

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors – Regular Session
Tuesday, July 21, 2020 – 5:15 p.m.
Virtual Zoom Meeting Via Zoom
Newport, Oregon

Minutes

PRESIDING: Amanda Remund, Chair.

Present: Amanda Remund, Chair; Liz Martin, Vice Chair; Ron Beck, Megan Cawley, and Jenny Demaris, Directors.

Also Present: Dr. Karen Gray, Superintendent; Rhea Warren, Secretary.

Handouts: Board Folder; Meeting Agenda; Written Communications

Call to Order- Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman Remund convened the meeting and called the session to order at 5:15 p.m. with a full quorum of five Board members present.

Election of Board Officers, 2020/21

Election of Board Chairman

On the motion of Vice Chair Martin, seconded by Director Demaris, the Board approved Megan Cawley as Chairman of the Board for the 2020/21 year.

Election of Board Vice Chairman

On motion of Director Remund, seconded by Director Demaris, the Board approved Liz Martin as Vice Chairman of the Board for the 2020/21 year.

Introductions: None at this time.

Communications

Written

A written letter was received via email from a community member which expressed their concerns about opening schools in the fall and encouraging the schools to not open for in-person instruction.

Blue Cards

The Board received three requests to speak.

Teacher and community member Daryl Ettner addressed the Board and commented on her concerns for individuals in the 60 and above age bracket as well as for other teachers and staff who have compromised immune systems regarding returning to school in the fall. Daryl shared that she does not feel safe returning to school at all in the fall. She also shared she feels that the health and safety of teachers, staff, and students should be the main priority at this time.

Teacher and community member Jessica Bailey addressed the Board and commented regarding her concerns for the school reopening plans. Jessica shared that she teaches 6th grade and also has a son who will be going into the 4th grade at Taft this next year and that even though she truly wants to come back to school she is scared. Jessica urged the Board to continue a distance learning model until Oregon meets the CDC's thresholds for safely reopening.

Teacher, union president, and community member Peter Lohonyay shared that during this time the union has been doing its research on the current situation and looks forward to working with the district for a plan to move forward in reopening. He said that during this critical time everyone needs to keep an open heart, open mind, and concern for all in this situation. In addition, he shared that a common agreement needs to be reached on how to successfully reopen schools in a situation that none of us have ever been in.

Recognition

None at this time.

Consultant Reports/Staff Reports/Student Reports

Insurance Carriers Other than Health – Brown & Brown

Jeff Sinclair of Brown & Brown Northwest presented information regarding carriers and premiums for insurance coverage other than health for the coming year. Mr. Sinclair explained the increases from the 19/20 school year to the 20/21 school year. There is an increase in areas up to 19% with the total premium increase of 11%. Jeff clarified for Director Demaris that the PACE program does not give specific credits for items such as earthquake mitigation or flood, even though our buildings are out of flood zones. In addition, he shared that LCSD is not the only district receiving increases such as these this year.

Board Reports

School Board members shared reports regarding the schools and district having good communication via social media and the district website, and also appreciation for trying to maintain a good connection with students and families during this difficult time.

Superintendent's Report

Reopening Plan for Fall 2020/2021

Dr. Gray gave an update regarding the most recent communication from Governor Brown where the Governor talked about limiting social activities to 10 people and the mandating of masks inside and outdoors where one could not social distance. Dr. Gray explained that districts were supposed to receive an update to the guidance today from the state but were informed that it would not be taking place today but would be released tomorrow. Dr. Gray said that tomorrow afternoon will be a Superintendents only meeting to discuss the Governor's new guidance and Dr. Gray will share any new guidance with the Board once it is received.

Dr. Gray updated the Board regarding funding. COSA shared that the ways and means committee has recommended a 9 billion dollar state budget which is what the district had based the budget on. In essence what we passed the district budget on would be the amount we would receive. The district's fingers are crossed that it will happen, the next Special session to decide the funding is August 3rd through the 14th so we will be watching that closely. Dr. Gray also shared the Student Investment Account is currently looking like it will be funded at 30% which means for Lincoln County School District we would receive 1.5 million instead of 4.5 million.

Dr. Gray said the deadline for the Blueprint for Reopening is due on August 15th. In addition, this will also be the deadline for the district to determine what it will be doing for the fall. The Blueprint for reopening is 8 sections long. However, the only sections required to be submitted to the Department of Education for approval are section 1, 2, and 3. Sections 4 through 8 are not required to be sent to the state. We are required to meet with the Lincoln Public Health Department and that meeting is arranged.

Susan Van Liew, Assistant Superintendent discussed sections 1 and 3. Section 1 covers Public Health Protocols, and section 3 covers Response to Outbreak. Susan explained that the work is very large and comprehensive. The district had Administrators sign up to help draft protocols. The district had to look at signage for all schools and look at elementary vs. secondary and attempt to create something universal

that everyone might understand. She gave a brief overview of items such as working with the nurses and health assistants, determining isolation rooms, ordering masks/face shields/PPE for teaching staff, and meeting with public health around items they might want the district to work on and do at the schools.

Dr. Gray shared that we are working in an environment where every single item has to be thought through and reviewed. She explained that it is hard to explain in a setting like this all the work that has been going into making sure every aspect is covered in order to keep our kids and staff safe.

Rich Belloni, said Plexiglas was purchased for front offices at every school, desk shields were purchased for individuals to be able to sit across from each other protected, colored tape for the floors, every classroom measured to determine how many students could be placed in each room, curtains to separate the gym to split the gym into separate areas, and looking at removing items from the classrooms that do not need to be in the classroom. In addition, Rich shared we have added half a custodian to every school through the CARE funds, purchased hand sanitizer for schools to have in many areas, ordered carts for high school teachers to be able to roll items from classrooms to classrooms so the teachers can move instead of the students, and have been working on the bus system to make sure everything is in order to visually assess kids as they board the bus and quarantine kids as needed.

Dr. Gray shared that day by day things are changing. Currently the district is looking at a hybrid model but we are most likely going to be looking at possibly moving away from that model currently and possibly doing what would be called a “Soft Start”. This is what districts across the state are moving towards. Many districts are going to all Comprehensive Distance Learning Online to start in the fall. Meaning you would start your first 6 to 9 weeks with a Comprehensive Distance Learning Model and that can be done two different ways. One way being teachers would come into the building by themselves with no kids and they produce teaching and learning models that the kids can go online and review. The second is to have a K-12 online off the shelf model administered by an administrator and assistants such as the program Edmentum. We are in the process of purchasing the K-12 Edmentum licenses. We currently have it for high school but are purchasing it for K-12. Then by 6 to 9 weeks you have evaluated how things are going across the county and state with the status of COVID and determine at that point to move to a hybrid model slowly. Dr. Gray said she has not yet shared this with Administrators and will be sharing it with them at the meeting tomorrow. However, she felt going to a hybrid model slowly needs to be shared and is currently is what the district is looking at moving to, and it feels like the right thing to do at this point.

Director Beck seeks clarification regarding how this change would impact our bus drivers and bus contract if we delay. Dr. Gray said we would still be feeding the students and delivering meals. We would still need to be feeding our students and delivering meals to student’s homes which will keep our drivers working.

Dr. Gray clarifies for Director Remund that this is not a state wide plan. However, this is a plan that many of the districts are moving towards with the current COVID conditions. A large reason is due to COVID numbers currently being up and the many concerns from community about reopening.

Director Demaris explained that the main point is that the district and schools need more time and stated, “The start date of school is just a moment on the calendar and has nothing to do with the progression of where we are at in the current conditions so we have to be more flexible to work around what those current conditions are.” Chairman Cawley shared that she feels it is a comfort to her especially given the comments received that we are moving forward with a plan for hybrid for our most optimistic plan but also have a fall back plan so if our numbers are not looking better no one is forced into an unsafe situation.

Dr. Gray expressed how important it is to know that this will not be the same as it was the end of last year. The end of last year was crisis learning and this will not be the same. We are responsible for doing this correctly and we would rather take our time instead of rushing into something that will not be done correctly. In addition, we want everyone to feel safe and prepared. Board members shared their appreciation for us taking the time and doing our best for our students and community.

Director Demaris asked questions about how families will choose during registration and how this might impact registration. Dr. Gray explained we will be asking parents to choose what they prefer when registering and will be watching registration closely. Dr. Gray explained Vince Dye is working on protocols for registration to socially distance during registration. She explained that families will need to select an option for each child individually. In addition, Dr. Gray shared that when looking at hybrid we would look at cohorting families to attend on the same days.

Reminder of August 21st Board Retreat

Superintendent Gray gave a quick reminder regarding the upcoming Board Retreat taking place August 21, 2020, at Georgie's Beachside Grill. Dr. Gray will bring a draft Agenda for the retreat to the August 11, 2020 Board meeting for review.

Approval of the Consent Calendar

On motion of Director Demaris and seconded by Vice Chairman Martin the Board unanimously approved consent calendar items as listed on July 21, 2020, Board folder including:

- Minutes: June 9, 2020, Regular Session
- Minutes: June 24, 2020 Special Session
- Human Resources: Regular Personnel Items
- IKI – Academic Integrity, Final Reading
- DLA – Pay Periods and Paydays, Final Reading

Action Items

Alternative Education Programs, Edmentum

On motion of Director Remund and seconded by Director Demaris the Board unanimously approved the District Alternative Education Program for 2020/21 school year as noted in the July 21, 2020 Board folder.

Chromebook Purchase

On motion of Director Beck and seconded by Vice Chair Martin the Board unanimously approved the Chromebook Purchase as discussed at the July 21, 2020 Board Meeting. Noting the Chromebook purchase approved not to exceed the amount of \$400,000 dollars to be paid out of the CARES funds.

Organizational Resolution 2020/21-1

On motion of Director Demaris and seconded by Director Remund the Board unanimously approved Resolution 2020/21-1, Designation of District Officers, Clerks, Agents and Depositories of Funds as listed in the July 21, 2020 Board folder.

2020/2021 Board Meeting Calendar

On motion of Vice Chair Martin and seconded by Director Demaris the Board unanimously approved the 2020/21 Board Meeting Calendar as noted in the July 21, 2020 Board folder.

Items of Discussion and Information

*2020/21 District Calendar with possible furlough days – Contingency Calendar
Furlough Scenarios*

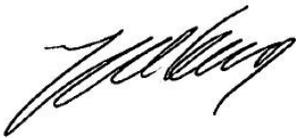
Dr. Gray explained that the district created a backup calendar for the 2020/2021 school year based on some predicted shortfalls in funding. The district discussed with the unions possible days and took the suggested possible furlough days the certified unions suggested. In doing this a calendar was created as a contingency calendar that we wanted to do sooner than later in case it was needed. Kim Cusick created some furlough scenarios to help with details around these cuts to show scenarios based on possible cuts expected this year.

Board Position on Social Topics – Process

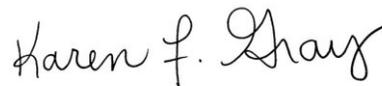
Dr. Gray explained that recently there is a heightened social political atmosphere. Individuals have very strong opinions and oppositional opinions and the Board needs to determine in her opinion or possibly come up with an approach to how the Board looks at social political issues in the community because the Board is a Board as a whole. As citizens people are watching to see how they act even when not wearing their Board hats. Dr. Gray asked if the Board has had this conversation in the past on how the Board plans to respond when social political issues arise. How does the Board want to look at it and handle this topic? For example, for issues about racial equity many Boards put out statements or resolutions. Dr. Gray explained she would feel more comfortable as a superintendent to know what the Boards stance is regarding these topics, which would help her in addressing questions from community members.

Director Demaris shared that she is very comfortable with the districts policies, strategic plan, mission and vision statements and feels they are not lacking in anything. Director Remund shared she doesn't feel as a whole Board needs to comment on a situation and Director Demaris was in agreement unless it has something specifically to do with our school district policies. Vice Chair Martin shared that she feels at this point she is comfortable where we are sitting right now and wouldn't feel the need to put out a statement or resolution. Director Beck shared that he felt the retreat would be a great place to have this discussion. Director Beck shared his thoughts regarding if there is an issue taking place that is specifically happening in the district then it should be something the Board looks at addressing. Chairman Cawley shared that she feels like given the social political climate at the moment it would not be outside the Boards role to draft a statement or resolution that shows we are committed to equity and inclusion. In addition, she shared that this is part of our strategic plan and would really like to continue this conversation. Board members agree to discuss this topic further at the Board Retreat.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



Chairman



Superintendent