

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

The Board of Directors for Bend-La Pine Schools met in a regular session on February 10, 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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:21p by Co-Chair Helt. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Wilkinson shared Margey Vrbata was recently named Outstanding Teacher of the Year for the Oregon Association Vocational Special Needs Personnel. Vrbata is currently a teacher at Transition CoOp and is always pleasant, positive and wonderful to work with. The District is lucky to have Vrbata and Wilkinson said he is proud of her accomplishment. She will receive her award on February 20. Morgan Stewart, a senior at Summit High School won first place in the Eastern Oregon University High School Songwriting Contest. Leo Dolan, another Summit High student took third place, and Maxwell Farrens, a senior at Bend Senior High won the faculty choice award. As a winner, Stewart will be invited to record her song professionally at the University.

Wilkinson noted a letter at each Board members seat that was sent last Friday in support of a grant that would improve schools ability to communicate directly to emergency responders during crisis situations in Deschutes County. The District has adopted the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS) as our system for responding to emergencies. On January 5, 2015, District Leadership Team members began their work to complete training in these areas. Other key personnel will receive the training this summer and during the upcoming school year.

National Board Certified Teacher Recognition

Superintendent Wilkinson shared the District's support and desire to increase recognition for those teachers who are Nationally Board Certified. These teachers do extra work that is above and beyond proving their level of professional expertise. He is hopeful this recognition will become an annual event. The Board recognized those who have had or who are new NBCT recipients. Co-Chairs Cheri Helt and Nori Juba presented each of the following with a rose and NBCT pin: Collin Brooks from Jewell Elementary, Eila Overcash from Summit High, Amy Sabbadini from Bend Senior High, Chris Kuka from Summit High, Karen Corson from Pilot Butte Middle, Laura Sugden from Bend Senior High, Michele Oakes from Teaching and Learning, Evelyn Kennedy from La Pine Elementary, Heather Anderson from Juniper Elementary, Rachael Schuetz from Miller Elementary and Cassie Bullock from Bend Senior High. Wilkinson noted Lisa Nye from Bend Senior High is also NBCT but could not be here this evening. Co-Chair Helt shared her thanks and appreciation for the time and commitment each of these teachers has put into going above and beyond.

Charter School Hearing

Co-Chair Helt recessed the regular board meeting at 6:32p and called to order the Public Hearing for Bend International School. The Hearing was called to order pursuant ORS 338.055, to review the application for public charter presented by Bend International School.

Superintendent Wilkinson reviewed the application process and a thorough district review, which led to an initial response to application deficiencies. Bend International School worked hard to respond to those deficiencies and tonight is their opportunity to present to the Board. The Board will make a decision at the March 10 meeting. Wilkinson reviewed the next steps after Board approval or denial of the application.

Meera Rupp, Director and Teacher for Bend International School (BIS) introduced herself to the Board and shared about the mission and program for BIS, noting the lack of diversity in Central Oregon. The purpose of BIS is to focus on international education and global competence. Rupp reviewed the curriculum and planning efforts and said the immersion model they chose and the work they have done with other international schools in the United States includes academic excellence, innovative teaching and international education. Rupp shared survey results, which show a demand for more options and she feels BIS will provide a much-needed alternative program and diversity for students in the various Central Oregon districts. Rupp reviewed the differences of BIS from any program Bend-La Pine Schools currently offers and recognized the concerns of the District to which she is willing to work together to address.

Rupp shared about growing up with international connections and her teaching career. Rupp's lifelong dream is to found an international school to help connect children and become global citizens. She thanked the District for collaboration in the application process and the guidance to help bring the application into compliance with District policy. She looks forward to future expansion of BIS and said they were awarded a federal grant that could help allow for such expansion.

Co-Chair Helt thanked Rupp and began the public comment portion of the hearing at 6:52p.

Eddie Jones, a steering committee chairperson for BIS said she first met Rupp and heard about the vision for an international school 13 years ago in the Together for Children program. Jones is hopeful the Board recognizes the deep knowledge, experience and strong desires of those involved with BIS. She feels it is important to bring this opportunity to Bend and shared she has welcomed many international travelers and students into her home over the years to help her family understand, learn about and create connections all across the world. She said her children have traveled extensively and are living enriched lives because of their international connections. She and her husband own Camp Tamarack and work very hard to have international ties there as well. She cannot imagine why the District would not approve this charter application.

Prem Chopra thanked the Board for time tonight and shared he came to the United States from India in 1965 and just finished building their home here in Bend. He shared his support for BIS and hopes the vision for generations coming to Bend includes expansion of international exposure and diversity in the schools. Chopra complimented Rupp on her presentation, work and dream she has for BIS. He urged the Board to approve the charter application, noting it would be good for Bend.

Bruce Churchill with Fratzke Realty said he has been helping BIS find a facility since being approached by Rupp this past summer. He said it has not been easy, but noted a local developer, Kevin Spencer, feels something will work out and is willing to make the initial investment. He complimented Rupp's work and reiterated the importance of children interacting with children from other countries and cultures. He respectfully asked the Board to approve the application.

Rebecca and Koji Hoshi, a mother and future BIS student shared their excitement about the possibility of this charter becoming a reality. For their family, it would mean going from homeschooling to a public charter setting. Rebecca shared they have chosen homeschooling for their child to emphasize and teach

with a global perspective, adding they have done work and lived in Japan. Koji added school is different in Japan and here she doesn't feel like have enough exposure to different cultures. She wants to have a school that supports international learning and hopes the Board will support opening BIS.

Flora Morales, mother of future BIS student addressed the Board with the help of an interpreter. Morales said she is very happy with her experiences with BIS and her main interest is for her daughter to be able to learn in Spanish and English. She shared about a family member who was bilingual and the opportunities he had because of this have been amazing. She does not want her daughter to be ashamed of speaking Spanish and wants her to be proud of her heritage, which an international education will help support. She is hopeful the Board will consider approving the charter application.

Kerani Mitchell said she grew up in Central Oregon and shared experiences of racism during her youth. She is supportive of BIS as a way to help introduce students to the beauty of being a global citizen. Her son attended a public international school in Seattle and is hopeful the Board will approve BIS so her son can continue his international education. BIS will prepare students to excel both inside and beyond our borders.

Gonzalo Morales shared his support for children to have an international education, learn languages and become strong leaders in the United States and the world. He said it is important to look toward the future and what is going to happen as Bend continues to grow. He feels the District needs to approve this charter, as it would be great for the students and the community.

Julie McMullin, BIS Steering Committee and Board Treasure, shared she is a mother of three, two at Highland and one at Cascade Middle School. She has been a part of BIS and assisting with their budget and plans to continue as treasure for the school. She shared her support for the curriculum and global perspective and focus BIS will offer. She said she values the community connection the program offers and is hopeful for students to have another option, especially at the middle school level, noting how difficult it is currently for families to access the District's magnet and charter school options. McMullin said Rupp is talented and passionate and will make BIS a success.

Nya Kelly, a new Bend resident, shared she was very excited about the schools here, but feels there are currently not enough teachers to offer what BIS can do. She commented on how difficult it is to get into current magnet and charter schools and would like to see Bend-La Pine Schools become leaders in the realm of opening up more charter schools like BIS to offer more individualization and options for children. She urged the Board to support and approve the charter application.

Co-Chair Helt thanked all for their time and advocacy for Bend International School. Helt explained Board members had some questions for Rupp and would like to take time for clarification of the application.

Peggy Kinkade thanked Rupp for her presentation and for the community support. Kinkade said it is the job of the Board to make sure Bend International School is ready when they open their doors and asked about staffing plans. Rupp shared she already has over 30 applications from all over the world of people interested in teaching. The partnership with other international schools also connects her to applicants. She noted she does not intend to compete with bilingual staffing for current District programs. The plan is to have one teacher at each grade level, K-8, with the hopes of future growth. She said they intend to start small with some elective programs. Kinkade asked about enrollment numbers and what happens if the numbers do not balance for grade level purposes. Rupp said their interest numbers are high and feels further outreach will help BIS to open at full capacity, with balanced class numbers in the fall.

Andy High asked about class size numbers. Rupp answered the goal is 20 at the elementary grades and 25 for middle school grades.

Nori Juba asked for clarification on funding. Rupp said the budget is tight, but BIS will make it work. She said a budget has been turned in for a K-8 program with 20% factored. She said staff will wear multiple

hats in effort to be efficient. Juba commended Rupp's goals, and shared his concern with the budget, viability of the plan and that it is sustainable; for example, charter schools pay rent for facilities and public schools do not. He understands the budget presented is based on full enrollment at 195 students and is concerned if they don't reach that goal, how will they move forward. Rupp said there is a back up location that is a more affordable option and they will continue to work on the budget as enrollments take place.

Andy High asked for more information on the survey. Rupp said she hired an independent person to compile results. High asked about the lease and possible exposure to the District for the facility if the charter does not make it. Rupp said Kevin Spencer is going to purchase the property and lease it to BIS. Rupp's long-term goal is for BIS to acquire the facility.

Ron Gallinat noted the tremendous amount of work done for the application process and asked for clarification on the length of possible agreement. Superintendent Wilkinson said it would be three years initially. Rupp said the application asked for a five-year agreement but will work with the District. Gallinat asked about the decision timeline for the Board. Wilkinson said a decision will be made at the March 10 Board meeting.

Stuart Young thanked Rupp for her work and enthusiasm. He shared his personal history of working in international schools and all the places he has lived. He said his concern, as a Board member, is that the school has to have a true partnership with the District and noted the successful charters he has worked with in the past have most often phased in. He would like to look at the possibility of a phase in plan for BIS to allow for partnership building. Rupp said BIS is all about partnership and has made efforts to meet with appropriate District staff to collaborate and learn how to make the partnership work. Young asked what enrollment Rupp thinks they will open their doors with. Rupp answered 195 students, noting the homeschool population is a large part of that number. Juba commented 195 students can impact the District and he's not totally sure BIS will be ready for that many students on day one. He noted the success of the IB program at Bend High and how many students actually end up in the program vs. expressed their interest. He reiterated the Board wants to do everything they can to support Rupp's goals and efforts, but is concerned less than 195 will enroll and with possible lower numbers, how will the funding work.

Juba commended the goals and dreams and work Rupp has put into Bend International School, adding he wants to be supportive of the plan, albeit very ambitious from an enrollment and curriculum standpoint. He would love to see this program happen, but not to have BIS over extend themselves in the first year. Juba noted REALMS started small and now they are at 165 students. He understands the need and appreciates the community support. He would like to see a reasonable goal and a possible phase in plan if possible. Rupp said she would like to continue the conversation about enrollment. She added the curriculum elements all go together and are a part of the professional development aspect of their grand award. Rupp said starting, as a smaller school is a conversation she is willing to have.

Co-Chair Helt said the Board is supportive of options and is proud of the dual immersion program, noting how difficult it is to find enough teachers to continue to expand the full program. She asked Rupp how she plans to find staff to support the Spanish emersion part of BIS. Rupp explained charter teachers are not held to the same Oregon teacher certification limits and feels because of that, there will not be a problem finding staff or taking from Bend-La Pine program needs.

Rupp will continue to work with Brad Henry and Zhai Logan to finalize budget questions. Any further budget questions the Board has can be directed to Henry.

The Board thanked Rupp for her time, passion and interest in bringing something different to Bend. Helt said the Board will make their decision on March 10. Helt closed the hearing at 7:43p and reconvened the regular meeting.

Consent Agenda

Andy High noted Senator Knopp's name was misspelled in the minutes.

Peggy Kinkade moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Julie Craig seconded the motion with the correction noted to Senator Knopp's name. Unanimous approval.

Reports

2015-16 HDESD Local Service Plan Presentation

John Rexford, High Desert Education Service District Superintendent, thanked the Board for their time and noted this is an annual process in which the HDESD provides a summary of their plan for services for special needs students and how they can help support schools. He asked the Board to consider approving the plan as presented. Rexford explained it is a 'cafeteria style' menu and reviewed the funding and how the umbrella of possible services can help serve the District as they see necessary. Rexford noted early childhood development is a priority for the ESD and making sure students are ready and prepared to enter Kindergarten. They are currently working on legislation to obtain more funding to help provide support as these students enter the public school system. Rexford introduced Scott Reynolds, HDESD Board Chair, appointed by Bend-La Pine Schools along with Doug Nelson (not present) who serves as Vice Chair.

Superintendent Wilkinson said the District is spoiled by our local ESD and shared a history of the relationship and how it has changed tremendously, for the better, over the years. It is one of the best and most important relationships the District has and he is appreciative.

Co-Chair Helt asked about preschool funding. Rexford said there is a tremendous amount of work being done to learn about effective strategies for early learning in all Central Oregon districts. He noted the great work being done by Kendra Coats and Helt agreed, noting it is nice to see the professional development efforts. Rexford feels if the Governor gives funds to this project and effort, the ESD and constituents will be able to strategically implement and move forward. He feels there is much possibility and noted the early childhood development budget is still to be determined, but they do have good support. Gallinat asked about the Coordinated Care connection. Rexford explained the programs offered and how they coordinate with the health care community.

Andy High asked about the ESD Board structure and if there was concern with both the Chair and Vice Chair being from Bend. Reynolds explained there has been a conscious effort to have a leadership rotation on the Board and an established rotation has been set, however, there are also new leadership members from other counties. Rexford said it is important to be mindful of the perception that the Board is 'Bend dominate.' High asked how the ESD and Districts can work together, and not end up competing, as we both are advocating for funding. Rexford explained the work of the ESD is hand in hand with K-12 and he is hopeful that both are funded appropriately. He noted the co-chair's budget is disappointing and is negative funding.

Stuart Young noted Rexford's fine high school education from Creswell, OR and Rexford said Young was his principal at one point. Young is impressed with Rexford's leadership and the relationship he has established with districts, adding it is unique and thanked him for his efforts.

Ron Gallinat asked about the current legislative session and if there are any discussions of ESD changes. Rexford said it is pretty quiet thus far, but if anything changes it would most likely benefit ESD's. Helt asked if there are any new services in the plan. Rexford noted the newer programs, but nothing is brand new. He commented Better Together is moving toward a sustainable model and he is excited about the potential of their program once grant funding ends. All Hands Raised is another exciting one to watch as it continues to move forward.

Helt thanked Rexford and Reynolds for their presentation and time. Reynolds took a moment to thank Superintendent Wilkinson for his years of incredible service to Bend-La Pine Schools.

Boundary Update

Superintendent Wilkinson complimented the facilitation efforts of Jay Mathisen and Brad Henry for the boundary review process and acknowledged the excellent work of Shawn Hasse, noting Hasse's GIS data was incredibly valuable to the committee in making their final recommendation. Wilkinson reviewed the charge he set forth to the boundary committee, noting the work is not easy and there were many elements with competing interests. He shared the work of the committee was good and his recommendation tonight includes their work, with two adjustments.

Wilkinson explained there was community feedback and concern surrounding a proposed change to the attendance area near Bend High School. The proposed boundary change would have moved an area between Olney and Revere to Mt. View High School. Wilkinson said there is history of trying to move this specific high school boundary in this part of town and with that proposal, all students in the area elected to stay at Bend High. He noted too, that this area is within walking distance to Bend High and for those reasons, he recommends keeping this neighborhood area within the Bend High attendance area.

The second adjustment affects the elementary boundaries of the downtown area on the east side of the river and Old Mill area. The proposal was to move this neighborhood from Miller Elementary to Pine Ridge Elementary. Wilkinson noted community feedback showed a big concern for this recommendation and the difficulty in traffic along Reed Market for families to get to and from Pine Ridge from the downtown area. Wilkinson recommended keeping this neighborhood area within the Miller Elementary attendance area.

Wilkinson commented on additional charges he has set forth as part of the continual planning for the District. He noted the Dual Immersion program at Bear Creek will be extending to 5th grade next year and the intent has always been to continue the program at the middle school level. He suggested the dual immersion program be housed at Pacific Crest Middle School, adding this placement could possibly help with some interests Chris Boyd has shared for creating cultural competence and creating diversity. Wilkinson shared his concerns for placing the dual immersion program at Pilot Butte Middle School as they have just received their MYP certification. It is a lot to ask of Pilot Butte to house another, new program.

Another charge Wilkinson shared is that of continuing to monitor the attendance areas around Ponderosa Elementary where proposed high density / multi-family housing units could drastically affect their enrollment figures. Wilkinson said it is an area to watch because there's no idea to know how quickly those homes will be completed or fill up. He noted it might be an area of potential boundary changes between Buckingham and Ponderosa Elementary.

Wilkinson's last charge surrounds the high schools enrollment. Current enrollment is out of balance at the high school level, largely in part due to the attendance area change request process. Wilkinson is hopeful to see a trend of students who live in the Summit High School attendance area and stay at Summit High begin, noting the current freshman class is showing good signs of this. Close to 300 students currently transfer from Summit High to Bend Senior High. Wilkinson added all of the high school facilities will be beyond capacity before the next high school is built and the District needs to focus on balanced enrollment efforts.

Co-Chair Helt shared she and Juba attended the freshman and IB orientations at Bend Senior High yesterday and was shocked and excited to see how many students were there, adding the IB orientation used to take place in the library and has now moved to the auditorium due to increased interest.

Board Comments

Ron Gallinat said he was able to attend some of the boundary committee meetings and complimented the good work, collaboration and many hours spent on the effort. He appreciates the work done.

Andy High commented in the 2006 the Superintendent made no changes to the boundary committee recommendation. He also asked about the possible common core delay and how it could impact Bend-La Pine Schools. Wilkinson said he would follow up with Board members about possible affects.

Co-Chair Juba shared his appreciation for the work of the boundary committee and said he has spent time understanding the challenges and constraints they had to work with, however, he is still concerned that the “what is driving the why” and feels the process is driving the outcomes, when really it should be the opposite. He noted Pacific Crest Middle School has a projected 11% free and reduced lunch population and is concerned there are other schools will well over 50%. The District’s goal is to educate every student and Juba feels this divide takes away from the learning experience for all students. He challenged future District leadership to think about ways to address and create rich learning environments for all students.

Juba noted key concepts in the vision for Pacific Crest Middle School Chris Boyd has previously shared with the Board and added his thoughts on supporting cultural diversity and exposing students to various experiences as they bring richness to a school. Juba said the future for Bend-La Pine students is not on the Westside of Bend. Students are going to have to move on and thrive in a community that looks very different and a challenge for the District is to create and offer programs that attract all kinds of students, which ultimately create a rich, diverse population.

Juba said he appreciated and is excited to hear about Bend International School and commends their goal, but is cautious of their ambitions. He would like to support them, and seeing the parent and community support proves there is a population not being served by current District offerings. He recognizes that learning has to be worldwide and a big part of that is a diverse student population. Juba said the District and Board need to start looking at what other world-class districts are doing to address this issue and get creative.

Co-Chair Helt congratulated all of the National Board Certified Teachers and appreciates their hard work and encouraged more to achieve such goals. She attended the Bend High School freshman orientation and was excited to see all the students and their parents. She also thanked the boundary committee for their work and noted it is a difficult task to work through. Helt shared she would like to see more focus paid to SES and encourage diverse populations in all schools.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31p.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Wilson
2.10.2015