

OKANOGAN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Okanogan School District
September 27, 2023
Regular School Board Minutes
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1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- a) Chair Tony Hawley called the September Regular Board meeting to order at 6:00p.m. School Board members present: Tony Hawley, Luke McKee, Heather Fisher, and Rae Jean Kelley with Steve Quick, Superintendent, and about 12 audience members. The meeting took place at the Okanogan Outreach.

2) APPROVAL OF AUGUST MINUTES, CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO SEPTEMBER AGENDA

- a) The Board approved the August Board Regular Meeting Minutes, as well as, the September Regular Board Meeting Agenda. The Board added to the agenda to accept resignations from Nirma Lucas, Para Educator; Ben Cate, High School Boys Basketball C Team Coach. **Kelley/McKee/Passed/4 for/0 against**

3) PUBLIC COMMENT

Citizens wanting to speak on topics not on the agenda may comment at this point in the meeting. Personnel issues and employee performance are not discussed in public meetings and shall be referred to the superintendent. Other comments are limited to 3 minutes per person and 10 minutes per topic.

Melanie Gillespie addressed the board with concerns about students using social media apps such as SnapChat to communicate information about clubs and sports. While she does not see coaches and advisors using these apps directly, she feels that sometimes they tell students to disseminate information to others and students are using apps not utilized by all students. She would like to see improved communication methods from coaches and advisors that uses district sanctioned platforms.

4) ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Kevin Daling, Athletic Director started off the presentations for the Board by speaking to them about Digital Ticketing. Kevin reported to the Board that GOFAN digital ticketing has gotten off to a smooth start. 458 tickets have been sold so far at only 10 events. He stated the only worry was with the technology portion of GOFAN, but has not had any issues. Kevin also told the Board that going digital has the potential of reducing the amount of game management fees paid out by the district, as well as, time spent counting and reconciling cash boxes.

Roy Johnson, Outreach/Hilltop School Principal presented to the Board along with some of his staff and one of his students. Roy spoke to the Board about the Okanogan Hilltop School and gave an overview of the process of bringing in students and some of their daily routines. The Okanogan Hilltop School is the oldest facility in the state and has a maximum capacity of 10 students.

Roy also spoke about his new support staff, Nick Saenz, Para Educator and Tori Stone, Para Educator and what a great addition they have been.

Steve Streeter, Outreach Teacher reported to the Board that NWEA testing is currently taking place for Outreach and Alternative students and the students have been very willing to complete it. He told the Board there is currently 79 students enrolled between both buildings. He spoke about Outreach being a great option for students and how some students after a little break decide to return to regular classes at the high school after support from the Outreach staff.

Macy, a Junior at Okanogan Outreach, spoke to the Board about the support and opportunities she feels the Outreach has given her. She emotionally reported to the Board she had a difficult time in a regular school setting until she discovered the Outreach. Macy said the staff is always caring and understanding and it has opened her eyes to advancement in any situation.

Julia O'Connor, Homeless Liaison spoke to the Board about the McKinney-Vento program and identifying homeless students. She has worked as the Homeless Liaison and with Family Empowerment for 21 years and understands these students need support, someone to be a cheerleader or life coach, and this is what she really enjoys about her job. She reported to the Board last year there were 87 students identified as homeless, 17 students out of the 87 are now in stable housing. This year 30 students have been identified to date.

Susan Hinger, Behavioral Health Student Professional spoke to the Board briefly about her excitement to be with the Okanogan School District and gave an overview of her services including supporting students with mental health and substance abuse issues.

Mr. Quick reported the district will be moving away from using an insurance broker. The district will be using the same insurance provider, but would like to look into different insurance rates and options. He also reported the old portables have been removed and progress is being made on both the greenhouse and classroom additions. Mr. Quick spoke to the Board regarding the Washington Guaranteed Admission Program for Juniors and Seniors. This program guarantees admission to college if the student maintains a 3.0 grade point average and takes college prerequisites. He spoke about the Capital Project Levy advertisement coming out soon and about our website changing. Blackboard was bought out and the district will be switching to Final Site to manage our website. He reported he would send out a survey to get feedback from community and staff in hopes of improving the website and the amount of traffic visiting the website.

Heather Fisher, District 1 Board Member reported she attended the WSSDA General Assembly and thought it was a lengthy process. It was voted to do away with weighted votes and become 1 vote per district when voting on issues and priorities.

Tony Hawley, District 4 Board Member informed the Board he had received a letter from a community member regarding the hiring process of the Superintendent.

5) APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

The Board approved the Consent Agenda, which consisted of the following:

- a) Hired Jesus Duarte Garcia, Long Term Temporary Custodian; Trinity Fletcher, High School C Team Volleyball Coach; Bill Haley, Middle School Assistant Football Coach; Markie Carpenter, Native American Director.
- b) Accepted resignations from: Dennis O’Conner, Graduation Director; Nirma Lucas, Para Educator; Ben Cate, High School Boys Basketball C Team Coach.
September warrants (256137 through 256176 totaling \$509,202.35; additional warrants included 256213 through 256253 totaling \$74,109.00, 256254 through 256255 totaling \$285,690.42)
- c) September payroll totaling \$1,282,877.26.

There were no objections from the Board regarding the consent agenda or additions, the Board approved the consent agenda. McKee/Fisher/Passed/4 for/0 against

6) APPROVE 2023-2024 OUT OF ENDORSEMENT TEACHERS

- a) After brief discussion, the Board moved to approve the 2023-2024 Out of Endorsement Teachers. **Kelley/Fisher/Passed/4 for/0 against**

7) FINANCIAL REPORTS

- a) Mr. Quick gave the financial report to the Board informing them that Klancy is working to close out the 2022-2023 budget which is due October 25th, 2023. The district is projecting it will fall short of the projected ending fund balance, but have built the new budget this year, taking this into account.

9) BOARD DISCUSSIONS

None heard

10) ADJOURNMENT

- b) There being no further business to bring before the Board, Chair Hawley adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Steve Quick
Superintendent/Secretary

Tony Hawley
Okanogan School Board Chair