dispensary is misinterpreting the rules and said there is a course of appeal should the permit be granted. Lucey urged the school board to adopt a position against the dispensary. School board involvement is critical in stopping the dispensary from being so close to a school. He thanked the board for their time and will keep them updated on the situation.

Lloyd Fassett, parent of four, shared they have used Open Gym for years and was shocked to find out the program has been cancelled with little communication. He shared an article from Health Education Journal that explains physical activity has a direct, helpful impact in promoting better grades and health for children. He feels Open Gym is a good use of school property and helps numerous families and children and asked the board to keep it as an available program.

Casie Ozolin, parent, thanked the board for their time and agreed with all the points made previously, adding her children love the Open Gym program and it's the one time during the day they get to play with other children in the school they might not see as often. It is great, unstructured playtime, which is beneficial for children and something they need. She is hopeful there is a better solution and noted the safety it provides children in having a place to go before and after school when parents are not typically home.

Cathy Carroll, parent, agreed with previous points made and sighted the districts mission and the importance of community involvement. She feels Open Gym is a great model of community partnership and asked the board to think creatively and try a new model and approach to the program. She said her son thrives in the Open Gym environment and it is beneficial for him and other children to have unstructured free playtime during their days.

Alison Hohengarten, parent, thanked the board for their time and service and echoed what others had already said. Her family uses Open Gym and feels it is a well-run program. She introduced her son Garrett, who said he likes Open Gym especially because it is a place where kids can see each other when they can't during other parts of the day. He said if Open Gym is cancelled, he would have to go to Kids Inc., and has heard it is boring and feels he would enjoy Open Gym more.

Shelly Smith, parent and Executive Director at The KIDS Center, thanked the board and echoed all other comments made. As a Highland parent, she loves the sense of community the school has and feels that Open Gym is part of that community. Highland is a magnet school and pulls from all over the district and Open Gym allows children a time to play with others who might live nearby. She shared her concern for the safety and welfare of students who might be left home alone if they are not able to go to Open Gym. She would like a chance to respond to the concerns of the district and urged the board to continue in conversation about how to keep the program.

Jen Newton, parent, thanked the board and district staff members for their time and recognized how much is on their plates right now. She said she has become the defacto coordinator for keeping Open Gym, noting her concern about lack of input from stakeholders and not having a clear understanding of what the core issues are. She explained why Kids Inc. is not the best option, sighting cost, that it has been labeled a pilot program means there is risk of it being cancelled as well, and that children do not want to go. Newton would like to continue to work with the district and board to find a way to keep Open Gym; she shared a handout with the board with a partnership proposal she would like to discuss further.

Co-Chair Helt thanked all for their input and said the board understands both the parent/student side as well as the districts reason for cancelling the program. Helt said the board is committed to finding a reasonable solution and provide options that will hopefully work for all; students, parents, the district and Parks and Rec. She looks forward to working together with Parks and Rec. at the district level. A community member asked about a possible timeline for solution, as there is a deadline of May 18 to indicate interest and register for next year. Helt did not commit to a timeline and thanked all who spoke and noted the board will continue to work with the district on future options.

Review of Agenda

Superintendent Wilkinson noted the updated agenda and the addition of the 2016-17 Major Dates Calendar.

Co-Chair Helt recessed the meeting at 6:51p. The meeting resumed at 6:53p.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Wilkinson shared five Bend-La Pine students won National Scholastic Art and Writing Awards recently: Shane Ragland and Racheal Nordby from Summit High School, Lyly vonHurst and Hailey Kavanagh from Mt. View High School and Emily Gagermeier from Pilot Butte Middle School, all of whom are invited to attend a ceremony at Carnegie Hall in June. Wilkinson congratulated the Mt. View High Speech Team for their third place finish at the state competition. Bend High Dynamics group earned first place at a recent competition in San Francisco with Elissa Grant winning the Ovation award; an award given to just one student out of nearly a thousand at the competition. The 2015 Oregon High School Equestrian Teams state championship will take place at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center in May and wished all competitors well.

Wilkinson congratulated the Summit High School newspaper staff for their top award at the National Scholastic Press Association Convention, earning a first place award in Best of Show competition for The Pinnacle. He added 17 high school students will be competing at the top level for solo music at the OSAA state competition this coming weekend. Those performing represent a wide range of disciplines, from soprano singers, to violinists and snare drum players. He wished them all good luck.

Consent Agenda

Peggy Kinkade moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Ron Gallinat seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Reports

Achievement Compacts

Superintendent Wilkinson said this is a short report, because on Friday, the district received word that we are not required to do Achievement Compacts this year. If, for some reason, the district does need to complete the compacts, the district will use the same process of the past to measure and report on targets.

Wilkinson said OEIB will be changing to an investment council and the structure will be modified through legislation. He said target areas of the Achievement Compacts will continue to be monitored at the state level, which is a more realistic approach than having districts monitor. Wilkinson noted the importance of

monitoring at state level and feels it is more impactful done this way, than at the district level. Co-Chair Helt asked about the NCLB waiver and is the district in jeopardy by not reporting to the state. Wilkinson said no, and there are chances of ESEA making reappearance this coming fall, which would change things significantly.

Action Items

REALMS Memorandum of Understanding

Superintendent Wilkinson noted the draft MOU in the board packet and reviewed the work done over the past months regarding the possibility of REALMS forgoing its charter status to become a magnet school within Bend-La Pine Schools. He said the conversations and collaboration between the district and REALMS has been excellent and the MOU was just approved last night by the REALMS board of directors. Wilkinson noted Mark Quinlan and Roger White in attendance to help answer any questions the board might have.

Andy High asked about the facility lease and terms. Brad Henry said the district will assume the lease and it is through September 2022. High asked for clarification on termination in the MOU, advanced notice requirements, etc. Quinlan agreed it would be good to clarify and would work with the REALMS board on what they felt comfortable with. White added that by becoming a magnet school, REALMS foregoes their charter status with the state and should they ever want to go back to being a charter, ODE would require a new application process from REALMS.

Co-Chair Juba asked what the cost of the facility lease is. White answered, just over \$7,000 per month. Henry noted the district would not assume any debt or liabilities with taking over the lease. Co-Chair Helt shared her concerns about possibly adding onto the facility, sighting a need for a multi-purpose room, if the building is under lease. Superintendent Wilkinson said the MOU contains language around sites and facilities and REALMS will now be a part of the districts formal review and planning process.

Helt said she is excited about REALMS becoming a magnet school and providing middle school students with another option, as a large part of the school board's mission is to offer learning options to help meet the needs of all students. Wilkinson agreed and added the REALMS staff is doing great work and he is excited to learn from their staff about what they do best. Quinlan introduced REALMS staff members in attendance and thanked the board and Wilkinson for complimenting the program and it's success over the years. Staff members present included: Quinn Daily, science and technology teacher, Amy Anderson, program and fieldwork coordinator, Todd LaFrenz, humanities and mind and body teacher, and two board members were also present.

Ron Gallinat asked if REALMS has a counselor on staff and White answered no. Gallinat asked about fundraising efforts and limitations district policies might place on them. Wilkinson said that is also an area addressed in the MOU and efforts will be made to avoid excessive fundraising to continue their unique programs.

Juba asked about enrollment size and if there were plans for expanding beyond 156 students. White said REALMS enrollment is really limited due to facility space and also growing too large would mean a loss of what they are passionate about. He added, the current student population size makes sense for their program and makes their program special. He is interested in sharing some of the unique things REALMS does with other schools in the district to hopefully integrate where it makes sense. Juba asked about student access and bus transportation options. White said access has been a priority to the REALMS board of directors and will continue to be, and he and Jay Mathisen have been working together with the Transportation Department to improve and find ways to increase student access. White added, one of their goals is to ensure more equity and diversity in their student body and school transportation would help address those issues. REALMS has never provided student transportation, however, they have made efforts by securing a city bus stop close to their school, which has helped students.

Peggy Kinkade moved to approve the REALMS Memorandum of Understanding as presented. Nori Juba seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Co-Chair Helt congratulated REALMS and welcomed them to the district. She is glad to have them and thanked the staff and board members in attendance tonight. Roger White thanked Superintendent Wilkinson, Lora Nordquist, Jay Mathisen, Shay Mikalson and Brad Henry for their work and commitment to the transition.

2016-17 Major Dates Calendar Update

Superintendent Wilkinson noted the updated calendar at each board members seat and said that the district has made an effort to align our spring break with that of the Oregon University System and colleges around the state. For the 2016-17 Major Dates Calendar, the OUS spring break is one week later than what was originally approved. Tonight, the suggestion is to amend the 2016-17 major dates calendar spring break to March 27-31, 2017. Co-Chair Helt noted her continued support of extending spring break to two weeks.

Ron Gallinat moved to approve the updated 2016-17 Major Dates Calendar as presented. Julie Craig seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Board Comments

Stuart Young thanked REALMS for what they have done and given to students. He is happy they are joining the district as a middle school magnet option.

Andy High said he has more questions about Open Gym and would like to hear about more options and costs associated to the district and Parks and Rec use of district facilities. Superintendent Wilkinson said there is a long-standing agreement between the district and Parks and Recreation to not charge each other for facility usage. High said he would like to ask more questions and worries for the parents who are in a bind with commitments and timelines. He encouraged district leadership to look at more partnership opportunities with other groups and offer like terms for facility usage as we do with Parks and Rec.

Ron Gallinat apologized for missing the budget message earlier, he was in Salem discussing OEGB renewal rates and shared increases for medical, dental and vision policies.

Julie Craig welcomed REALMS to the district as a magnet and is excited for another middle school choice option. She shared the Boys and Girls Club is another afterschool option for students, with busing available from schools, for a reasonable rate.

Co-Chair Helt welcomed REALMS and is also excited for another middle school option. She thanked the parents and students for their input on Open Gym and said it is always good to hear from community members and the district will continue to look at options.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25p.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Wilson