

Minutes of Regular School Board Meeting

The Board of Directors Ashland School District

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Ashland School District was held Monday, February 11, 2019, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Ashland Council Chambers, 1175 East Main Street, Ashland OR 97520.

1. **Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance / Roll Check / Vision and Mission Statement**

Chair Zeve called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll check confirmed that four directors were present and Chair Zeve stated that Director Skuratowicz would be arriving later. Director Strong read the Vision and Mission Statements.

2. **Welcome Visitors and Acknowledgments**

Chair Zeve welcomed visitors and guests.

3. **John Muir Middle School**

Principal Rebecca Gyarmathy presented an overview of the work being done by students at John Muir in the exploration of social justice. Several students cited a prominent person whose biography they studied and each gave an example of what they learned about social justice from the biography. Principal Gyarmathy illustrated how they were using principles from a curriculum on Teaching Tolerance to examine social justice issues.

The Board expressed its appreciation to Principal Gyarmathy and the John Muir students for their excellent work.

4. **Adoption of Agenda** (*At this time Board members are provided the opportunity to amend the Regular Session agenda.*)

QUESTION: Should the Board adopt the February 11, 2019 Regular Session agenda as presented?

Chair Zeve proposed changes to the agenda as follows:

The section on New Business was moved ahead of Unfinished Business, the item HMK Contract was pulled from the New Business section because the contract was not available for review, and a sub-item was added to the Superintendent's report to update about human resource transitions.

Director Strong moved and Director Westrick seconded the adoption of the February 11, 2019 regular session agenda as amended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

5. **Consent Agenda** *(All items may be adopted by a single motion unless pulled for special consideration.)*

QUESTION: Should the Board approve the consent agenda for February 11, 2019 as presented?

Director Prud'homme moved and Director Westrick seconded the approval of the consent agenda for February 11 as presented. The motion carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

A. Approval of Minutes

Regular Session of January 14, 2019 and Special and Work Sessions of January 10 and January 28, 2019. Minutes of Budget Committee Meeting of January 10, 2019.

B. Personnel Report February 2019

The Board will review recommended personnel actions.

C. Enrollment Report February 2019

Preliminary enrollment data as of February 1, 2019.

D. Appoint Deputy Clerk and Designated Procurement Officer

It is recommended that Director of Finance Alana Valencia be appointed Deputy Clerk and Designated Procurement Officer for the remainder of the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

E. Appoint Budget Officer

It is recommended that Director of Finance Alana Valencia be appointed Budget Officer for the remainder of the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

F. Designate Custodian of Funds. In accordance with Oregon State Law, the Superintendent/Clerk shall receive, hold in custody and expend all funds as required by law and as directed by the Board. It is recommended that the Board designate both the Superintendent and the Director of Finance as custodians of funds so, in the event one or the other of them is indisposed, business can continue as usual.

6. **Reports**

A. Board Reports

Board members reported on recent activities.

Director Strong attended one of the basketball games of our new unified sports team and thanked Athletic Director Kemper for spearheading this effort for our students.

Director Prud'homme attended the Walker Elementary Martin Luther King Jr. Day commemorative march and program at SOU.

Chair Zeve attended the MLK Day assembly at the Middle School. She also announced the selection of two community members to participate on the committee working on the John Muir School name change. These will be Sarah

Beata DeLong and Jennifer Bagshaw.

Director Westrick shared the sad news that Bob DiChiro, husband of former ASD superintendent Juli, passed away. He stated that he attended the EDI workshop for AMS teachers and they had a great discussion. He also attended a workshop on micro-aggressions hosted by the SOU Black Student Group.

Director Skuratowicz arrived and noted that she was delayed in order to finish an NSF grant on which the school district will be a partner. She is working on a survey for the Real Talk program the district is hosting for high school parents and students to foster open communication about substance abuse. There will be five sessions held weekly on Wednesday afternoons.

She is working on the Walker Elementary EDI survey and she attended part of the unified sports basketball tournament.

B. AHS Student Report

There was no report at this meeting.

C. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Director of Human Resources and Communication Laurie Rooper reported on district EDI activities. Under the aegis of the Black/African American Student Success grant, the district will conduct a curriculum audit through an EDI lens. A group of teachers and administrators attended the Zaretta Hammond workshop in Portland, which focused on instruction and student achievement as the key EDI outcome.

Superintendent Raymond stated that a long-term goal is to provide tools to teachers to evaluate and revise their own materials. There is also new guidance from the state to consider.

D. Metrics Reports

Superintendent Raymond provided the Board with an update on enrollment and class sizes as of December 2018. She noted that it is hard to draw comparisons because schools and districts report the data differently. Overall, Ashland's total enrollment been essentially steady over 3 years. As the loss of open enrollment is felt, we will begin to see a decline in enrollment.

She reviewed three-year trends in the three elementary schools, AMS and AHS. Class size is a factor, but probably not at a tipping point that could impact student achievement or require significant changes in instructional approach. Because Ashland is a smaller district, it has more of a challenge handling enrollment fluctuations than larger districts that can absorb a little easier.

Superintendent Raymond announced the planned departure of Chief Finance and Operations Officer Jordan Ely to assume a new position with Portland Public Schools. Board members expressed their appreciation for the improvements in financial management that Mr. Ely has implemented during his tenure.

Superintendent Raymond also announced the promotion of Alana Valencia from staff accountant to the new director of finance position. Ms. Valencia has graduated from the University of California Riverside with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and completed masters coursework at California State University, Long Beach in Public Administration. Her experiences prior to coming to the Ashland School District have been over 15 years in various finance and analyst roles with the University of California, including state, federal and private contracts and grants and supervisory and performance management.

E. Oregon School Employees Association Report

There was no report at this meeting.

F. Ashland Education Association Report

Ashland Education Association member Ryan Jackson provided an AEA report. The last membership meeting was canceled due to bad weather. Members will be going to Salem to attend the OEA meeting on Presidents Day and to lobby the state legislature for increased support of public education.

The Association is asking people to wear “Red for Ed” every Wednesday to show support for education.

G. Finance and Operations Reports

1) Report on District financial position through January 31, 2019

Mr. Ely thanked the school board members for the privilege of serving the Ashland School District. He reported that the district’s current revenue is higher from local sources but projected reductions in pending state support may total \$485,000 for the current fiscal year.

With regard to Lincoln fields, there has been no further progress in discussions with the City, beyond discussing potential timelines. The school district is not in a position to make significant financial commitments until we understand the planned use of our facilities through the bond construction period.

2) Bond update

Mr. Ely reported that we are finalizing program manager contract negotiations. HMK is still the preferred vendor.

3) Budget Committee for FY2019-2020

Mr. Ely presented the proposed Budget Calendar for FY2019-2010. He is proposing to start later this year because the legislative decisions regarding state funding won’t near completion until sometime in May. The first meeting is proposed for May 1.

H. Superintendent Report

1) Superintendent Raymond reported that Classified Employee Recognition Week will be observed March 4-8 in Oregon. She recommended that the Board adopt a resolution designating March 4-8 as Classified Employee Recognition Week for the Ashland School District. Director Skuratowicz recommended and Director Strong seconded the approval of the resolution as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

2) District activities

- a. Equity training. Superintendent Raymond stated that the recent Zaretta Hammond training was very impactful and will provide good tools for work with leadership in improving student achievement.

Walker Elementary had a panel on equity, diversity and inclusion. Supt. Raymond thanked Mr. Bogdanove for participating in the panel discussion. Helman Elementary also had a first EDI session led by D.L. Richardson. Supt. Raymond attended all of the MLK Day events held by Ashland schools and the City. She noted that there was strong student participation.

- b. Student achievement

The Ashland School District ranked in the top five school districts in the state in the recent Niche Report.

- c. Events and activities

Supt. Raymond attended the inaugural basketball tournament of the district's unified sports program in support of student inclusion. She is participating in Student of the Month recognitions at Ashland Rotary and also helping with that club's Ashland Reads program. She is doing learning walks at schools, did her first Listen & Learn sessions, and did an interview with Angela Decker of JPR on the Black and African American Student Success grant. She also met with the College Dreams executive director. This program has expanded into AMS with Student Success dollars from the state.

7. **Hear Public Requests** (*The Ashland School District Board of Directors reserves this time for individuals to speak to the Board regarding topics not on the printed agenda.*)

Melissa Mitchell-Hooge, a resident of Ashland, submitted comments on behalf of Save our Schools and Playgrounds concerning the fields adjacent to the old Lincoln School.

Vicki Simpson, a resident of Ashland, submitted comments on behalf of Oregon for a Safer Technology concerning legislative proposals in support of safer energy and safety of cellular devices.

8. **Unfinished Business**

A. OSBA Policy Updates

- 1) Policy DD- Grant Proposals and Applications. Third Reading. *Please see attached.*

Question: Should the Board approve Policy DD-Grant Proposals and Applications as presented?

There was one change made to the third paragraph. The introductory phrase was deleted, and the first sentence to read, "All awarded grants exceeding

\$25,000 shall be presented to the Board with a proposed budget for approval.”

Director Strong moved and Director Westrick seconded the approval of the proposed policy as amended. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the members.

2) Policy IGDF Fundraising Activities. Second reading. *Please see attached.*

There was a brief discussion of the recommendation to eliminate crowd funding while allowing certain types of online fund raising through qualified intermediaries used by student clubs and support groups.

Director Westrick moved and Director Skuratowicz seconded the approval of Policy IGDF as proposed. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the members.

3) Policy ING - Animals in District Facilities. Third reading. *Please see attached.*

Question: Should the Board approve Policy ING-Animals in District Facilities as presented?

There being no further discussion, Director Prud'homme moved and Director Strong seconded the approval of Policy ING as submitted. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the members.

9. **New Business**

A. PACE Joinder of Trust Agreement.

Question: Should the Board approve the PACE Joinder of Trust Agreement as presented?

CFOO Ely presented the revised Joinder of Trust Agreement based on some recent changes at PACE. Director Prud'homme moved and Director Westrick seconded the approval of the PACE Joinder of Trust Agreement as presented. The motion carried by a unanimous vote of the members.

B. OSBA Policy Updates

- 1) Superintendent Raymond presented a new administrative regulation IIA-AR Instructional Materials Selection that covers the selection and approval of curriculum and materials. This consolidates three previous AR's covering these topics. It expands and clarifies the processes to be used, including avenues for objections and opt-outs for parents and guardians.

She reported that the district is due to adopt a new science curriculum required by the state and we needed to update procedures. A committee of teachers and administrators is working on the curriculum now and it will come to the Board for final approval.

Directors had several questions:

- How would members of the public know about their consultation opportunities.
- The old AR starts with more of a tone of team engagement than the new one. What is the thinking behind this?
- Could the Board have additional conversation with all of the relevant policies and AR's in front of them?

This administrative regulation was referred to the next work session.

2) IKF Graduation Requirements-*First Reading*

Mr. Bogdanove reported that this new version implements several nuances of revised state law specifying certain populations that may receive special consideration guaranteeing them the right to receive the Oregon standard diploma. He noted that the Ashland High School diploma adds some additional requirements. The section outlining these was shortened and distilled.

The revised policy also added language that any student in 5th grade doing modified assessments may receive a modified diploma in the future. It clarifies that Alternate Certificates and GED's are not the same thing.

Director Prud'homme requested that the inserted provisions state that the options be provided to parents in writing in each place that they occur. This policy was referred for a second reading at the next regular session.

3) GCDA_GDDA Criminal Records Checks and Fingerprinting-*First reading*

The board had a question about the decision to defer final employment until the background checks are completed, inquiring about how long this can take. HR Director Rooper noted that turn-around is usually 1-2 weeks, with occasional exceptions. This change is a risk management improvement. The policy was referred for a second reading at the next regular session.

C. SOESD (Southern Oregon Educational Service District) Local Service Plan

Question: Should the Board approve the attached Local Service Plan for 2019-2020?

Superintendent Raymond stated that the district is in the second year of a 3-year commitment. Services provided by the SOESD include SPED specialists, IT technical support, and curriculum and instruction professional development.

Director Skuratowicz moved and Director Strong seconded the approval of the SOESD Local Service Plan for 2019-2020. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the members.

10. **Announcements and Appointments**

Presenter: Board Chair, Deneice Zeve

A. The Board will hold a Special and Work Session on Monday, February 25, 2019

at 7:00 pm in the district office conference room, 885 Siskiyou Blvd.

- B. The next Regular Session Board Meeting will be held on Monday, March 11, 2019, at 7:00 pm in the City Council Chamber, 1175 E. Main Street.
- C. PLEASE NOTE: The March Special and Work Session will be held **Monday, March 18, 2019 at 7:00 pm**, as the regular meeting day of the 4th Monday falls during Spring Break. Location: district office conference room, 885 Siskiyou Blvd.

11. **Adjourn**

Chair Zeve adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm

ASHLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS FOR 2018-2023

- A. Improve student achievement
- B. Recruit and retain high quality and diverse staff
- C. Create and maintain an environment that is welcoming, supportive and inclusive of all students and staff.

Submitted by:
Jackie Schad, Board Secretary

Dated for Board Approval: February 25, 2019

Board Chair, Deneice Zeve

Superintendent Kelly Raymond