

HILLSBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS—MINUTES

February 25, 2014

District Administration Center, 3083 NE 49th Place, Hillsboro, Oregon

Board Present:

Kim Strelchun, Chair
Monte Akers, Vice Chair
Adriana Cañas
Wayne Clift
Glenn Miller
Erik Seligman
Janeen Sollman

Budget Committee Present:

Nina Carlson
Cathy Clark Thomas
Angie Ellis
Rebecca Lantz
Jennifer Rychlik

Others Present:

Eric Weyrauch, HCU
Maureen Barnhart, HEA
Debra Mayo Kelley, AFT
Andrea Castillo, The Oregonian
Kathy Fuller, Hillsboro Tribune

Staff Present:

Mike Scott, Superintendent
Debbie Ashley, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Steve Larson, Assistant Superintendent, School Performance
Adam Stewart, Chief Financial Officer
Elaine Fox, Executive Director, Student Services
Travis Reiman, Executive Director, School Performance
Matt Smith, Executive Director, Secondary Education
Dayle Spitzer, Executive Director, Elementary Education
Beth Graser, Director, Communications
Saideh Haghighi, Director, Equity and Human Resources
Casey Waletich, Director, Safety and Operations
Michelle Morrison, Manager of Business Services
Arturo Lomeli, Principal, Hillsboro High School
Enedelia Schofield, Principal, Butternut Creek Elementary School
Greg Timmons, Principal, Poynter Middle School
Kona Williams, Principal, Eastwood Elementary School
Justin Arey, Web Specialist
Laurie Boyd, Assistant to the Superintendent
Val Bokma, Assistant to the Board
Zaida Rosa, Bilingual Interpreter and Translator

Board Chair Kim Strelchun called the meeting to order at 5:21p.m.

1. Work Session

- a. Engagement Strategy Update. Director of Communications Beth Graser and District Web Specialist, Justin Arey, shared information with the Board regarding the District's progress toward meeting the Engagement Strategy objectives. Director Graser explained that engagement involves a continuous District-wide team effort.

Questions and comments from the Board:

- Request for quantitative metrics (e.g., number of additional patrons accessing updated school web pages)
- Praise for the work of the Communications Department
- Facebook postings to include:
 - Highly effective teachers in action (video)
 - Smart classroom setup – effective use of technology
 - School in progress video (even if only 15 minutes)

- b. Equity Strategy Update. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Debbie Ashley and Director of Human Resources and Equity Saideh Haghighi provided an update of accomplishments in support of the Equity Strategy.

Questions and comments from the Board:

- Concern regarding the political views represented on the Facebook page of an equity curriculum provider
- Request for information regarding equity training
- Request for additional feedback from teachers regarding equity-related professional development
- Statements from Board members who have participated in equity training, that participation and conversation are as important as the curriculum
- Discussion of the importance of providing additional assistance to schools with a high percentage of migrant students and students living in poverty

Superintendent Scott emphasized the District's commitment to respect for all people, explained the value of this training to the work of educating students, and invited Board members who are interested to participate in equity training, in addition to viewing the curriculum.

- c. Safety Strategy Update. This item was moved to a future meeting, due to time constraints.
- d. Budget Committee Update. Superintendent Mike Scott and Chief Financial Officer Adam Stewart presented a budget update, and Budget Committee members asked questions. Highlights of the discussion follow:
- The first 2014-15 State School Fund estimate is scheduled for release on March 3, 2014.
 - Information was shared regarding the balances and plans for utilizing the District's bond interest, reserve, and construction excise tax funds.
 - Information was presented regarding the District's anticipated revenue and expenditures through 2018-19; it was noted that the five-year budget projection is much more positive than in previous years.
 - An updated budget timeline was presented.
 - Feedback from staff regarding potential priorities was shared; principals representing an elementary school, a middle school, and a high school provided information regarding their funding priorities and the priorities of their students' families, including:
 - Embedded instructional coaches
 - Classified hours
 - Class size reductions
 - Investment in the arts
 - Systems that support families (e.g., Care Teams)
 - Instructional supports
 - Infrastructure for technology

- Assistance for schools that are not Title I, but have a high percentage of students living in poverty
 - Coordinator for college and career / dual credit programs
 - Different funding priorities at different school levels
 - Comparative value of decreased class size vs. employing instructional coaches
 - The accumulative impact of investments in classified hours and instructional coaches on student achievement over a period of years
 - Budget Committee discussion items:
 - Text book purchases
 - Workload issues for teachers (e.g., assigning/grading writing assignments)
 - Maintaining a reserve balance
 - Restrictions of limited classroom space on types of instructional practices
 - Budget Committee Members requests:
 - Comparison of cost and impact of coaches vs. classified hours
 - Breakdown of class size at each school
 - Outline of non-cost-related impacts of budget reductions (e.g., overfilled classes that prevent students from completing a cycle)
 - Data collection from a web-based calculator tool that would allow the public to indicate how they would balance the budget, given certain resources and options; this tool could provide training to the public regarding actual costs, while allowing them to express their values
- e. Board Discussion Time. This item was moved to the end of the regular session portion of the meeting due to time constraints. The meeting was recessed at 7:28 p.m.

7:30 p.m. Regular Session

Board Present:

Kim Strelchun, Chair
Monte Akers, Vice Chair
Adriana Cañas
Wayne Clift
Glenn Miller
Erik Seligman
Janeen Sollman

Others Present:

Tim Carlisle
Rachel McLemore
Rodney Linz
Jennifer Gallegos
Maureen Barnhart, HEA
Andrea Castillo, The
Oregonian

Staff Present:

Mike Scott, Superintendent
Debbie Ashley, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Steve Larson, Assistant Superintendent, School Performance
Adam Stewart, Chief Financial Officer
Elaine Fox, Executive Director, Student Services
Matt Smith, Executive Director, Secondary Education
Dayle Spitzer, Executive Director, Elementary Education
Beth Graser, Director, Communications
Don Wolff, Director, Technology Services
Arturo Lomeli, Principal, Hillsboro High School
Robin Farup-Romero, Principal, Reedville Elementary School
Ene delia Schofield, Principal, Butternut Creek Elementary School
Laurie Boyd, Assistant to the Superintendent
Val Bokma, Assistant to the Board
Zaida Rosa, Bilingual Interpreter and Translator

2. Call to Order and Flag Salute. Board Chair Strelchun reconvened the meeting at 7:37 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Recognition / Student Presentation. Reedville Elementary School students who participated in the recent Intel Robotics Competition shared their impressions, and second graders from Reedville Elementary School's dual language program sang a song and explained why being bilingual is important to them.
4. Approval of Agenda. Director Seligman moved to approve the agenda. Director Cañas seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.
5. Audience Time. Board Chair Strelchun explained the procedure for addressing the Board according to Policy BDDH: Public Participation in Board Meetings. One request was received to address the Board on non-agenda items:

Jennifer Gallegos shared her concerns regarding the opinions expressed by an organization that provides equity curriculum to the District. Ms. Gallegos stated that racism and respect are learned, not inherent, attitudes; she emphasized the importance of harmony and respect for everyone; and she encouraged the District to investigate other curriculum options.

Superintendent Scott addressed Ms. Gallegos' concerns. He emphasized that the District does not defend or condone any activities that marginalize any individuals or groups of people, and that respect for all people is one of the District's intrinsic principles. He explained that equity training programs assist staff in meeting the needs of the District's diverse student population, and that the District uses a variety of programs for equity training. He also stated that, upon becoming aware of the posting, the District contacted the organization and they removed the material from their Facebook page.

6. Consent Agenda. Director Sollman moved to approve the Consent Agenda as printed. Director Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0. Consent Agenda items were as follows:
 - a. Approve Minutes of January 14, 2014
 - b. Approve Minutes of January 28, 2014
 - c. Approve Routine Personnel Matters, as included in the February 25, 2014, Board meeting packet
 - d. Accept Donations, as included in the February 25, 2014, Board meeting packet
7. Reports and Discussion
 - a. Fire Science Program Report. Lieutenant / EMT-B Rodney Linz, Fire Science program instructor, and current and previous students in the District's Fire Science program at Liberty High School shared information about the program and the opportunities it provides for personal growth, college preparation, career

pathways, and volunteer service. The students described the program as life-changing and rewarding.

- b. Financial Report. Chief Financial Officer Adam Stewart reported that:
- Proposals received in response to the request for proposal (RFP) for audit services have been reviewed, and interviews of audit firms are being conducted.
 - Discussions with Tyler Technology are continuing, as the Business Office, Human Resources, and Technology Services work to identify areas of improvement and workflow consistency in the use of the District's financial / human resources software.

Questions and comments from the Board:

- Can W2s be sent to staff electronically in the future?
 - Chief Financial Officer Stewart said that he would speak with Payroll and find out whether that capability exists.

- c. Boundary Adjustment Update. Chief Financial Officer Stewart provided an update on the boundary adjustment process, including the following information:
- The original proposal has changed significantly, based on input received from the community at meetings, via email, and through the District's website.
 - An additional community meeting might be scheduled.
 - Chief Financial Officer Stewart plans to present a boundary adjustment recommendation to the Board on March 18.

Questions and comments from the Board:

- Appreciation to Chief Financial Officer Stewart, Director of Communications Beth Graser, and District staff for their work on this project
- Request to view the comments that were received via the website

- d. Open Enrollment Update. Director of Communications Beth Graser presented the following information:
- A list of 240 potential open transfer slots for non-resident students
 - An explanation of the factors that were considered by the District in identifying the potential open slots
 - The impact of recent legislation and the boundary adjustment process on the District's open enrollment and in-District transfer timelines and processes
 - The impact that in-District transfers could have on the openings
 - The list of slots and the transfer forms must be on the District's website by March 1
 - There is no flexibility in the numbers once they are announced

In response to Board input, ten openings were added to the list.

- e. Technology Report. Director of Technology Services Don Wolff provided an overview of the District's technology infrastructure and plans for moving forward. Discussion points included:

- Survey of the age of current computer equipment
- Outline of the distribution of bond interest funds
- Summary of priorities and strategies

Board members asked questions about the strategies, and discussed the challenges faced by students and teachers, as a result of the District's limited technology budget.

- f. First Reading – 2014-15 School Calendar. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Debbie Ashley presented two variations of the 2014-15 school calendar for the Board's review, explaining the following:

- The difference between the two calendars is the placement of fall parent conferences.
- The recommended version is draft B, with fall parent conferences scheduled during the week of Thanksgiving.
- Feedback and input received from the classified and licensed unions and from administrators indicate that they prefer version B.
- The calendars will be posted on the website for staff feedback, and input will be sought from the community.

Questions and comments from Board members:

- Compared the benefits and challenges of both calendars
- Discussed the challenges of maintaining continuity of instruction during the month of November
- Discussed the advantages of scheduling conferences in November, rather than October
- Discussed the placement of budget reduction days
- Discussed plans for inclement weather make-up days

8. NWRESD/HCU/HEA Reports.

NWRESD Chief Human Resources Officer Robyn Bean was not present.

HEA President Maureen Barnhart presented information regarding:

- Teaching, Empowering, Leading, and Learning (TELL) Oregon Survey
- Oregon Education Association's 4th Annual Symposium on Transformation in Education.

HCU President Eric Weyrauch was not present.

