



CROOK COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, April 5, 2018
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Board Members Present: Doug Smith, Patti Norris, Scott Cooper, Walt Wagner, Gwen Carr

Administrators Present: Duane Yecha, Stacy Smith, Anna Logan, Michael Allen, Leland Bliss, Jim Bates, Kurt Sloper, Joel Hoff, Stacy Smith, Cheri Rasmussen, Mona Boyd

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 Flag Salute
- 1.2 Roll Call to Establish Quorum
- 1.3 Agenda Additions, Deletions or Revisions & Agenda Approval

Board Chair Doug Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., the flag salute was recited, and a quorum was established. Doug asked if there were any additions, deletions or revisions to the agenda. Superintendent Yecha wanted to address the Board and audience regarding a situation that happened at the high school today. The Board Chair asked him to proceed.

A student wrote a threatening statement in one of the bathrooms indicating something would happen on April 9. CCHS Principal Michelle Jonas read to the Board a statement that was posted this afternoon on the District's website and sent to all parents by e-mail. The statement will be included in the Board minutes binder. Additional law enforcement will be present at all schools on Monday, April 9.

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 – Patti Norris, Gwen Carr, Walt Wagner, Scott Cooper, and Doug Smith.

1.4 Recognition of Visitors & Public Comments

No comments.

2.0 HIRING OF NEW SUPERINTENDENT

Board Chair Doug Smith reviewed the process that took place in hiring our new superintendent, Dr. Sara E. Johnson, and shared some of her work background. She will start with the district on July 1, 2018.

Scott Cooper moved and Patti Norris seconded the Board gratefully acknowledge Superintendent Yecha for his service the last seven years, and to approve the hiring of Dr. Sara E. Johnson as Superintendent of the Crook County School District effective July 1, 2018, with a three-year contract. The vote was unanimous in favor 5-0 as follows: Yea – Patti Norris, Gwen Carr, Walt Wagner, Scott Cooper, and Doug Smith.

3.0 SAFETY INITIATIVES / CONSIDERATIONS

Superintendent Yecha pointed out to the Board and audience the document displayed on the screen as follows: Projects Already Completed; Will Be Completed; Suggested/Explore Feasibility; and Procedural Management. This document will be placed in the Board minutes binder.

Facilities Supervisor, Leland Bliss, reported on the Suggested/Explore Feasibility column, which included estimated costs for a variety of safety projects at all school locations.

Doug indicated the Board's job this evening is to give guidance to Anna on how to budget for next year.

Anna Logan stated the items discussed tonight would need to be prioritized. The funds would come from maintenance reserve, technology reserve, and/or capital reserve. Also, when we have extra funds in the General Fund, we try to use those extra funds for one-time costs.

Superintendent Yecha reported on the possibility of a second school resource officer using Local Service Plan funds through the ESD. There is also enough funds to assist in the threat assessment training, partnering with the ESD for the Salem-Keizer Threat Assessment model, which costs approximately \$16,000. This program provides training for our staff on what kinds of assistance is needed for students.

Doug Smith then opened the floor to audience members who wished to make comments regarding school safety.

Dana Millin, retired CCSD teacher and PBCCS board member, came forward. She thanked the Board for being proactive. After academics, the biggest concern is student safety. She indicated she has had conversations with Doug Smith and Superintendent Yecha regarding things that can be done to help the students feel safe at school. She referenced issues at Powell Butte and Paulina that need to be addressed, in particular the school entrances, front and back. Dana added that she would be willing to take on a fundraising effort for safety funding for PBCCS since she understands the school is not part of the regular CCSD funding sources.

Parent Mandy Puckett came forward to report on additional safety items. As a parent, her priorities would be to secure front entrances with bulletproof glass, lock all doors, and she would love to see an SRO in every school. She understands that may not be possible. Perhaps you can look at staff members who have a military background, or retired military officers and retired veterans. She also would like the Board to look at the other legs of the three-legged stool information she submitted at the March 12 Board Meeting.

4.0 SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT CONSIDERATION (Clubs)

Superintendent Yecha stated the District is looking at improving relationships and getting students connected. We have in the budget, through Measure 98 funds, about \$20,000 that could be dedicated to new clubs and activities. We could do five or six clubs for student engagement with those funds. If we added programs at the elementary, we would need an additional pool of money because Measure 98 funds are only for the secondary level. Anna added that the funds are specifically designated for grades 9-12. Measure 98 will cover some grades less than high school, but because of the restrictions, we have used those funds for high school only.

Doug asked what it would cost at the elementary level per school activity. Anna indicated it would cost approximately \$5,000 per activity per school, at both the elementary level and middle school level.



CCMS Principal Kurt Sloper commented on the Nutrition Services supper program tied in with activities. This has been very successful at the middle school.

Scott Cooper asked how many kids at the middle school and high school are not connected. Stacy Smith indicated he is working on those numbers.

Michelle Jonas indicated it is important at the elementary level to have staff available during the day, such as a counselor, for elementary students to talk to if needed. Many elementary students are not able to stay after school for activities.

Jim Bates stated that at BBE they have approximately 75 kids on average attending the Kids' Club after school. In the past, we have had a math club with about 10 students. Jim added that we need to look first at connections during the regular school day for students.

CRE Principal Cheri Rasmussen stated they recently got a PE grant, which required seven activities after school. The programs have filled up quickly and are on a first come first serve basis. The grant provides instructors being paid approximately \$35 per hour.

Scott Cooper stated that most of the school threats have been at the middle and high school level. He would like to see every student at the middle and high school be connected, rather than concentrating on the elementary level at this time.

Jim Bates indicated the connections start at the Kindergarten level. The mental health piece of getting kids connected early is very important.

Scott indicated he agrees with Jim, but we only have so much money. Right now, the danger zone is the middle school and high school level. Walt Wagner stated he agreed with Scott's comments.

Doug reported on a comment he heard while visiting superintendent finalists' home districts. One of the administrators stated that if you have a successful student at the 8th grade, you do not have a problem keeping them engaged at the high school level. If you have student fallout at the elementary level, who becomes unengaged at the middle school level, they are not going to make it at the high school level.

Dana Millin spoke as a former teacher and citizen. She stated that many kids cannot be in after-school activities. However, the Scottish Storyline connects kids who are struggling. These activities take place during the school day. If you want to fix kids at the elementary level, embrace Storyline. When that child feels important, that is where real learning is happening. If they get to play a character in Storyline, they feel important. This would eliminate a great number of kids who are disenchanting with school. As a whole, you can bring community members in who are afraid to enter the schools because they have had a bad experience when they were in school. They enjoy the Storyline process.

Scott Cooper reported on an activity one of the superintendent candidates did at their high school. All the students' names were printed on a card and taped to a wall, approximately 1,200 students. Staff members were each given three dots and asked to place a dot on a student with whom they have connected. The rule was that no student card could receive more than two dots. When the exercise was over, there were still 700 students who had no dots. It was an eye-opener for the staff.

Doug asked about the cost per activity at the middle school and high school. Anna stated it would cost \$5,000 per club, and perhaps additional costs for supplies. However, those costs are usually covered by the general budget. Anna added that if we put in another \$20,000 – \$30,000 at the middle school and high school, including Pioneer, we could cover anything new the kids would be interested in.

Michelle Jonas added that most of the kids at risk are not going to sign up for these clubs. The programs need to be more systematic, rather than voluntary programs. Anna indicated we could take a chunk of money to do school engagement (decided upon later), either during the school day, or once a week for kids, or a six-week program.

Mona Boyd stated that transportation could be an issue for after-school programs, especially for elementary students. Many kids are not engaged in after-school programs because they do not have a way to get home.

Doug commented that, as Michelle Jonas stated, we need to engage these kids during the school day.

Patti indicated that perhaps some of the money could be used to train staff to work with students to keep them engaged during the school day.

Walt asked if we have checked with other districts to see if they have similar problems. Perhaps they have ideas for student engagement.

Scott indicated that we are doing some things right. In talking with a parent from Redmond, they have hard caps on participation. The first 60 kids to sign up would be on the team. They do not necessarily take everyone who wants to participate. In Crook County, we accept all kids who want to take part in activities and sports.

MiKinley Puckett, CCMS 8th grader, came forward to speak to the Board. *“Last month there was another school shooting where two kids got shot and the SRO stopped it. I am a student at CCMS and I feel the school should be protected and someone at the school who can respond if someone comes in to try to hurt us. I feel like a good and easy way to prevent school shootings and keeping us safe, is putting police officers in the schools to protect us. As well as us students being able to protect ourselves from a shooter, instead of staying in a group, but by throwing things and punching the shooter. I think being able to protect ourselves is very important.”*

Board Chair Doug Smith asked MiKinley how she and other students feel at school. She indicated that students do not feel safe. She hears lots of jokes, such as, “If I don’t get an A, I will shoot up the school.” On Facebook and Instagram, comments are made saying mean things about other students in school. These comments drive the students to want to do something.

Doug asked MiKinley if there were one thing the school board could do, what it would be. MiKinley stated that a police officer in every school would help. There is only so much students and staff can do.

Gwen asked MiKinley what she does about Instagram comments that are not nice. She stated that recently a comment was made about her and she tried to shake it off. A lot of kids who are different, and other kids make comments about them, this really brings down their self-esteem. She talks to the principal, assistant principal, and she talks with her parents about comments made on social media.

Doug indicated that many students cannot talk with their parents. He wanted to congratulate her. Gwen encouraged MiKinley to continue to speak up about things she reads online.

Doug indicated it was now time for the Board to give Anna guidance for budgeting. He would like to pare down the costs for safety costs to \$450,000 for both items that were discussed this evening.



Scott indicated he is willing to go with \$500,000. Gwen asked Anna if she felt that was a reasonable number to work with. Anna indicated it would be a challenge, however, if we are able to prioritize things, we can then go forward as funds become available.

There was discussion about the back area at the high school and what could be done to make it more secure. Leland indicated the Police Dept. is doing an in-depth safety assessment of each school. There may be more ideas yet to come.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Doug Smith

Doug Smith, School Board Chair

Jan Martin

Jan Martin, Board Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: **May 14, 2018**