

HILLSBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS—MINUTES
November 12, 2013
District Administration Center, 3083 NE 49th Place, Hillsboro, Oregon

Board Present:

Kim Strelchun, Chair
Adriana Cañas
Wayne Clift
Glenn Miller (on speaker phone)
Erik Seligman
Janeen Sollman

Staff Present:

Mike Scott, Superintendent
Steve Larson, Assistant Superintendent, School Performance
Adam Stewart, Chief Financial Officer
Matt Smith, Executive Director, School Performance
Beth Graser, Director, Communications
Laurie Boyd, Assistant to the Superintendent
Marva Wiebe, Assistant to the Board
Val Bokma, Executive Director's Secretary, Human Resources

Others Present:

Lisa Allen
J. B. Cohen
Eric Weyrauch, HCU
Maureen Barnhart, HEA
Luke Hammill, The Oregonian
Mike Fedema, Hillsboro Tribune

1. Bond Election Results Update. Board Chair Kim Strelchun called the Board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. She explained that Director Monte Akers was not able to attend the meeting due to a work commitment, and that Director Glenn Miller would participate by speaker phone. Board Chair Strelchun, who chaired the Citizens for Hillsboro Schools bond campaign committee, gave an update on the campaign results. She noted that the campaign had the support of three mayors and city councils, elected officials at the county, state, and federal levels, and over 120 businesses and individuals; it was a very diverse, bi-partisan group. She reported that committee members met following the election to share lessons learned and discuss how they can improve their efforts next time. Board Chair Strelchun asked Board members for feedback on the election. Director Erik Seligman recommended rethinking how the bond is presented to the public next time. Director Adriana Cañas added that it is essential to make the community aware of the need for technology upgrades in the classrooms. She stressed the importance of visiting classrooms and asking teachers what limits them in doing their work. Director Miller said he read comments online indicating that patrons did not feel that increased technology in the classroom was an urgent need. He commented that patrons may not understand all of the ways technology is used in instruction - it's more than just computers. Director Wayne Clift felt that the District needs to communicate its technology "vision" rather than sharing its shopping list. He asked about the professional assessment of the campaign. Board Chair Strelchun explained that the message was aligned with the survey conducted the previous year, and the committee thought it was on target and reaching the right people. Director Janeen Sollman commented that, before the election, she was impressed with the number of supporters who were on board with the campaign. She commended Board Chair Strelchun for her efforts. During the campaign, patrons she spoke with on the phone and in person were overwhelmingly supportive. Afterward, she found the low voter turnout very discouraging. Board Chair Strelchun reported that the committee will continue to analyze the election data to determine if those who were positive on the phone actually ended up voting. She commented that the bond failure was not unique to Hillsboro; other measures failed throughout Oregon. Board Chair Strelchun suggested that Board members may want to attend the Oregon school Boards Association (OSBA) "Bonds, Ballots, and Buildings" conference in January. She also suggested the District develop its own quality education model (QEM), including funding costs, to educate the community and create a sense of urgency. Superintendent Mike Scott thanked Board Chair Strelchun for putting in so much time to lead the campaign.
2. Boundary Issue Update. Superintendent Scott provided an update on the boundary mediation meetings that were required by Senate Bill 600. He explained that SB 600 required Hillsboro School District (HSD) and Beaverton School District (BSD) to enter into mediation over their boundary "dispute." He clarified that HSD and BSD did not actually have a boundary dispute; a landowner in the south Cooper

Mountain area desired to move his land into BSD. That effort was not successful, and the landowner worked to bring about a change in the law that led to SB 600. Chief Financial Officer Adam Stewart reviewed the current boundary change request process. Superintendent Scott summarized the mediation report that was submitted to senate and house education committees. The report emphasized the need for an open, transparent discussion among stakeholders in regard to the south Cooper Mountain area, and the recommendation that election costs be the responsibility of the landowner making the request. In addition, the report recommended creation of a statewide process for carefully analyzed and well-reasoned boundary decisions. Director Clift commented that this is a sensitive issue, and there needs to be a method for engaging in legitimate boundary discussions without coming across as negative or hostile. Director Miller commented that there are currently very few students living in the area under discussion, and that the District has a transfer process in place. He felt that this would serve those students until the community could be engaged in a wider discussion.

3. Level 1 Schools Update. Superintendent Scott explained that the Board heard a report on October 22 regarding State Report Card results. At that meeting, the Board requested information on the plan to support the W. L. Henry and Lincoln Street Elementary Schools, which received Level 1 ratings on the report cards. Assistant Superintendent Steve Larson reviewed graphs comparing the socio-economic status (SES) at each of the District schools (poverty, mobility, English language learner, and underserved). The two Level 1 schools ranked high in most of the SES factors, contributing to their lower student achievement levels. Assistant Superintendent Larson provided corrective action plans for each school to support increasing student achievement. Board members discussed whether funding all schools equally was equitable, how to increase support for the Level 1 schools without negatively impacting higher performing schools, development of the corrective action plans, and whether the state might provide extra weighting in the funding formula for students of poverty. Superintendent Scott recommended the District reduce its projected ending fund balance from 5 percent to 4.85 percent in order to implement the first year of the corrective action plans, and consider the process for funding the second year of the plan during the next budgeting process. Board members expressed support for implementation of the plans, particularly after having referred to the District having an “equity emergency” at the October 22 Board meeting. In addition, Superintendent Scott announced that he will be putting together committee to look at how resources are allocated to schools, and will be seeking Board participation. Board Chair Strelchun expressed interest in participating.
4. Legislative Priorities Update. Superintendent Scott explained that the state legislature now meets every year instead of every other year. In even-numbered years, the sessions are shorter and legislators can only introduce one bill each. The Board has historically established legislative priorities before each legislative session. He asked the Board to consider what priorities they would like to establish for the 2014 session, which will begin in February. Director Sollman felt that the countywide legislative town hall hosted last year by Forest Grove School District was a very successful event, and suggested the District host one in January. She would be willing to organize it. Board members requested additional information before establishing priorities, including what bills have already been introduced for the short session, the legislative priorities adopted by OSBA, and the District’s unfunded mandates with estimated costs included. The topic will be added to the December 3 Board meeting agenda.
5. OSBA Annual Convention Session Planning. Board members reviewed the list of sessions for the upcoming OSBA convention, and discussed their participation.
6. Board Discussion Time. Board Chair Strelchun circulated cards for American Education Week baskets for Board signatures. The Board discussed plans for filling and delivering the baskets during American Education Week. It was determined that available Board members would meet to assemble and deliver the baskets on November 20.

Director Seligman had questions on the statement issued to KATU television station regarding parent concerns about math instruction at Evergreen Middle School. Superintendent Scott clarified that the parent concerns were more centered on Common Core State Standards (CCSS) than on the actual curriculum materials being used. Assistant Superintendent Larson explained that school districts in Oregon are required to teach the new standards, and that all curriculum materials authorized for school

districts to purchase would necessarily be aligned to the CCSS. He further explained that if teachers have supplemental materials to teach the same curriculum, they are welcome to use them; however, they should be vetted through the teachers and principal.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

 

Approved December 17, 2013