

Minutes of Regular School Board Meeting

The Board of Directors Ashland School District

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Ashland School District was held Monday, April 13, 2020, at 7:00 PM via a Zoom Link.

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

Chair Westrick called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm. Present via Zoom were:

- Director Victor Chang
- Director Tomas Monter-Rangel
- Director Eva Skuratowicz
- Chair Westrick

Director Prud'homme was absent.

Administrators and guests present were:

- Superintendent Kelly Raymond
- HR & Communications Director Laurie Rooper
- Finance Director Alana Valencia
- Operations Director Steve Mitzel
- HMK Program Director Chris McKay

Chair Westrick read the ASD Mission and Vision statements.

2. **Welcome Viewers and Acknowledgments**

Chair Westrick welcomed viewing attendees and stated that the Board had adapted its agenda to accommodate the need for social distancing, with the goal of keeping meetings concise. Roll call votes will be implemented. The Board welcomes public comment submitted in writing via email or US postal mail. Instructions can be found on the District web site.

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

QUESTION: Should the Board adopt the April 13, 2020 Regular Session agenda as presented?

With no objections, Director Chang moved and Director Skuratowicz seconded approval of the agenda for April 13, 2020. Board secretary Schad called the roll:

- Director Chang voted Yes
- Director Monter-Rangel voted Yes
- Director Skuratowicz voted Yes
- Chair Westrick voted Yes

The motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

4. **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 April 13, 2020 as presented?

Director Skuratowicz inquired about stipends for sports coaches in light of the OSAAA canceling all competitions for the spring. Ms. Rooper responded that coaches were paid a third of their stipends for the period ending March 31.

Director Skuratowicz asked about the 0.33 FTE Leave of Absence reported for Kimberly Healey. Ms. Rooper explained that she would be returning to work on a 0.66 FTE basis for the entire school year.

Director Skuratowicz moved and Director Chang seconded approval of the Consent Agenda as presented. Board secretary Schad called the roll:

- Director Chang voted Yes
- Director Monter-Rangel voted Yes
- Director Skuratowicz voted Yes
- Chair Westrick voted Yes

The motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

A. Approval of Minutes

Regular Session of March 9, 2020, Special Sessions of March 13 and April 1, 2020.

B. Personnel Report April 2020

C. Enrollment update April 2020.

Introduction of Benjamin Bell, newly appointed AHS Principal

Newly appointed AHS Principal Benjamin Bell joined the meeting briefly via Zoom.

Superintendent Raymond reported that Mr. Bell was chosen from a talented candidate pool in a competitive process that included input and participation from Ashland High staff, students, administrators, and families. Mr. Bell comes to us from Apple Valley, California, where he has been a high school assistant principal for six years, including acting principal for the past year. Before moving into administration, Mr. Bell was a high school teacher, teaching courses such as AP US History, Economics, and AP Psychology for six years. We are excited to have Mr. Bell's collaborative and student-centered organizational leadership at AHS. His starting date is July 1, 2020.

5. **Recurring Reports**

The following organizations submitted written reports.

A. Ashland Education Association.

B. Ashland Schools Foundation.

6. **Receive Public Comments** (*The Ashland School District Board of Directors invites members of the public to submit written comments by email to school.board@Ashland.k12.or.us or by US Mail to 885 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland, OR 97520.*)

7. **District Staff Updates**

A. Superintendent Report

1) Superintendent Raymond reported that the District will celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week May 4-8, 2020. Our teachers deserve our appreciation for their extraordinary efforts to respond to “Stay Safe, Stay Home” closures. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

2) Distance Learning

The new Distance Learning roll-out started today. Fortunately, ASD had to make few adjustments to the approaches already developed. These required developing a plan for tracking attendance based on teacher connections with students, grading using consistent feedback and a Pass/Fail system, and high school credits for grades 9-11.

The IT team has deployed hot spots and devices to families who lacked them, set up connections and technical support for teachers, students and parents, and is trouble shooting additional help for families with special connection problems or multiple students needing additional equipment.

There was discussion about the impacts of distance learning. In response to several questions, Supt. Raymond noted that:

- Teachers are adjusting. She sees strong collaboration among teachers, with specialists supporting the general education teachers. There is strong IT support. Teachers are supporting each other to take care of themselves.
- Parent feedback indicates that those with multiple students and younger students need more support. Principals are sending weekly communications and offering office hours online for those who need extra support.
- Supt. Raymond also noted that the custodial staff is hard at work on maintaining sanitary conditions and food service employees are distributing more than 500 meals daily. Bus drivers are helping by driving food to various drop-off points around the city. She extended her thanks to these teams.

3) Pathway to Graduation. ODE has waived local requirements like those in Ashland requiring certain extra credits to ease graduation achievement. Seniors have until August 31 to complete all course requirements. AHS currently has 7 students at risk of not graduating and all are receiving extra one-on-one support to meet their goals.

4) Graduation celebration

Athletic and Activities Director Karl Kemper is working with AHS

Leadership on a variety of options. They have booked July 10 for an in-person graduation ceremony as one option. Should that be possible, graduation would occur then. They are also exploring alternatives if a physical ceremony is not feasible. AHS is participating in Graduation Lights for the class of 2020 by lighting the athletic field at 8:20 pm on Friday nights for 20 minutes and this will continue until May 29, the original date for graduation. The district has purchased signs for each graduating senior with their name and photo. These will be displayed along Siskiyou Blvd. for a few days and then placed in the front yard of each student. Other ideas, including a parade, are under discussion.

B. Capital Bond

ASD Program Executive Steve Mitzel and HMK Program Director Chris McKay reported on recent activities. Planning paused for a short time following school closures but planning meetings have continued virtually. The AMS and Helman teams have strong participation. Mr. McKay commented that staff have been great doing design meetings by phone and e-mail.

AMS and John Muir are in the second phase of design. Helman is doing design development. Ameresco has been gathering data on energy use. AHS and Walker are finishing programming meetings. The district-wide communication plan is effective and web postings have received 60,000 impressions.

In response to questions about work done in buildings while empty, Mr. McKay noted that they are walking through buildings, cleaning and emptying classrooms, and doing investigative demolition in the ceilings and walls to identify underlying infrastructure and any potential problems that would be an impediment to construction.

Doing construction with the restraints of social distancing does have some impacts. Contractors have reported work completion is down about 20% as the new rules require arranging shifts to social distance, limit the sharing of tools and materials, require hand washing stations and elevate the need for coordination across projects. Everybody is adjusting day by day.

C. Finance Report

- 1) Finance Director Valencia stated that she has not yet adjusted the financial statements for COVID-19 impacts. She commented on several line items:
 - Utility costs had risen slightly but should even out with the schools being closed for 3 months.
 - Food service costs have risen and associated revenue has declined.
 - Payroll costs associated with PERS and health insurance have risen above projections but salaries are down so this line should break even.

Several questions were asked about revenue projections for the future.

- With regard to Student Success Act funding, the district has put a freeze on all new hires and will wait to see what develops in the next couple of months.
- The state is currently projecting that state general funding may stay as projected for 2020-21 but the May 20 revenue forecast may bring more information.
- Measure 98 and Title funding may be reduced.

There was discussion of postponing the Budget Committee meeting scheduled for April 22. Ms. Valencia recommended proceeding with the idea that an additional meeting could be added when we know more. The budget can also be adjusted as conditions change.

2) New Expenses Related to School Closure

Ms. Valencia noted that expenses related to the closure have been posted to the general ledger through April 8. Food services is losing revenue with no students buying lunches and may need a reallocation of funds from the General Fund. The district is pursuing a couple of opportunities to private funding and there may be Federal emergency funding grants for software and hardware available in the future.

Chair Westrick noted that we can anticipate a significant learning lapse this school year and next year students will have a wide range of needs with incoming classes. We need to think about ways to support students and teachers in making that transition.

3) Bond finance report

Ms. Valencia reported that the bond proceeds must be 85% expended by May 30 and we are on track to meet or exceed that. She stated the soft costs have been allocated to site projects in correlation with the budget for each project.

8. Unfinished Business

There was none.

9. New Business

There was none.

10. Announcements and Appointments

Chair Westrick read the announcements of upcoming meetings.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business, Chair Westrick adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Submitted by:

Jackie Schad, Board Secretary

Dated for Board Approval: May 11, 2020

Board Chair, Jim Westrick

Superintendent Kelly Raymond