

SOUTH WASCO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
P.O. BOX 346
MAUPIN, OR 97037

Telephone: (541) 395-2645

Fax: (541) 395-2679

Regular Board Meeting
Via Zoom

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Board Chair-Josh Thompson, Board Vice-Chair-Carol Mitchell, Tamarra Ferguson, Howard Fetz, Melissa Huntley, Rob Miles, and Joan Stark

ADMIN PRESENT: Ryan Wrought and Aimee Hovis

OTHERS PRESENT: Candy Barnett, Aimee Bell, Marcy Brown, Alex Carr, Heather Carter, Danette Cole, Virginia Cortez, Caralynn Delco, Shelly Iverson, Necia Jackson, Desiree Jimenez, Josh Kurtz, Selena LaFavor, Faith Lindley, Jim Hull, Molly McCoy, Kim Mead, Marni Maleyft, Marla Rethwill, Deanna Reckman, Virginia Sheer, Jamie Sowell, Carolyn Turner, Laura Taylor, Mike Waine, Julie Waine, and Yancy Wells.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:00 p.m.

2. **ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA BY BOARD MEMBERS**

MOTION: By Carol Mitchell to add RFP approval to Board Action Items.

SECOND: By Howard Fetz.

VOTING: Motion passed unanimously.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION: By Howard Fetz to approve the agenda.

SECOND: By Carol Mitchell.

VOTING: Motion passed unanimously.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

(Routine items which require Board action. This list of consent agenda items is to be approved or disapproved collectively. The Board may remove one or more items from the agenda by majority vote and proceed to vote on the balance of the remaining items.)

A. Regular Board Minutes for September 9, 2020 approval

B. Acknowledge Payment of Bills*

C. Personnel Report

MOTION: By Howard Fetz to approve the consent agenda.

SECOND: By Carol Mitchell.

VOTING: Motion passed unanimously.

5. **RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS**

A. Nothing to present for October.

6. **INFORMATIONAL**

A. **Technology Director's Report** Jamie Sowell
District has purchased 56 internet hot spots with unlimited plans for students. Currently 50 have been checked out by families. There is also a 1:1 for all students using I pads and Chromebooks.

B. **Athletic Director's/Dean of Students Report**.....Jim Hull
Attendance for 9th to 12th grade is significantly lower while district is in distance learning. Dean Hull relayed to the Board that he has multiple pages of students who have missed multiple days of school. There are weekly teacher meetings to figure out how to bring kids in the school for tutoring to help catch students up on required work. Calls are being made out to parents and many responses from parents are that both parents work full time so students are on their

own during the day to get online to the Zoom classes.

Board Member Ferguson asked if the school could provide incentives for attendance. Dean Hull said that he would look into it and his biggest concern is the potential of missing credits for the high school students, which will then affect graduation rates.

Volleyball teams are practicing in two different "pods." There will no competitions until school opens up in a hybrid model. Eastern Oregon 1A schools are playing sports. We are watching those schools and direction from Oregon

- C. **Superintendent/Principal's Report**.....Ryan Wraught
The Columbia Gorge ESD is looking for a board member. It does not have to be a current school board member. Anyone from the community can apply. If you are interested, contact Superintendent Wraught for more information.

Superintendent Wraught has been having several meetings with teachers, transportation staff, and kitchen staff to come up with a return to school plan.

- On October 1st, staff reviewed draft plan for return.
- October 14th there was a teacher meeting to hear opinions, feedback, and concerns regarding coming back to in class instruction.
- November 2nd, the district will start a hybrid model for K-3 grades. The current plan is to have an ABB schedule of two different pods of students.
- K-6th grade will attend in person class from 8 am-2pm and 7th-12th will attend 10am-4pm. There will be two morning and two afternoon routes. Food boxes will also be provided.
- The state only allows students to have interaction with 50 people per day. The next meeting with teachers will be on October 14th for K-3 teachers.

Solutions CPA are currently working on the district's yearly audit. This year's audit was done remotely and preliminary reports back from Solutions look favorable.

7. BOARD DISCUSSION

- A. **DRAC Update:** Committee is working on raising additional fund and applying to different grants.
- B. **Careers Coursework Review:** Marni Maleyft explained that the high school careers program will be revamped. Community service hours will be brought back to replace senior projects. The reason to bring community service back is because SWC students in the past have not be competitive for scholarships compared to other students with community service hours on their application. In review of other schools with a community service requirement, it is reported that school culture is better when students give 10 hours or more per year.

Careers will also include:

- Career exposure thru job shadows and job fairs
- Career speakers
- Education plans
- Internships

8. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

A. Board Calendar

MOTION: By Howard Fetz motioned approve the 2020-2021 Board Calendar.

SECOND: By Joan Stark.

VOTING: Motion passed unanimously.

B. Board Goals

MOTION: By Carol Mitchell motioned to table the 2020-2021 Board Goals for future review/approval.

SECOND: By Melissa Huntley.

VOTING: Motion passed unanimously.

C. Policies GBL, GBLA

MOTION: By Carol Mitchell to approve Policies GBL, GBLA.

SECOND: By Joan Stark.

VOTING: Motion passed unanimously.

D. Superintendent Evaluation Tool

MOTION: By Carol Mitchell to adopt the Superintendent Evaluation Tool.

SECOND: By Joan Stark.

VOTING: Motion passed unanimously.

E. Division 22

MOTION: By Carol Mitchell to approve Division 22 and confirm district's compliance.

SECOND: By Howard Fetz.

VOTING: Motion passed unanimously.

F. RFP (Request for Proposal) – Seismology and Radon

The School Board will be asking for bids on seismology and radon services. Chairperson Josh Thompson will work with Superintendent Ryan Wraught in the RFP process.

MOTION: By Joan Stark to approve the RFP for Seismology and Radon as the Board's process for RFPs.

SECOND: By Howard Fetz.

VOTING: Motion passed unanimously.

9. **BOARD GOALS** are posted on swasco.net.

10. **COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE ABOUT AGENDA/NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

A. Candy Barnett: Addressed her concerns with the delay of in class instruction in our district.

As a parent, she said that her kids are not doing well with distance learning. She has one student that is typically a straight A student in past years that is slipping. Her concerns were that the stress is affecting our kids. She also mentioned that it is hard to see neighboring schools open and SWC closed. She encouraged that we look at what they are doing which allows schools to be open.

B. Kim Mead: Mrs. Mead was curious to know what and who is ultimately makes the decision to open up schools at SWC. She asked for the procedure. Superintendent Wraught explained there are 3-4 different levels in play to decide when schools open. SWC leans on the advice of Oregon Department of Education, North Wasco Public Health, School Board Members, teachers, and staff.

C. Virginia Cortez: She asked, how can we get kids to engage with distance learning. She was very disappointed when she heard from the school that her students were missing classes. She said that she received a hot spot from the school but due to her location there is barely 1 bar of service. How are my kids to do distance learning without internet. Her daughter said she is "done" with distance learning. What is the answer to give and encourage her. Incentivizing attendance will further discourage my kids because they will automatically be disqualified because of internet service. Board member Carol Mitchell asked Virginia Cortez if she had the tools and resources to reach out to the teachers at the school. Virginia replied that she has reached out to teachers. Board member Tamarra Ferguson stated that it is very concerning that we are setting students up for failure. She asked if there is an alternate way to get attendance. Dean Jim Hull that students can get attendance by calling and/or emailing teachers too.

D. Laura Taylor: I have two students at SWC. The older student is doing great because he is able to come to the high school and get tutoring and extra help because he is on an IEP. Then I have another student that has gotten so far behind that he has given up. This student is very depressed and doesn't even want to get out of bed now. I work full time and I don't know what I can do. I am very upset and concerned for my students. Superintendent Wraught said that he would follow up with Mrs. Taylor tomorrow to provide some options.

E. Via ZOOM Chat: Question was asked why parents are being asked to grade the student's work? Second question was asked "we are asked to do a teacher's job. What are teachers doing to bring our kids and catch them up? We need kids in class." Teacher Faith Lindley explained that she has students do self-scorecards and give them an opportunity to self-assess. She said that in her class she doesn't expect parents to grade schoolwork.

F. Tamarra Ferguson: Stated that everyone has been in the fry pan. Teachers, parent, and kids are doing the best they can. We are focused on what is the best interest of kids. I give

hats off to all those working full time and doing distance learning.

- G. Rob Miles:** Feels that hybrid K-3 will be a failure. I already have heard that teachers are already tapped out and how do we expect them to do both in class and distance learning? I haven't heard any teacher say it is even possible.
- H. Via ZOOM Chat:** Question was asked if there are anything to help kids and any resources for at home educational aids. Superintendent Wraught said currently SWC does not have resources for in home aids to go out to the community.
- I. Marla Rethwill:** Stated that she has some concerns with some of the current drivers at SWC due to age and underlining conditions. Maybe we can have an E.A. on the bus to help screen and take temperatures before students load on the bus.
- J. Josh Kurtz:** Thanked everyone for their hard work. He said "This sucks and sorry we don't have more answers for parents." Parents can still say, "I don't feel comfortable yet to send my kids to school and we will still provide them a quality education." With the current government parameters, I do not feel where the resources are at SWC to provide all students with the quality education they deserve.
- K. Virginia Cortez:** Why can't we stream teachers, instructing for students that can't return to in class instruction?
- L. Necia Jackson:** We are looking into hybrid because it gets kids into class sooner.
- M. Jim Hull:** I contacted Condon School District. They currently have 150 student and only three families opted to continue with distance learning vs. in class instruction.
- N. Shelley Iverson:** I think my kids need a couple days of in class instruction.
- O. Mike Waine:** Currently I am in Idaho, and they are open. K-12 is in class. There are sports. I just watched an 8 man football team at a school similar in size to SWC. How is Idaho open and we are not? Distance learning does not work. I see my kids work, and it is just busy work. SWC schools need to reopen.

11. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

(These items require administrative action, not requiring Board Approval. General information for Board Members).

12. **RECESS TO EXEC. SESSION** No executive session.

13. **RECONVENE TO REGULAR BOARD MEETING FOR ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION** (if necessary)

14. **ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING** at 8:08 p.m.