

Alsea School Board Meeting
Thursday, May 11, 2023
Regular School Board meeting 7:00 PM
Executive Session to follow
Alsea School Library



Alsea, OR 97324
Alsea School District 7J
301 South 3rd Street
Alsea, OR 97324
541.487.4305

1. Call to Order 1902
2. Flag Salute
3. Board Members present - Risteen Follett, Linda Montanez, Deb Lindberg, Roren Rounds, Ryan VanLeuven
4. Board Member absent - None
5. Patrons - Anna Chilcote, Angela Jacobsen, Sara Cash
Online attendees - Bart Rothenberger, Sarah / Joe Harris, Tim France, Anna Dubord, Cheryl VanLeuven, Courtney Waverek, Forrest Miller, Heather Shunk, Holly Olsen, Jamie Olsen, Kari VanLeuven, Lauren Snyder, Sarah Sapp
6. Approval of the Agenda - Approved without adjustments.
7. Approval of Minutes
 - a. April 13, 2023 minutes
Deb Lindberg motioned to approve the minutes for April 13, 2023 as presented. Ryan VanLeuven seconded. All in favor yea.

8. District Recognition
Brick and Mortar

- a. Valedictorian - Dawson Clendenin
- b. Salutarian - Tiffany Lile

The Superintendent and Alsea School Board recognized the hard work and dedication that they have put into their education. They thanked them for the great example that they provide to other students.

Learn at Home Oregon

- a. Staff Recognition - Jill Taglia
Presented by Tim France. Jill is the original teacher to Learn at Home Oregon. She has seen the program grow over the last three years. Jill has given a large amount of time and dedication to the online program. She will be greatly missed.
- b. Student Recognition - Heather Shunk presented.
KG - Abdullah Rushdan, Ms Waverek's whole class
1st - Mateo and Brenton Michie, Ms Taglia's whole class
2nd, 3rd and 4th gr - all classes
5th - Yeshe Everest
6th, 7th and 8th grade whole classes

6th Grade Outdoor School Report - Sarah Harris

There were many great reports from staff and students. Our students represented Alsea School very well. After the first day getting oriented the students were where they needed to be and the participation was great. Ms. Harris admired the confidence that she witnessed grow in many of our students. Students who did not typically talk to each other were making really great friends. 10 out of 17 said they would go again. Some of these students expressed an interest in becoming a counselor when they get into high school. The camp itself was very organized. Ms Harris' personal experience; she confessed that she had said that she originally had no desire to attend camp with a bunch of 6th graders. However, at the end of the week she would rather be at camp than here. Sean Gallagher asked what Sarah thought what the students favorite activity was. She said she thought it would have been the dissection of the fish. They were alive when they first came in, some fish were flopping around on the table and made them laugh. There was archery, they went fishing and caught fish. They loved nature art. They did not like the pizza!

9. Superintendent Report - Sean Gallagher

- a. Bond Update - Chris Giggy presented. The budget update, not much has changed. Other than the change order to add the line for the sewer for the future kitchen. The electrical upgrades, the transformer vault has been installed. The panel room, the underground utilities have been done. The grading has been done so that the pad can be poured. The master schedule when updated will be posted in the hallway outside of the district office. The HVAC upgrades installation should begin at the end of this month. The VOC building, we have now received the preliminary layout based on Marlene's initial walkthrough with David Crowe. A ton of changes have been made. At the next meeting the updated plans will be discussed at the beginning of June for review. Long term on the VOC building will have construction begin early next year and be ready to use by the beginning of next summer. The Bond and VOC meetings are opened for community attendance.
- b. RIF Update - Sean Gallagher updated the board letting them know that he is about 95% complete with the RIF process. There are some bumping requests among the certified staff, Mr. Gallagher will be working with the union representative(s). This will take place early next week.
- c. Teacher negotiations update - There is a negotiation update/results that is presented to you in both the discussion and action items for your vote as well as representation from the union to give you an update.
- d. District payment of certifications - This was in terms of does the district pay for certifications for staff. He had a long chat with the OSBA legal council. One of your questions was; is this ethical violation? The answer is 'no', it is a standard operating procedure. The district pays for a lot of certifications.
- e. Graduation update - Eric Clendenin could not be here for this part of the board meeting. He sent out an email to the School Board extending the invitation to attend. His idea is that the Superintendent, Mr. Rothenberger and all board members (if possible) be on the stage during the graduation ceremony. Graduation is on June 9th at 7:00 PM.

Lastly the latest COVID update that will take effect June 17th the proof of vaccination will be lifted. This means that staff, students and volunteers will no longer be required to show proof of vaccination to work with or around children.

The budget update you will hear from LaRae a little bit later. The committee met on May 9th and passed the proposed budget. The next steps will be on May 26th the budget will be posted for public viewing. The final budget will be presented at the next school board meeting on June 8th.

This past week the staff and students participated in spirit week. There were activities planned everyday and sometimes the noise level in the gym was deafening!! Krista Nieraeth was here visiting on Monday and Tuesday. She met with and observed several students and staff throughout the visit. She held interviews for the Executive/Budget secretarial position and Sean Gallagher was happy to announce that Lora Nickle has been officially hired to fill that position.

10. Financials - LaRae Sullivan

Update for brick and mortar enrollment totals. These numbers have finally surpassed the Learn at Home numbers so that is good news.

Our interest rate is still at 3.75% and our estimated ending balance is still at 3.2m with 1.3m of that is in unappropriated funds. This includes the end of the salaries and bills that will come during the month of July. Yesterday she noticed that there was a little more funding coming in the May surprise than previously thought. We will see this at the end of the month.

At the bottom of the page of expenditures we are coming in at 1.5m less than was budgeted. That is contributed from the team helping throughout the school year to not spend so much. This will really help us over the course of the next 3 years. The 5 year breakout of property taxes is going as it should. The higher interest rates for that has helped as well. You will also see by the graphs that the operating costs are coming down. The reduction in salary costs and fewer supplies being bought for the Learn at Home Oregon program.

Lastly there is a Resolution 23-09 that will be presented to you. This is because the High School Success Program was budgeted at \$116k and it actually came in at \$158k. So the \$42k was

unanticipated. This will raise the spending budget for that grant. The ASB accounts have been cleaned up the transfer to Leadership that has been recurring will never happen again. That account balance is now at zero.

Sean Gallagher mentioned that the Resolution was overlooked on the agenda and recommended to Madam Chair that it be added to the action items. Risteen Follett said that this can be added to the action items. A question she had in regards to the ASB accounts what is the outlook going forward to not have these accounts go into the negative again. Sean Gallagher said that with the new procedure that was put into place this year that requires staff to put in a requisition prior to spending will ensure that the funds are available. With the exception of occasionally there are upfront costs that have to be spent prior to a fundraising event that will require spending before the event and funds are raised.

11. Discussion

- a. Cash flow financial report - Risteen asked the board if they had any questions they would like to ask. There were none.
- b. AEA negotiated agreement- Sean Gallagher brought the board's attention to the summary memo that he presented to the board. The negotiation team met for a total of 10 sessions between the AEA and district representation. Negotiations were very collaborative and very positive. Both sides worked very well together and found a lot of common areas of agreement. The negotiation areas were limited to Appendix I Extra duty schedule, Appendix II Salary Schedule and Article 12 compensation for professional development. Some highlights for each of these are; the Extra Duty, we encourage certified staff to be a part of extra duties as needed. The licensed stipends have been updated and aligned for compensation for district needs. Job descriptions have been put into place so there is a clear expectation of what is expected for each position. For salary there is no restriction for placement based on years of experience which will also help for recruitment and hiring of staff. The only requirement that is in place is, you have to have 135 days to be considered to equal 1 year of employment. Tuition reimbursement is something that is new and is now budgeted for. Also, the allowance for professional development reimbursement has been placed more in alignment. This negotiation agreement was for one year only and will be renegotiated again after the 2023-24 school year. AEA president Catherine Ellis approached the board and thanked them for their part in the negotiations. It took a lot more time than expected but everyone was very patient. She is proud of the AEA team members for all of the work that they did as well to make this go smoothly. Lastly she stated that they started with three areas of the bargaining agreement that were in a lot of need to be rewritten and feels like they were able to get an excellent start. She looks forward to the future and getting the rest of the agreement updated.
- c. ELA curriculum update - Lori Greenfield and Catherine Ellis presented. This adoption is to replace the curriculum that has not been updated for the last 12 years or maybe more. Ms. Greenfield stated that in the past the curriculum has not been in alignment from grade to grade. This causes a problem with students who are behind not being able to catch up as well as students who excel at an opportunity to do so within their grade level. She told the board that the teachers have been looking at multiple programs for the past year or two. The teachers unanimously looked at and agreed the curriculum from Savvas looked like the best for alignment in instruction from KG-12 grade. Ms. Ellis read a note from the fourth grade teacher. Her notes commented that since she has been at Alsea she has noted that there has not been an alignment between grade levels. This is important as the standards are created to assess growth from year to year. Alignment matters to teachers because when they set out to teach our grade level standards our students have the necessary background knowledge to get started right away. Students and teachers deserve continuity. This allows more time for teaching as teachers are not having to create lessons and can use the extra time to teach the content.
Mr. Gallagher stated that the Savvas curriculum is approved by the state. We have samples of the curriculum in the conference room that will be available for the community and parents to view. Ms. Greenfield also let the board know that parents and the board can go online as well to view the curriculum. The cost is a little over \$100k. We have the money in the SIA grant and this is used for this purpose. He said that he has talked to future new Superintendent Krista Nieraeth

regarding this curriculum and discussed the adoption. They would like to get the curriculum if the board approves as soon as possible to allow teachers access to their grade level guides to view over the summer.

Soren Rounds asked for a little more clarification on why this curriculum was chosen over the others. Ms. Greenfield said there were a lot of good curriculums out there. However, some of them would make it difficult for a new or inexperienced teacher to be able to step right in and teach. Others appeared to be more of the same curriculum from the past with a 'shiny new bow' put on it and sold as 'new'. The elementary teachers really looked at it from the science of learning to read. There is a lot of new research out there that looks at teaching students to read from a different angle. The multi-tiered approach seemed to be more appealing to our teachers. The online materials for the Savvas program are much more user friendly. David Fricke looked at the curriculum online from the Special Education lens and felt that this program seemed to be pretty strong in the ability to be used from all levels. Risteen asked, is this an all online access? The answer is no, it is a combination of printed materials as well as lessons that can be used online. There is also the ability for teachers to print off lessons to send home with students that will not rely on them being given a book and hoping that they remember to bring it back. Risteen also asked if the price seemed pretty comparable to other curriculum offered. The answer is yes. It also includes replacement materials like workbooks for the next six years. The ability to purchase extra materials if needed are available for a reasonable price. Currently the order will be for 25 sets per grade level.

Mr. Gallagher said that if the board can approve this curriculum tonight then we can have it on display for the public to view for the next few weeks. The latest we would want to put off the approval process would be the next board meeting in June as we would really like to get the purchase made to ensure that the teachers would have the materials available for the beginning of this next school year. Ms. Greenfield stated that the sooner we can get the purchase made the sooner we can get the materials in the hands of the teachers.

- d. policy KGBB - research showed that this policy does not currently exist. It is just a recommended policy if you want to restrict patrons with concealed carry licenses from being able to carry on campus. Thus, the board has two options; to not adopt the policy which would allow people with a concealed carry license to be able to be on campus. Or adopt the policy which would prohibit anyone with a concealed weapon outside of public service officers to be restricted from carrying on campus. Soren Rounds asked if we needed to adopt this policy if we wanted to restrict students for example to have a weapon in their vehicle if they are planning on going hunting after school. Sean Gallagher cited policy JFCJ entitled 'Weapons in Schools' outlines students and patrons carrying weapons including knives etc. KGB also addresses public conduct on school property. These policies are separate and do not include the ability of staff to carry weapons onto campus even if they hold a concealed carry license. This is strictly prohibited.
- e. KGC-GBK - This covers all forms of vaping devices. It does allow for cessation devices such as patches, gum etc. Sean Gallagher felt confident that if a patron was using a vape pen for cessation purposes on site for pain management etc. staff would be able to ask them to please not use it on campus they would comply and not cause issues.
- f. IGAI - the question was the last paragraph that was worded "The district's health and sexuality education will provide information on menstrual health and will be inclusive and affirming of transgender, non-binary, intersex, and two spirit/indigiqueer students; be positive and not fear- or shame-based; be age-appropriate; be medically-accurate; be culturally responsive; and be accessible for students with disabilities". The board can change the wording to be all inclusive but as a reminder no matter what the wording is the law must be followed. The options for the board are, adopt the policy as originally worded, approve the policy with the requested wording or to not adopt the policy at all as it is not a required policy. Again, if the policy is not adopted the law will still need to be followed.
- g. IICA - overnight trips for the school board approval. What Sean is proposing is that the wording all overnight trips' be struck from the policy so that only the out of state trips would need to be approved by the board. Risteen asked for Sean to speak to the difference between insurance costs for an out of state trip versus an in-state trip. Sean let the board know that extra insurance has to be purchased to cover out of state trips but in-state trips are currently covered by our policy.

Risteen said that we as a district have already run into a few instances where a trip has come up unexpectedly and due to the fact that the board only meets once a month has caused issues where getting approval for this may cause our students not to be able to go. A good example is the sports playoffs. Sometimes we do not know enough in advance to be able to obtain board approval for our athletes to be able to participate. This update to the policy would eliminate any of those issues.

12. Resignations

- a. Sarah Harris, building teacher
- b. Lori Greenfield, curriculum
- c. Kristina Severns, building teacher

13. Patron Comments - None

14. Board Comments - Risteen recognized all the teachers for putting the time in. There are so many fun activities happening this week. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to our students.

15. Action Items - a few adjustments need to be made. Lori Greenfield and Kristina Severns resignations need to be added to the action items. Risteen motioned to add these to the action items. Soren Rounds seconded. All in favor yea. Risteen motioned to add the Resolution 23-09. Ryan VanLeuven seconded. All in favor yea.

- a. Payment of bills - Ryan VanLeuven motioned to approve the payment of bills for April 2023. Linda Montanez seconded. Deb Lindberg had a question about the ability to discuss bills that have been paid. Risteen explained that this is the process of paying the bills. If a board member has a question about line item that is not necessarily a question that can be done at this time because that is a question about operations. That would be something that would have to be brought up to the Superintendent directly. A brief recess was called to sidebar for clarification on the process.

Recess called at 2035.

Meeting reconvened at 2049. Risteen Follett asked if there was any discussion on the payment of bills for April 2023. All in favor yea.

b. Resignations-

- i. Sarah Harris
- ii. Lori Greenfield
- iii. Kristina Severns

Ryan VanLeuven motioned to approve the resignations. Soren Rounds seconded. All in favor yea.

- c. AEA negotiations approval - Risteen asked for a motion to approve the three sections, Appendix I, Appendix II and Article 12 as presented. Risteen Follett motioned to approve. Linda Montanez seconded. Ryan VanLeuven abstained from the roll vote. All in favor yea.
- d. KGBB - Deb Lindberg motioned to not adopt this policy. Ryan VanLeuven seconded. Soren Rounds was uncomfortable with Oregon's loose laws around granting concealed carry licenses. He is torn on this policy at this time. Soren Rounds voted no. All in favor yea.
- e. KGC-GBK - Deb Lindberg motioned to accept this policy. Ryan VanLeuven seconded. Soren Rounds noted that after the discussion around this policy he feels comfortable that it will not be an issue and felt that patrons could be asked not to vape on school property and they would comply. All in favor yea.
- f. IGAI - Deb Lindberg motioned to approve with the board chairs recommendation of changing the wording in the last paragraph. Soren Rounds seconded. All in favor yea. The board requests that the writing of an AR for this policy be started and completed.
- g. IICA - Ryan VanLeuven motioned to approve the revision of the policy. Soren Rounds seconded. All in favor yea.
- h. High School Track team to attend districts in Portland. The passing of the revision on Policy IICA negates the need for this to be approved by the board.
- i. Adoption of the ELA curriculum. Ryan VanLeuven motioned to approve the adoption of the ELA curriculum. Linda Montanez seconded. Soren Rounds is concerned that we need to give the community an opportunity to view the curriculum. How long should it be kept out there?

Sean suggested viewing for a week, then hold a special board meeting to approve sometime during the week of May 22nd to approve and allow enough time to get it purchased for teachers. Ryan VanLeuven retracted his motion to approve the purchase of the ELA curriculum until after the public is allowed time to view. Risteen Follett made a new motion to schedule a virtual meeting to approve the ELA curriculum and hear comments from the community. The curriculum will be available in the conference room as well as online access. A virtual meeting was recommended for Monday, May 22 at 6:00 PM to hear patron comments to the agenda item only. Ryan VanLeuven seconded. All in favor yea.

16. Adjourn - 2108

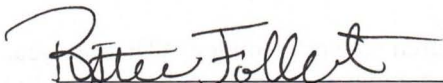
17. Key Dates

May 12, 2023 Alsea HS Prom
May 16, 2023 Fireside Chat
May 29, 2023 Memorial Day
June 8, 2023 Regular School Board meeting
June 9, 2023 Graduation
June 15, 2023 Last Day of School, early dismissal

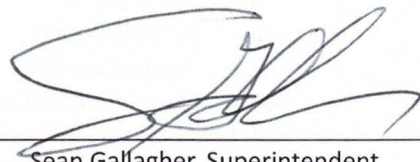
18. Executive Session 2110

- To review and evaluate the performance of the superintendent or any other public officer, employee or staff member, unless that person requests an open hearing. ORS 192.660(2)(i)

19. Adjourn 2113



Risteen Follett, School Board Chair



Sean Gallagher, Superintendent