

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

Meeting Date: March 18, 2020

Meeting Location:

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

Board Members Present

Julie Craig
Carrie Douglass
Shimiko Montgomery *attended virtually*
Caroline Skidmore *attended virtually*
Melissa Barnes Dholakia *attended virtually*
Amy Tatom *attended virtually*
Stuart Young *attended virtually*

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Co-Chair Craig.

Discussion

❖ **Superintendent Search Update**

Co-Chair Craig shared her appreciation and acknowledged the hard work of all district staff members during the closure and unknown times. She also extended her thoughts to students and families and wished them all well.

Co-Chair Craig expressed her desire to suspend the search for a new superintendent due to the uncertainty and ever-changing circumstances regarding the COVID-19 situation. Co-Chair Douglass agreed, adding, that while the applicant pool was strong, she does not feel the Board can commit to a thorough and transparent process with the current closures and limits to social interactions. Douglass suggested the Board consider appointing an interim superintendent for the 2020-21 school year and resume the search for a new superintendent in the fall of 2020. Stuart Young agreed and expressed his thankfulness for the district's strong leadership team. Caroline Skidmore also agreed and shared her concerns about making such an important decision during a world-wide crisis and that the community and district deserve a thoughtful, transparent process as the Board selects the next superintendent. Melissa Barnes Dholakia noted the excellent candidate pool and her desire to honor the process the Board laid out prior to COVID-19; and to honor that process, she too is supportive of delaying the search. Shimiko Montgomery agreed with fellow board members and feels it would be best to move forward with an interim appointment. Amy Tatom also agreed and shared her concerns with not being fully able to vet candidates due to social distancing measures in place. She feels confident in the district's current leadership and also supports an interim appointment.

Co-Chair Craig recommended the Board consider appointing current Assistant Superintendent, Lora Nordquist, as interim superintendent for the 2020-21 school year. Craig expressed her confidence in Nordquist and said her expertise and experience will be invaluable as the district continues to move forward. Co-Chair Douglass agreed and thanked Nordquist for stepping up during such unprecedented circumstances. Douglass added that Nordquist exemplifies the core competencies the Board identified and included in the current Superintendent vacancy notice.

Stuart Young moved to appoint Lora Nordquist as Superintendent for the 2020-21 school year. Amy Tatom seconded the motion. Unanimous approval

Board members shared their appreciation and thanked Nordquist for her willingness to accept the position as an interim. Caroline Skidmore clarified Nordquist's appointment will be from July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. All board members agreed.

Nordquist said she is honored to serve the district as interim superintendent and sees her role for the 2020-21 school year as that of stewardship. She thanked Board members for their kind words and bode of confidence in her abilities.

Meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Recorded by: Andrea Wilson

Minutes approved at 4.14.2020 board meeting