

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors – Regular Session
Tuesday, October 13, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.
Virtual Zoom Meeting Via Zoom
Newport, Oregon

Minutes

- PRESIDING:** Megan Cawley, Chair.
- Present:** Megan Cawley, Chair; Liz Martin, Vice Chair; Ron Beck, and Jenny Demaris, Directors.
- Also Present:** Dr. Karen Gray, Superintendent; Kim Cusick, Business Services Director; Rich Belloni, Facilities and Maintenance Director; and Rhea Warren, Secretary.
- Handouts:** Board Folder, Meeting Agenda, Personnel Addendum, Written Communication, and Financial Reports

Call to Order- Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman Cawley convened the meeting and called the session to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum of four Board members present. Director Remund was excused.

Introductions: None at this time.

Communications

Written

Letter from Kim Eason, a teacher at Sam Case Elementary expressing her concerns regarding the prospect of starting a hybrid model with children in person and urging to continue full-time comprehensive distance learning.

Petition to Grant Construction Excise Tax Exemption to petition the following: That as residents and tax-paying property owners, the Board grant a special exemption to the imposition of the Lincoln County School District construction excise tax for new residential construction necessitated by the re-building of homes and property lost due to the Echo/Kimberling Mountain fires. The petition had the signatures of ten individuals.

Blue Cards

Kristina Pico (Taft 7-12) addressed the Board and commented on her concerns with making sure it is a requirement that masks be worn for all students and staff and not an option.

Peter Lohonyay (LCEA) addressed the Board and shared that if we follow the guidelines for reopening from the state metrics and follow with fidelity then we will be able to continue having students in person. However, if we do not follow all the guidelines put in place then we will have to go back to distance learning for all. Also, he shared he believes that if we cannot follow the guidelines then there needs to be another course of action.

Shannon Sutherland (Newport High) addressed the Board and commented that she believes the district's plans to bring students back into the classroom in person seem slightly rushed and teachers are being asked to pivot from one thing to another without being given any time to think. Shannon shared she believes teachers are being stretched to their breaking point and this has taken a toll on their mental health. She also shared her concerns about the possibility of the students transmitting the virus to others.

Kate Quinn (Taft 7-12) addressed the Board and commented that she feels the district does not care about her or her fellow teachers. Kate also shared that the current situation is like a house of cards. For the students on top to be successful, the teachers on the bottom need to be stable and supported. Currently, she believes the teachers don't feel stable and supported and are starting to leave due to this taking place.

Sandra Jouglard (Taft 7-12) addressed the Board and shared her background in epidemiology and molecular biology. Commenting that though she enjoys having the students back in schools she doesn't feel protected and safe. She said she has concerns about the virus and that the children can spread the virus.

Jessica Bailey (Taft Elementary) addressed the Board and shared that both distance learning and hybrid learning are presenting enormous challenges to her family, students, and other teachers. She said she believes the district did not gather enough teacher input when designing the hybrid model. She feels the district needs to gain more input from the teachers, and trust that they know what is needed for their students.

Ollie Richardson (Newport High) addressed the Board and expressed his concerns about the amount of screen time and how it is affecting kids in the current situation. He shared his hope is that we can reevaluate the current online learning situation and make it more sustainable.

Daniel Zimmerman (Newport Middle) addressed the Board and shared his concerns about the current and future learning environment. Daniel shared he is physically exhausted, feels defeated, and is scared voicing his concerns will jeopardize his new career. He shared his concerns for his students and their lack of engagement virtually. Also, he shared his experience with his children and the impact of how the current situation is affecting them due to the lack of a support system for them to be able to attend CDL and having to use Edmentum which is causing them frustration.

Scott Rosen (St. Peter the Fisherman's Lutheran Church) addressed the Board and shared regarding their attempts to assist many of the victims of the Echo Mountain fires. He shared that six of their congregation members lost their homes and property to the fires and are now going through the steps to rebuild new homes. Scott shared the short petition with the Board members. Scott explained that even though many of the victims may be compensated within their insurance coverage he believes often insurance companies find a way to not pay the complete amounts. They are asking for an exception from the Construction Excise Tax for the families and victims of the fires.

Douglas Bernhard (Bernhard Construction) addressed the Board said he was representing the victims of the Echo Mountain fires who lost their homes and property to the fires. Douglas shared his experience in helping a friend get a permit to build when he learned of the Construction Excise Tax. He understands the need for the tax, but also sees the burden the tax causes on an individual who is currently going through a traumatic situation and has lost everything and now has to rebuild new.

Recognition

None at this time.

South Area Reports

The principal of Waldport Middle/High School, Amy Skirvin shared her excitement to have CTE students back on campus as well as athletes who are on campus working out two days a week. She shared that comprehensive distance learning is going as well as it can. There is a lot of adjustment and a lot of support needed for teachers to learn this new way of learning/teaching but that Waldport is working as a

family and a team to make the best of the situation. Amy also said her staff is focused on the distance learning playbook and professional development around distance learning.

The principal of Crestview Elementary, Michael Gass shared a small slide show with pictures that were emailed to the Board members since they were unable to hold the Board meeting in person in Waldport tonight. Mike said the pictures showcase the spirit of the community they are building in Waldport. He talked about the learning boards that teachers created for different grade levels for students to take home after their initial meetings to help them with having a designated learning space at home. He said it has been a struggle to find instructional assistants with a lack of candidates. They are looking at a different way of getting people engaged and wanting to part of their system. He is thankful for the quality of staff that Waldport has and how much they truly care about the students. The staff was excited to have the Kindergarteners back on campus and they are doing their best to honor all the regulations put in place to keep everyone safe.

Consultant Reports/Staff Reports/Student Reports

Financial Report

Kim Cusick, Business Services Director updated the Board on Financial Reports as of September 30, 2020. Kim shared that ADM numbers were not updated on the report due to rules changing and a delay in getting the ADM report but currently staff are working on getting those numbers. Kim shared food services expenditures will be higher especially the longer we continue than what we originally budgeted. We will likely need a supplemental budget at some point in the year.

First Student Monthly Written Report

Board members received a written report from First Student outlining information such as meal routes and sanitation during COVID-19, the status of staffing, and rules put in place for reopening and transporting students.

Board Reports

School Board members reported about their respective regions. Director Beck spoke about the Newport Boosters Auction being virtual this year and the auction being a good way to support our community. Director Demaris shared appreciation for the staff at Toledo and all their positive messages on social media. Vice Chair Martin spoke about being able to speak with families about the comprehensive distance learning and feels that it's all over the board with how it is going for families. She also addressed the teachers who spoke this evening at the beginning of the meeting and her desire to make sure those concerns were addressed tonight. Chairman Cawley spoke about receiving good reports regarding Kindergarten starting this week and athlete conditioning training.

Superintendent's Report

School Update

Superintendent Gray spoke about her reminders and community updates that have been sent out full of details regarding what is currently taking place. She hopes that individuals are taking the time to read them. She said the numbers in our student registrations are up from last month's reports and that principals and school staff are reaching out to each student who is not yet registered to help them find the best fit for their current situation. Dr. Gray believes the numbers will continue to grow as the year goes on.

Superintendent Gray spoke about the eight teachers who voiced their concerns at the beginning of the meeting. She shared that daily the district is under an incredible pressure to open and return to full time regardless of people who do not feel it is safe to be back in school. Dr. Gray expressed her job and the districts job is to make sure we do what is right for children. We do not want to forget about the children in this conversation. She explained there are roughly 8 to 13 children in each class, a very small number of students in a cohort all wearing masks. She shared her experience of visiting a kindergarten class and watching students all wearing masks, socially distanced, and washing their hands. She said there has been

a phenomenal amount of work done to make sure schools are set up to allow the kids to do activities and be safe.

Dr. Gray addressed a comment that was made previously by a teacher regarding the numbers rising. She read the case count numbers received from the Oregon Health Authority and shared anything under 5% is considered low. Also, the district is working hand and glove with the local health department in a way that we have never done before. Anytime the district has a case we will work closely with the health department.

Superintendent Gray said the Blueprints for reopening being posted on the website yet she feels few have read the Blueprint. She shared the Blueprint addresses many areas and questions individuals and staff are asking regarding precautions being taken. Also, she shared that the Department of Education has many examples of what can happen when a positive case occurs. Dr. Gray mentioned district leadership meetings with the union take place weekly and communication and notice are given when a decision is made. She explained that union individuals admitted the district has given plenty of notice. Dr. Gray shared that at this point we could have all K-3 grades back in the classroom but the district knows we are not ready for this and has chosen to roll in grades K-3 slowly. She explained that parent nights were held and teachers were consulted before having kindergarteners back in the classrooms, maybe not all teachers but teachers were consulted. In addition, she said the district is not in a hurry. Next it will be 1st grade then two weeks after 2nd and 3rd grades will return. We want to slowly bring children back and see what happens with the numbers.

Vice Chairman Martin clarified the requirements for masks. Dr. Gray shared that masks or face shields are required and the district is doing everything they can to keep kids and staff safe. She shared that weekly the administration receives the metrics from the state and we are watching them closely. She said the district is working on an MOU with the teachers union and are communicating all the time. However, it may not be what individuals want to hear. In addition, she shared this is not a time to blame people but the district is being careful, and having discussion and planning sessions with staff and parents. No one is saying that comprehensive distance learning is what we want but it is a very difficult time and hard on everyone. Dr. Gray shared her appreciation for the heartfelt testimonies given.

Superintendent Gray explained the displaced student waiver that will allow the district to bring displaced students on campus to attend their comprehensive distance learning classes. She shared currently the details on how this will work are unknown, but the district is working on this. Dr. Gray also clarified that we are in a K-3 exception and not hybrid. We are still in comprehensive distance learning with K-3 exception. Also, she said the district is working with companies to brainstorm ways to get connectivity to our students.

Dr. Gray said at the time the plan is October 28th to bring back 1st graders to in person. Then November 9th to bring back 2nd and 3rd grade. At this point that is as far out as we can plan.

State School Fund

Superintendent Gray explained that the State School fund rebounded from the June forecast. The 9 billion budget stands for now and the district will not need furlough days.

2019-20 Division 22 Assurances

Superintendent Gray shared that the district is currently in compliance with all Division 22 Assurances. The only area we might not meet is having a district librarian. However, due to the changes in the assurances for the 2019-20 year due to Covid-19, we are in compliance.

Policy Updates – First Readings

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Superintendent Gray reviewed the first readings of the policies and explained changes and updates to each of the following policies:

1. IKFA – Early Graduation

Superintendent Gray said there was just a small update to the policy that would have the principal weigh in first before the final approval of the Superintendent.

Approval of the Consent Calendar

On motion of Vice Chairman Martin and seconded by Director Demaris the Board unanimously approved consent calendar items as listed in the October 13, 2020, Board folder:

- Minutes – September 15, 2020, Regular Session
- Human Resources: Regular Personnel Items
- Policy Final Readings
 1. GBEB – Communicable Diseases – Staff
 2. GBEB-AR – Communicable Diseases – Staff
 3. JHCC – Communicable Diseases – Student
 4. JHCC-AR – Communicable Diseases - Student
 5. GCBDAAG/DBDAA – COVID-19 Related Leave
 6. GCBDAAG/DBDAA-AR(1) – COVID-19 Related Leave

Action Items

School Board and Superintendent Goals and Measures

On motion of Director Demaris and seconded by Vice Chairman Martin the Board unanimously approved the School Board and Superintendent Goals and Measures as notes in the October 13, 2020, Board Folder.

Revised Student Investment Account (SIA) Plan and Grant Agreement Approval

Katie Barrett, Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning shared an updated presentation on changes that were made to the SIA Plan due to the decrease in funds. Community members were notified through email and the district website about the plan being presented at the October 13, 2020 Board meeting and the invitation to speak regarding the plan. No requests were received.

On motion of Director Demaris and seconded by Vice Chairman Martin the Board unanimously approved the Revised Student Investment Account (SIA) Plan and Grant Agreement Approval as presented at the October 13, 2020 Board Session.

Items of Discussion and Information

Facilities/Maintenance/Transportation/Food Services

Construction Excise Tax

Rich Belloni, Director of Facilities and Maintenance shared regarding the Construction Excise Tax and that currently, the district is behind the state average. Rich acknowledged the requests heard previously in the meeting for an exemption to the tax. However, Rich said that requests for exemptions have been received before. However, once you give an exemption it's hard to draw a line for when an exemption should be approved and that it is also state law. He said that the Construction Excise Tax will come before the Board at the November 11, 2020 Board session.

Dr. Gray explained that districts were given the option of passing a Construction Excise Tax in 2007 and is not a new thing this year, it started with Senate Bill 1036. She shared it is a state law and the Board passed the tax, so it becomes a difficult question when an individual asks us not to charge the tax. Chair Cawley shared that there are other exemptions out there that individuals can take advantage of related to agriculture, churches, or HUD. Vice Chairman Martin said that while we are compassionate about this situation it's something that is out of the Board's control. Dr. Gray shared that along with Director Beck

they believe there are other avenues individuals can go down to help get some relief. In addition, she shared that she would hope they would work with the City on other possible avenues. Rich said that in the law it really only gives you certain exemptions and if we decide to give other exemptions, we are not following the law. Board members encourage individuals to voice their concerns with the legislatures to possibly have changes made to the law.

Rich Belloni gave a brief update about the selling of district property in Lincoln City. Rich shared the district gave the city an option to purchase the property and do any needed test to the property within reason. However, the district wants everything closed by the end of the year.

Board

October 27th Presentation to Vision 2040 Committee from 4:00 to 5:00 pm

Board members will be presenting the Boards Strategic Plan to the Vision 2040 Committee on October 27th. Chair Cawley and Director Beck plan to give the presentation.

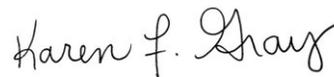
Other

A reminder of October 27th Work Session, Topics: Equity and Mandatory Reporter Training 5:15 pm at the Teaching and Learning Center.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.



Chairman



Superintendent