

Minutes of Special and Work Meeting

The Board of Directors Ashland School District

A Special and Work Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Ashland School District was held Wednesday, January 22, 2020, beginning at 8:00 PM in the District Office, 885 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland OR.

1. Call to Order / Roll Check

Chair Westrick called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM. A roll check confirmed that all four directors were present. Special guests Oregon Representative Pam Marsh and Mr. Adam Lohman, aide to Oregon Senator Jeff Golden, were introduced.

2. Oregon legislative session beginning February 2020

Representative Marsh reported that the bi-annual short session lasts a maximum of 35 days. There won't be major new initiatives this year. The Student Success Act was the major achievement in last session.

There may be some attention to the new Corporate Activities Tax that applies to all business activities. It took effect January 1, 2020. There may be adjustments of the tax collection procedures, as this is a new revenue source. There may be lobbying to create some limits on the tax but large efforts are not anticipated in the short session. The legislature did research on revenue models in other states and concluded this was a best option for Oregon. There were some changes made to the state income tax rates to help offset the small increases in consumer prices that the new tax may cause.

Representative Marsh plans to introduce two bills:

1. One to stop internet sales of vaping products to teens. (She is also looking to institute a sales tax on vaping products in the Fall.)
2. Rural Telecommunications Investment Act – a proposal to use the Universal Access Fund to expand to VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) and cell service to rural parts of the state. Legislators also hope also to expand broadband funding to libraries and isolated student populations by creating a dedicated funding stream.

A climate bill may come up again.

Mr. Lohman reported that Senator Golden's legislative priorities for the session are:

1. Wild fire remediation including several initiatives:
 - a. The idea of a Wild Fire Workforce Fund that would train people to do forest management with the aim of fire prevention, aligning with organizations that work with youth such as Youth Corps and Lomakatsi.
 - b. A model project to change land management policies
 - c. Modernizing the Oregon Department of Forestry
 - d. Support for the governor's omnibus bill on fire prevention.

2. Campaign finance reform state-wide

In the brief discussion that followed:

Director asked about protections for DACA families. Is there any planned state response to increased assaults on immigrants? Rep. Marsh stated that the state guarantees DACA students get in-state tuition through graduate level.

Board members stated school district concerns:

1. Seat time requirements. Requirements that students spend a set number of minutes sitting in classrooms has the unintended effect of stifling innovation and can obstruct experiential learning. Schools should be able to teach to subject proficiency, not sit time. Rep. Marsh suggested that districts should work to get OSBA and COSA engaged in lobbying efforts on this.
2. The new PE requirement that again mandates the number of minutes/hours of supervised physical education activity every student must receive. Would there be any kind of waiver or exemption possible that reflects the amount of active learning and outdoor activity Ashland students already receive? Again, Rep. Marsh encouraged OSBA and COSA to organize cohorts in legislative districts to bring this issue forward.
3. The board would also like to see more effective articulation with community colleges and universities to achieve dual credit opportunities for students.

Representative Marsh and Mr. Lohman on behalf of Senator Golden agreed to keep in touch during the session. The Board and Superintendent Raymond agreed to share the proposals developed by the District for Student Success Act funding, as well as their experiences in preparing the application.

The Board thanked Rep. Marsh and Mr. Lohman for the good discussion.

6. **Other items of interest**

There were no other updates.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business, Chair Westrick adjourned the meeting at 9:30 pm.

Submitted by:
Jackie Schad, Board Secretary

Dated for Board Approval: February 10, 2020

Board Chair, Jim Westrick

Superintendent Kelly Raymond