

Alsea School Board Meeting
Thursday, September 14, 2023
Regular meeting 7:00 PM
Alsea School Library



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

Board members present - Risteen Follett, Deb Lindberg, Jamie Olsen, Soren Rounds, Russ Ceperich

Board members absent - None

Also present: patrons, employees, and association representatives

1. Call to Order 7:00 PM
2. Flag Salute
3. Adjourn to Executive Session -
4. Executive Session
 - ORS 192.660 (2)(H) 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.
5. Reconvene Regular Board Session - 7:24 PM
6. Approval of the Agenda - Agenda approved no modifications
7. Consent Agenda
 - 5.1. Approval of Minutes - July 13, 2023
 - 5.2. Approval of Minutes - August 17, 2023
 - 5.3. New Hires
 - Approve Hire Joe Harris, Building Teacher

Deb Lindberg motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. Soren Rounds seconded with the note that the resignation of the speech pathologist was missing. It will be added to next month's agenda.

8. Patron Comments

The Alsea School Board of Directors values the opinions and input of students, staff, parents, and community members. Although board meetings are held in public, they are not meetings of the public. Please keep your comments to 3 minutes or less. If you intend to speak to the board this evening, you will need to fill out one of the blue comment cards and hand it to the Board Secretary, Lora Nickle. Public comments may also be made via Zoom. If you intend to speak via Zoom, please put your name in the comments so that the board chair can call on you. Before you begin your comments, please state your name and if you are speaking for an organization, please state that organization. For more information about public comments at a board meeting, please see Alsea School District Policy BDDH.

9. Reports

7.1. Superintendent Report - Ms. Nieraeth

The OSHA settlement appeal has been signed by the judge. It is now set as a record. Legislature passed HB 2753 allows School Board members can get paid a stipend of up to \$500.00. However our Board Policy BHG says that you can't. If you decide that this is something you want we would have to suspend, amend or delete this policy. OSBA said that a new policy would be coming out that would allow this to happen. If you would like to wait until next spring to see what our budget looks like you can. These funds would come out of the building budget. There is a MOU in your packet for the public library. Mr. Gallagher started this last year and we will continue this. Next month you will be presented with the Division 22 Standard, this shows how the district is doing in terms of laws and obligations from the state.

We are having a food service administrative review. Don Staehley and Bart Rothenberger are getting ready for that. This is to ensure that processes and procedures are being followed. A Point of Sales system will help with reports required. We are continuing to partner with Benton County Health Services for our Counseling service to students.

We are having a Title III desk audit this year. These are funds for our ELL students. Heather Shunk is going to lead Alsea's audits. We hired Sandra Pinion as the ESL teacher of record and Coordinator. She will work closely with Ms. Shunk to make sure that we are in compliance. Ms. Nieraeth assured the board that these ODE audits are not an 'I got you' it is truly to make sure that we are doing everything we are supposed to be doing and doing it correctly. We are working with LBLED to bring more Special Education services to our students. Leslie Boser, our online Special Education teacher will continue to provide services to those students.

7.2. K-6 Brick and Mortar Principal Report - Ms. Nieraeth

new

There have been a lot of expectations worked on with the elementary students on processes. How do we walk down the hall? How do we behave in the cafeteria etc. The students and staff have been doing great. The staff has been working really hard getting procedures into place. We are implementing a i-ready system that will assess students in reading and math. At the next meeting we should be able to present you with that data. Students will take these assessments three times a year. Our hope is to present you with a lot of data so that next spring we can make more informed decisions moving forward..

7.3. Learn at Home K-5 Principal Report - Ms. Shunk

based

The online program is doing very well. We have brought in additional curriculum which is research that is phonics based to help students with reading and writing. We are working with our schedule to maximize our time with students. One large change has been the addition of 'Exploring Time'. Since our students are at home this gives them an opportunity to work with all of our teachers. For the teachers it has been wonderful to share their activity focus, it is a high engagement time. i-ready has been a great addition to be able to assess our students to give more accurate information to parents as well as teachers to ensure we are meeting needs. Our entire staff has been working really hard to provide the best academic experience possible.

7.4. 7-12 Brick and Mortar Principal Report - Mr Rothenberger, presented by Ms. Nieraeth

Bart asked all of his staff to give him some positive things that they wanted to say. They say that science is going really well. Mr. Lynch's class painted a new mural over the concession stand. English, the new curriculum is going really well. They wanted to highlight the Volleyball and Football teams. Cycle Oregon is coming this weekend. Transportation is going well. Our busses are all full, we have three bus drivers and could use more. Ms. Nieraeth commented that she is really proud of how staff has adapted to scheduling issues as well as all of the changes that have been going on.

7.5. Business Manager Report - Mr. Staehely

You have been given two financial statements. One, as of June 30th, is the audit for the first part of October. This is the last statement you will receive for the 2022-23 until the audit is done. If you notice the carry over from last month is at \$4m. This will be needed because the comparison to last year you received \$11.5 m and this year you will only receive about \$7m. This is due to the decline in enrollment numbers. He will also be proposing funds around. As you will notice, athletics were moved to a special revenue. This should be part of the general fund. Stipends and salaries are a part of the general fund. September 25th is the big payroll where teachers and classifieds will all be set up with medical and dental. When that is completed that will all be moved to encumbered. At that time we will know where we stand financially. Currently the general fund is very elementary but will be adjusted more accurately for next month. Transportation included funds for Kings Valley that won't be there any more since they moved to Falls City thus, adjustments will be made to reflect that change. Food Service is not to make money. It is to provide food to our students. You budgeted for \$2m as an unappropriated balance. This will be carried over to next year as well. Hopefully we will have more. Lastly is information on the Bond and where we stand with that. We will be working more with the Giggys.

7.6. Bond Update - Chris and Nancy Giggy

CB Construction's performance has spiraled down this last month. The HVAC submittals were not according to documents. Some of it was inferior and some of it was just wrong. They have had to work with CB Construction and the Architect who is a mechanical engineer to be corrected. Ms. Nieraeth met with legal counsel to create a letter for lack of performance. The letter gives them one week to rectify the situation. They have rectified everything except the letter of commitment, this is supposed to arrive tomorrow. CJ Hansen will be back next week to continue the HVAC work. CB has given us a master

schedule. This will be used to hold them to the requirements. The letter will help us hold them to ensure that they keep moving forward with what they were hired to do and keep them on track. On the brighter side, the electrician is on schedule. Once the switch is received then they will come back to complete their work. The other part of the project is the CTE building. Meetings have been set with the architect to continue working with Seth Stevens the CTE teacher to finalize the plans. They would like a meeting set to finalize the plans so that they can move on to securing contractors. They hope to get things lined up with the county. The final design is due in November. So they hope to get started after the beginning of the year. Additionally they are asking the design team to put together early bid packages for the underground utility and slab work so that we can meet the deadline of March 30th to get funds spent so they do not lose the escrow money. The Seismic Grant, there is a summary in your packet. Hopefully we get good news on that this coming spring.

7.7. Enrollment Report - Ms Nieraeth

Monthly you will get updates on enrollment for the beginning of every month.. Currently the building enrollment is roughly 200 and Learn at Home is at 84. This will help you to see the changes that will affect our budget. Historically you will be able to compare to previous years. We are continuing to try to build enrollment for LaHO. We are in the process of recalling a teacher to help with the class sizes of 1st and 2nd grades. One of the things to consider is, are we wanting enrollment to rise because of quantity vs. quality. We want to make coming to Alsea a school that families want to be a part of because of the quality of our education program. We could put something in place in the spring for future years that would hold our 'guest' students accountable as far as attendance expectations etc. This would be presented to you in a Work Session. Next month's board agenda will include how many students are in district vs. out of district as per the board request.

8. New Business

8.1. Integrated Guidance Application and Budget Update

- Special Board Meeting needs

Ms. Nieraeth is requesting a Special Board session for next week to present the board with the budget as well as an equity statement. This is to be able to say "when we make decisions about our kids this is what we believe. We believe that every student regardless of income, rural or urban community that everyone is treated the same". When this application is submitted it has to show that it was passed by the School Board. Emails were sent out to students who are ELL, Special Education and students of color to get their feedback. You will notice that it has also been posted on our Facebook page to gather information from the community as well. These responses will have to be included with the application. Deb Lindberg motioned to set a date for a Special Board meeting to hear details on the Integrated Guidance Application. Russ Ceperich seconded. A meeting date of September 20th at 6:30 PM. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

8.2. Board and Superintendent Operating Agreement

Deb Lindberg motioned to accept the Operating Agreement. Jamie Olsen seconded. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

8.3. Superintendent Goals Collaboration Meeting Date

Ms. Nieraeth is requesting the date set for September be moved as she has a Superintendent retreat scheduled that is important for her to attend. Deb Lindberg made a motion to push back the Superintendent goals date. Russ Ceperich seconded. A date of October 18th at 6:00 PM was set for a Superintendent collaboration meeting..

8.4. OSBA Statewide Conference - November 9-11

Please let Lora Nickle know if you will be able to attend. She will register everyone as well as make the hotel reservations. Because the next board meeting is scheduled for November 9th Russ Ceperich motioned to reschedule that meeting to the next week of November 16th at 7:00 PM. Jamie Olsen seconded. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Old Business

10. First Reading

11. Second Reading

11.1. JEBA-AR Early Entrance

Russ Ceperich motioned to accept the Policy. Jamie Olsen seconded. There was discussion about some of the wording and who is responsible for paying fees to do so. There wording of Parents/Guardians will be added. Deb Lindberg had the concern of the 'age gap' and some of the issues this can cause. Ms. Nieraeth stated that this is not a common request from parents. As well as the testing that would be done is stringent in that they have to meet the 95% to be considered. Also the date for parents to make a request has been moved up from August 1st to June 1st. Russ Ceperich amended his motion to include the changes of wording to Parents/Guardians and the date of June 1st. Jamie Olsen seconded. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

12. Board Comments

Russ Ceperich brought up that he is hearing students requesting that Student Leadership be brought back. Ms. Nieraeth said that interested students should contact Mr. Rothenberger. Risteen commented that this board meeting has been the smoothest to date and appreciated everyone working together for our students.

13. Future Agenda Items

Add the resignation of the Speech Pathologist.

14. Key Dates

- September 15-16, Cycle Oregon
- September 20, Special Board Session 6:30 PM
- October 3, Vision Screenings
- October 12, Regular Board Meeting
- October 13, Teacher Work Day
- October 18, School Board Work Session 6:00 PM
- October 27, End of First Quarter - Teacher Work Day
- November 9-11, OSBA Statewide Convention - Portland

15. Adjournment - 8:52 PM

School Board Chair

Date

Superintendent

Date