

Bend-La Pine Schools

Board of Directors Special Session Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: April 28, 2020

Meeting Location:

To support Governor Brown's executive orders for social distancing, the Board of Directors conducted the special session meeting virtually, through Cisco Webex.

Board Members Present

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Co-Chair Craig, roll call followed.

Discussion

❖ **Visioning**

Co-Chair Craig welcomed and thanked all for attending and thanked Melissa Barnes-Dholakia for her efforts to organize and lead the visioning conversation.

Barnes Dholakia provided a handout to all Board members and shared the objectives and agenda for the board's visioning work. Barnes Dholakia led Board members through a sharing exercise, asking each to share a "win" and a "challenge" over the past couple of months and how the wins and challenges can shape the way the Board leads and moves forward. Board members took turns sharing and highlighted the specific difficulties and challenges in the district and larger community as a result of COVID-19.

Barnes Dholakia reviewed the Center for Public Education's Eight Characteristics of an Effective School Board and models of wrong and right drivers for systems from the National Equity Project. She led Board members through a reflection and discussion on Board Governance. Board members shared the following:

- Are the current Board Ends the right ends to measure improvement?
- Should the Board's purpose, mission and goals be more aspirational?
- How does the Board engage all stakeholders and how do diverse families / students feel more empowered to share about their experiences?
- Are the Board Ends representing ALL members of the district? Do the Ends reflect student voice?
- Desire to have greater student voice on the Board
- Desire to make Board member professional development a priority
- Desire to review and possibly consolidate Executive Limitations and reports and make the EL's more meaningful for district staff and Board
- How can the vision of the Board be more understandable while also being grounded in the district's Comprehensive Plan?

Lora Nordquist reviewed the district's Comprehensive Plan and shared history on how the plan has evolved over recent years. She noted ways in which the Excellence and Equity Review can help update the plan and drive future work across the district. Nordquist shared her desire to emphasize both excellence and equity in the mission and vision of the district; both being priorities she is excited to lead on in the next year.

Barnes Dholakia thanked Nordquist for providing a deeper understanding of the district's priorities and asked Board members to reflect and consider how the priorities and Comprehensive Plan align with the Board Ends. She noted a sub-committee of the Board began working on revising the Board Ends last year and asked Board members to reflect on the updated Ends. Board members suggested ideas to incorporate or further expand on as part of the Ends:

- What other data could the Board review as a way of monitoring the achievement gap?
- Establishing Ends that could measure excellence vs. improvement
- Continue to focus on the element of student success and learn more about the various ways the Board could measure success
- Most of the current Ends are based on student output data and suggestion to include / review data to measure the impact of staff efforts (inputs vs. outputs)
- Incorporate curriculum and instruction
- How to measure student well-being and their social emotional health

Discussion ensued on how elements of the Ends could continue to be incorporated in the superintendent evaluation process or could be more of a check in throughout the school year. Nordquist suggested the Board consider the superintendent job description they recently developed as a way to help capture the values of the Board. She felt the job description was thoughtful and well written and that elements of it could be used throughout the Board's visioning work.

Barnes Dholakia said the Board will continue the vision discussion at the May 26 Special Session. She asked Board members to continue to think about priorities, desired Ends, and to reach out to her with any thoughts they might have after tonight.

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Recorded by: Andrea Wilson

Approved at 5.12.2020 board meeting