

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors – Regular Session
Tuesday, January 12, 2021 – 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, Amanda Remund, and Jenny Demaris, Directors.

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

Handouts: Board Folder, Meeting Agenda, 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 full quorum of five Board members present.

Recognition: At the request of Dr. Gray, Chair Cawley moved the Recognition portion of the agenda to the first item of the evening. January is School Board Appreciation Month. For their leadership and dedication, School Board members watched a “Thank You” video created by the Lincoln County Schools. Superintendent Gray shared her appreciation for the Board of Directors and the strong team effort they put forth for the students of Lincoln County School District.

Introductions: None at this time.

Communications

Written

None at this time.

Blue Cards (From the Audience)

Sharon Gidley-Lihou addressed the Board regarding her concerns about returning comprehensive distance learning students to the hybrid model. Sharon said that she feels it is extremely dangerous to send kids back to classrooms during the middle of winter. She shared that even though children are not getting sick there is still a concern that they can spread the virus. Also, she said her ninth grade student has expressed apprehension about returning to the classroom. Sharon would like the comprehensive distance learning model to continue.

David Larson addressed the Board regarding his concerns for reopening school in person. Larson shared he believes that we need to maximize the distance between people, minimize time between people, and wear protective masks as necessary. He feels all of these things fail when you go into in-person school where time is extended and distance is not easy to maintain. He spoke about the number of cases per 100,000 and shared he feels we should not be looking at opening schools until we have less than 5 cases per 100,000, which he said we are currently well away from at this time.

Louise Copeman addressed the Board regarding the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Newport High School. She said that IB students are advanced and have the maturity level that is well suited to online learning. She suggested that students that are doing well in these classes be allowed to stay at home. She also suggested that classes possibly be live streamed to accommodate these students.

Kate Quinn addressed the Board regarding the plans to reopen into a hybrid model. Kate shared her concerns regarding reopening prior to teachers receiving their full vaccinations. She encouraged the Board and Superintendent to wait until teachers have completed their second dose of the vaccine prior to reopening.

Christina Morrison addressed the Board saying she agreed with everything the other individuals speaking tonight had mentioned. Christina said that she feels there should still be an option to continue comprehensive distance learning instead of having to return to a hybrid model.

Kaydance Redwine a student at Newport High School shared that she felt currently her classes are operating smoothly and the content is both enriching and engaging. The only downfall being the social emotional impact. She spoke about her concerns for returning to hybrid model and spreading the virus. Kaydance requested the Board consider continuing distance learning or at least keep distance learning as an option for student who would not like to start the hybrid model.

LCEA Report

Peter Lohonyay addressed the Board and thanked the Board for the work that they are doing. He shared that teachers have concerns regarding going into the hybrid model. Peter spoke about the teachers doing their part to limit the transmission of the virus even over the holidays when it is a difficult time not to be with family and friends to celebrate. He spoke about tough choices being made but teachers want to do what is best for students. Peter said the administration is working their hardest to get teachers vaccinated and that will help move us forward. Also, he shared he believes we have a great team and we just have to figure out how to move forward together and be safe using science.

West Area Reports

The principal of Yaquina View Elementary School, Kristin Becker shared that usually Board Appreciation is held at Yaquina View and there is a bit of sadness involved in not being able to gather in person like normal for this event. Kristin gave kudos to her teachers in pushing their skills as educators to take on a technological skill had not been developed. Teachers worked hard not only to develop these skills at a rapid pace but also to refine the skills. Also, she thanked the district for all the support given to help with comprehensive distance learning and the hybrid model. She said her school was one of the few schools that were able to open fully hybrid model prior to the holiday break. She spoke about fears that went along with being in person. However, she shared that the protocols that were put in place were essential to remain open and were followed with fidelity by custodial, staff, and students. Kristin is excited for the return of students.

The principal of Newport Middle School, Aaron Belloni spoke about the hardships of the current school year and the difficult decisions needed to be made, but that during all of this good things are happening. Comprehensive Distance Learning has been a success for some students and Newport Middle has been able to move forward with some of their traditions such as continuing to recognize students for their great work virtually instead of in person. Teachers nominated students whose character shined through hard work, grit, and determination and instead of handing them a certificate and shaking their hands, their certificates were placed online with a staff video sharing why they received the award. He also mentioned a few other traditions that were able to be continued such as Student of the Month and a Music and Art video program. Aaron shared the challenges have forced us to grow and that is one of the things he is most proud of currently. Every staff member has grown, and the growth and collaboration is amazing.

Budget Committee Applicant Interviews for Zone 1, 4, and 5:

Zone Applicants for Zone 1, 4, and 5

The Board received two application for Zone 1 from Jessica Maldonado and Liz Francis and one application for Zone 5 from Kevin Greenwood. Zone 4 received no applications. The School Board interviewed a Budget Committee applicants. After a brief discussion and interview with the applicant, the

Board voted to award the Budget vacancy for Zone 1 to Jessica Maldonado and Zone 5 to Kevin Greenwood.

Lincoln County School District Board appoints Jessica Maldonado to the Zone 1 Budget Committee vacancy to be held until June 30, 2024.

Lincoln County School District Board appoints Kevin Greenwood to the Zone 5 Budget Committee vacancy to be held until June 30, 2024.

Consultant Reports/Staff Reports/Student Reports

Financial Report

Kim Cusick, Business Services Director updated the Board on Financial Reports as of December 31, 2020.

First Student Monthly Written Report

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

Board Reports

School Board members shared their appreciation for all the communication received from the district and all the hard work all the Lincoln County staff is putting in to make things happen for our students. Board members all agreed they feel disconnected from the schools during this pandemic and look forward to being able to be able to visit schools again and see students as things move forward.

Superintendent's Report

School Update

Superintendent Gray spoke about the update from Governor Brown regarding the change from mandatory to advisory and that the Governors expectation was that all students would return to school in person in some form or model by February 15, 2021. Dr. Gray discussed that prior to the break we had successfully already brought back K-3 in a hybrid model along with some limited in person students displaced by the fires and who had no connectivity. She talked about the close communication and strong relationship the district had with the local health authority. Dr. Gray shared the plan for returning to in person via the hybrid model starting February 1st for K-3 and limited in person students. Then slowly bringing back the remaining grades. She shared that the Governor will be releasing additional information on January 19th that could impact the plans. Dr. Gray acknowledged that she understands the frustration from parents and the community but we have to follow the guidance given from Governor Brown.

Susan Van Liew, Assistant Superintendent shared that she has participated in weekly meetings with Lincoln County Public Health. She shared that public health is clearly saying that yes we have had students and staff who have tested positive for Covid. But with contract tracing it has determined that the contact has all been related to things that happened outside of the school setting. She spoke about having K-3 students back on campus in a hybrid model and not having any outbreaks based on the students being together on in person on campus. Susan said we have very strong protocols in place at our buildings and our staff are working hard to make sure those protocols are being followed to keep everyone safe. Susan shared an update that vaccines for teachers and staff are on their way, and that Lincoln County Health plans to keep educators in the 1a status to be some of the first to receive the vaccine.

Policy Updates – First Readings

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

1. LBE - Public Charter Schools
2. LBE-AR - Public Charter Schools

3. LBEA - Resident Student Denial for Virtual Public Charter School Attendance
4. IJ – School Counseling Program

Superintendent Gray encouraged the Board to review the information and give feedback or let her know if they have any questions or concerns regarding the policies.

Approval of the Consent Calendar

On motion of Director Beck and seconded by Director Remund the Board unanimously approved consent calendar items as listed in the January 12, 2021, Board folder including Personnel Addendum dated January 12, 2021:

- Minutes – December 8, 2020, Regular Session
- Human Resources: Regular Personnel Items
- Policy Final Readings
 1. JB – Equal Educational Opportunity
 2. JFCM – Threats of Violence

Action Items

Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) Intent to Award

On motion of Director Beck and seconded by Director Remund the Board unanimously approved the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) Intent to Award to DSL Builders LLC. The formal award will be awarded at the February 9, 2021 Board Session.

Items of Discussion and Information

Construction Excise Tax Increase

Rich Belloni, Facilities and Maintenance Director shared that the Construction Excise Tax increase that was first brought to the Board back in October had been placed on hold due to the wild fires. A waiver was created for the victims of the Echo Mountain Complex fire. Now that the waiver has been put in place, for those affected by the Echo Mountain fire, it is time to move forward with the Construction Excise Tax increase to get the district closer in line with the state rates.

Instrument for Superintendent Evaluation & Timeline

Board members discussed the previous process and agreed that they felt the format of the questions and answers worked well. Director Demaris shared that she would like to continue with the same process and then maybe next year new Board members could discuss if they would like the process to be adjusted. All Board members agreed and previous process and timeline will be followed for the Superintendent Evaluation and Timeline.

Linn Benton Lincoln 2021-23 Local Service Plan

Each year, the Linn/Benton/Lincoln ESD presents a resolution to each of the twelve Districts within their boundaries describing services to be provided the following year by the ESD and funded with “Resolution” dollars. The resolution will return to the Board for action at the next meeting.

Other

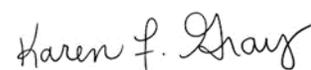
A reminder of the upcoming January 26th Work Session, Topics: Equity and Board Budget Goals, 5:15 pm. In addition, the NSBA conference was canceled for in-person and will be held virtually. Board members agreed to wait and attend when the next in person conference is held.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.



Chairman

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Superintendent