



MEETING MINUTES

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

The meeting minutes were recorded by Executive Secretary Ruth Hopkins, as part of a Zoom meeting.

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tom Oliver called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Staff member Anne Williams submitted a comment for the Board, which was read into the record by Chair Tom Oliver.

3. DISTANCE LEARNING UPDATE

Tami Volz provided feedback from the elementary schools, as well as curriculum, instruction and assessment. Many are using iReady, which is the online program that the district has been piloting for the K-8 classrooms.

For Smarter Balance, assessments have not been completed for this year because of the school closure. The statewide assessment for kindergarten for 20-21 has been waived for the fall assessment.

School principals have been collecting attendance data and she provided an overview on the attendance data for the elementary schools.

Rachel Cannon then provided a short update on the LHS and SOK distance learning attendance. She mentioned that all schools have mentioned that it has been positive to be able to connect with students and families and to build those relationships during this time. She then reviewed the information she provided to the Board and has been made a part of these minutes. She added that students will talk with teachers and will talk with the A Team, but are not doing the school work consistently.

Chair Tom Oliver asked how that compared with what the districts around us were experiencing.

Rachel Cannon shared that, anecdotally, they seem to be experiencing the same issues, but she will get information from them to provide to the Board at the next meeting.

Member Richard Borden asked about the attendance rate being so high and wondered if it could be attributed to the gap, such as technology or internet needs.

Rachel Cannon responded that the technology team has been great in taking care of technology needs as they come up. She indicated that most of the time it is students thinking the work is too hard, no motivation or the students have a job. A lot of students need the motivation at school that comes from teachers and peers to stay engaged.

Superintendent Yates added that the district is trying to deal with that on an individual basis, based on what a family's specific needs are.

Member Richard Borden then asked if it was the same students that were having attendance issues before COVID or if we were sifting that out. Superintendent Yates indicated that attendance was not being tracked on a specific student level at this point.

Rachel Cannon then covered the information for Seven Oak. They have had 86 percent of students who have signed on to their online learning program, and the average of daily users was 50% on April 9th, but has now dropped down to 30% percent of students who are now doing daily work. Seven Oak has more students accessing paper packets than at the high school, and they have seen an increase in students who want them and students who return them. Seven Oak counselors have created an online Google classroom that has daily Spartan self-care challenges for students.

Chair Tom Oliver asked about weekly data on attendance for Seven Oak and Rachel Cannon will provide that for the June meeting.

Rachel Cannon then provided information on Ralston Academy and the Teen Center. They have 75% of students who participate in the distance learning through Zoom and Google Classroom, and the other 25% participate over the phone, where teachers do lessons individually with a student over the phone. They connect with all of the students every week.

At the Teen Center, they have been able to connect with all students but one, and they have been trying to reach out to that student.

The issues have been the same at Ralston and the Teen Center for student engagement.

4. FUNDING UPDATE

Superintendent Yates shared that we are anticipating a \$2-3 billion funding shortage. We are being advised to budget at the \$9 billion mark, which would be full funding for this year, which would include the SIA funding. The district has been trying to reduce our spending for this year and stay on top of what is going to happen with the budget moving forward. We do not know what the budget shortfall will be, but we are looking at a 17% reduction in the biennium. Currently, we are trying to get close to running the school as close as possible to the regular budget next year. He mentioned that this will be a long-term problem for the district and that we will need to be diligent with our spending and try to be as proactive as possible to raise our ending fund balance.

for this year so that there is a higher beginning fund balance for next year. He said it will be a challenge for us that will not go away and we will need to be cautious in our spending.

Chair Tom Oliver added that we will know more next week when the forecast comes out.

5. FURLOUGH DAYS

Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Meckley asked about taking the May 22 make-up day for March 13. May 22 was a make-up day already built into the school calendar and she was hoping the Board will let us take that as a make-up day for March 13.

She then presented information on furlough days for the district. The district is trying to prevent taking a lot of furlough days next year, working to save jobs and to take advantage of the Oregon Work Share program. The program allows the district to reduce employee hours between 20 and 40 percent each week and that will allow employees to receive unemployment benefits for that portion of their work week. At this time, employees are able to access the federal \$600 a week benefit as well.

The district is requesting the approval of eight furlough days for the remainder of this school year.

William Lewis provided the financial benefit, which is \$1.25 million in savings to the general fund in salaries and benefits. The district has been trying to save in the cost of utilities, supplies and other items, and those will be added to the furlough day savings as well.

Member Richard Borden asked what the fuel cost savings has been since we have not been running school buses. William Lewis indicated that the fuel savings was \$125,000, which is at a 70% reimbursement rate.

Superintendent Yates added that we have savings from not having to hire substitutes. He also clarified the request from Jennifer Meckley regarding the snow day make-up day of May 22 as a furlough day. He also added that by using the federal relief fund, that we are using everything we can to help support our staff and educate students. He added that trading distance learning days this year for classroom days next year will be a good investment for us.

Member Richard Borden asked how many staff members were not eligible for furlough days. Kim Grousbeck responded that there were about 50 individuals in the district who will not be eligible for furlough days. They will not be penalized for not taking furlough days, they will just continue working.

Board Chair Tom Oliver clarified that for the staff taking the furlough days, they will get the prorated unemployment amount, plus the \$600 a week in additional funds, so potentially some of those employees will have a higher cash salary for those weeks that include furlough days. He clarified that we will not be adjusting their final salary for the year for PERS calculations and that there will not be the 6% IAP added for the furlough days. He added that given the current situation, he does not see how we cannot do this as it is over a million dollars that will not need to be cut from next year's budget.

Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Meckley mentioned that we will need a vote from the board, and then both of the unions will vote on Monday. Once it has been ratified, then the district will send the application in to the state.

Superintendent Yates added that he feels confident that staff will receive the funds, but not 100% confident that they will get it in a timely basis. Therefore, the district will help staff who get caught short in the event that funds are not received in a timely manner, to make sure that staff are taken care of.

Member Richard Borden asked about the additional \$600 and if it was tied to the unemployment benefits or if they needed to apply for that. Kim Grousbeck added that once staff applied for the unemployment benefits with Oregon, then they do not have to do anything beyond that. Richard Borden followed up by asking if we knew how long that it was taking to receive benefits. Kim Grousbeck responded that everything that she had read said it was taking about 15 days. Chair Tom Oliver clarified that it was 15 working days. Member Todd Gestrin added that the state had posted today that it could be up to 20 working days.

Upon motion made by Richard Borden, duly seconded by Todd Gestrin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the district taking eight furlough days in the remainder of the 2019-20 school year, and to add back into the calendar the May 22nd make-up day.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

April 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Upon motion made by Member Richard Borden, and duly seconded by Member Todd Gestrin, the motion was approved by a majority vote to approve the April 23, 2020 meeting minutes, with three ayes and one abstention. Member Tammy Schilling abstained from the vote as she did not have an opportunity to read the minutes.

7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Operations

Superintendent Yates shared that he is very proud of our Food Services Department and the Transportation Department as they are continuing to work together and feed the kids in the district. He also shared that our Technology Department is doing a great job with only 2.5 people in there to do all of the work.

B. Human Resources

Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Meckley mentioned that the furlough days have been the focus of the HR department.

C. Finance

Business Director William Lewis shared the business department has been working with HR to make sure the furlough days go smoothly. He added that the State School Fund is now officially paid. The focus is now on audit prep and looking forward to the 2020-21 budget for next year, which will start next month with the budget meetings.

8. COMMUNICATION

A. Board

Member Richard Borden mentioned that the OSBA Summer Conference in Bend has now been cancelled.

B. Superintendent

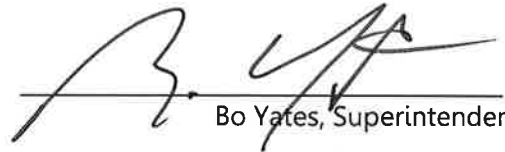
Superintendent Yates thanked the group of people that he works with. He shared that the work has been challenging and it has been a lot of work to go through this whole process. He added that the principals, teachers and all staff really care about our students and he appreciates all of the work that they are doing. He thanked the Board as well for all of their help with this and supporting the district through this challenge.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 PM and will reconvene in Executive Session after a break.



Tom Oliver, Chair



Bo Yates, Superintendent