



**November 7, 2022**  
**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
**Regular Session**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
**MEETING LOCATION- 455 Adams Ave, Cottage Grove**  
**[Zoom Link Click Here](#)**

The South Lane School Board appreciates hearing from our citizens. We value the ideas, opinions, questions, concerns, suggestions and input from parents and community members. The Board of Directors allows time on their agenda for testimony regarding a published agenda item to its designated place on the agenda. A visitor may introduce another topic not on the published agenda during Public Comment. The Board Chair usually allows three minutes per speaker.

South Lane SD Board of Directors have now opened their Board Room to the Public to view their sessions with limited seating. Citizens are still invited to join the Board meeting online. Meetings will also be broadcast on South Lane Community Broadcasting 14.4. If you wish to speak to the Board, about an agenda item or another topic, please use the sign up sheet outside the Board Room prior to the meeting or submit an email request to [public.comment@slane.k12.or.us](mailto:public.comment@slane.k12.or.us) to the Board Secretary prior to noon on the day of the Board meeting. Request to speak must include the following:  
Full name, address, email address, date, agenda item or topic. If you want to submit written testimony, either attach a separate document or include the message in the email request.

Board meetings by Oregon State statute are public, in order for citizens to observe the Board conducting the district business. The meetings are not opportunities for the public to join the Board's discussion. For this reason, when public testimony is provided, Board members do not respond or interact with those providing testimony. This process is often confusing and feels like the Board is unresponsive, but this process is a legal process. If a question is asked, the Superintendent will follow up or ask a Cabinet member to follow-up to respond on her behalf

For additional information contact: South Lane District Office (541) 942-3381 (phone) \* (541) 942-8098 (fax)



Meeting Date: November 7, 2022

- I. Call to Order
- II. Agenda Review
- III. Consent Agenda (Action)
  1. 10-3 Draft Minutes
  2. 10-17 Draft Minutes
  3. 10-28 Draft Minutes
  4. Resignations/LOA/Retirements/New Hires \*Attached
- IV. Public Comment
- V. Reports/Discussion
  1. OSEA Representative Report
  2. SLEA Representative Report
  3. Student Representative Report
  4. Long Term Facility Plan, Soderstrom Architects
- VI. Administrative Reports/Discussion
  1. Superintendent Update
- VII. Upcoming Dates
  - November 10, 2022 OSBA 'Virtual' Session
  - November 11-12, 2022 OSBA On-site Session Portland
- VIII. Board of Directors Correspondence/Reports
  - Future Agenda Items
  - 1:1 Monthly Meetings with Dr. Curtis**
  - Board Chair Bengtson 1<sup>st</sup> Friday
  - Board Member Duerst-Higgins 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday
  - Board Member Hodgkinson 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday
  - Board Member Mort 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday
  - Board Member Settlemeyer 1<sup>st</sup> Friday
  - Board Member Valley 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday
  - Board Member Wilhour 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday
- IX. Adjournment



## SOUTH LANE SCHOOL DISTRICT 45J3

Children Come First • Always Learning, Teaching, Caring • Safe, Respectful, and, Inclusive Schools & Community

### Meeting Minutes for Meeting on: October 3, 2022

#### [Agenda/Minutes/Meetings Published to View](#)

#### Board Members Present:

Colleen Valley

Dustin Bengtson

Gary Mort

Jerry Settlemeyer

Sherry Duerst-Higgins

Tammy Hodgkinson

Taylor Wilhour

#### Student Representatives Present:

Jerzie Epperson- CGHS

Alannah Bailey- AKHS

#### **Call to Order and Flag Salute**

Board Chair Dustin Bengtson called the meeting to order and led the flag salute at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman Bengtson welcomed the public and reviewed the Agenda.

The Student Oath will move to the Regular Session

Chairman Bengtson moved the meeting into a closed Executive Session.



## **Executive Session**

Executive Session called under provision of ORS 192.660 (2)(d) To Conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.

Chairman Bengtson reconvened the public meeting at 5:41 p.m. No Board action was taken during the Executive Session.

## **Regular Session**

### **Consent Agenda (Action)**

1. 9-12 Draft Minutes

Board Member Duerst-Higgins made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with Board Member Wilhour seconding the motion. The motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

### **Public Comment**

**Bryan Parsons-** Address submitted. Spoke on The Menstrual Dignity Act- A letter was submitted to the Board.

### **Reports/Discussion**

*Click the link above to view all Representative Reports in detail.*

1. OSEA Representative Report- Provided
2. SLEA Representative Report- Not Present
3. Student Representative Report  
School Activities and Events can be found on respective school websites.



### **Administrative Reports/Discussion**

1. Superintendent Update – Provided
2. Cottage Grove High New Schedule- Principal Herington provided the board with a copy of the new schedule and answered questions as asked.
3. Lincoln Middle School- PLC Discussion- Assistant Principal Drew along with teachers Daniel Flagg and Casey Kerns shared how their Learning Communities work at Lincoln Power Point Provided.
4. Dental Clinic- Presentation – Courtney Long shared the history and updated the Board on how the Dental Clinic provides invaluable care for the students of South Lane.

### **Upcoming Dates**

- October 17, 2022, Board Work Session 5:50 p.m.
- October 28, 2022, Board Field Trip – Dorena Culture Walk
- November 7, 2022, Board Regular Session 5:30 p.m.
- November 10-12, 2022 OSBA Annual Convention

### **Board of Directors Correspondence/Reports**

*Click the link above to view the Board of Directors Reports.*

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Bengtson adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Meeting minutes were prepared by Tonya Kerns, Board Secretary.

### **Date:**

Dustin Bengtson, Board Chair

Dr. Yvonne Curtis, Superintendent



## SOUTH LANE SCHOOL DISTRICT 45J3

Children Come First • Always Learning, Teaching, Caring • Safe, Respectful, and, Inclusive Schools & Community

### Meeting Minutes for Meeting on: October 17, 2022

#### [Agenda/Minutes/Meetings Published to View](#)

#### Board Members Present:

Colleen Valley  
Dustin Bengtson  
Gary Mort  
Jerry Settlemeyer  
Sherry Duerst-Higgins  
Tammy Hodgkinson  
Taylor Wilhour

Student Representatives Present:  
Alannah Bailey- AKHS

#### **Call to Order and Flag Salute**

Board Chair Dustin Bengtson called the meeting to order and led the flag salute at 5:30 p.m.

#### **Public Welcome**

Chairman Bengtson welcomed the public and reviewed the Agenda.

Business Item 1. Division 22 Assurances will be moved to Friday, October 28 at 8:30 am for the Board to review. Chairman Bengtson moved the Regular session into the planned Work Session.



### **Work Session**

- Student Representative Roles  
Chairman Bengtson and Superintendent Curtis went over the roles and expectations of a Student Representative to a School Board.
- Introduction to a Culture Walk  
Superintendent Curtis shared with the Board the Student Experience Story Guide along with what their day at Dorena will look like.
- Board Goals ~ Prepare for Retreat with Peg Portscheller (November)  
The Board went over the eight areas of the 'Wheel' and placed their post-it notes of top needs per area to prepare themselves for the upcoming retreat in November.

### **Upcoming Dates**

- October 20, 2022 Homecoming Parade 1:00-2:00
- October 28, 2022, Field Trip Dorena
- November 1, 2022, Retreat with Peg Portscheller 4:00-7:00
- November 7, 2022, Board Regular Session 5:30
- November 10, 2022, OSBA 'Virtual' Session
- November 11-12, 2022 OSBA On-site Session Portland

### **Board of Directors Correspondence/Reports**

*Click the link above to view the Board of Directors Reports.*

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Bengtson adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Meeting minutes were prepared by Tonya Kerns, Board Secretary.

### **Date:**

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Dustin Bengtson, Board Chair

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Dr. Yvonne Curtis, Superintendent



## SOUTH LANE SCHOOL DISTRICT 45J3

Children Come First • Always Learning, Teaching, Caring • Safe, Respectful, and, Inclusive Schools & Community

### Meeting Minutes for Meeting on: October 28, 2022

#### [Agenda/Minutes/Meetings Published to View](#)

#### Board Members Present:

Colleen Valley  
Dustin Bengtson  
Jerry Settlemeyer  
Sherry Duerst-Higgins  
Tammy Hodgkinson  
Taylor Wilhour

#### Call to Order and Flag Salute

Board Chair Dustin Bengtson called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. from the Dorena School Library.

#### Public Welcome

Chairman Bengtson welcomed the public and reviewed the Agenda.

#### Administrative Reports

1. Division 22 Assurances  
Superintendent Curtis shared the 2021-22 Report on Compliance with Public School Standards with the Board. The report will be posted on our Main page of the Website.



## SOUTH LANE SCHOOL DISTRICT 45J3

Children Come First • Always Learning, Teaching, Caring • Safe, Respectful, and, Inclusive Schools & Community

### Upcoming Dates

- November 1, 2022, Retreat with Peg Portscheller 4:00-7:00
- November 7, 2022, Board Regular Session 5:30
- November 10, 2022 OSBA 'Virtual' Session
- November 11-12, 2022 OSBA On-site Session Portland

### Adjournment

Chairman Bengtson adjourned the meeting at 8:49 a.m.

Meeting minutes were prepared by Tonya Kerns, Board Secretary.

### Date:

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Dustin Bengtson, Board Chair

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Dr. Yvonne Curtis, Superintendent

November 7, 2022

To the South Lane School District Board:

After I spoke at the previous board meeting, Superintendent Curtis informed me that the law requires me to use students' preferred pronouns. I could find no such law, only a *recommendation* to do so by the Oregon Department of Education.<sup>a</sup> This means that our school district has options regarding its transgender policies.

I want to talk specifically about the harm our school district is causing to its own students by adopting transgender policies. I believe that all students should be treated with dignity and respect, including transgender students. But using pronouns not in-line with a child's biological sex and encouraging the use of preferred bathrooms is neither dignifying nor respectful. In fact, the very policies meant to affirm transgender students end up harming *them* most of all. Let me spell out a few of the harmful effects of transgender ideology that our school district is encouraging and liable for.

The currently recommended treatment for teens experiencing gender dysphoria is to prescribe puberty blockers. They are administered often based on a child's unquestioned self-diagnosis. These drugs are said to be reversible, but this is true only if used for a short time-period. Puberty occurs during a particular window in adolescence, and will not necessarily be caught up after the drugs are desisted. Students on puberty blockers are at risk of never developing many healthy and natural secondary sex characteristics. Those who take puberty blockers have lower bone density, leaving them more vulnerable to fracture or osteoporosis in adult years.<sup>b</sup>

Of particular concern for educators is the effect of puberty blockers upon the brain. During puberty, neuro pathways in the frontal lobe are being myelinated, and neurocircuitry is being constructed in response to heavy exposure to sex hormones.<sup>c</sup> All this is halted or altered due to puberty blockers. A school district should fundamentally support the proper development of the brain rather than hinder it.

Nearly all those on puberty blockers will proceed with cross-sex hormones. The recommended age for this is 15, and this is where the damage becomes far more severe. If a girl first takes puberty blockers, and then testosterone, she will become *irreversibly sterile*. This shockingly devastating effect is accompanied by permanent hair loss, increased facial and body hair, altered vocal range, changes to body composition, extreme pain, and increased risk of cancer.<sup>d</sup> Bear in mind that this is the commonly prescribed and recommended regimen for transgender youth. Undoubtedly, there are students in our schools who are receiving such treatments *right now*.

It should not be ignored that these drugs are being used off label. In fact, puberty blockers and cross sex hormones are administered to children without adequate knowledge of proper dosing.<sup>d,e</sup> There are no long-term studies to support this practice, which means our children are

being experimented on. Doctors and counselors are encouraged not to question a child's self-diagnosis prior to administering these drugs.

Many transgender youth will go on to have surgeries. For some, those surgeries have become necessary due to complications brought about by the hormones they have been prescribed. These surgeries typically remove otherwise healthy body parts. Some require precise microsurgery that often result in further complications, requiring ongoing follow-up and immense discomfort. Yet a child in Oregon can receive all these treatments without a parent's consent or knowledge at age 15, when they can hardly grasp the risks.

People justify these treatments by the common misnomer that it prevents suicide. You may be surprised to hear that no good research supports this idea. In fact the treatments do not have any positive long-term effect on a person's mental state. Many studies show that actual suicide attempts remain unchanged or increase with the use of hormones and surgery.<sup>6</sup>

The information I have shown should compel the South Lane School District to stop the use of pronouns that do not accord with a student's biological sex. **To continue to do so, is to agree with a child's negative perception of their own body, and to be liable for propelling them down a path of permanent damage and immense suffering.** I can think of nothing *less* dignifying and respectful.

I encourage this board not to continue adopting the recommended policies of the Oregon Department of Education in regard to transgender policy. Rather this board should discourage the use of preferred pronouns, or at the very least, require that schools communicate with parents before doing so.

If any member of the board would like to talk further about this issue, I am more than happy to meet with you.

Sincerely,

Bryan Parsons  
Middle School Teacher, London School  
(541) 942-0123  
[revbryanparsons@gmail.com](mailto:revbryanparsons@gmail.com)

- A. [Guidance to School Districts: Creating a Safe and Supportive School Environment for Transgender Students Issued May 5 2016](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/equity/civilrights/Documents/TransgenderStudentGuidance.pdf), Oregon Department of Education, <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/equity/civilrights/Documents/TransgenderStudentGuidance.pdf>

- B. Study: Effects of Puberty Blockers Can Last a Lifetime. Jackson, Mary, WNG.org, <https://wng.org/roundups/study-effects-of-puberty-blockers-can-last-a-lifetime-1617220389>
- C. Maturation of the Adolescent Brain, National Library of Medicine, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3621648/>
- D. Testosterone and Young Females: What is Known About Lifelong Effects, Kerry Smith, MD; 4thwavenow.org, <https://4thwavenow.com/2018/06/18/testosterone-young-females-what-is-known-about-lifelong-effects/>
- E. Transgender Research: Five Things Every Parent and Policy Maker Should Know, The Institute for Research and Evaluation, September 2022, [https://institute-research.com/pdf/Transgender\\_Research--5\\_Questions\\_for\\_Parents\\_%26\\_Policymakers\\_%28IRE%209-26-22%29.pdf](https://institute-research.com/pdf/Transgender_Research--5_Questions_for_Parents_%26_Policymakers_%28IRE%209-26-22%29.pdf)





**Date:** November 7, 2022  
**To:** SLSD School Board  
**From:** Yvonne Curtis, Superintendent  
**Subject:** Long-range Facility Plan Process

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Background:

In the Spring of 2022, awarded an RFP to Soderstrom from facilitating a long-range facility plan process. The first part of the process is to conduct a facility assessment and provide a report to the Board. You have received that report. Tonight, Soderstrom will share their findings in this public meeting. In December, we will provide you with information about a timeline for a possible bond process and the much you might request from our community.

Process:

In January, we will begin our community engagement process to determine our facility priorities and develop a long-range plan to address our facility priorities.

Staff Recommendation:

Considering the recommendations of our facilitators, we recommend the following process. We propose a two team, three-four month process.

- A) An internal core team with representation from facilities, transportation, finance, superintendent's office, CGHS and the School Board will meet prior to each community meeting to determine the goals of each meeting.
  - B) A community team to include the core team, full board, additional administrators and 2-4 community members will meet three to four times from January through March/April to develop the plan.
  - C) Present the plan in an open Board meeting for adoption by the Board.
  - D) Proposed dates for Core Team: First Thursdays at 1:30. December 8, January 5, February 2, March 2, additional dates TBD. Debrief meetings immediately following the community meetings.
  - E) Proposed dates for Community Team: Second Thursdays at 1:30 January 12, February 9, March 9, additional dates TBD.
  - F) All meetings will be recorded for staff and community to view each meeting.
  - G) Core team meetings will via zoom
  - H) Community meetings will be in-person or via zoom depending on weather conditions
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## Attachments