

Oakridge School District No. 76

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Board Meeting

January 11, 2021

The meeting of the Board of Directors of Oakridge School District No. 76 was convened at 6:08 p.m. remotely by virtual Zoom webinar and called to order by Chair Weddle.

In addition to the Chair, those present were Vice Chair Hardy, Directors Edmunds, Martin and McPherson. Also present was Superintendent Doland, Business Manager Peggy Mahla, Food Service Coordinator Ashley Kirkhart, Confidential Secretary Jayme Martin, Principal Chapman, Principal Iten, Special Education Director Dr. Harrison, Youth in Transition Liaison Mark Osborn.

A. Board Appreciation Month

1st grade teacher Tina Maher shared Oakridge Teacher's Association's appreciation to the Board and said she hoped they received the small gift in the mail. She stated her thanks for the Board's service from the teachers.

OSEA President, Andrea Bray shared her appreciation to the Board reading, "The Oregon School Employees Association chapter 46 would like to express their appreciation to the Oakridge School District Board of Directors, and the commitment they have made to our district. These five individuals approach their volunteer work like it is their full time job. They are an extremely hardworking group of volunteers and are dedicated to the School District, as well as the communities of Oakridge and Westfir. Although their decisions do not always align with public opinion, we recognize and appreciate that they're ultimately doing what is best for our students, staff and schools. Through their advocacy dedication and collaboration with school district administrators, and other district staff, they're helping build the future of education in Oakridge. On behalf of Oakridge School District Classified Staff. I would like to thank you for your service and dedication to Oakridge Junior Senior High School, the Alternative Education Program, Oakridge Elementary School, Westridge Early Education Programs, and the Family Resource Center.

Superintendent Doland read a letter from Oakridge City Mayor Kathy Holsten declaring her appreciation to the members of the Oakridge School District Board and proclaimed the month of January school board recognition month. Mayor Holsten urged all citizens to join her in recognizing the dedication and hard work of school board members in preparing today's students for tomorrow's world.

Superintendent Doland expressed her appreciation saying, "Thank you so much each one of you for your service to our community. I know you spent countless hours working to provide the best possible education for our students. And you also serve as board of directors for one of the largest employers

in our community and celebrating our School Board Recognition Month is just one way we can say thank you for all that you do. Thank you very much.”

B. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes December 14, 2020

*Vice Chair Hardy moved to accept the Board Meeting Minutes on December 14, 2020.
Director Edmunds seconded the motion and the motion passed with all directors voting yes.*

C. Announcements/Correspondence

Chair Weddle read an announcement saying at the December 14, 2020 meeting, the Board authorized retention of an outside agency to investigate a complaint against the Superintendent that had been received on December 10, 2020. Through the attorney the Board obtained an investigator with RS2 Education Consulting. The investigators are authorized only to investigate that complaint. Board policy KL-AR requires complaints to be processed at the lowest level first. In order to comply with policy KL-AR and manage the cost of the investigation no additional complaints will be referred to the investigators unless the Board so authorizes at a future board meeting.

D. Review Expenditures for November-General funds/Special Funds/OSD Bond

Business Manager Peggy Mahla gave the expenditure report for November 2020. She said the District spent \$721, 059 to operate the month of November. \$7,700 was spent for bond, \$43,000 was spent for the SRGP and the first interest payment was paid on the bond in the amount of \$122,469 which was due December 15, paid in November. Ms. Mahla reported the audit was completed and sent electronically by the auditors to ODE. She said the District should be getting their bound copies sometime this month and then Board members can come and pick them up.

E. Reports

1. Superintendent’s Report – Superintendent Doland

● **Reopening/County Metrics and Data**

Superintendent Doland stated during the winter break Governor Kate Brown announced new guidelines for in-person learning in that she announced that Oregon will no longer mandate the state's prior public health metrics for returning to in-person instruction. The previous restrictions on reopening are now advisory. Governor Brown has asked school districts to work towards the resumption of in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible in making decisions based on science, public health and safety. She expressed her hope that schools statewide will offer more in-person instruction by February 15. However, certain health and safety standards will remain mandatory, including wearing masks, maintaining social distance and responding to COVID-19 outbreaks in a school. In addition, following Ready School, Safe Learners plans is also mandatory. While the restrictions for in-person learning have been relaxed in some ways, health and safety of our students and staff is of utmost importance. Therefore, the Oakridge School District currently plans to continue to utilize the local public health data and metrics to determine when students can return to in-person learning. The state is set to provide additional updates to Oregon, Oregon’s Covid-19 health metrics and Ready School Safe Learners guidance for returning to in-person instruction. That guidance is due to come out on or about January 19. HB 4402, a bill passed in a special session of the

Legislature in December limits school liability to COVID-19. HB 4402 is in effect if and only if schools are following all OHA and ODE guidance. Currently the health metrics that the governor has set are guidance and not mandatory. This guidance is already in our Ready School Safe Learners plans. ODE and the Oregon Health Authority have mandated those as was required. So this is the issue in the law, that if we don't follow the metrics then we lose our limited liability over COVID-19. So, as you can imagine, there are a lot of lawyers in the state who are working on that issue to resolve it and we hope that by the time we get the guidance on January, 19, we have an answer to that as well. Superintendent Doland stated she recognized that many in our community wish to return to person learning as soon as possible. We need our kids in school and OSD is committed to the return of students to school and committed to doing that in a safe way. The guidance from our expert state and local partners will be relied upon heavily, when we're making decisions for returning students to schools. Superintendent Doland appreciated those who have taken time to reach out and share their thoughts on the reopening. She said a survey for parents and guardians will be sent out this week. The responses to the survey will help us as we are planning, and as we navigate through this new situation, so that we can safely bring our students back to person learning. Any parents who wish to continue to have their students learn via comprehensive distance learning or online learning, will have the option available to them. She stated this pandemic continues to challenge all of us but she is confident that our district, with all of our committed educators and strong support staff, students and our families all working together, will find an appropriate balance between health safety and the educational needs of our students. We will continue to post weekly COVID-19 infection rates in our county on our website.

Chair Weddle stated we need to let the community know exactly who those authorities are that are mandating our reopening plans so they can understand why we are not coming back to school as quickly as possible and they feel a part of the decision making.

Superintendent Doland agreed saying the two groups that the District leans on are the Oregon Health Authority, but more closely related to home is the Lane County Public Health, and she has meetings with them, weekly, and is in contact with our public health advisor, just about daily, the person who is assigned to Lane County Schools. Superintendent Doland stated she does have a new communication that will go out to our community this week. Some more specific information around bringing kids back.

Director Martin asked a question regarding teachers and school staff being moved to IA group for vaccinations, and how soon our staff can receive their vaccinations.

Superintendent Doland stated Lane County Public Health reported the Oregon Health Authority has moved school staff in between 1A, which are medical care workers, first responders and category 1B to receive the vaccine. We've been working with Orchid Health, and our staff are beginning to sign up. Wednesday, are the first appointments for school staff to receive the vaccine. Superintendent Doland thanked Sarah Scott with Orchid Clinic for accommodating our staff and making the opportunity not only available, but also easily accessible for our staff. She stated it is available to all of our staff, including our bus drivers who we contract for but they are our staff as well.

- **Enrollment**

Superintendent Doland stated our current district enrollment is 530. Our last month our total enrollment was 526. That is in comparison to last year at this time, our enrollment was 560. At this point, we're down about 5% from last year. She stated our enrollment over the year since the beginning of the school year until now really has remained fairly steady. We've had

a change of four students either up or down since the beginning of the school year. At this point in time, the middle school has an increase of seven students from last year. At our high school, they're down six students from last year. And the elementary school is down 30 students from last year. Superintendent Doland stated younger students might have other options and may be doing more homeschooling. Many schools across the state are experiencing between 10 and 20% enrollment decrease so she feels very unfortunate the District is only at a 5% decrease.

- **Technology**

Superintendent Doland reported the Apogee project to extend our internet through our community, is just about finished. Gerald McCool, our technology director, is working with vendors to problem solve a few issues. There will be a discussion later this week on how the District is going to roll out information on accessing the internet. She thanked Gerald McCool and Tony Hammock for their work in this project. As well as Oakridge City and City Administrator Bryan Cutchen for their diligent work in moving this project forward.

- **Budget Outlook**

Superintendent Doland gave data on the budget outlook. The economic and revenue forecast was accomplished. It states a slow economic recovery. Unemployment had dropped to 6.9 from double digits in the beginning of the pandemic. And the revenues for the 19-21 biennium were up slightly compared to the numbers released in September. It's good news in terms of closing out the current two year budget cycle and reinforces the stability in school funding for the 2020-21 school year. On December 1, Governor Brown released her recommended budget for the 21-23 biennium. The budget proposed will be reviewed and amended by the legislature during their spring session. The budget she proposed was 9.1 billion allocation for the new biennium for the state school fund. This is Oakridge School District's principal source of funding. Though 9.1 billion is up from what was allocated this year, which was 9.0, the budget prioritizes investments in Early Learning and it also prioritizes a full distribution of Student Success Act funds which we received about a third of this year of allocation. It also prioritizes full Measure 98 funding. Measure 98 is what we use in large part for our CTE programs. So just to summarize, the proposed budget reflects a prioritization of K- 12 funding, overall, is significantly more positive than the forecast we are hearing in September.

- **Assessment**

Superintendent Doland spoke about Smarter Balanced assessments in English and Math, and also our Oregon State assessment in Science. The Department of Education is applying for a temporary pause on English Language Arts, Math and Science testing for the 2020-21 school year. The US Department of Education requires that we measure how well our education systems are meeting the needs of students and student groups by annual administration of tests. Because of the pandemic last year, there was a waiver on state testing. Oregon has asked for another waiver for 2020-21 citing traditional schooling has been significantly disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic, an extreme wildfire season, political instability and other factors. These disruptions have removed the conditions we need for somebody to test to fulfill the purpose. It's difficult when we can't bring students in having secure testing measures in place, as well as the delivery of instruction has been disrupted this year. It is expected ODE will know more about the waiver in the coming weeks. The U.S. Department of Education is now in a transition and after it settles down, we hope for an answer. In the meantime, we are looking at some interim assessments the Department of Education is providing to school districts.

2. Food Service Report

Ashely Kirkhart, Food Service Coordinator reported the OES Food Service Program is negative \$26,250.85. Last year, this time the balance was \$5,821.42. Oakridge Junior Senior High School program balance is \$57,961.80. Last year, this time it was negative \$30,423.73. The complete district balance is \$31,710.95. Last year at this time, it was \$11,471.35. She gave an update on the Food Service Program, and how it is currently running. She stated the District is currently serving under the Summer Food Service Program, which allows the District to serve meals to anyone in our district between the ages of zero to 18. She said they served over 7,600 meals, a breakfast and lunch in the month of December, and the meals are prepared, put on a bus and delivered to our youth and families. She gave information on how to participate in the program if not already participating by contacting the District office. Ms. Kirkhart personally thanked everyone who is currently working or helping in the Food Service Program. She stated they have had a great few months, and have a great team of individuals ensuring food is brought to our children.

Chair Weddle gave kudos to the people that are working in food service, saying they are doing a great job.

3. OJSH Report

- **Attendance**

Principal Chapman reminded the Board that the District was changing the way attendance is taken. Starting December 7, a student no longer had to be in class as the only option to be counted present. Completing work online also now counts as being present. Principal Chapman ran all the attendance under the old procedures and then ran one month under the new procedures. He reported a 6% increase in attendance under the new procedures. He stated this is not quite the increase he would like to see, but it is on par with what other schools are seeing in their attendance. Principal Chapman stated he would like to say the increase is due to more students attending, but he says the increase is due to the way attendance is being taken now. He stated house visits are still being made to try to get students to attend. Also, Mrs. Scott is having meetings with any seniors who are at risk of not completing this year. Efforts are being made to keep in touch with kids and keep them engaged.

- **Fuel Ed**

Principal Chapman reminded the Board that Fuel Ed provides a teacher of record, it stretches over multiple sessions and Fuel Ed is going to become one of our students three courses. A new session started today, so most high school students have a core class, math class and a lab class. He stated Fuel Ed courses are only semester courses so it makes it confusing. With Acellus, if a student completes all courses, they receive a year credit. With Fuel Ed, if a student completes all courses, it is only a semester that has been completed and the next part of the semester needs to be loaded. Starting today OJSH has set the courses to start April 1st and go through the end of the year to complete the 2nd semester. Students are allowed to work faster. It is designed to work at the student's pace so it is conceivable that a student can complete the course before the end of the year. Principal Chapman wanted all students to be aware that the courses they are currently working on is only a semester and not the whole year.

- **Grades**

Principal Chapman stated all students are only getting two grades right now. They are enrolled in three courses, but are not getting a grade for study hall. He showed the data on the number of students failing courses or having incompletes. He stated 46% of students failed or did not complete one or more classes during the session. Approximately 42 incompletes have been completed. He stated the percentage number could have been a lot higher if these incompletes had not been remedied. In session two, there were 42% of students that had failed or not completed one or more classes. Principal Chapman stated he had wanted to see a lower number, but at least the percentage number was decreasing instead of increasing.

• **Successes**

Principal Chapman stated he was very impressed on how the substitute teachers have been creating relationships with students especially in Distance Learning. He was very happy with the hard work Ms. Hutchens and Mr. Handman had been doing. Principal Chapman also gave praise to Mr. Fujii, stating he was having a lot of success and was encouraged to watch him teach. Mr. Fujii has been spending a lot of time outside of his normal contracted hours in teaching one on one with the students and that is where a lot of the learning is coming from this year is on a one on one basis.

Principal Chapman reported seven trees had been decorated for Festival of Trees and six of them were given to different households. This is an event that the Leadership class has been doing for several years, and Principal Chapman praised Ms. Schmidig for keeping school as normal as possible this year.

There was a virtual OMSI field trip of Genghis Khan that was held with Mrs. Sokolowski's class. It was the first one OMSI had put on. Principal Chapman praised Mrs. Sokolowski for also keeping classes as normal as possible.

Principal Chapman stated sports started today and Junior High will start tomorrow. He reported the coaches were all trained on Covid protocols and the screening practices. He stated in season one of sports there were no formal competitions set up through OSAA. Informal competitions could be arranged by the districts. He stated competitions could possibly happen in the next session.

Principal Chapman reported 10 seniors have completed. Two 5th year seniors finished by the end of September. Most seniors start their year only needing three credits, one being personal finance which is not needed this year, which makes only two credits needed to be obtained. Most seniors opted to go through the online course with Mr. Skordahl and complete those online courses to finish. If they want to come back and do sports, they can be enrolled to take two courses on Acellus.

• **Board Appreciation**

Principal Chapman gave his appreciation to the Board and thanked them for their time and effort for their service to the students.

Director Edmunds asked if Principal Chapman could continue to give an update on sports in his reports. Principal Chapman stated he would do that.

4. OES Report

- **Attendance**

Principal Iten stated the Elementary school's attendance is at 92% for the school year compared to 94% last year. Kindergarten is at 97%, 1st grade - 94%, 2nd grade - 94%, 3rd grade - 91%, 4th grade – 86%, 5th grade- 94% Principal Iten gave a shout out to Mrs. Howard and Mr. Gordon for reaching out to students, 6th- 83% and Life Skills at 90%. The Elementary enrollment has remained steady at 284 students. He predicts with a few phone calls left to make, they will be back up in the 286 or 287 range. Principal Iten stated they keep their classroom sizes very balanced with Kindergartens both at 22, 1st grade at 16 and 15, 2nd grade 21 and 21, 3rd grade 20 and 21, 4th grade 15 and 16, 5th grade is even, and 6th grade is 20 and 22. Ms. Shepard has 5 in Life Skills.

- **Limited-In-Person Instruction**

Principal Iten stated limited-in-person instruction was going very well. He showed pictures of the Kindergarten teachers checking in students and other students waiting with distance between them. He stated classes are running very smoothly and keeping social distancing. He stated parents are doing a fantastic job when it comes to keeping their children home when they are feeling a little sick. Principal Iten stated new protocols are being put in place for that and it is working really well. A few students are coming in for tutoring. He gave a big shout out to Mrs. Maher and Ms. Shafor who are working one on one with students, doing some individual tutoring. Principal Iten stated they were not the only teachers doing it and praised his 2nd-6th grade teachers who are also doing some individual tutoring with students.

Principal Iten showed pictures of the custodians using the electrostatic backpacks to disinfect everything. He stated the custodial staff are doing a great job of keeping everything disinfected with the backpacks.

5. Special Programs

- **Celebrations and Recognitions**

Dr. Harrison stated there has been very good student engagement and attendance with limited-in-person instruction. He stated students are very excited to be in school and following all the rules they are learning due to Covid. Dr. Harrison thanked all the staff in the District that are working in the collaboration meetings. He stated it was a big ask of the teachers to have meetings every other week for all the students in special services and to do that over and over again, but it has had such a positive effect on the services they are able to provide to the students. He was impressed by the way everyone was continually able to work together and come up with new creative solutions in this challenging environment with distance learning.

Dr. Harrison stated Mr. Myers joined the District team as a Special Education teacher this fall and has had an excellent, positive, upbeat influence on the students he serves. Dr. Harrison said it is fantastic to see Mr. Myers keeping those students engaged.

Dr. Harrison thanked Mrs. Bradbeer saying she had taken her extra time in supporting the SPED team by preparing materials for students in distance learning.

Dr. Harrison reported they were able to restart their Lego Robotics team. Members that had participated last year had been invited to start before the holiday break. Several meetings were held and the students are progressing. He stated the competitions have been moved to

April and are being held in a completely distanced format. He stated it is fantastic to allow this program to keep running especially for those who competed last year and progressed onto the state competition.

- **Board Appreciation**

Dr. Harrison thanked the Board for their time and service to the students. He thanked them for their support in the District.

- **Limited-in-Person Instruction**

Dr. Harrison stated there are A and B rotating cohorts coming in on different days serving 65 students in Limited-in-Person instruction. At OES there are seven additional cohorts, serving about 18 students. There are all sorts of individual student needs that are being accommodated and supporting them in different ways. At OJSH there are four different cohorts and serving about 15 students every day coming in for the two hour maximum. In the future more will be invited to come in person. Dr. Harrison reported the collaboration meetings have really been the core of the Special Ed services in the District. There are approximately 100 Special Ed students attending. He said they are being supported primarily by the specialists and regular education teachers. At OES every other week, there are six separate meetings with each grade level team going through each student discussing different ways on how to support them and what their needs are in Comprehensive Distance Learning. This has resulted in a great deal of individualized support and team building across the district. These same meetings are happening at the Junior Senior High. There are four meetings with combined grade levels every other week. The teams are doing a fantastic job of documenting each student throughout the whole academic year, and progress and interventions that are being done to support them. It is hard to quantify but it is approximately 15 hours a month that the specialist are consulting additionally with some other specialist or teacher for individual student support. Dr. Harrison reported some students are doing Acellus online and are doing very well. They only need a little extra support so they are getting asynchronous support. The specialists are creating specially designed assignments or extra work for these eight students to do offline to help them progress. There are also co-teaching and push-in services where a Special Education teacher is either joining an online Google meet with another teacher, or taking a Google meet over and teaching content. They may be meeting in a breakout group where multiple Special Ed students are gathered, or they may be taking over to teach a social skills lesson to the whole classroom. The SPED staff is doing about 39 of those lessons weekly anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour. For Limited-In-Person instruction, about 28 students are receiving 2 hours of support daily to help them access the core curriculum through CDL. Then there are 56 one on one direct sessions occurring weekly that the specialists are doing lasting 30 minutes to an hour.

Chair Weddle stated based on the numbers that Dr. Harrison reported the Special Programs is serving approximately 20% of the student population and there are more kids coming in person than he originally thought which is a very good thing.

6. Youth in Transition

Youth in Transition Specialist, Mark Osborn stated currently there are 39 students that are identified as McKinney Vento which is approximately 11.8% of the student population. By the

state definition, these students are considered homeless. The District has responded to these student needs just as we have in past years by doing their laundry, bringing them food, clothing, blankets and making sure they have basic essential needs met. The District assists them with getting documents such as birth certificates and social security cards so they can get their driver licenses. Five kids have been identified as McKinney Vento who are not registered with the school and have not been receiving any sort of education before this year. They are now enrolled in school getting them the education they deserve. With the Food Program and Food Pantry, the District has given over 13,720 pounds of food to over half of our students. The full clothing closet is up and running. All of these students that are considered McKinney Vento are invited into Limited-In-Person instruction to make sure they have the access to a quality education.

Vice Chair Hardy told Mark, "Nice work."

F. Unfinished Business

1. Policy ACB (2nd Reading/Action)

Superintendent Doland stated at the last Work Session the Board approved the AR to go with ACB, but had not approved the policy. She recommended to adopt Policy ACB as the Board had edited at the Work Session.

Vice Chair Hardy moved to approve Policy ACB as the Board had edited. Director Martin seconded the motion and the motion passed with all directors voting yes.

2. OTA MOU Comprehensive Distance Learning and Hybrid Learning

Superintendent Doland stated the MOU with the Oakridge Teachers Association and Lane County Bargaining Group was negotiated right before the holiday break. She stated there is a financial impact as 10 days for Covid Leave has been added. She recommended the Board approve the MOU.

Vice Chair Hardy moved to approve the MOU as negotiated. Director Edmunds seconded the motion and the motion passed with all directors voting yes.

3. OTA MOU Employee retirement Provisions

Superintendent Doland explained this MOU is an outcome of a bargaining session with Executive Counsel of the Oakridge Teachers Association. It provides for this year only a retirement incentive to those teachers who are eligible for full retirement. She recommended approval of the MOU.

Director Edmunds moved to approve the MOU for retirement. Director Martin seconded the motion with an amendment that the strikeout be removed. Director Edmunds approved Director Martin's amendment and the motion passed with all directors voting yes.

G. New Business

No new business.

H. Personnel

1. Employment Recommendations

Classified

Jessica Brissette, OJSH Head Cook, 7 hours per day (Effective January 12, 2021)

Director Edmunds moved to accept the employee recommendation as listed. Vice Chair Hardy seconded the motion and the motion passed with all directors voting yes.

I. Public Comment

No public comment.

J. Executive Session Pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(i) Review and evaluate the employment-related performance of the chief executive officer of any public body, a public officer, employee or staff member, unless the person whose performance is being reviewed and evaluated requests an open hearing.

Chair Weddle opened the Executive Session at 7:23pm. Oakridge School District Legal Counsel, Nancy Hungerford reviewed complaints made regarding employment related performance and gave recommendations.


K. Future Agenda Items

1. **Next Regular School Board Meeting, February 8, 2021 6:00 p.m., Virtual Zoom Meeting**
2. **Board Work Session January 25, 2021 with OSBA**


L. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 9:03pm

APPROVED:


JRM

Chairman


Superintendent