

SOUTH WASCO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

**P.O. BOX 346
MAUPIN, OR 97037**

Telephone: (541) 395-2645

Fax: (541) 395-2679

**Regular Board Meeting
Zoom Link – See Webpage**

**Wednesday, March, 10, 2021
6:00 p.m.**

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

Board Members Present: Josh Thompson, Joan Stark, Howard Fetz, Rob Miles, Carol Mitchell, Melissa Huntley and Tammarra Ferguson

Board Members Absent: none

Admins Present: Ryan Wrought and Aimee Hovis

Others Present: Jim Hull, Josh Kurtz, Jamie Sowell, Scott Marshall, Marni Malefyt, Yancy Wells, Mark Seder, Matt Hammel, Rick Leeper

1. CALL TO ORDER at 6:05 PM.
2. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA BY BOARD MEMBERS
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
MOTION: Howard Fetz moved to approve the agenda.
SECOND: Rob Miles.
VOTING: Motion passed unanimously.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:
 - A. Regular Board Minutes for Feb 12, 2021 approval.
 - B. Acknowledge Payment of Bills*
 - C. Personnel Report**MOTION:** Howard Fetz moved to approve the consent agenda.
SECOND: Melissa Huntley.
VOTING: Motion passed unanimously.

5. **RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Straightline Architecture (Scott Marshall)

We had a very productive month. Here is what we have done since last board meeting:

- RFP CMCG process is complete
- We had 4 proposals for CMCG-committee to review
 - The committee reviewed each proposal very specifically.
 - Spent 2-4 hours looking and scoring proposals.
 - CMGC committee consisted of a mix of 7 employees and community members.
 - Scott did not score RFPs since he knew contractors and didn't want to show any basis.
 - Scott did state that all of the companies are quality companies and that any one of them would be excellent and qualified.
 - Bremik Construction had the highest score at 90.2 rating. Second company scored 82.4.
 - The board will have to formally approve hiring Bremik for the district's CMGC later in this meeting.
- Topical survey selected. Will create topical survey of the entire site.
- Hired Geotechnical engineer. Will be on site 2-3 weeks.
- Hazard Materials company set up. Oregon requires hazard materials study to

be completed. This has to be done before any construction takes place.

- Talked to energy rebate people, exploring grants and rebates on energy efficiency.
- Extensive design and development plan for grade school area. Supt. Wrought and Scott worked together based on staff input and independent meeting to integrate and address concerns from staff.
 - One concern was that the new gym/café, would affect the outside playground area and also needed to be coordinated with the DRAC project boundaries. Scott has reached out to DRAC architect to get proposal of where the track would be and aligned with current and new gym, café.
 - After reviewing the plan with the grade school staff, Scott believes we have addressed the concerns and staff feel comfortable with the layout.

Other adjustments to the initial blueprints:

- Revamped the cafeteria area to make it more efficient but still matches what was presented to the public for the bond.
- Expanded special education area to provide more space for that service.
- Define separate break room for grade school and lower grades and upper grades. (More storage and nurses' area)
- Scott believes that the elementary school is pretty dialed in at this point.
- Reviewed bleacher occupancy for the new gymnasium, expanded gym play area so two practices can happen at the same time almost full court. Moved bathrooms around based on direction from the school district and staff input.
- High school--Changed the concept a little bit. Next week will visit with Ryan to get input from staff. Then will get school board a revised plan. Once CMCG is selected then we will have a CMCG project kick off meeting will be set next week. Scope will be reviewed and a master schedule created. Project priorities and master schedule will then be solidified; along with a student safety plan during construction.

There is a lot of things going on and moving parts once the CMCG on board. Preliminary budgeting will be also completed. Hopefully next meeting we have HS plan at a higher level. Need to get more input from SPED and looking still at the front office and high school locker room areas.

6. INFORMATIONAL

A. Athletic Dir./Dean of Students Report (Jim Hull)

Today we had a teachers meeting looking at our Focus Fridays. We have been very happy with what we have seen. Many kids have cleaned up incompletes. As numbers start to dwindle, staff are talking about inviting kids that are failing classes currently to give them small setting instructions. Students are being productive and focused. In my class, I was able to get two kids to complete status for their incomplete class. It has been a successful model. Now we need to help the kids that are failing.

Yancy Wells added that, "It has been good. I have seen three or four come in with

incompletes and get them taken care of. Thumbs up on the focus Fridays. There hasn't been a ton of instruction but having someone telling students to get to work."

Athletics- It has been over a year since we had any sporting contest.

Football went to Prairie City.

Volleyball had first contest 3-1 over Lyle. We allowing 2 guest per student from their family to attend.

Everyone is following mask protocol.

We are able use the National Federation (pixollot) camera for \$60 for year to watch the games.

The county is in low [green COVID status], and football game at 1pm, the limit is 300 so please come out to support the students.

Volleyball team will go to Glenwood, Washington tomorrow. Kids are excited. I am happy to be able to have some "normal" to the kids' lives. They are doing it with in the required expectations.

Tamara Ferguson questioned, "What is the number of incompletes and failing?" Jim responded our last F and Ds report are much lower than last month but I don't have the report with specific number tonight.

B. Superintendent Report (Ryan Wrought)

We have been very busy with bonds related items. Aimee and I have had numerous calls and emails with Piper-Sandler underwriters, Mershan Law bond attorney, S&P global bank. Our initial bond analysis was done pre-COVID. We had very favorable landscape for our bond sale as it ended up lower than the bond promise at \$0.67 cents per thousand. We were also able to reduce the payback period by three years, saving the tax payer three years of payments. With our \$4 million bond and a very favorable sell giving up an additional premium of another \$450k the district will have \$4.45 million for the project. Today we finished out the closing call and money is in our school account.

Oregon School Capital Improvements Matching Grant (OSCIM) grant was submitted and received by the state. The target date for that sale is March 31st and will have the \$4 million money match available to the district at the end of May.

School Based Health Clinic—I am continuing to work with the ESD on the SBHC. In the short term, the ESD will working on increasing our nursing services and hiring a nursing coordinator for the area districts. The long-term plan is to fund more counseling services. I have also started conversations about SBHC with Dr. Mike Pendleton. We will be moving towards setting some services for students through the Canyon Rim Clinic hopefully starting as early as the beginning of the (2021-22) school year. We have found that trying to find a counselor is very difficult during COVID. I have started talking to Dufur Schools about sharing a full time counselor for 2021-22 school year.

7. BOARD DISCUSSION

A. DRAC Update (Rob Miles)

There is good news. We had nice donation from Ted Schwendle of 410k. and John Bowerman for 45k. Things are picking up steam with Nike. Heidi O'Neil who is the VP of track and field with Nike is interested in small track evening with Michael Bergman.

We will be having a new event with drones for DRAC on May 5th. Drone races on the football field in the afternoon and evening.

Osprey nest on pole 8 is no longer there. Wasco electric will make sure osprey will not make a

new nest there.

B. 1st Reading District Calendar 2021-22

No changes on this from last month. Ryan will be talking to teachers about early release time and about starting school after Labor Day.

C. Budget Priorities & Listening Session-Survey Results-(Ryan Wrought)

Survey participants: Board, budget committee, teachers, classified staff, and parents

There needs to be a "cushion" in the budget to address financial adjustments from the state school funding (2x/yr)

Create stability for staff and students by not having to make impactful adjustments to services and/or staff mid-year.

Special funds rationale

Building fund – don't have a new building yet still have a lot to maintain in the short term.

Textbook fund- Text books and online curriculum

New HS Science curriculum

Expand 8th grade curriculum

Technology –we now have 1:1 device for students and new tech for teachers, important to maintain a fund to replace these devices.

Transportation – 7-year obsolescence plan, 2 new buses in 2023 (Purge 1-2 buses that year).

Music rational

Survey ranged from K-12th general classes with Band to part time AmeriCorp.

Survey showed that people want K-12 music program

People didn't want Americorps

Classroom Instructional Support – EA's

EAs are extremely helpful to school district.

Balance between part time EAs to cover above or hire fewer full time EA's

The district is hoping to be able to fund some additional EAs in a combination of both part time and full time.

Electives

Biggest challenge here is the district's capacity to staff/train for new electives at the HS.

Applied Arts building focus- Auto/Metals/Woods/Fine Arts/Home Economics/Robotics.

Do we recruit retired community members?

Staffing and student services

District is currently understaffed in this area

-early intervention, special education, mental health and school nurse

-Title 1 services for early intervention K-6

General Budget Area Priorities

Budget so far...

-Rollover all current positions/meet contractual obligations

-1.0 FTE Music Teacher – K-12 band and choir

-1.0 FTE Sped (K-6)

- Additional EA FTE-support sped/ intervention/ behavioral

-Additional custodian FTE due to COVID and new square footage

- Admin staff – K-12 Principal
- Exploring options for counseling

Survey Comments

- Training of current staff
- Maintaining technology funds
- Additional funding for SPED and behavioral services
- Invest in transportation like decent building for supplies, different parking, garage for busses
- Back up buses
- Support kids going to college
- Streamline scope and practice for k-12 across the subjects
- Funding to enrich electives
- Make JR high more attractive and inviting
- Quality color printers for each teacher

8. **BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

A. 2nd Reading Policy: GBEB, JHCC

MOTION: Carol Mitchell moved to approve Policy GBEB, JHCC.

SECOND: Howard Fetz.

VOTING: Motion passed unanimously.

B. Budget Committee-Still need two more budget committee members.

Tamarra suggested an all call to get some parent representation

C. CMGC Approval

MOTION: Carol Mitchell moved to approve Bremik Construction as our CMGC.

SECOND: Joan Stark.

VOTING: Motion passed unanimously.

D. Superintendent Evaluation

Board will send out a survey monkey to staff to get input. Each board member will do an evaluation before the next board meeting. Then at the next board meeting scores will be combined and staff evaluation results reviewed.

9. **BOARD GOALS** Board goals are posted on the website.

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

Josh Kurtz: I wanted to thank our classified staff members. This is classified staff appreciation week. They are worked very hard this year. The teaching staff and community appreciates them.

And echo that appreciation to Ryan. One thing that can get lost in a survey is the humanizing aspect of the survey. The reality is that many people would argue and my peers would argue, that morale was low (last year), and if you talk to the staff now, even though we are in unprecedented time, most people would say that morale is high. People are satisfied with Ryan. He has responded quickly to staff concerns and making real efforts in responding in a real way. I am impressed with the work Ryan has done this year and I know my peers would echo that. Yancy: "Ditto."

11. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

A. Notification of May 18, 2021 Special Election

Note: File with County Clerk's Office Feb. 6-March 18, 2021 by 5:00 pm

B. Budget Calendar Approved Update

12. **RECESS TO EXEC. SESSION** under 192.660 (2) (i) evaluate the performance of the superintendent at 7:15 PM.

13. **RECONVENE TO REGULAR BOARD MEETING FOR ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 8:25 PM.

14. **ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING** at 8:25 PM

South Wasco County School District is an equal opportunity employer.
Current personnel policies are available for review in the District office.