



Regular School Board Minutes
Thursday, February 10, 2022
7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Board: Ron Koetz, Linda Montanez, Deb Lindberg, Jeff Davis, Risteen Follett

Board Members absent: None

Staff In Person: Marc Thielman, Shirley Koetz, Keenan Elbers, Travis Rice, Nicole Davis, Shanon Rice, Ricki Hendrix, Jackie Hendrix, Pam Russell

Patrons In-Person: Ryan Van Leuven, Chris Cantrell, Cheryl Van Leuven, Kari Van Leuven, Jamie Olsen, Emily Lamb, Ann Smith, Michael Bourne, Brent Kaseman, Zane Gosda, Binky Hendrix, Rob Russell, Melanie Hildebrand, Max Hildebrand, Gary Strom, Rocky Sapp, Jackie Hendrix, Brooke Zerby, Matthew Zerby, George Foster, Tracy Foster, Mackenzie Foster, Joanna Mann, Kylie Graham, Seth Hendrix, Ryan Jacobsen, Robby Crook, Teresa Crook, Dave Hanson, Steven Marin, George Barnes, Kande Barnes,

Staff On-line: Rich Dubord, Randy Chilcote, Laurel Arnold, Kelly Ostler, Catherine Ellis, Carmen Martin, Skip Lynch, , Jamie Olsen, Mary O'Brien, David Crowe, Tracy Stanton, Beverly Damewood, Cheryl Doe, David Fricke, Nicole Wright, Roxie Smallwood, Tim France, Joe Martinez, Joy Jordan, Aerica Nelson, Anna Dubord, Jan Olsen, Randy Chilcote, Samantha Pedder, Shawn Griffin, David Lynch, Kayla Wilson, Lori Greenfield, Mary Gefroh, Sara Littlefield, Tracy Stanton

Students: Hallie Olsen, Leah Bennett, online

Patrons Online: Dani Elbers, Angela Jacobsen, Lisa Bennett, Casey Smith, Danielle Elbers, Dwain Price, Jennie Olsen, Tom Loveday, Ron Mckernan, 541-***48, Alsea Education Association, Kathryn Hildebrand, Katie Sapp, Leota Endicott, Rosie Valencia, Sarah Sapp, Ashley Hawkes, Dale Cox, Dillion Elbers, Edward Lopez, Emily Lamb, Jamie Edgmand, Jessesnwrbrd, Jill D, Matthew Clark, Robert Webb, Roger, Stacey Clendenin, Terry Lunsford, Ken Hendrix, Korin Crowe, Mary Hendrix, Priscilla Hendrix, Julia Rain, Celena, Amelia Vaage, Betty B, Amanda Sapp, Michael Morgan, Jannie Hornby, FR.Bill Baker, Salena Ponce, Candice Molly, Tanner Webb**

1. Call to Order, Flag Salute 1859

2. Approval of Agenda

Jeff Davis motioned to approve the agenda with moving the review of resolution implementation under Audit Presentation. Deb Lindberg seconded. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes – January 13, 2022

Jeff Davis motioned to approve the minutes as presented; Linda Montanez seconded. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Superintendent's/CFO Report

- **Marc Thielman stated that he is very happy with all his staff. Everyone is doing a great job.**
- **Nancy Hall is working on spreadsheets that will be going out to administrative staff soon to start preparing the budget for 2022-2023. Marc Thielman talk about how the budget will be developed this year which is a little different from years past. Nancy Hall will be asking a lot**

more question and spending time with our Administrators to see what is needed for their staff.

5. Audit Presentation - Glen Kearns

Accuity CPA Glen Kearns reported on his team's audit findings. In order to be totally transparent, I have attached the audit report for your review. No major findings. Please find attached review from Accuity's CPA Glen Kearns.

Management's estimate of depreciable lives and salvage values of capital assets, which are based on expected useful lives of the assets and current market conditions. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the depreciable lives and salvage values and determined that they are reasonable in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole and in relation to the applicable opinion units. Defined benefit pension plan actuarial assumptions. Accrued compensation. • Deferred inflows/outflows of resources relating to grants and property taxes. If the board has any questions, you can contact them throughout the year

6. Review the Resolution implementation:

We passed the resolution last month to make masking optional. We did talk about the option to come back to review how it was going. Yes, we got push back from some families, but more families than not liked what we did. We received messages from all over the state and there were three times the good messages to the bad. We received notifications from ODE, OSHA, and OHA, we've been working with those agencies that are in process. ODE froze our federal ESSER funds. They did not take them away and once April 1st is here and we are back in compliance they will be unfrozen. We're in the process of a collaborative effort within the state to move to no mask mandate by March 31st. This trend is in process you can see that in the proposed state policy, obviously the state wanted to get schools time to prepare for that and that is the plan we received the letter today. I'll paraphrase so the letter said, we are going to unfreeze the funds once we notified them, we are compliant. That'll happen naturally in early April. So that's our plan we'll be back on track. Series of feature articles, including Samaritan Health Services. That said that paper/cloth mask management, has not worked. We have received lots of feedback from parents and comments asking that we make masks optional. The other issue was to taking guidance from our County. Several NIH CDC and others have research that shows masks do not work. That said that Meyerson has configured into the negative impacts of our student education. I think it also a big concern when we were talking about the resolution last month. Anxiety and higher stress effect our students, anytime kids are interacting with negativity they follow suit. It does raise their life stress levels and we had a lot of that here just like any other school. The goal was to have the time for instruction without the frustrations of wearing a mask, to be able to see their teachers face or hear correctly since the mask muffles the teacher voice. The students get frustrated, angry and lash out it's not easy for them to cope with masks. I feel that we are getting a minor amount of push back. The research is out there as to how badly masks affect our students. The CDC also cited studies that show 23% drop in generalized collective student learning. Which for 40 years students have gained slightly more intelligent every year. We know that with the advent of the use of information, we have a lot of really smart students. The students feel abandoned after the first year. The second year showed the researchers clearly saw where certain students were delayed. Skills, mainly nonverbal vocabulary recognition, turns out that we communicate nonverbally. In the last two weeks we saw our students change into happy students they are getting along better. They aren't as stressed consistent reduction from last two weeks. That's a very good sign that schools can be open and unmasked. We

will continue with our other protocols. Students wash and sanitize, stay in their cohort groups. We will keep our air filtration equipment running in office and classrooms. We open windows in buses, disinfect them twice a day. The school is still being disinfected throughout the day, and again once the students go home. I'm excited you know, and it's wonderful that our kids are happy. Risteen Follett stated I'm all for not having a mask on my kids face. I'm not going to lie about that, but I think we need to really look at what we did as a resolution here. We are losing funds; our staff are anxious. There are multiple union emails that have come out saying how they feel uncomfortable. Our kids feel that. I know that our health services are virtually nonexistent because they won't come to our school to help our students with services because we all aren't wearing masks. I think that we made our point, and I'd love the state to move to no masking or making it more optional. But I think as a board, we need to consider the decision we made. I think we need to look at how we're affecting kids. We need to look at our actions tonight, when we are voting, we really need to go for what's best for our kids. We learn from our mistakes. This means that they need the services. Those fines are coming in and even though we may have the capital to address fines if they do come, I don't think that we should be spending money on fines. We should be spending money on their education. There has been concern from the same union movement. Marc Thielman stated as the board you also have to factor in what will occur if the board direct the students to reinstate masking will that have another bad effect. This has been unified and it's been a soothing thing overall, for the kids that we're serving. So, I really think it's valuable that those concerns coming up with the funds, are not as major as everyone thinks. I will be appealing the fines so right now we do not know what they will be. Our ESSER funds will come back, we haven't lost them because that's not true. We have plenty of operating capital. In the letter today, Gill, said you know once we're back in compliance your funds will be unfrozen. It feels like we're playing a game with them. Well, I don't mind we only need to wait until the mask mandate is lifted April 1st. It sounds to me like what you're saying is to go back today wearing masks. If you rescind the resolution back to masking today that action will in my opinion will have a whole different set of people in here saying, we are just playing with the students. The smoothest thing to do I think moving forward, especially now that we've kind of reconcile things and have found some understanding with county and state agencies. In my opinion that's my job to advise. Risteen Follett said her statement to the other board members is that our role here is to make things better for the children and I guess my question is, if I look at this objectively, I don't look at this from my family and what I want for my child. I look at what services we have promised to these kids. Did our action punish them, and I believe that we are not serving them to the best of our ability by doing this? That's just my appeal to the board members and I don't necessarily need a response from the Superintendent, I'm just putting this out here for us to decide as the board.

7. Patron Comments

- We received many comments both pros and con's concerning the mask resolutions. Patron's spoke about fines, and penalties and how money should be going to our students not to pay fines. Many feel that Marc Thielman did this for his own political gain again patrons agreed and disagreed.
- Marc Thielman said that students have benefited by not wearing masks, we have many healthy happy children in our school. We still have some students that wear masks, and most of our staff do wear masks but again it is their choice. Marc Thielman said that when the mask mandate is lifted that we will get our ESSER funds unfrozen that we have not lost it. Patron

asked if he could guarantee this, and he said he couldn't but was very confident we would get all our ESSER funds returned when mandate is lifted. Marc Thielman also said that we would have fines but at that time we did not know what they would be but that he would appeal the fines and at least they would be reduced.

- Other comments pertained to our bond and how some feel that we are not being transparent enough and they don't like how the committee is ran. Talk was to overthrow the committee and run it their way.
- We had several patrons thank Marc Thielman, Tim France, and many of the staff for providing a great school to their children who maybe outside the box. These students are thriving and if they must wear mask it will not work, and they will go backwards.

8. Elementary Report

- Our K-5 is chugging right along. Teachers and RTI specialists have been working hard to get MAPS testing done this week. This has been successful as they are nearly done testing. I will see all the final growth reports next week when we meet for data reviewing.
- Mrs. Mason has started implementing Girls Circle in her classroom. So far this has resulted in rave reviews from the students. We have also gotten 4 more employees trained in both Girls Circle and Boys Circle: Kayla Wilson and Samantha Pedder will be heading up Girls Circle for the High School and Middle School girls who want to join. Travis Rice and Joe Martinez are working with the Middle and High school boys as a team. The programs focus on many things, a couple of examples are healthy friendships and navigating conflict. There was a fantastic turn out today for Boy's circle with the middle school section and Travis Rice and Joe Martinez had a great experience.
- Our elementary professional development trip to the "Get Your Teach On conference" was incredible. Everyone had a great time and learned a lot. We can't wait to highlight the things we will be implementing as we finish out the school year.
- Since the announcement of optional masking, we have lost some valuable in person services for students. I have been working hard with Benton County Mental Health and was able to come to an agreement of them hosting skills training and preventative counseling at the Public Library. The students will have to wear a mask to take part in these in-person sessions. Virtual sessions proved to be quite difficult to manage due to space and safety concerns at this time with the elementary kiddos. Our hope is that our Special Education Leadership can work out a similar deal with the ESD.
- In other news, we are happy with the new math curriculum purchased for K-5. While it is difficult for everyone to learn a new way of teaching and learning, our teachers are working incredibly hard to yield positive results. Our math scores have gone up by 8 to 10 points from fall to winter. We are starting to look more seriously into new ELA curriculum, which is needed next year.

9. MS/HS Report

- Everything is going well as Shanon Rice stated the boys and girls circle has been a hit. The school rock band is a huge success and its overflowing. Mrs. Ellis and Mr. Wright have really been doing a great job. Eric Clendenin is working with students to make sure all are on track to graduate. Roxie Smallwood is up loading grades now, there was a new requirement which

teachers weren't aware of, and they had to complete it before grades could be completed. So, it put sending out grades a little behind this semester.

10. Online Program

- Tim France online program numbers are staying pretty even as of February 1st there were 509 LAHO, 169 Greenways, 41 Alsea Options, 24 Farm Schools students between Corvallis and Creswell. Things like clubs and student of the month are going well students and parents very happy.
- We had one teacher resign to go back to school so we will be hiring a new one in the future.

11. Information

None

12. Athletic Report

- Joy Jordan reported that right now we have wrestling, and basketball are wrapping up very soon. Wanted to congratulate coaches France and Gammon for helping take the boys to A1 state championship it was not an OSAA s sponsored event. Gunner Kill took first place congratulations! The wrestling team will be going to state playoffs next weekend in Lowe. Boys and Girls basketball district meets will also start next week. Track will start March 28th right after spring break. Getting ready to also start baseball and softball doing it as a club due to not having fields, they have a few games already scheduled. Looking for coaches for Baseball and Softball. Questions were asked about middle school basketball games next week if they were makeup games. Some games have been rescheduled but not Fall City, they chose not to reschedule. It was asked why we would be paying coaches for club sports? Joy explained that it was her understanding that for this year we would pay the coaches to get the program started.

13. Discussion Items

- a. Cash Flow/ Financial Reports
- b. Alsea Bond Property Tax Error
Board Chair said that we had already had this discussion so we could move on. Risteen stated that what she thinks the public would like is a statement put on the website stating what happened and how the School District would be mitigating the collections. Marc said he would get it on the website. Basically, we will under collect about \$36,000 hoping it will be about that. Under assess doesn't means you collect so there will be a give or take of a couple thousand or so. Depending on the recommendation of the assessor's offices and the way that people are being taxed for their property. Mr. Thielman said that he thinks the schedule goes to around 86 or 87 thousand and so then we'll under collect. You subtract \$36,000 from that so the assessment will be smaller next year and after that we'll be back on schedule and move forward from there. Marc Thielman can definitely put a statement on the website under the bond heading.
- c. Recording and Storing Board Meetings
Risteen Follett had asked Marc Thielman to check into recording and archiving the board meetings. Marc Thielman said that most schools are now doing this, and he had Nathan Roberts investigate the best way to do this. Nathan Roberts investigated using google because that is what we are presently using and found it to be quite expensive. Nathan Roberts found we could do this for about \$115.00 a month with Zoom so once this is purchased and set up,

we will start recording and archiving on our website. We hope to start doing this at our next board meeting in March.

d. Joy's Athletic Handbook Tabled

Marc Thielman stated that Joy Jordan's handbook was a condensed version of the original handbook done a long time ago. The board decided that they should look further into the Athletic policies and have proposed a work session to look at both documents.

e. Overnight trip to Baker for girls HS Basketball

Ricki Hendrix presented a proposal for the girls' basketball team to travel and stay overnight in Baker to watch the championship games. Ricki Hendrix provided a schedule and itinerary and supporting documents with details to the board. Have three chaperones.

14. Patron Comments

- Zane Gosda talked about how much the Farm School has helped and improved his daughters' learning. There have been great changes in my daughter at school and home. Thanked staff for their dedication in getting the Farm School.
- Tom Loveday spoke he is concerned about how the bond activities are being managed. Most concerning is the fact that very little documentation has been provided to the BOC that is useful in determining how well the project is being managed. We have gotten many drawings and documents that depict how the project is supposed to go but have only once received a usable Gantt chart showing an easily readable project schedule and critical path. He also is concerned about everything about the bond. He had a long list of how he felt that the committee isn't doing what is right in his opinion he also said the grandstanding by the superintendent Finally, the bond oversight committee is appointed by the superintendent, and I am not aware of any mechanism for the committee to raise concerns other than to the superintendent. Fully half of the committee members are employed by the school making them beholden to the superintendent for employment. Given this situation the BOC is nothing but a puppet with no means to really do anything about discrepancies with the way the bond money is being spent. Because of that, two members have already resigned, and I am seriously considering resigning.
- Jamie Olsen spoke about how money isn't everything that our children need social, and emotion help as well. We need to meet our children needs. Money cannot buy these things.
- Hildebrand said if we are going to disobey the rules then we need to consider these three points 1) That board has a civil duty to follow the law. 2) We must be concern about losing financial support for our children. 3) Getting some experts into explain the COVID and the laws to the board.

15. First Reading of Policies for

- i. DH G1
- ii. EEA R G1
- iii. GBA R G1
- iv. GBL G1
- v. GBLA G1 delete
- vi. GCBDA_GDBDA OR R 1 G1
- vii. GCBDA_GDBDA R 1 G1
- viii. IGBAF R G1
- ix. IGBAG R G1

x. IGBB G1

16. New Hires

Brick and Mortar:

- a. Aaron Coles - Substitute Aide
- b. Carole Domeikis - Substitute Teacher
- c. Ashley Landers - Substitute Aide
- d. Dwain Price - Bus Driver

Bear Creek:

- a. Margaret Crocker - Substitute Teacher

Alsea Brick and Mortar

Resignation:

- a. Beth O'Neil
- b. Nicole DiManno
- c. Garrett Nelson

17. Action Items

A. Payment of Bills – January/February

Questions on check # 9791 was for \$6,500 was for the approved purchase of a vinyl and multi functional cutter for the CET program. The request to purchase was given at the last board meeting. Risteen Follett asked about a budget for the bond. Marc Thielman said that we will have one at the next board meeting.

Deb Lindberg approved the payment of bills for January/February; Linda Montanez seconded. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Recording and Storing Board Meetings

Deb Lindberg motioned to approve recording and storing board minutes; Risteen Follett seconded. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Review of Resolution Implementation

Risteen Follett motioned to cancel the resolution that was voted into effect on January 13, 2022; no second resolution died.

D. Joy's Athletic Handout Tabled

E. Overnight trip to Baker for girls HS Basketball March 3-5, 2022

Risteen Follett motioned to approve the HS Basketball program to travel to Baker to watch the basketball championships; Deb Follett seconded. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

18. New Hires

Brick and Mortar:

- a. Aaron Coles - Substitute Aide
- b. Carole Domeikis - Substitute Teacher
- c. Ashley Landers - Substitute Aide
- d. Dwain Price - Bus Driver
- e. Moved Nicole White from Sub Aide to Full Time Aide
- f. Moved Darian McGrew from Sub Aide to Full Time Aide

Jeff Davis motioned to approve the hiring of a-f; Deb Lindberg seconded. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Bear Creek:

- a. Margaret Crocker - Substitute Teacher

Jeff Davis motioned to hire Margaret Crocker; Linda Montanez seconded. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Alsea Brick and Mortar

Resignation:

- a. Beth O'Neil
- b. Nicole DiManno
- c. Garrett Nelson

Jeff Davis motioned to accept the resignations of Beth O'Neil, Nicole DiManno, and Garrett Nelson; Deb Lindberg seconded. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business:

Risteen Follett asked for an update on the CFO position. Marc Thielman responded we had three applicants but none of the applicates were the right fit so we will either readvertise or possibly go in another direction, but that has not been determined yet. Risteen Follett asked about where we are on the bond. Shirley Koetz told them that Scott Marshall and others were on the phone today with Benton County getting permits taken care of. Risteen Follett also is concerned about the timeline for construction, she believes we are behind.

Executive Sessions: 9:02

To consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent. (ORS 192.660(2)(a))

To consider the dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent who does not request an open hearing. (ORS 192.660(2)(b))

To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed. (ORS 192.660(2)(h))

Next Meeting Date: March 10, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting

Adjournment 9:30

As recorded by,

Shirley Koetz

Board Chair: Ronald Koetz

Ronald Koetz

Clerk: 

Sean Gallagher