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Crook County School District

Where Students Dream, Learn, & Succeed

CROOK COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
Regular School Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 8, 2017

Board Members Present: Doug Smith, Patti Norris, Gwen Carr, Scott Cooper, Walt Wagner
Administrators Present: Duane Yecha, Anna Logan, Stacy Smith, Mona Boyd, Leland Bliss, Michael Allen, Jim Bates, Jayel Hayden, Kurt Sloper, Kimberly Bonner, Joel Hoff, Michelle Jonas, Rob Bonner, Michelle Saavedra

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 Flag Salute
- 1.2 Roll Call to Establish Quorum
- 1.3 Recognition of Visitors

Board Chair Doug Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., the flag salute was recited, a quorum was established, and visitors recognized.

1.4 Agenda Additions, Deletions or Revisions & Agenda Approval

Delete 7.2 – Proficiency Grading Update. The committee is not ready to report.

Patti Norris moved and Gwen Carr seconded the Board approve the agenda as amended. The vote was unanimous in favor 5-0 as follows: Yea – Doug Smith, Patti Norris, Gwen Carr, Walt Wagner, Scott Cooper.

1.5 Kiwanis Summer School Update

Wayne Looney apologized for missing the last meeting where he was on the agenda. He thanked Stacy Smith for standing in for him. Kiwanis intends to operate summer school this summer, which will be their fourth year. Staff hiring is complete with most of the staff returning from last summer. They are in the process of recruiting students. Last summer they served 80 students. They are using the same format this summer. They will have four classrooms with at least 80 students. There is a \$50 fee to sign up, which is refundable if the student attends at least 90% of the time. Most families got their money back last year. They made a change last summer by shortening the number of days each week (from 4 to 3) but extending the number of weeks. The outcomes were the same so they will use the same model this summer. There is enough funding for a 5th year because of outside funding received. He would like the Board to approve the program to continue in 2018. There has been great collaboration with the school district providing the school site and transportation, and also covering the payroll costs.

Doug Smith asked where and how the funds were raised. Wayne indicated that the first year they had enough in their budget of \$20,000. The community has been highly involved. A lot of the funds have come from regular fundraising, such as the annual golf tournament. Other sources came forward with one individual major donor. The Oregon Community Foundation donated \$30,000 over a three-year period. Facebook donated \$3,500, and \$1,000 came from the Roundhouse Foundation.

The Board thanked Wayne and Kiwanis for their efforts to keep the summer school program active.

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2.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

Board Chair Doug Smith opened the Public Comments with the following statement:

"We welcome your input on the current employee situation we face. I am a friend of Cheri, and I too hope this turns out properly for all involved. Cheri is currently on paid administrative leave. There is an internal review that I truly feel must be completed, as when a decision is made, it must be the correct decision. That will take some time. Our district investigation is based on district, state and federal law, which is not the same level as a criminal investigation. I do promise, and I feel I speak on behalf of my other Board members, and Dr. Yecha, that we will insure that during this time Cheri will be treated fairly and we will insure that this decision is based on facts, not on conjecture. We will seek an answer that provides for a safe and high quality learning environment. With that said, we would appreciate your keeping your statements brief, and if your message has been presented by a previous speaker, please state that and avoid repetitive statements. I would also ask that you keep your comments as positive as possible, and avoid making any negative statements you cannot back with fact. Please understand that the Board does not receive complaints about individual employees during board meetings. If you have a complaint, please submit your complaint in compliance with the Board's complaint policy. Please also understand that the Board can listen to your comments, but we cannot respond or make comments about confidential personnel information or investigations."

Speakers:

- Stacy Stringer, teacher at CRE, read a letter that was provided to the Board. The letter will become part of the official board minutes. Stacy was representing the majority of CRE staff in support of Cheri.
- Marilyn Capehart, community member, asked if Dr. Yecha would be the one who makes the decision, or what is the Board's role in making a decision? Doug Smith indicated the Board will remain distanced from the investigation. She then asked if after the decision is made, would the Board look into it. Doug stated that after a decision is made, and if there is an appeal, the Board will look into it.
- Travis Vail, parent with four kids who have or are going through school at CRE. If Cheri Rasmussen is not reinstated, he will remove his children from the school.
- Marge Pierce, retired teacher, asked if Cheri is not working at the school because of a problem with a child or is it because of something else? Doug Smith indicated they could not comment. She was released of criminal charges, however, there are other laws that cover how administrators transact business on a daily basis.
- Kimberly Forseth, mom of four children, who have gone through CRE or are currently at CRE. She expressed that Cheri made a very positive impact on her children. She thanked the CRE staff and Cheri for the success of her son now getting A's and B's after leaving CRE. She never put a hand on him or raised her voice.
- Richard Wilson, community member, asked Dr. Yecha what he was looking at time wise as to when the investigation would come to an end. He would like to see a timeline, which he feels the citizens should be entitled to. You have a part-time ESD employee doing the investigation. He asked what his timeline would be. Jayel Hayden, Regional HR Director spoke regarding the timeline. He is currently trying to clear up his schedule in the other two districts he serves so that he can devote his time fulltime to this investigation. Mr. Wilson would like to see the steps that are to be taken. Board Chair Doug Smith indicated the audience is entitled to public comments. This is not a press conference. We are to here tonight to hear from the audience, not to answer questions.
- Mike Coffman, parent, has known Cheri for several years, he has kids going through CRE. He has looked at information printed from the community. He is sickened by the things he has seen, things said about Cheri and the child. There is no reason to talk about the child, Mrs. Rasmussen, or family.
- Hanna Slack, CCHS freshman, had Cheri as an elementary principal. She is a great woman, who is brave and helpful. She would never do anything to hurt anyone. She has overcome many obstacles. I go to her for advice, and she has always been respectful.

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- Naomi Hildebrand, student, indicated Cheri has helped her through school. The community needs to be Cheri strong. Don't take her away from us.
- Aaron Mapes, parent, indicated that his family loves Cheri. He can appreciate this is difficult issue for the Board and community to go through. He has had four daughters go through CRE. He never worried about them because he knew they were in good hands. He asked if the district could post the standards and criteria that are different from criminal standards. Unless there is a lot of additional information you are looking for, she should be reinstated. As long as there are no other problems other than was the DA findings, we need to get her back ASAP.
- Traci Barrett, employee and parent, stated that Cheri breaks the standard principal mold. Children are her #1 priority. She cares about each child in every way, along with the parents. They chose CRE for their children to attend. CRE would not be the same without Cheri.
- Jessica Lay, parent and local business owner and youth basketball coach. She has two 5th graders. She understands you are doing an investigation, however, you are robbing her children and all 5th grade students of their principal before they move on. The Fifth graders need to see her before they move to 6th grade.
- Superintendent Yecha spoke regarding the investigation. He apologized that he has disappointed the community regarding the timeline. It is his desire to resolve this matter as soon as possible.
- Russ Smith, parent, stated that it seems as if everyone present has known Mrs. Rasmussen for many years. He has only known her for two years. You have an unbelievable decision to make. What needs to be considered is not just the educational ramifications, but also our pain and the teachers' pain. The examples she sets are the reason his kids stay at CRE. We know the decisions she makes are in the best interest of the students.

(Comments ended at 7:18 p.m.)

3.0 OTHER AGENCY / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

3.1 Facilities Update

Leland Bliss updated the Board on facilities projects. They have been working on details for the back parking lot at CRE. Doug suggested that perhaps it is graveled the first year to see how that works, prior to paving it.

They have started painting the Pioneer Complex.

Leland provided a seismic update. They received one contract bid, which was within budget. They are working on finalizing the contract and schedules. They hope to start on June 12, perhaps a little earlier, if they can do so without disturbing the school setting. Griffin Construction is the contractor. They also did the second version of the stadium and Paulina Elementary.

Walt Wagner asked about the stairs at the stadium. Leland stated the stairs at the stadium now have stripes on each step, which has improved the safety of the steps.

Teacher Melissa Bunting asked about the heating system at CRE. When the fans come on it is very noisy in the classroom and it is hard to hear the children when they speak. Leland indicated it is required to keep the fans running. They are looking at ways to improve the system.

3.2 HDESD Board Meeting Highlights

The Board reviewed the highlights.

4.0 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

4.1 District Newsletter Format Change

Superintendent Yecha indicated the district is experimenting with the format for the newsletter. Rather than providing several stories at one time, they are taking the stories and photos and sending them out in e-mail one at a time to see how people respond.

Superintendent Yecha added that they are working on workshop proposals for the annual OSBA convention. Joel Hoff and Kimberly Bonner are working on Proven Intervention & Tracking Systems for

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At-Risk Student Populations. Also, Leland Bliss is working on a maintenance schedule proposal. Jim Bates and Carrie Shinkle are working on a math short cycle assessment proposal.

4.2 AP Institute of the Cascade

CCHS Principal Michelle Jonas indicated this was part of the Cascade Commitment. The closest AP training in the past has been in Washington. We are excited to have AP classes offered locally. It will be less expensive to send teachers locally than elsewhere. However, there are some classes not offered locally and teachers will need to travel to Washington for the training this summer.

Patti Norris asked if the high school will be expanding the AP offerings. Michelle indicated they will add AP Calculus BC. They are attempting to also add Physics and AP Government.

Duane asked Michelle how successful we have been with the AP program. Michelle stated she did not have that data with her but could provide it later. She added they are offering dual credit with AP classes. Students can choose to go singly or apply for dual credit. Duane would like this data included in the goals when reviewed next year. Scott Cooper would like to see this as a separate topic at the next Board meeting. If we are not succeeding, we need to know that.

It was decided that Michelle will bring forward results for the 2015-16 school year and 2016-17 school year at the August 14, 2017 Board meeting.

5.0 **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

The Board reviewed the Consent Agenda.

- 5.1 April 10, 2017 Regular School Board Minutes
- 5.2 Donations
- 5.3 Enrollment
- 5.4 Resignations / Retirements
 - 5.4.1 Michele Marzullo, Brothers Secretary / IA (resignation)
 - 5.4.2 Renea Sedlacek, Trans. Dept. Dispatch/Bookkeeper (retirement)
 - 5.4.3 Shari Burke, BBE Lead Secretary (retirement)
 - 5.4.4 Danielle Ramos, CCMS .5 Science Teacher (resignation)
 - 5.4.5 Barb Patana, HR Specialist (resignation)
- 5.5 Hiring – Classified:
 - 5.5.1 Athan Kramer, Bus Driver
 - 5.5.2 Patty Schmitz, BBE Welcome Center Coordinator
 - 5.5.3 Esmeralda Figueroa, CCMS Welcome Center
- 5.6 Hiring – Licensed
 - 5.6.1 Sean Hagan, CCMS Speech-Language Pathologist
 - 5.6.2 Kersey Wilcox, CCHS Advanced Math Teacher
 - 6.5.3 Heather Mackay, District Wide School Psychologist
- 5.7 Finance Report

Patti Norris moved and seconded by Gwen Carr the Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The vote was in favor 5-0 as follows: Yea – Doug Smith, Patti Norris, Gwen Carr, Walt Wagner, Scott Cooper.

6.0 **FINANCE**

6.1 Revision of Resolution #04-2016-17 – General Fund Transfers

Anna Logan reported that the Finance Report is part of the Consent Agenda. The report was so late because we were supposed to have another update from ODE, but it has not come through yet. At the last Board meeting the Board approved Resolution #04, to transfer budget appropriations. That needs to be revised because she now has new information. This month's Finance Report is prepared as if the last resolution didn't happen. Revenue is down about \$104,000 from last month due to property taxes and state

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school funds and forest fees. We also had the \$200,000, which was approved for furnishings. Our updated projection is more like \$850,000. We have \$500,000 in contingency we can use.

Patti Norris moved and Gwen Carr seconded the Board adopt Revised Resolution #04-2016-17 – General Fund Transfers as presented. The vote was in favor 5-0 as follows: Yea – Doug Smith, Patti Norris, Gwen Carr, Walt Wagner, Scott Cooper.

6.2 403(b) Vendors – Resolution #06-2016-17 – PlanMember Services

Anna Logan reported on a change in our vendor list. We have six vendors listed. One vendor has not had anyone sign up for over two years. Anna would like to remove the vendor from the list.

Scott Cooper moved and Patti Norris seconded the Board adopt Resolution #06-2016-17 – PlanMember Services as amended. The vote was in favor 5-0 as follows: Yea – Doug Smith, Patti Norris, Gwen Carr, Walt Wagner, Scott Cooper.

6.3 Resolution #07-2016-17 – 2017-18 School Fees

Anna Logan reviewed the school fees schedule. There were questions regarding club fees.

Scott Cooper moved and Walt Wagner seconded the Board adopt Resolution #07-2016-17 – 2017-18 School Fees eliminating ski club participation fee. The vote was in favor 5-0 as follows: Yea – Doug Smith, Patti Norris, Gwen Carr, Walt Wagner, Scott Cooper.

7.0 **BOARD REVIEW / DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS**

7.1 Official Change of Address for Crooked River Elementary for ODE

Curriculum Director Stacy Smith indicated we recently discovered we did not provide ODE with the change of address for Crooked River Elementary. The new address 1400 SE Second St., Prineville, OR 97754. He is asking for Board action to approve this address change, which is an ODE requirement.

Patti Norris moved and Gwen Carr seconded the Board approve the address change for Crooked River Elementary School because of the move this year to the newly remodeled building. The new address 1400 SE Second St., Prineville, OR 97754. The vote was unanimous 5-0 in favor as follows: Yea – Doug Smith, Patti Norris, Scott Cooper, Gwen Carr, Walt Wagner.

7.2 Proficiency Grading Districtwide – Update

This topic was removed from agenda. The committee is not ready to report.

7.3 2017-18 Winter Break Discussion

Superintendent Yecha indicated Redmond brought to his attention that Crook County has a different winter break than the other Central Oregon districts. Around the state most schools are aligned with our schedule. The official college winter break is December 25 – January 5.

After Board discussion, it was decided to leave the calendar as originally adopted.

7.4 Recess Policy

The reference to recess appears in policy EFA-AR – Wellness. The statement is not very clear. The following staff members were appointed to work on re-wording the section regarding recess: CCMS Principal Kurt Sloper, BBE Principal Jim Bates, and CRE teacher Melissa Bunting.

7.5 Appointment of Gwen Carr to HDESD Board

Superintendent Yecha indicated Gwen Carr has applied for the open position of Board Member representing CCSD on the HDESD Board. The ESD needs the CCSD Board to approve this appointment

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Patti Norris moved and Walt Wagner seconded the Board approve the appointment of Gwen Carr to the HDESD Board. The vote was unanimous 5-0 in favor as follows: Yea – Doug Smith, Patti Norris, Scott Cooper, Gwen Carr, Walt Wagner.

7.6 Student Cell Phone Usage

Superintendent Yecha stated he needed to make a clarification from last month's meeting regarding cell phones on school buses. Michelle Saavedra stated our policy does not allow phones on buses. That is a very old policy and the policy needs to be updated. The problem you have with cell phones on the bus is inappropriate use. However, students are allowed to use them when needed.

8.0 BOARD POLICIES AND AR's – First And / Or Second Reading of New or Updated Policies & AR's

8.1 JECBD –Homeless Students

8.2 JECBD-AR – Homeless Students

The Board reviewed the policy and AR.

Patti moved and Scott Cooper seconded the Board adopt Policy JECBD and JECBD-AR – Homeless Students. The vote was unanimous 5-0 in favor as follows: Yea – Doug Smith, Patti Norris, Scott Cooper, Gwen Carr, Walt Wagner.

8.3 GCBG – Paid (Sick Time) Leave

Jayel Hayden described the changes to policy GCBG because of SB 454 resulting in ORS 653.601-653.661 – Oregon Sick Time Law. The District bargained this law with both associations, which is reflected in these changes. We run sick leave and sick time concurrently as bargained.

Patti Norris moved and Scott Cooper seconded the Board adopt Policy GCBG – Paid Leave, as presented. The vote was unanimous 5-0 in favor as follows: Yea – Doug Smith, Patti Norris, Scott Cooper, Gwen Carr, Walt Wagner.

8.4 BBB – School Board Elections

This is an update to the policy with current dates and a reference to the At Large position. There were questions regarding serving on more than one Board. The Board secretary will review and get back to the Board.

*(The change was made from House Bill 3537 during the 2013 legislative session. The bill modified ORS 249.013 to **remove** the following language, which previously prohibited a person from being on the ballot twice:*

“(4) (a) No person shall be a candidate for more than one district office to be filled at the same election. This paragraph does not apply to a district that has fewer than 10,000 electors residing within the district.”

9.0 FUTURE MEETINGS / IMPORTANT DATES

The Board reviewed the list of meetings and important dates.

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10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Doug Smith

Doug Smith, School Board Chair

Jan Martin

Jan Martin, Board Secretary

June 12, 2017

Date Minutes Approved