

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

The Board of Directors for Bend-La Pine Schools met in a regular meeting on January 27, 2015 in room 314 of the Education Center, at 520 NW Wall Street, Bend, OR 97701.

**Board Members Present**

Nori Juba  
Cheri Helt  
Peggy Kinkade  
Stuart Young  
Julie Craig  
Ron Gallinat  
Andy High *left at 7:17p*

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:18p by Co-Chair Helt. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

**Public Input**

Linda Bradetich, OSEA President along with OSEA Executive Team members Mary Hofer, Debbie Christian, Brad Warkentin and Sarah Stearns, in honor of January being School Board appreciation month, thanked the Board for their work and commitment to the District.

The Board shared their thanks and Co-Chair Helt added how appreciative she is for the tremendous work Classified employees do day in and day out.

**Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Wilkinson congratulated Summit High School student, Allie Bowlin, for being named as The Center Foundation's High Desert Hero for February. He noted her academic and athletic accomplishments along with work done in the community. Wilkinson said the Boundary Committee has been working hard and actively seeking public input on the new boundaries. A final recommendation will most likely come to Wilkinson in the next week. He noted the new elementary naming process is moving along and the online survey closes this Friday, to date, there have been nearly 300 suggestions. Wilkinson said five students will go on to be judged as national American Vision finalists. Wilkinson added that 71 students were named gold key winners, 85 silver key winners and 185 honorable mentions. The student artwork is currently on display at the Pickney Gallery at COCC. Wilkinson noted the updated artwork in the boardroom as part of school board appreciation month.

**Consent Agenda**

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

**Discussion**

*Discussion with Local Legislators*

Superintendent Wilkinson introduced House Representative Knute Buehler and Senator Tim Knopp and thanked them for their time tonight. Wilkinson shared he would like both of them to understand that the District is still not back to pre-recession levels and the Governor's proposed budget leaves the District short funded. The reality of the proposed budget is that it is at least a half billion dollars short of sustaining even the level of service that districts are able to offer this current school year, with the addition of all-day Kindergarten in fall of 2015. Wilkinson said opening two new schools is costly, and the Co-Chair's most recent budget reveals basically flat funding. He advocated for more funding and cautioned funding based on new initiatives.

Co-Chair Helt thanked both Buehler and Knopp for their time and appreciates having these important conversations. Senator Knopp thanked the Board and noted his appreciation for their time and what they do for the District. Knopp feels optimistic about the legislative session and is pushing for funding at the \$8 billion mark, as he thinks this is an appropriate level for education funding. Knopp shared his strategy for gaining this proposed revenue increase. Knopp said he and Representative Buehler are committed to education and it is a high priority to each of them. He asked for any input and noted he has been visiting schools to try and understand better what he can do to help.

Ron Gallinat asked about the opt out proposal to standardized testing. Knopp reviewed the current controversy over testing and he would appreciate input from the District and Board as they work through the bills this Legislative session. Andy High asked how the PERS case, if it continues to go on, would affect the budget process. Knopp said the PERS issue is concerning and he had expected a decision by now. If the ruling is negative, it will cause huge budget problems going forward and could take dollars away from current education funding, which is very concerning. Knopp shared options that are left for current PERS members.

Representative Buehler thanked the Board for their time and noted he spent much time during his campaign learning about education, the District and schools specifically. He feels schools and education need to be the top priority in the state and is supportive of more funding. He noted his concerns about poverty, specifically students in poverty and how it affects their education.

Co-Chair Juba said the underlying problem is that Oregon is not a wealthy state and ranks very low according to Education Weekly. He noted the 44% free and reduced lunch rate here in Bend and feels jobs and an environment to provide and create economic wealth and revenue will ultimately provide the dollars needed for education. He said he has worked with the Governor on funding outcomes and encouraged Legislators to look at strategic investments and not just throw money into the same places. He said the Governor's idea to allocate money into places that improve student achievement is worth consideration, as it would benefit districts like Bend-La Pine. Buehler agreed and feels schools need to be funded in an intelligent way and measure true outcomes. He agreed too, that Oregon is a poor state and has a bad equation for producing revenue for schools.

Co-Chair Helt noted there are islands of excellence in the state and suggested the idea of successful districts mentoring other districts. Those mentoring could receive grant funding to do so. She shared this is something the District does internally with teachers, and have done a bit outside of the district and the huge benefit we have seen in learning from others and using the resources we have. Helt asked for Buehler and Knopp's thoughts about full-day Kindergarten funding. Knopp noted, while he can't tell the District what to do, he advised not funding full-day Kindergarten because it will take away from other initiatives, advising not to stretch the District too thin and really focusing on priorities.

Stuart Young thanked Buehler and Knopp for their time and wished them well in the upcoming session. He feels like the formulas being used are funding the past and not planning for the future. He would love to see new thinking in this session and would also appreciate updates as the session continues. Buehler noted state income is growing too slow to support the cost of public services and is providing a huge pitfall in moving forward. Knopp said there have been multiple work groups who have tried to explain and change the formula with not much success. He added the state has made poor policy decisions continue to hold us back.

Andy High shared his frustration with the Governor's 40-40-20 goal and spoke of the concept of grit that was a part of the board retreat in August. He asked for Legislators to push back at this goal a bit, advocating that trade schools are equally important as college. The plumbers, electricians, HVAC technicians are ageing out and there will soon be a huge shortage. Buehler agreed and shared his concern for the goal is that there have been no tactics suggested or 'road map' offered to help districts achieve

the 40-40-20 goal. Juba agreed, adding it is easier to find a good neurosurgeon in Bend than an electrician.

Peggy Kinkade asked about gain share and how we all share in tax abatements and the income tax revenue dollars go back to the County, but not to Districts and if there is any proposal to change this. Knopp answered there is discussion going on but in a much broader sense of general taxation. He added there are hundreds of bills proposing taxation changes. He feels the state needs to be careful about tax policy and said he will share this message and concern with appropriate committee members.

Helt asked about CTE funding in regards to grant applications. She said one of the major problems is the way applications are reviewed, noting a grant can only be awarded for something new. She feels there should be more thought given to sustainability of programs and keeping the good ones moving forward with continued funding. Knopp said he would look into the process.

Julie Craig commented on poverty levels and those who need support now. She does not want this part of our population to get lost in the visioning of how to help the future. She said their needs are current and we cannot forget about supporting this part of our population. Buehler agreed and said there should be an emphasis placed on getting and keeping children out of poverty.

Kinkade thanked Representative Buehler and Senator Knopp for investing their time in becoming educated about education and appreciates their work. Helt agreed and thanked them in advance for their work in increased funding.

## **Reports**

### *Special Programs: Annual Restraint and Seclusion Data Review*

Sean Reinhart reviewed the restraint and seclusion data summary in the board packet. Districts are required by law to report annually and the summary shows a three-year comparison. Reinhart explained the total number of restraints have decreased as well as the number of students restrained and secluded. Reinhart noted that neither restraint or seclusion are used as an intervention or discipline, they are only used when there is eminent danger to a student or staff member. It is a safety measure and not exclusive to students identified for special programs. Reinhart said he believes a key component of the decreasing numbers is staff education. He said Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) trainings have increased awareness in staff and they have a better understanding of how to respond to safety issues.

Andy High asked why the minutes in restraint increased. Reinhart explained the intensity and acuteness of the students being restrained is increasing and it is taking longer to de-escalate. High asked for clarity of the age of students and incidents. Reinhart said a vast majority are elementary students, who are typically less able to communicate and regulate themselves and may have sensory needs and difficulties managing such issues.

Co-Chair Juba asked if data reflects predominately boys or girls. Reinhart said there were 39 male and 5 females represented in the data summary, in which these students often have multiple restraint and/or seclusions.

Co-Chair Helt asked about the fluctuation in numbers, and lack of a trend. Reinhart explained the first couple of years reflected in the summary, the District placed emphasis on educating staff about reporting, which, with more awareness, caused an increase in numbers. He feels last year was a very accurate reflection and noted the District has a much more systematic way of reporting. High asked if and how staff who do the restraints are supported. Reinhart explained the follow up after an incident and noted there are safe guards for employees and students all along the way.

Helt asked if there were students restrained more than five times. Reinhart answered yes. Juba noted it will be hard to establish a trend with a small, volatile population of students, but it is nice to see numbers

going down. Peggy Kinkade asked who receives CPI training and how are staff authorized to decide to seclude a student. Reinhart explained the District has to adopt a curriculum for crisis prevention, and Bend-La Pine has adopted CPI. Any staff working directly with potentially volatile students have CPI training are often times the one making the judgment call for restraint and seclusion. Reinhart noted seclusion is often a team decision with a continuum staff work through along the way to avoid seclusion. If the student is not able to deescalate through the CPI strategies then at that point seclusion would occur. Ron Gallinat asked about training and highly qualified teachers in these positions. Reinhart said the numbers are about the same since 2011 for both staff and volatile students and feels all of the District's special programs teachers are highly qualified now with much more training opportunities. Lora Nordquist noted there are mentors and coaches working throughout the District to help support and train staff members in how to deal with this population of students.

Helt thanked Reinhart and commented this is an important and difficult part of some jobs and appreciates how hard employees work with these students.

#### *REALMS Update*

Superintendent Wilkinson shared an exciting possibility with REALMS. REALMS has been a middle school charter option for Bend-La Pine students for the past 14 years. Wilkinson noted the close work that has happened over the years and the partnership that has developed between REALMS and the District, adding they have a well functioning school and a program with great identity. He is proud of the great work being done by Roger White and the staff at REALMS.

Wilkinson said REALMS is in the third year of their five-year charter contract and this summer Roger White approached District leadership about the possibility of changing their status with the District. A meeting with Mark Quinlan, REALMS Board President, followed and the conversation has continued since the start of the school year. REALMS submitted a proposal in December to join the District as a Magnet School and forego their charter status. Wilkinson said the District is looking into the details of the proposal and feel it is an appropriate time to speak publicly about the possibility. REALMS staff members and parents are aware of the proposal and Wilkinson feels optimistic an agreement will be reached.

Wilkinson noted Roger White could not be here but has shared the opportunity for REALMS to have a stronger operation structure, professional development opportunities and for White, as an administrator, to focus on instructional leadership would be valuable reasons to join the District as a magnet. Another positive includes being a part of the District's Sites and Facilities planning. Wilkinson shared if the proposal moves forward, the District would retain REALMS' current facility and lease and the commitment would be to maintain the focus on expeditionary learning as it has proven to be a successful and well run program. The District will continue to support the work of REALMS as well as working to meet the policies and focus of the District.

Mark Quinlan agreed and said the District leadership team has been great to work with and feels an agreement is close. He noted White has been very proactive in engaging the staff and families and listening to their thoughts and sharing conversations about how to look forward to this possible change.

Peggy Kinkade commented REALMS has proven to be a successful middle school alternative and is supportive of the program and any ways the District can help strengthen the program, she is supportive of. Juba asked if the REALMS program could grow. Quinlan answered yes, however, the current facility is their biggest barrier. Wilkinson reviewed enrollment history and shared there are two classes at each grade level with about 145 students enrolled. Capacity is 150. Helt feels this is an exciting option for kids and noted the District's graduation rate is one of the better in the state and she feels this is in part of the way we get all kids to be engaged. Options like REALMS help meet the needs of students and she is very supportive of strengthening their program.

#### **Policy Monitoring**

*BD GOV A.6 – Asset Protection*

Brad Henry noted the policy in the board packet and said there are no changes to the insurance coverage, nor to the way the District manages its assets. Ron Gallinat asked who does the quarterly inspections. Henry said there is a number of staff including the custodial supervisor, maintenance staff members and lead custodian at each site. All of these employees notify the District of conditions that should be considered and/or addressed. Henry said the District's insurer, PACE, also sends people to check out our facilities and teach us how to look for potential issues or safety hazards.

Peggy Kinkade questioned if the naming policy is too rigid or difficult and is curious to hear if the new school-naming committees struggled with this policy in their work. Kinkade would like to have feedback or suggestions to consider with the language in the policy. Superintendent Wilkinson agreed it would be good to look over the policy and suggested the new elementary school naming process finish up before soliciting feedback and making any policy changes. Co-Chair Helt agreed.

**Board Comments**

Julie Craig shared Heather Anderson, a National Board Certified Teacher at Juniper Elementary, invited her into her classroom and Craig noted the excellent job Anderson is doing and shared her appreciation for the tremendous commitment it takes to become Nationally Board Certified.

Co-Chair Juba shared an update on the Superintendent search process. He said 45 applications were submitted from all across the United States and a couple of international applicants. The next steps for the interview committee include developing interview questions for the finalists. Juba said the interview committee will meet in an executive session on February 16 to select their top candidates and first round interviews will be held February 21 and 23.

Juba commented on the boundary process, noting it is challenging work to balance numbers while holding the values of a diverse student population and the richness it brings to the educational experience in mind. He commented on the geography and socio-economic divisions in Bend and is adamantly against any form of forced attendance. He values, as does the Board, student choice and giving families the ability to find the right school for their student. Students need to find their niche and as a District, this is part of being world class. He encouraged District leadership to look for solutions and find ways to achieve a good mix of students in all schools. He noted there will always be certain constraints, transportation for example, but feels the District has created successful programs to serve a variety of students and needs to continue to build and support such programs and opportunities. He does not want the boundary process to handicap the achievement of District goals.

Co-Chair Helt thanked the members of the Superintendent Search and Boundary Committee, noting the extra hours they have spent working is appreciated. She appreciated the recognition and thanks as part of School Board Appreciation month and added this is work the board does because they are passionate about education and want to make a difference.

Adjourned. 7:38p

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Wilson  
1.27.2015