

Minutes of Regular School Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees Ashland School District

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Ashland School District was held Monday, January 13, 2020, 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 Westrick called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll check confirmed that all four directors were present. Director Prud'homme read the Vision and Mission Statements.

2. **Welcome Visitors and Acknowledgments**

Chair Westrick welcomed visitors and speakers.

3. **Student Celebrations**

There were none.

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 January 13, 2020 Regular Session agenda as presented?

Chair Westrick noted a correction to the spelling of Yi Shostrom's name and added an agenda item for a discussion of the recruitment process to fill the board vacancy. Director Skuratowicz moved and Director Chang seconded the approval of the January 13 agenda as amended. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the members present.

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 January 13, 2020 as presented?

Director Chang moved and Director Skuratowicz seconded the approval of the January 13 consent agenda as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the members present.

A. Approval of Minutes

Regular Session December 9, 2019.

B. Personnel Report January 2020

The Board will review recommended personnel actions.

C. Enrollment update January 2020.

6. **Recurring Reports**

A. Board Reports

Board members reported on recent activities.

Director Chang participated in two Student Success Act full-day planning meetings for student investment funding and reported that there was a diverse group engaging in a thoughtful process.

Director Prud'homme reported no new activity.

Director Skuratowicz reported continuing work with the Food Services Committee and manager Christina Lehman. The group is recruiting for marketing expertise with the goal of increasing AHS student participation in food programs and bringing better, fresher food to school meals. She reported that the AHS winter festival was great. She attended the excellent program put on by an AHS Community Action Projects class on teen drug and alcohol harm reduction in Ashland schools. This is Ms. Cambria Floren's class and the program will be repeated in late January.

Chair Westrick attended the Washington Elementary Winter Faire and it was a fun evening. He met with individual principals to seek help recruiting potential school board candidates and met informally with people who have submitted statements of interest for consideration. He attended the AEA contract maintenance meeting. A topic of discussion was the stipend scale for extra duty work. He offered a reminder about the school board's preferred flow of information, which is to receive items that require approval with enough advance time to properly consider and discuss them. He also attended the recent Ashland Schools Foundation board meeting, at which plans for the annual spring fund raiser were discussed.

Chair Westrick mentioned that former ASD Maintenance and Facilities Director Gary Sisk is experiencing health challenges and extended best wishes to him and his family from the school district community.

B. AHS Student Report

Yi Shostrom presented an update on activities at the high school. Finals are beginning and the Math Honors Society hosted a study party. Students are excited about the search for a new principal. Students are planning to honor Martin Luther King Jr. Day and there will be an AHS Assembly on January 10. AHS now has a good new Mandarin teacher. The Leadership Class and AHS administration are working on making dances safer, including implementing precautions to prevent sexual assault. The school also did a program on sexual assault. The winter formal will occur in February.

C. Oregon School Employees Association Report

There was no report at this meeting.

D. Ashland Education Association Report

Ashland Education Association member Alan Parowski reported on the recent

membership meeting. They are working on the evaluation and professional development committee. The members reviewed the student success act planning and sites made check-in reports.

Walker mentioned class sizes as a concern, as did Bellview. Helman reported that their bond work is progressing well and they have had good meetings with architects. The high school reported that the principal hiring is proceeding well. John Muir reported a good meeting with Superintendent Raymond to address concerns. Willow Wind is developing its project-based learning.

Mr. Parowski stated that the Student Success Act meetings resulted in 3 days of valuable discussion. For participating students, mental health and anxiety were top issues and they hope for more counselors. The AEA members felt they could have used more time to review data and look forward to seeing a draft application.

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.*)

There were none submitted.

8. District Staff Updates

A. Superintendent Report

1) Student Celebrations

Superintendent Raymond stated that the District Office staff greatly appreciated being serenaded by the AHS choir and also the Spanish class singing carols in Spanish before winter break. She also thanked the Community Action Projects class for its excellent presentation focused on drug and alcohol use.

2) School Board Recognition

Superintendent Raymond read Gov. Brown's proclamation honoring the dedicated volunteers who serve on the state's school boards. Supt. Raymond thanked the Ashland board members and presented each of them with certificates of appreciation and a small gift.

3) Update on Student Success Act plans

Superintendent Raymond reported that she observed all 3 days of SSA planning and there was true collaboration. There was focus on achievement gaps and the equity policy. Schools learned about each other. She is having follow-up discussions with Walker about class sizes there and met with principals as well to fine tune draft priorities. She hopes to submit the district's application close to the March 5 opening date in order to be early in recruiting applicants for new positions. The district is challenged by space shortages when hoping to add new classes. The district administration is exploring portables as a short-term option.

Recruiting for a new AHS principal is underway. Supt. Raymond and HR Director Rooper have been meeting with staff and some students to explain the process and timeline.

4) Division 22 Assurances to the Community

Superintendent Raymond presented the Division 22 Assurances: Report to the Community for 2018-2019. The district reports one area that is Not in Compliance. The district just received a report of findings resulting from a March 2019 audit performed by ODE of the high school CTE program. A number of weaknesses were described. These included the technical wording of notices of non-discrimination required in district publications, a high school registration process containing some questions that should not be asked prior to enrollment and assessment, and related matters that have already been resolved. Most findings focused on the physical facilities and lack of comprehensive ADA compliant classroom work stations, rest rooms, parking spaces and campus routes of travel. District administration is in active conversation with ODE staff about finalizing a Voluntary Compliance Plan to address and resolve these findings. Supt. Raymond reported that fortunately, most of the physical findings were already identified in the bond planning process and resources should be adequate to resolve them. There was no further discussion.

5) Out-of-state Trip: The AHS band will travel to Reno for a jazz band competition.

B. Capital Bond

HMK Program Director Chris McKay reported on recent activities.

- 1) December was a big month with the start of two more of the district's anchor projects, the high school and Walker Elementary. Work also began on secondary projects with preliminary work on HVAC systems, rest rooms, and improvements to safety and security. The infrastructure project at the high school is in the discovery stage, looking at what currently exists and working with technical consultants to evaluate options. In November Helman moved into schematic design. AMS and John Muir are still working on design.

Director Chang asked about testing for hazardous materials. Mr. McKay reported that testing is standard for buildings of a certain age. Firms certified by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality will conduct testing for the presence of asbestos and other identified harmful materials.

C. Report on Student Exits and Transfers

John Muir Principal Rebecca Gyarmathy presented a report on students who left the Ashland School System last year. She explained that we acquire information as time passes after students depart and adjustments can happen for the previous

year's data. She noted that the middle school experienced some decline in enrollment beginning this year. This resulted from an unusually large 8th grade cohort that moved on to the high school.

D. Finance Report

- 1) For the period ending November 30, 2019, Finance Director Valencia reported that the majority of property tax revenue has been collected by the end of November.
- 2) Bond expenditures
The district exceeded our 5% expenditure / encumbrance requirement, hitting 6.01% in the required time period. She reported that the next significant benchmark is expenditure of 85% of total bond proceeds at the end of 3 years.
- 3) Youth Activities and Academics Levy (YAAL)
The YAAL will need to be re-authorized by the voters. It represents about 10% of our budget and supports a cross-section of programs. The current authorization expires June 30, 2021. There is no change in the levy amount planned: it will maintain the current rate that has existed since 1994. The re-authorization would be best timed to avoid an election at which major city and county bond issues are before the voters. The deadline to make the May 2020 election is short. Documents would need to be filed by February 29. The November 2020 election would give us more lead time.

9. **Unfinished Business**

A. School Calendars

HR and Communications Director Rooper reviewed the latest draft of the 3-year calendars. A remaining item to resolve is the request that the high school and K-8 schools have different in-service dates in January. There was a discussion of the potential impact, particularly on families who may have children in both levels. Chair Westrick asked that the current drafts be posted on the district web site for those who still wish to offer feedback. The Board intends to vote on final versions at its February 10 regular session.

B. OSBA Policy Update: Student Absences and Excuses - Third Reading

OSBA recommends updates to include recent changes in Oregon law that allow for mental and behavioral health excused absences as well as special excused absence provisions for children whose parents or guardians are deployed for military service. Director Chang moved approval of the policy JED as presented with the proviso that typos in the draft version be corrected. Director Skuratowicz seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous vote of the members present.

10. **New Business**

A. ADD: Process for recruiting new member

After a short discussion about the timeline in effect, Director Skuratowicz moved

and Director Prud'homme seconded the extension of the application deadline to Friday, January 24 at 5:00 pm, in order to allow interested parties to attend the January 22 informational open house session before deciding whether to apply. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the members.

Board Vice Chair

After some discussion about the requirements of a vice chair and the work schedules of the three sitting directors, a consensus was forged to experiment with rotating the role among Directors Chang, Prud'homme and Skuratowicz. Directors were asked to review their personal and professional calendars for a future discussion about a potential schedule of rotation.

B. Ashland High School: New Courses

The Board reviewed an update report on new courses proposed at AHS for 2021.

C. OSBA Legislative Policy Committee

The Board members cast a vote for one of the two candidates who tied in a previous ballot round for service on the OSBA Legislative Policy Committee:

These were:

Dawn Watson (Phoenix-Talent School District)

Dianne Mihocko (Eagle Point School District)

Director Chang – Dianne Mihocko

Director Skuratowicz – Dianne Mihocko

Director Prud'homme – Dianne Mihocko

Director Westrick – Dianna Mihocko

Ms. Mihocko was unanimously selected.

11. Announcements and Appointments

Chair Westrick read the announcements of upcoming meetings.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business, Chair Westrick adjourned the meeting at 9:33 pm

Submitted by:

Jackie Schad, Board Secretary

Dated for Board Approval: February 10, 2020

Board Chair, Jim Westrick

Superintendent Kelly Raymond