

# Minutes of Special and Work Meeting

## The Board of Directors Ashland School District

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A Special and Work Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Ashland School District was held Monday, March 16, 2020, at 7:00 PM in the District Office, 885 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland OR 97520.

### 1. Call to Order / Roll Check

Chair Westrick called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

Present in person:

- Director Westrick
- Director Skuratowicz
- Director Monter-Rangel
  
- Operations Director Mitzel
- HMK Program Director Chris McKay
- HMK Principal in Charge David McKay

Present via Zoom link or phone:

- Director Chang
- Director Prud'homme
  
- Superintendent Raymond
- Finance Director Valencia

### 2. Bond Update

The presentation on new cost estimates for bond projects at Ashland High School and Walker Elementary included the following highlights:

- The initial cost models and drawings were developed from program meetings at the sites. Estimates are based on feedback from teachers and staff.
- AHS originally projected improvements to Science and Humanities buildings, along with rest rooms and ADA upgrades.
- Teachers argued strongly for significant renovation of science labs and these were not included in the original bond plan budget.
- While these conversations arose with good intentions and a genuine discussion of needs, the resulting budget far exceeds resources.
- Understanding that two teachers sharing a single classroom is difficult, are there ways to reconfigure classrooms with two teacher stations to make sharing easier?
- Is it prudent to add classrooms in an era of declining enrollment?
- At Walker, the basement classrooms are not ADA compliant and there is not

- a reasonable way to make them so. Walker also needs a site based classroom.
- The East/West wing of Walker was originally intended for renovation. However, deep investigation into the structure shows that it is not really suitable for renovating.
  - Walker did receive a seismic grant that is funded through State obligation bonds and so that revenue is secure. It is included in the Walker budget.
  - There was discussion about possibly devoting a work session on Walker in April and one on AHS in May.
  - For Helman Elementary, the cost delta is about \$1 million between original budget and the new estimate. This should be manageable within existing resource framework.

The Executive Team recommendations contained in the February 24, 2020 SD Cost Estimate Report concerning Ashland Middle School and John Muir Outdoor School were deemed to represent a financially prudent direction. Director Monter-Rangel moved and Director Skuratowicz seconded the approval of the proposed budgeting variance contained in the report as proposed. The motion carried by unanimous vote of those present in person and via Zoom.

There was a brief discussion of the conversations in the Bond Oversight Committee about the use of the unplanned bond premium that the district received at sale. This premium has not yet been allocated. The district will retain the premium and use its proceeds to complete and/or augment planned bond projects.

## **C Superintendent Report**

### **A. School closures update**

Supt. Raymond reported that the district met its goal of getting its Student Investment Account application in early. There will now be significant delays for others still finishing. There is no information yet on how the state intends to go about approving these plans.

There was no regional superintendents call with Jackson County Health today , as they canceled.

Deputy Supt. Colt Gill reported that ODE is starting statewide superintendent conference calls every Tuesday and Friday at 2:00 pm. We don't know yet about any waivers of required Instructional Days or SBAC assessments. We will communicate updates as we get them.

Principals and teachers starting planning online learning. The state obtained a Federal waiver for nutrition services so that we can adapt delivery based upon resources. Currently, we only have a small number of families requesting home delivery of food.

With regard to scheduled Board-Superintendent lunches, out of consideration for social distancing, Supt. Raymond would like to think about alternatives.

The district has a lot of work ahead to assemble options for supplemental learning and much of this will happen during Spring Break recess.

#### 4. **Finance Report**

Finance Director Valencia stated that we are still on track to hold the first Budget Committee meeting on April 22. As the date gets closer, we will make a final decision about the logistics for holding the meeting in light of the COVID-related closures.

Ms. Valencia noted that we are capturing bus depreciation in revenue and the ESD annual equalization reimbursement has been included in Local Revenue. The State general fund equalization is a separate revenue line and could amount to \$300,000-400,000.

Expenditures are staying stable, apart from possible extra instruction time if we have to make up the emergency closure of one week in March.

In preparing for online instruction, AMS and some other sites have made significant use of SharePoint and Office 365. They have built capacity among teachers and can easily share resources with other schools. The Board requested a copy of ODE guidance on required conditions for a district to do distance learning as defined by the State.

Privacy protection should be observed when we are calling families to assess readiness for remote learning. The Board requested that administrators remind staff to be careful with information they gather deliberately or inadvertently.

Board members agreed to be flexible in holding a daily time for ad hoc check-ins at 5:00 pm should conditions warrant a rapid response.

#### 5. **Other items of interest**

No other items.

#### 6. **Adjourn**

There being no further business, Chair Westrick adjourned the meeting at 9:02 pm.

Submitted by:  
Jackie Schad, Board Secretary

Dated for Board Approval: April 9, 2020

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Board Chair, Jim Westrick

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Superintendent Kelly Raymond