



MEETING MINUTES

<u>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:</u>	<u>EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT:</u>
Tom Oliver, Chair Mike Martin, Vice Chair Richard Borden Tammy Schilling ZOOM: Todd Gestrin	Bo Yates, Superintendent Jennifer Meckley, Assistant Superintendent ZOOM: William Lewis, Business Director Kim Grousbeck, Human Resources Director Tami Volz, Director of School Improvement Rachel Cannon, Director of Alternative Education

The meeting minutes were recorded by Executive Secretary Ruth Hopkins.

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 no public comments submitted to the Board.

3. LEBANON HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE

Superintendent Yates shared information regarding the percentages of students, by grade level, who were on-track to graduate.

Chair Oliver asked about the 10th grade class. Superintendent Yates answered that there were only 65% of 10th grade students that were currently on track to graduate, which is a very low number. The LHS administration team is working on a plan for them and will work to engage them and work toward getting them caught up.

Chair Oliver asked if there was an alternative within the online learning that would appeal to them and help to keep them engaged. Superintendent Yates indicated that the district is working on that and working to develop a more robust online program to have to offer. He added that we would need to have a stronger online program in case parents are not wanting to have their students present in a classroom.

Member Tammy Schilling asked about the 10th grade group and if it was the same group they had been trying to get on track. Superintendent Yates indicated that the administration had looked at

that group as freshman mid-year and have been working to get them on track for graduation. With 35% of them not on track, there will almost need to be individual plans for each student.

Chair Oliver asked how many of them were the same that were not on track a year ago and how many of them were not on track because of being online due to COVID-19, and if we have weekly participation numbers for this group. Superintendent Yates responded that there was a strong correlation between the groups.

Whereupon, there was a discussion around the 10th grade group and getting them back on track for graduation.

Member Schilling added we are in an era where we need to be creative for getting that group to be successful. Superintendent Yates added that there was a level of urgency before, and now it is even more. He wants to be as intentional as possible with what we are doing. We have partnerships in the community that work to get kids where they need to be and we have a big group of kids that need extra support.

Member Borden asked if Superintendent Yates has looked at other districts to see what they are doing with this problem and what success stories are out there regarding this, and maybe we can look at adopting what they are doing. Superintendent Yates said he has been meeting with other superintendents daily to see what can be done to solve this problem. The key is to have adults that care and will engage with them to keep them engaged in school.

Chair Oliver added that assuming that we are looking at going to a hybrid model next year, we need to look at making that more engaging than the distance learning was on its own, and more engaging than our traditional school model has been.

Whereupon, there was an extensive discussion about how we could improve the learning and engagement of students, while following the state guidelines for next year.

4. ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION AND SUMMER SCHOOL UPDATE

Rachel Cannon then reviewed the information provided to the Board in the meeting packet. She discussed the elementary SEL, tutoring/supervised independent study, teen center and Ralston Academy. She shared the enrollment totals, current goals and future goals of each.

She added that they were able to offer three sections of Training Teens for Tomorrow on skills, and then did placements at different work sites, similar to an internship. Ralston also partnered with the school district and hired four students to do custodial work.

She then provided graduation data for the alternative education program. More students are now graduating through the Ralston program, and fewer are opting for the GED program. She concluded that she feels the staff is what has made Ralston successful.

Chair Oliver asked about the GED program and if the data presented reflects the students that graduated out of Ralston rather than going through the GED program. Rachel Cannon answered that they were able to steer students more towards the Ralston program, rather than trying to go the GED route, which previously not many students had actually completed.

Rachel Cannon then shared information on the district summer school program. The Summer at Home program that is being offered for the first part of the summer, runs from June 15th to July 31st. It is for K through 6th grades. Families do not need to sign up. They can come and go and choose the work that they do. Seven Oak is doing something similar. The high school is doing credit recovery and students will need to sign up for that. In August, we they are planning an in-person summer school that will run from August 3rd-21st. She is hopeful that they will be able to get students in the building and offer that.

There were no questions on the update.

5. PRELIMINARY PLAN FOR FALL OF 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Superintendent Yates shared that the district is currently working on putting a plan together for next school year that he will bring before the Board next month for approval. The state has issued guidelines on what needs to be done and how it needs to be done. Currently what they are looking at, to meet the social distancing requirements, is to run on an A-B schedule. So there will be students that will come on Monday and Tuesday, and students that will come on Thursday and Friday. There will be distance learning on Wednesday. For students that will need extra instruction or have an IEP, they will be provided weekly support. We will target the students that need the extra help and try to facilitate them being at school all of the time. He added that we are also looking at having K-1st grade students there on a daily basis.

Chair Oliver asked about the state guidelines and what our obligation is to adhere to every single piece of those guidelines. For example, if there are parents who wanted their students in a classroom and are not concerned about the density, if there any latitude to accommodate that if all parties were agreeable to that, or on the other end, parents who did not want their students in there all.

Superintendent Yates answered that the district is looking at a multi-tiered programs. Starting with an online program that is more robust than what we had in the spring, for parents who did not want to send their students back to school. Then the next step would be a blended model where students would be in school part of the time and online part of the time, trying to be more thoughtful in the design of the online portion for what kids are doing and how they are doing it. Then the fall back plan would be distance learning for all again, which would be totally online.

Assistant Superintendent Meckley added that she did not think there was any latitude to go outside of the requirements from ODE. There is not any liability coverage for COVID currently. Superintendent Yates added that one of the main issues was operationally, feeding and transporting students, trying to do all of that and keep the six foot distancing and follow the guidelines. Adhering to the guidelines, we can only put 15 students on a bus at a time, instead of the normal 50; student can only enter through certain doors; they have to wash their hands regularly; and we will not be able to do PE because equipment would need to be washed regularly. He indicated that those are just some of the issues the district is trying to work through. It is a challenge and the district is trying to figure out what the best thing to do is.

Chair Oliver added that he assumed the leadership was looking at the situation by grade level. Superintendent Yates said that we were looking at the younger students to see what we could do to keep more of them at the school. At the middle school level, they will have cohorts and they will focus on core areas. The same thing will be done at the high school, keeping them in cohorts

and focusing on the core classes. It will be more of a block schedule with longer class times to keep down the transitions and keep a cohort together.

Chair Oliver asked about the tracking and if that was a mandate with no flexibility. For example, if a student uses the restroom and if there will be a log of that. Assistant Superintendent Meckley answered that there will be login sheets of when students enter the school, if symptoms were checked or if they have left the building. Classrooms have a log sheet for if students leave for the bathroom already.

Chair Oliver added that it was up to staff to come up with a plan that would have the most success and equity for students. Superintendent Yates added that we will be looking at what the operational holdbacks are and discussing with each department to see what flexibility we have to make the plan work.

Whereupon, there was an extensive discussion around the how to make the plan flexible enough to work for all students, how we can support students and keep them engaged, support for parents, and all while following the guidelines that the state has put out for fall.

Chair Oliver said that he appreciated the effort that has gone into the plan and he hopes that we can find a silver lining in all of it.

Assistant Superintendent Meckley added that a couple of fun things was the retirement celebration. There was a drive-through parade outside with balloons, music and the retirees would drive through. All retirees had a fun time with the parade. She also shared that the high school graduation was amazing. She felt the high school staff did a great job and made it very personalized. Superintendent Yates added that he had heard only positive things on the graduation as well.

6. JULY MEETING DATE

It was decided that the July Board meeting date will be on July 23 at 6:00 PM.

7. FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 BUDGET HEARING

William Lewis presented the 2020-21 budget that has been approved by the budget committee. There was no public testimony on either resolution. There were no questions regarding the budget.

Upon motion made by Member Richard Borden, duly seconded by Vice Chair Mike Martin, the Board voted unanimously to approve Resolution 1920-6 Making Appropriation for the 2020-21 Budget in the amount of \$74,572,671, as presented.

Upon motion made by Member Tammy Schilling, duly seconded by Member Richard Borden, the Board voted unanimously to approve Resolution 1920-7 Imposing and Categorizing the Tax for the rate of 4.9925 per \$1,000, and the amount of \$4,044,968 for bonds, as presented.

8. CONSTRUCTION EXCISE TAX

William Lewis brought the construction excise tax back to the Board. He has a contract with the City and he is working on one with the county. At the last meeting there was a question of doing one without the other. He had our attorney check on that issue and found we can do one without the other. He is asking that the Board approve the construction excise tax with the City of Lebanon.

Chair Oliver asked how far away we are on having an IGA with the county and William Lewis indicated it was a ways away. He added that the county agreement was very different than the City of Lebanon. It put all of the risks on the district. It precluded the county from statutory obligations. It included additional fees that are over and above what is required by statute, and then we are paying a full percentage for the fees associated with it.

Chair Oliver asked if there was a legal basis for the county to assess fees that are greater than the city. Lewis answered that there was no legal obligation at all and this is a part of our requested updates. Chair Oliver asked if the county would prefer not to execute the IGA and collect the funds. Lewis indicated it was safe to assume that the county is interested in keeping the IGAs with Albany, Corvallis and Lebanon as close as possible to the same agreements. He is currently reviewing the other city's agreements.

Chair Oliver clarified that the next steps would be submitting revisions back to the county and have the Board of Commissioners approve it. Lewis indicated that yes, that was the process, and then we would need to bring it back to our Board. Chair Oliver asked if we could assume that we could wrap it up by our August meeting and Lewis indicated we could. Chair Oliver added that he did not like having the tax imposed on one group of citizens and not the other. He would prefer that we treated them the same.

Whereupon, there was a discussion around implementing the tax. It was decided to table the construction excise tax with the City of Lebanon until we have the agreement with the county and approve both of them at the same time.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes

Upon motion made by Member Tammy Schilling, duly seconded by Vice Chair Mike Martin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes from May 14, 2020, June 4, 2020 and June 11, 2020, as presented.

B. Policies – First Reading

Assistant Superintendent Meckley provided information on the policies that are being presented for first reading and they were moved to second reading.

C. Hiring

Upon motion made by Vice Chair Mike Martin, duly seconded by Member Richard Borden, the Board voted unanimously to approve the hiring of Thomas VaVerka as the JROTC Senior Army Instructor.

10. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Operations

Superintendent Yates shared that the district is installing a large commercial freezer at the district office. The district is feeding more kids, and having centralized storage will allow us to buy more in bulk. He then asked for feedback from the Board on the duplex that Eric Frazier was building, and would like thoughts on another building that may be like a preschool and would work with others in the community. He felt we could get some grant funds for that. He added that it would not just be the district funding it. He would go out in the community and get some funding. He felt there is a huge need in the community for this. There is a need for the extra space for a preschool, parenting classes and other things that are needed in the community.

B. Human Resources

Kim Grousbeck shared that HR is getting ready for the new school year and doing exit interviews for the staff that are leaving the district. They have also been doing a lot of work on the Work Share Program. There is not an update as to when it will be funded at this time. Everything is in to the state that needs to be in and HR tried to be as complete as possible. She is hoping that we will hear from them soon so that she can share that update with employees. There were no questions.

C. Finance

William Lewis brought up information on the charter school in regards to the ESSER money that has come in. There is no federal requirement to provide any of those resources to the charter school. ODE said they recommend that we share the resources. He said that we could share any amount from zero to whatever we want to. He is asking for the Board's guidance on this matter.

Member Richard Borden asked if Sand Ridge was aware of the potential for the money. Lewis indicated that they have been a part of all of the conversations that the ODE has had regarding this. Chair Oliver felt it would be appropriate to allocate the money using the same methodology that we use to fund them currently. He asked what that amount would be. William Lewis said that it would 8%, so it would be the normal split for ADM.

Superintendent Yates added that they had students who were not from Lebanon that attend there, and he felt that we should adjust it for Lebanon students only. He wants to stay consistent with the contract.

William Lewis reiterated that it would be the 8% and then adjusted to reflect Lebanon students only. He shared that we do a final true-up reconciliation at the end of the year and make adjustments if needed. So if the estimate is off, it will be balanced at the end of the year.

11. COMMUNICATION

A. Board

There were no Board communications.

B. Superintendent

Superintendent Yates wanted to share how hard Kim Grousbeck and her crew have been working in HR. They have been working hard through the Work Share Program and taking care of all of that. They have done a tremendous amount of work on this.


He then shared a short video on the Ralston Academy graduates.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.



Tom Oliver, Chair



Bo Yates, Superintendent