

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, May 11, 2020, beginning at 7:00 PM via Zoom Link.

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

Chair Westrick called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and a roll check confirmed that all directors were present. Director Skuratowicz read the district Mission and Vision Statements.

2. **Welcome Viewers and Acknowledgments**

Chair Westrick welcomed viewers and stated that the district just completed a week of celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week. He thanked students and their families for taking part in thanking our teachers.

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 May 11, 2020 Regular Session agenda as presented?

Chair Westrick stated that Agenda Item #9A under New Business was withdrawn from the agenda. Director Skuratowicz moved and Director Chang seconded the approval of the agenda for May 11, 2020 as amended. The roll was called with all directors voting Yes and the motion passed unanimously.

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 May 11, 2020 as presented?

Director Prud'homme inquired about the enrollment decline of 35 students. Superintendent Raymond commented that we often have changes and though we don't have hard data, we know that some students have moved to online school or home schooling during the recent school closures.

Director Monter-Rangel moved and Director Prud'homme seconded the approval of the consent agenda as presented. The roll was called with all directors voting Yes and the motion passed unanimously.

A. Approval of Minutes

Regular Session of April 13, 2020 and Special Session of April 27, 2020.

B. Personnel Report May 2020

Recommended personnel actions.

C. Enrollment update May 2020.

5. Recurring Reports

No recurring reports were submitted at this meeting.

6. Receive Public Requests *(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.)*

Mr. Marty Downs, AMS wrestling coach, submitted comments about the wrestling program.

7. District Staff Updates

A. Superintendent Report

1) Distance Learning

Superintendent Raymond reported that distance learning is going well. Staff at AHS are working on a Credit Earning Assurance Plan for each student currently receiving a grade of Incomplete in any class. A small number of students are not connecting to any class and counselors are following up with individuals to assess and offer support. Fourth quarter grades are due May 29.

2) Graduation Update

There are plans for a graduation celebration parade, although negotiations are still going on with ODOT about closing a major street. On May 19 AHS will host a drive-through cap and gown pick-up. The high school is providing detailed information on its web site and emailing weekly updates from Interim Principal Bogdanove.

A decision on a new AHS Assistant Principal will be made in the next day or two. New incoming principal Bell requested Zoom meetings with each of the finalists.

The draft Memorandum of Agreement for Distance Learning for All is back in AEA hands for completion. It should be coming to the May 18 work session so that the Board members can review before it goes to the Southern Oregon Bargaining Council.

B. Capital Bond

ASD Program Executive Steve Mitzel and HMK Program Director Chris McKay

1) Monthly Update Report March 2020

Mr. McKay reported that some work had stalled in March as all team members accommodated the transition to virtual meetings. It required establishing new communication strategies for design and program planning meetings. Members of the team are staying healthy and we are moving towards construction for JMOS and AMS. Ground breaking should happen in late summer or early fall. There has been more discussion with Brightworks about reducing carbon use in materials to be used.

AMS achieved its budget goal by finding alternatives without having to make reductions in programming and Mr. McKay displayed new drawings. The Helman team is having good planning discussions. The high school team has completed the initial programming phase and done some seismic and hazardous materials investigation.

In response to a question about warranties, Mr. McKay stated that the projects have a one-year warranty on the construction results. Specific products will have their own individual warranties.

The Walker group is doing pre-design and program development. The group is having great discussions and has issued its RFP for Contract Manager | General Contractor (CMGC) proposals.

Director Chang asked when AMS students will know where they will be going for class in the fall. Mr. Mitzel said that they are still working through final details. The goal is to keep 6th graders on the AMS campus. They may relocate John Muir Outdoor School. They are working on a timeline to phase this in using an 18-month window.

Chair Westrick asked about the schematic for the AHS Humanities Building that seems to show an elevator option and possibly an additional restroom. Mr. Mitzel noted that they are still evaluating traffic flow in the building to see if the locations make sense.

In response to a question about when we would break ground, Mr. Mitzel stated September or October are likely for AMS. Director Prud'homme asked if this means students would begin the school year in a new location. Mr. Mitzel stated that we are planning for temporary space to be used beginning when school opens.

Helman students will remain in their current classrooms next year and plans are being developed for John Muir.

C. Finance Report

- 1) Ms. Valencia presented a Finance Report for the year-to-date period through March 31, 2020. We have received most of our state funding and revenue is on target there. We generally receive less local tax revenue in the spring months. We do not budget 100% of estimated revenue, but closer to 95% to allow for shrinkage. In April we received about 50% of projections. She still expects to hit the 8% reserve target at year-end.

Mr. Chang stated that he has seen some other districts making early budget cuts and asked if Ms. Valencia knows how we compare. She stated that some of these arise from commitments made for the coming year that must

be met, some districts not having capital funds, and other circumstances arising from current conditions that require early belt tightening. Ashland is lucky to receive Measure 98, YAAL, and Title funds that give us a little flexibility.

2) New Expenses Related to School Closure

Ms. Valencia presented a report of additional expenses incurred as a result of COVID-19 closures totaling \$51,629.26 as of May 6, 2020. Some of these will be reimbursed, e.g. food and dairy costs through the National School Lunch program.

In response to a question about Hazard Pay, Ms. Valencia stated that this is for classified staff who need to be on site every day while most employees work from home. This was part of joint guidance developed with OSEA. It pays \$2/hour extra for staff required to be physically present because no telework is possible. This does pertain even for buildings that are empty.

There was a question about any impact on our Workers Compensation insurance premium? Ms. Valencia stated that we are budgeting an increase for next year, and have not for this year.

Chair Westrick asked for more details on hazard pay:

- Where did the hazard pay idea come from? OSEA strongly requested it.
- Will this also be required in the fall for everybody? The current agreement runs through June 30 of this fiscal year.
- Would this apply after the State deems it “safe” to return to work.
- Is it a modification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement? Yes, it is an addendum to the CBA.
- Will we receive any federal reimbursement? Yes, we have a preliminary estimate that we will receive about \$548,000 to offset Covid-related expenditures and help if state funding is drastically reduced. The timing for receiving these funds is not yet clear. It is projected to apply to the current biennium.

Chair Westrick stated that Board members would expect a change in compensation to come to the Board. The Board asked to receive a copy of the joint guidance statement with the intent of holding further discussion.

Director Skuratowicz asked if we have any savings from COVID? Ms. Valencia stated that we did not save significant sums other than some in utility services. Savings were offset by the need to invest in equipment, software, and training to accomplish a distance learning model.

Director Prud'homme asked if we are having conversations yet about providing summer school? Superintendent Raymond stated that Title 1 dollars can be used for elementary only. The schools are not sure any

teachers will be willing to do it. The goal would be to close learning gaps. We are getting more guidance from ODE later this week about whether we can allow students to be in buildings. AHS will do credit retrieval under CEAP. The Middle School isn't sure yet.

Ms. Valencia will send guidance to staff for how federal funds can be used, including whether summer school would be eligible for COVID reimbursement. Information received to date indicates that the funds will be flexible.

3) Bond finance report

Ms. Valencia reported that bond administrative costs are being allocated on a pro-rated basis to projects. The budget has not been updated since September and we need to work on re-budgeting these charges to reflect in the contingency funds.

Mr. Chang asked if the Board could see something that tracked changes from the original budget and reflected year-to-date changes.

8. Unfinished Business

A. Resolution for Appropriation Change for Nutrition Services

The Board reviewed proposed Resolution 2020-#3B to make an appropriation change of \$150,000 from Operating Contingency to Food Services. **Question: Should the Board approve Resolution 2020 - #3B as proposed?**

Ms. Valencia explained that this resolution authorizes spending authority to backfill a deficit in Food Services resulting from a combination of reduced revenue when schools closed and additional expenditures to provide “meals to go”. After receiving expected reimbursements, it may not be necessary to use the entire amount authorized. Director Monter-Rangel moved and Director Chang seconded the approval of Resolution 2020-#3B as presented. The roll was called with all directors voting Yes and the motion passed unanimously.

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 8:06 pm.

Submitted by:
Jackie Schad, Board Secretary

Dated for Board Approval: June 8, 2020

Board Chair, Eva Skuratowicz

Acting Superintendent Steve Retzlaff