



**LEBANON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2021, 6:00 PM**

Zoom Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

<u>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:</u> Tom Oliver, Chair Mike Martin, Vice Chair Richard Borden Todd Gestrin Tammy Schilling	<u>EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT:</u> Bo Yates, Superintendent Jennifer Meckley, Assistant Superintendent William Lewis, Business Director Kim Grousbeck, Human Resources Director Tami Volz, Director of School Improvement
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The meeting minutes were recorded by Executive Secretary Ruth Hopkins.

Also present for the meeting was Les Gehrett from the Albany Democrat Herald.

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Tom Oliver called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

There were numerous public comments submitted. Chair Oliver provided an overview of the submitted comments, which was that four are in favor of Policy ACB, and eight were in favor of returning to in-person instruction. A copy of those comments are attached to these meeting notes.

3. COVID UPDATE

Superintendent Yates reviewed the Hierarchy of Organizational Authority for Oregon schools and his presentation has been included with these minutes. He then presented a review of the Governor's mandates since the beginning of COVID-19 in March 2020, and the most recent update from December 23, 2020. The associated instructional models were moved from mandatory to advisory, which made the decision to resume in-person instruction to be made locally, district by district, school by school. Schools are required to continue to adhere to required health and safety protocols and work in close consultation with their local public health authority.

He further explained that the governor has given the date of January 19th to provide an update to the required metrics. There is a concern that if the district does not follow the advisory guidance provided by the state, then we may not be covered by liability insurance. The governor has also set a date of February 15 for having students return to in-person instruction.

Superintendent Yates then provided the Governor's and ODE/OHA rationale behind the shift from mandatory to advisory regarding the metrics. He has also met with a group of area superintendents to work through some of the major concerns. There is currently a date of January 23 for teachers to have access to the COVID vaccine, as they are targeted as one of the groups that have initial access to it. The Oregon Health Authority and Linn County Health are developing vaccination plans for staff that work with the youngest students first, then following with the rest. The district staff has been surveyed and there is a 60/40 percent split of staff that is willing to take the vaccine.

The ODE recommends that all districts wait until January 19 before making a calendar for returning to in-person instruction. The superintendent will wait until the district has a plan from the state before he provides a district plan. He is asking for patience from the community, until 48 hours after the Governor's update, to get information out to the community. He then shared a preliminary calendar of returning to school and pertinent dates regarding that for January, February and March.

Chair Oliver indicated that more than 80 percent of district families surveyed are wanting their kids back in school. He added that assuming the metrics are where they need to be and case rates are where they need to be, then having kids back in school by February 16 would be a reasonable date, starting with the younger grades.

Superintendent Yates added that the district would need to have a two-week lead for nutrition and transportation, and to have everything in place in the schools.

Whereupon, there was a discussion around the state guidance and the possibility of not being able to return to in-person instruction because of the metrics, as well as the failure rate of district students.

The question was asked that if we are able to return to in-person instruction, if the district will continue to offer the comprehensive district learning. The Superintendent clarified that the district will continue to offer CDL through the end of the school year.

Whereupon, there was further discussion about how teachers would teach in classrooms and distance as well, and how we are accommodating the teachers who have medical issues for not returning to the classroom, as well as what the potential risk factor is if we choose not to follow the state guidelines.

Chair Oliver clarified that if the guidelines allow us to return, then we need to return. If the guidelines don't allow us to return, then we will need a special meeting to discuss the risks of moving forward or not.

Whereupon, there was an extensive discussion around the staff, students and returning to school, as well as potential risk exposure and liability to the district.

4. 2021-22 BUDGET COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Business Director William Lewis presented the proposed budget calendar for the 2021-2022 budget season. Chair Oliver suggested that the June 2 and the June 9 meetings be held as Zoom meetings.

Upon a motion made by Vice Chair Mike Martin, duly seconded by Member Richard Borden, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2021-22 Budget Committee Calendar as presented, with the clarification of the June 2 and June 9 meetings being held as Zoom meetings.

5. 2021-23 LBL ESD LOCAL SERVICE PLAN

Superintendent Yates presented the LBL ESD Local Service Plan that is included in the information packet and is available online. He reviewed the highlights of the plan and indicated that he supports it.

Upon a motion made by Vice Chair Mike Martin, duly seconded by Member Richard Borden, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2021-23 LBL ESD Local Service Plan as presented.

6. SALE OF LHS CONSTRUCTION DUPLEX

Business Director William Lewis indicated the sale price of the duplex is \$527,500 and that Board approval is required by the title company for the sale to close.

Upon a motion made by Member Richard Borden, duly seconded by Vice Chair Mike Martin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the sale of the LHS construction class duplex in the amount of \$527,500.

7. NAMING OF THE LHS POOL

The Lebanon Booster Club put forth the request to name the Lebanon pool after Jan Nadig. Superintendent Yates added that he had worked with Jan Nadig for a number of years and felt she was known locally as the "pool lady". He added that she is a sweet woman that has dedicated a lot of time over the years to helping create programs for kids.

The consensus of the Board was to move forward with the process for naming the pool after Jan Nadig. Therefore, there will be opportunity for public comments regarding this at the next two regularly scheduled Board meetings.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. December 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes
- B. December 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes
- C. Policies – First Reading
- D. Policies – Second Reading

Upon motion made by Member Richard Borden, duly seconded by Member Todd Gestrin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the December 10, 2020 meeting minutes and the December 17, 2020 meeting minutes as presented, approval of moving policies GCBDA/GDBDA-AR(1), GCBDA/GDBDA-AR(2), GCBDA/GDBDA-AR(4), IJ, IKFB, JB and JFCV to second reading as

presented, and adopting policies ACB and ACB-AR as presented, with the correction of Policy ACB wording of "the noose"" being changed to "a noose".

9. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Operations

Superintendent Yates presented a spreadsheet with the district enrollment numbers. A copy of that spreadsheet is attached to these minutes. He shared that the number of homeschooled students that would be attending Lebanon schools, plus he estimated that 6% of students are doing an online charter program, and presented all of the enrollment numbers. He mentioned that previously he had talked about building a preschool, but now he is proposing moving those monies to build classrooms for 6th grade at Seven Oak Middle School and then the open classrooms created by that at the elementary schools be used as preschool classes. This solves two problems and creates more capacity within our elementary schools. He then presented what an elementary model would look like, as well as a middle school model.

He then shared that the district had completed a long-range facility plan and the possibility of pursuing a general obligation bond. He would like to bring someone on board to help with the general obligation bond and helping to secure the monies for improvement of our facilities, and mentioned that we would also qualify for a state-matching grant, which would be about \$4 million. If the district were to get a \$4 million general obligation bond, we would qualify to be matched by the state with another \$4 million.

Chair Oliver clarified that the elementary schools in town would be pre-K to grade 5, with Hamilton Creek and Lacombe staying the same grades as they are currently. Then it would be exploring if the time were right to pursue a bond measure with the matching funds from the state for facility repairs. The district applied for that last year and did not make the cut, but a lot of the work has already been done in preparation for that. So now the next step would be to go out to the community and see if there is support for this.

Superintendent Yates added that he wanted to make sure the Board understands what the purpose of the bond is and that he has the support of the school board to move forward to see if this was the right time to pursue a bond measure. He added that LCSD owns the Lebanon pool and that it is currently needing major refurbishment. He said that at this point the district needed to make some upgrades so that we can continue to use the pool or it will need to be shut down. The Lebanon Aquatic District will continue to maintain the pool. The Aquatic District had discussed going out for their own bond to make the necessary repairs, but they have decided to join with the district to pursue funds to repair the pool in a general obligation bond.

The question was asked as to whether the community would support the extra tax of a bond when we are all dealing with COVID issues and the economy being what it currently is. Superintendent Yates responded that he would have William Lewis come back next month with information on what the costs would be to the average homeowner so the Board would be able to see what the cost would be if we pursued this.

Vice Chair Mike Martin also asked for pool information and to see what the costs would be for repairs, what they were looking at specifically repairing and how many patrons currently use the pool.

Superintendent Yates also shared that he hopes to have some data at the next board meeting for grades and fall and winter STAR assessment results. It was asked that he also provide numbers on the district failure rate.

B. Human Resources

There was not a report from Human Resources.

C. Finance

Business Director William Lewis presented the financial update. He indicated that last Monday the audit process was completed and it has been turned in to ODE. He will bring back the information to the Board next month and he will have an auditor available as well. In addition, he will have the seismic project for approval next month and will have the construction manager available at the board meeting for any questions.

Whereupon, there were some questions regarding the general fund expenditure report and William Lewis clarified the report and answered the questions.

9. COMMUNICATION

A. Board

Chair Oliver thanked everyone for the comments regarding getting our students back in the classroom. He shared that they had heard a lot of feedback from parents about getting student in the classroom. He mentioned that the comments that are being said about how distance learning is not working for students should not be negative toward all of the work that administrators and teachers have been doing to try to make it work. It is more that students should be learning in the classroom and not doing school in their bedrooms or in isolation.

Second, is the discussion about bringing back people once we have a vaccination. He thanked the staff that has continued to work anyway through all of this without a vaccine.

He further shared that as we work to have our students back in school, he would like to transition back to board meetings returning to the Santiam Travel Station in February. All Board members were in agreement with that.

B. Superintendent

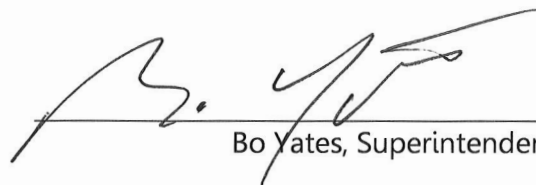
Superintendent Yates thanked the Board for all of their work and support, as well as voicing concerns and being honest about what they hear in the community. We are all doing our best for our communities.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.



Tom Oliver, Chair



Bo Yates, Superintendent



485 S. Fifth Street, Lebanon, Oregon 97355 • Phone: (541) 451-8511 • Fax: (541) 259-6857

DATE: January 14, 2021

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Amy Dannen

RE: Public Comment to the Board

Dear School Board Members,

My name is Amy Dannen. I am an IA at Hamilton Creek in the Title department, but more importantly I am a parent of students in the district. It is time to open up schools in Lebanon for all ages. It has almost been a year since students have been in the classroom, and they are suffering in ways we will see and in ways we will never know. As an IA, doing small group Zooms, my students are losing precious time to make connections in their developing brains and they are starved for school and what it provides for them - learning, safety, food, and being a part of something. My daughters are in high school and know what they are missing out on. At least they have each other, and I thought I would never say this but thank goodness they have their phones to stay in contact with their friends. They are also attending sports opportunities that are available, which has been a complete blessing when it comes to their sanity and motivation to work hard in school.

Please let kids go back to school as soon as possible. They are ready and I am ready as an educator and parent. It is time.

Thank you for your time,

Amy Dannen

Hamilton Creek Title IA and LHS parent/alumni



485 S. Fifth Street, Lebanon, Oregon 97355 • Phone: (541) 451-8511 • Fax: (541) 259-6857

DATE: January 14, 2021

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Matt Larcombe

RE: Public Comment to the Board

Members of Lebanon Community School District Board,

I am writing to you today to express my hope that you will adopt the All Students Belong policy (ACB and ACB-AR) tonight in full. I was concerned that the issue was tabled at the last board meeting, and it seemed as if the details and importance of this policy were unclear among members. The policy specifically lays out the Confederate flag, swastikas, and nooses as symbols of hate when used by students or others in a public school. It has been widely adopted by districts in Oregon, and failure to do so here would be a signal that Lebanon schools are not willing to take a stand to defend the dignity and learning opportunities for students of color in the district.

The ACB policy clearly allows these symbols to be used as part of standards-aligned instruction, so that students get the opportunity to understand why the policy is in place and their historical significance. The current JBB policy does not specifically address these symbols, consequently allowing their use in racial bias incidents to become a grey area that only further perpetuates their use. I can tell you that LHS is often an unwelcoming place for our Black and Latinx students, and these symbols have played a role in creating that atmosphere. From swastikas on bathroom stalls, to Confederate flags on trucks, to noose's drawn by students sitting next to students of color in class, these symbols have a very clear intent to intimidate. By tolerating students to wear clothing or display imagery with these symbols, the message we choose to send is that racism and bullying are not going to be addressed if the waters can at all be muddied by the intent of the offending student. Again, educating students about these symbols is permitted, so schools would be empowered to take an approach that focuses on teaching about the impact of these symbols rather than rushing to severe punishment.

I understand that we teach and learn in a hyper partisan environment right now, and that decisions like these will be scrutinized regardless of what you decide. As board members, I know that you did not take on this task for the enormous salaries or endless media fawning, but because you care about the students of Lebanon and doing what is right for them. In that spirit, I ask that you decide that All Students do, in fact, Belong.

Thank you for your time,

Matt Larcombe
LHS Social Studies and ELD Teacher
249 W D St, Lebanon



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DATE: January 14, 2021

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Becky West

RE: Public Comment to the Board

Dear School Board,

I am a mother of two children enrolled in the Lebanon school district. I believe that the school district has done a good job at adapting to the challenges that Covid has created this last year. I am very impressed with the teachers and school staff. They have worked so hard to give our kids the best experience and education that is possible with the online program.

That being said, I feel strongly that our kids need to go back to school! A lot of our kids are getting behind (or very behind) in school with the online model. I am sure as the Board, you know that fact better than any of us. There have been some kids going to school since this started because, for a variety of reasons, they were unable to keep up with school work at home. Do I need to have my kids stop doing their work online so they can go back to school too?

Now that we can make our own decision about our kids going to school, instead of waiting for Governor Brown, why aren't we jumping at the chance? Kids are suffering. Parents and families are suffering. My kids have been crying because they want to go back to school to see their friends so bad. This is a common story among my friends and colleagues. This is causing undo mental and physical stress on our kids and families.

There was a petition started last week by a parent of a child who is in the Lebanon School district. I hope that the board has seen this, but just in case you didn't, let me share some things with you. There are over 200 signatures on the petition to get our kids back in school. Comments include, "Not having kids in school is causing more damage to our society than Covid." "Kids need the social outlet that school provides." "My daughter needs to go back to school to be successful." These are only a few of the comments. Please hear out the people in your district. KIDS NEED TO BE BACK IN SCHOOL!

Thank you for listening,
Becky West



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DATE: January 14, 2021

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Cesly Urbina

RE: Public Comment to the Board

Dear Members of the Lebanon Community Schools Board,

The board should adopt the policy of prohibiting confederate flags, swastikas, and nooses. The confederate flag everyone is familiar with has never been the flag of the Confederacy nor has it ever been the official flag in the Civil War. The first one was seven stars formed as a circle in the corner and three stripes. The flag you're familiar with is the battle flag for the army of Northern Virginia and it was pushed to be the Confederate flag and specifically the official battle flag that never happened. This flag is the flag that southerners claim is a part of American history and should not be erased. The Klan was started by six confederate veterans including Nathan Bedford Forrest. Forrest was the first official "Grand Wizard" of the KKK. After the war, this flag was then reappropriated by the Klan to be able to communicate with each other and distinguish who was and was not a white supremacist. The flag demonstrates enslavement, inequality, violence, and gross injustice. The swastika became a symbol of racist hate. The flag is banned in Germany and should be banned in schools in America. This flag used to be a symbol of good luck, but the Nazis twisted it and used it to almost wipe out an entire race. Adolf Hitler used the symbol and turned it into a flag to convince people that what they were doing to Germans was a good thing. The symbol is constructed of how people use them and the Nazis gave it a meaning that cannot be erased nor encouraged. It is a symbol filled with racist intentions. Finally, the nooses should be banned because it is what members of the Ku Klux Klan used on African-Americans. It is a symbol of violence and terror to African-Americans. Black people were killed, beaten to death, and hung by nooses therefore, is considered a threat to others. Nooses are a symbol of hate. These symbols should not be allowed at school because the job of school staff members is to protect students- all students. School is supposed to be a safe place for students. We may not be able to protect them for the world, but we are able to protect them at school. At school, it is recommended for students to go to staff members if there is a problem, but if staff members don't see that those symbols are a problem then students won't feel comfortable enough to tell an adult. It's just like being bullied. Racism and any type of discrimination are bullying and bullying is not tolerated at school right? So why keep the symbols of hatred in school?

Sincerely,

Cesly Urbina, Senior, Lebanon High School



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DATE: January 14, 2021

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Moria Golub

RE: Public Comment to the Board

Dear LCSD Board members,

I appreciate the opportunity to address the board this evening. I write in response to your review of OAR 581-022-2312 All Students Belong Rule and our existing equity policy, JBB. I am excited you are weighing the merits of these important policies. The combination of these two strong policies is necessary to provide an academic atmosphere where all students are guaranteed equitable access to an education free from harm. Both policies share similar language, yet the specific intent distinguishes them.

The new OAR differs from JBB in that it clearly prohibits brandishing hate symbols (noose, confederate flag and swastika, etc.) in schools and details a systematic response to these bias-related incidents. This is a powerful protection! Previously, students caught displaying those symbols suffered little consequence due to the need to prove those actions disrupted the educational experience of another student. For a student (most often of color and/or a member of the LGBTQI+ community), impacted by the exposure to these symbols, to come forward and claim they feel harassed or intimidated by that expression of hate opens them up to further risk. With the protection of policies/rules that clearly state hate-based intimidation will not be tolerated and is subject to discipline, the victims of these incidents do not need to expose themselves to further harm from calling out those actions. The All Students Belong rule puts the responsibility of ensuring all students may pursue their education free from hate-based incidents in the hands of the adult educators, the rightful protectors of their safety.

Bias incident response and prohibition of hate symbols is not addressed in the LCSD JBB. The JBB calls for creating and reviewing school systems and curriculum to ensure we are striving for equitable educational outcomes for all students. Policy that addresses decreasing the opportunity gap and building culturally responsive educational communities is critical to providing an academic environment where marginalized students thrive. When marginalized students succeed, ALL students succeed.

Please consider adopting ACB and keeping JBB. Thank you for critically considering these two policies and listening to my thoughts on the topic. I value your time and dedication to the students, families and staff of Lebanon Community School District.

Respectfully,

Moria Golub
LHS School Counselor
LCSD District Racial Equity Group member



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DATE: January 14, 2021

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Daisy Torres Lopez

RE: Public Comment to the Board

Dear Members of the Lebanon Community Schools Board,

I have decided to write to you today to express how I feel about the All Students Belong policy. The policy specifically lays out the confederate flag, swastikas and nooses as symbols of hate. As a student of color at this school that is primarily white, I don't feel welcomed when students use the confederate flag, swastikas and nooses as jokes regarding the students of color. And if this policy is not enforced more, or is taken out, the students of color at LHS will be harmed. I hope that you take this letter in consideration from a student of color at LHS, and make sure that all students feel safe and like they belong at LHS.

Sincerely,

Daisy Torres Lopez
LHS 12th grader



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DATE: January 14, 2021

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Jaclyn Robertson

RE: Public Comment to the Board

Good morning LCSD Board Members,

My name is Jaclyn Robertson, and I have two children who attend Hamilton Creek in first and third grade. I have looked over the agenda for today's meeting and did not see anywhere on it regarding the reopening of our schools. I am aware that there are a lot of hoops/regulations that are going to have to be met, but it is my hope that Lebanon is trying their hardest to ensure our children are going to be able to return to school in February. Especially with the recent press release from Albany and Sweet Home school districts stating they will be going back to in February.

I implore you all to discuss the return of all LCSD students immediately. They want and deserve to be in school as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time,
Jaclyn Robertson
541-570-7408



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DATE: January 14, 2021

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Laura Stewart

RE: Public Comment to the Board

Dear Lebanon School Board,

We have failed our kids.

We have failed the long list of lost kids who have not been heard from since the beginning of the first shut down.

We have failed the kids who have been suffering mental and physical abuse for over 300 days because they haven't been able to get out of their house and to a safe space. Just one day in school could save their life.

We have failed the kids who are starving because even though there are meals available their parents haven't gone and picked any up.

We have failed the kids who are now having suicidal thoughts and depression. We have expected them to be at home 10hrs a day by themselves while parents work. They aren't old enough to leave the house alone and their mental health has suffered. We as adults wouldn't be able to endure the mental stress and isolation these children are enduring.

We have failed the kids who would have struggled to successfully graduate with a normal education and now we have made that struggle significantly more difficult.

We have failed ALL kids by not providing them the level of education they would receive by being in person.

We have failed the kids whose parents have had to make the choice of reducing their income to be home with the children and now those kids may have a much harder future as their parents struggle to stay afloat.

We have failed the kids by not having a plan, after 300 days, to get these kids and teachers back in school safely.

We HAVE to do better than this.

We have been told relentlessly through this pandemic to follow the science. The science now OVERWHELMINGLY shows that with the right precautions kids can and should be in school. So why are we now not following the science?



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I am in no way dismissing the efforts of the teachers and staff during this time. They have done an exceptional job with the situation they have been given. However, YOU now have the choice to give these kids and parents the choice of the basic right of in person learning they deserve.

Sincerely a parent of two kids that attend Pioneer School who deserve more,

Laura Stewart



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DATE: January 14, 2021

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Michelle Schroeder

RE: Public Comment to the Board

Bo Yates and The Lebanon School Board,

I am writing in hopes that you will reconsider your stance on in person learning. Our kids have been out of school for way too long at this point. I have a second grader and a kindergartener at Riverview. The teachers and staff have done an excellent job adapting to distance learning, however I believe that the children are struggling not only academically, but socially.

Young kids especially, need to be taught in person. My older daughter is complaining of headaches from all the screen time. My kindergartener currently gets 1 hour per week of in person instruction and it is amazing the difference that just that one hour has made.

She is hearing impaired and has an IEP for speech. It has been incredibly disappointing that she is only able to do speech over zoom. She has been in speech therapy (Privately and through Early Intervention for over a year prior to COVID shutdowns), and the difference between in person and Zoom is night and day. She is not receiving adequate instruction with Zoom speech therapy. I have been told that they will do in person speech once school is back to in person, however that has been frustrating to us because the state has allowed speech therapy to be in person for quite some time now, yet the district/school has not allowed it. It adds to the frustration when we drive by the high school and see teams practicing on the fields and we hear that weight training classes are taking place, yet my daughter with a documented disability is being pushed aside.

I feel fortunate that my kids seem to be doing well and we have been lucky to get amazing teachers this year, but I have overheard their zoom classes and there are definitely kids that are struggling and it is incredibly heart breaking to listen to. The teachers try their best, but there is only so much they can do over a screen. The letter sent to parents states that you have met with neighboring school districts and that weighed into your decision to push off in person learning. This appears to contradict my understanding that both Albany and Sweet Home have released their plans to return to in person school, so why isn't our district?

Do you have a plan to get the teachers vaccinated ASAP so that we can get our kids back to in person? There have been kids across the country in school since September. The CDC has stated that schools are not spreading Covid. I understand that there are students and teachers that do not want to return to in person learning right now, but please give those that do the opportunity. If you closely watch the data a



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majority of people recover from this and from my experience children often do very well, if not better than adults, with following rules/guidelines such as wearing masks. We need to be able to learn to live with this virus instead of constantly living in fear and shutting everything down.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and understand things from a parent perspective.

Michelle Schroeder



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DATE: January 14, 2021

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Stephanie Herb

RE: Public Comment to the Board

For 10 long months our kids, families, teachers, and staff have endured virtual school. My three children are in sixth, third and first grades at Hamilton Creek. While we are very grateful for the immense effort manifested by all of Lebanon Community School employees, sadly, it is just not enough. No virtual lesson or program, however well planned and executed, can compensate for learning, interacting and experiencing IN-PERSON.

Our children are suffering. Covid conditions and restrictions have required our kids to be brave, patient and adaptive. Yet, as a parent as well as an engaged member of our community and school district, I plead with you to LET OUR CHILDREN RETURN TO REGULAR IN-PERSON SCHOOL in February! Caution has been exercised to protect the small and more vulnerable minority, but it has been done so at the expense of our kids' emotional, physical, intellectual and social health. Please, I beg you: put our kids' health first and let all who choose to return in-person do so within the next few weeks – before irreversible emotional and intellectual damage befalls our dear children.

Thank you,
Stephanie Herb



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DATE: January 14, 2021

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Robert Currey

RE: Public Comment to the Board

Sweet home has made a decision to let kids back in school 2 days a week. Can we please work something out to get Lebanon kids back in the classroom. The amount of depressed kids is horrifying! I hear a new story about a teen (or younger) suicide daily. These kids went from a full day of school, sports, and socializing. To nothing, a zoom classroom.



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DATE: January 14, 2021

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Adria Cornell

RE: Public Comment to the Board

Members of the Lebanon Community School Board,

I am a parent of three teenagers in Lebanon Community Schools. They have participated in distance-learning 100% of the time since its inception last year. I am not someone who enjoys speaking out, but our current situation calls for becoming outspoken.

I have watched my children over the last 10 months suffer due to not being in school, and all of the peripheral things that school provides. I know my story is like thousands of others, but I would be remiss if I did not express how important the decision to return to in person learning is for our community youth.

Our neighboring school districts have made decisions in the best interest of their families and I'm hoping that Lebanon, tonight, has the gumption to do the same.

We are a family with resources that many children do not have, and it is for those kids that my heart hurts the most. Education is important, and what we are participating right now falls far short of what will be needed to have our children be ready to be scholastically adequate, socially adapted, and mentally healthy and physically well.

Please do not succumb to the limited interests of a select few, when so many vulnerable others wait for you to make the right but difficult choice.

I appreciate your service.

Respectfully,

Adria Cornell

HIERARCHY OF ORGANIZATIONAL AUTHORITY

- ▶ **A reminder:** The Governor puts forth orders, advisories, and directives to ODE and OHA. The Governor is the State Superintendent.
- ▶ Public school districts to stay open and receive funding must follow/comply with ODE and OHA guidelines.
- ▶ School boards and superintendents preside over local governance and operations: academic-athletic programs, strategic planning, budgets, facilities, calendars, building schedules, contracts, and so forth.

SINCE MARCH 16, 2020 THE GOVERNOR'S MANDATED EXECUTIVE SCHOOL CLOSURE ORDERS:

- ▶ All school districts must follow ODE's Ready Schools Safe Learners (RSSL) guidelines
- ▶ RSSL mandates health and safety protocols and metrics for what type of instruction is allowable i.e. distance, in-person, and limited in-person learning according to its county case counts
- ▶ RSSL dictates expectations of the delivery of instructional models
- ▶ The ability to open for in-person learning depends upon county, size of county, metrics in county, size of school, safe harbor provisions, and resources available.

DEC. 23 THE GOVERNOR PUT FORTH FIVE STIPULATIONS TO THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (ODE) AND THE OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY (OHA) FOR THE RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS:

- ▶ Local school boards, superintendents, educators, and school employees **work toward the resumption of in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible – prioritizing elementary education grounded in sound science, public health, and safety.**
- ▶ OHA is to assist schools in rapid on-site COVID testing to minimize quarantine time—prioritizing elementary students and staff.

- The Governor directed that case count metrics and associated instructional models move **from mandatory to advisory**. The decision to resume in-person instruction must be made locally, district by district, school by school. Schools must continue to adhere to required health and safety protocols and **work in close consultation with their local public health authority**.
- OHA and ODE must align the Ready Schools, Safe Learners (RSSL) guidance and Oregon OSHA rules to ensure all necessary health and safety procedures and protocols are included to allow maximum access to in-person instruction in keeping with reasonable health and safety standards.
- OHA and ODE are to provide any needed updates to districts, based on scientific data to the appropriate thresholds for the resumption of in-person instruction. **Any updates to the COVID-19 Health Metrics should be completed no later than January 19, 2021.**

THE GOVERNOR SET A TARGETED "HOPE THAT MORE OREGON SCHOOLS, ESPECIALLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, WILL TRANSITION TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION BY **FEBRUARY 15, 2021.**"

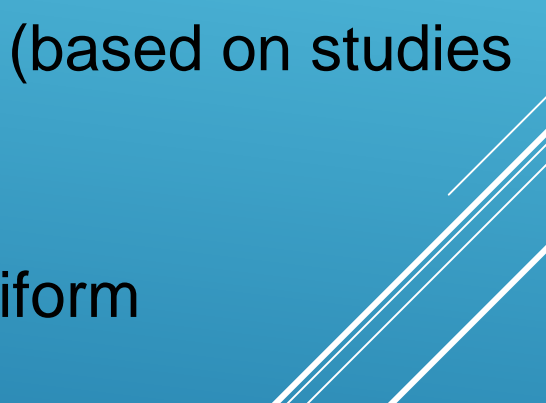
THE GOVERNOR HAS NOW GIVEN US "LIMITED" LOCAL CONTROL—THAT IS, WE ARE LIMITED TO THE STIPULATIONS PUT FORTH FROM ODE AND OHA.

Why the Shift from Mandatory to Advisory?

The Governor's and ODE-OHA Rationale:

- When schools follow required health and safety protocols, there is low-risk of transmission and illness when students resume in-person instruction.
- ODE/OHA have reviewed scientific studies and advised that students are less likely to be infected with COVID-19 and they are less likely to spread COVID-19.
- ODE/OHA advise that schools are not the source of the spread of COVID-19; however, schools often help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in their communities.
- States with metrics of 350 per 100K COVID-19 tests have been operating using hybrid in-person instruction successfully.
- Today nearly 90% of Oregon students risk not being in school for in-person learning for almost a year. The social, emotional, and academic needs of students out-weigh what the science says are the actual health risks to students and staff, if health and safety protocols are followed in school.

Considerations:

- Currently PACE insurance does not support any district with liability insurance that operates outside of the advisory metrics. We anticipate updated guidance soon.
 - On Jan. 19 ODE and OHA will/may change the current metrics (based on studies such as [Harvard Studies](#))
 - ODE and OHA are looking into helping counties make more uniform recommendations to districts
- 
- Three white diagonal lines of varying lengths and thicknesses are positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, extending from the right edge towards the bottom.

- Jan. 12 ODE conducted a feedback sessions regarding adjustments to the Jan.19 RSSL update. Superintendents were provided the opportunity to voice concerns and issues.
- Governor Brown has targeted Jan. 23 for teacher access to vaccine. This needs to be a major consideration in the planning of the return to any in-person instructional model
- OHA and county health departments are developing vaccination plans for staff
 - In Linn County a team of superintendents have asked for two plans based on availability vaccines: We are meeting every week.
 - Plan A: all staff
 - Plan B: Phase I, Grades K-6 and all supporting departments

Bottom line: The Oregon Department of Education recommends districts wait until all updates can be made to the RSSL by Jan 19, as well as allow OHA to help prepare County Health Authorities for the transition to more localized control before returning to hybrid in-person learning.

LCSD will provide a return to school calendar within 48 hours after Governor Brown's update on January 19.

Month	Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
January	3	4	5 Sup Update	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18 MLK	19 Gov Update	20	21	22	23
		25	26	27	28	29	30
	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
February	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15 Presidents Day	16 Elem K-3	17	18	19	20
	21	22 Elem 4,5,6	23	24	25	26	27
	28	1 MS 6,7,8 HCR 6,7,8	2	3	4	5	6
March	7	8 HS 9-10	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15 HS 11-12	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22 Spring Break	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Projected update to metrics on January 19th Still Advisory?

Metrics	On-Site	On-Site and Distance Learning	Elementary Only	Distance Learning Only
County Case Rate per 100k	Less than 50	Less than 200	200 to 349	350 or greater

12/20-1/02 407

12/27-1/09 406

1/03- 1/16 378 Projected

	KG	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Current Enrollment	Home School	Virtual 6%	100%	No Grade 6	Class Rooms
CASCADES	40	38	42	47	40	37	36							280	62	15	357	321	20
GREEN ACRES	45	41	40	37	54	43	34							294	35	15	344	310	20
HAMILTON CREEK	26	19	28	30	24	26	31	33	29					246	62	13	321		16
LACOMB	25	22	26	23	21	15	23	34	29					218	50	12	280		15
LEBANON HS										334	297	289	287	1207	141	72	1420		
PIONEER	49	44	36	46	52	44	49							320	48	18	386	337	14
RIVERVIEW	50	45	60	65	55	52								327	95	18	440	440	20
SEVENOAK							102	208	234					544	58	33	635	750	30
Total	235	209	232	248	246	217	275	275	292	334	297	289	287	3436	551	196	4183		

Elementary Model	KG	1	2	3	4	5	Total	
Students	50-60	50-60	50-60	50-60	50-60	50-60	300 to 400	
Classrooms	2 to 3	2 to 3	2 to 3	2 to 3	2	2		
Middle School	6	7	8	Total				
SevenOak	250	250	250	750				
Lac/Hcr	50	50	50	150				
Middle School Total				900				