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**Oakridge Board of Directors  
Special Meeting  
May 24, 2023  
6:30 p.m.**

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**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Present: Chair Martin, Vice Chair Hardy (via Zoom), Director Samuelson, Director Pope, and Director Curtis  
Chair Martin called the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 6:30pm:

*Director Curtis moved to place Principal Dave McGrath as Interim Superintendent as of May 30, 2023. Chair Martin seconded the Motion.*

*Director Pope called for Discussion. Items discussed are noted below.*

*Motion passes with three Directors voting Yes, Two voting No.*

Director Pope opened discussion saying that Principal McGrath has done a great job at OJSH but that consistency for the students is important and removing him from that position at this time could be detrimental. There needs to be a solid plan going into the summer.

Director Curtis said that Principal McGrath has shown good leadership at OJSH; she would like to see him in the Superintendent position. Director Pope said that there are differing views on the urgency of placing Principal McGrath as Interim Superintendent as of May 30.

The question was asked 'how many Superintendents are available' and it was agreed that as a Board they owe the staff consistency and moving Principal McGrath from his position at OJSH would take consistency away from the High School students. Director Curtis asked where is our biggest need right now?

Director Martin said that he thinks Principal McGrath has a plan and the question was asked 'what is his plan?' Director Pope said "we need to hear that plan." Bringing out 'shot in the dark' decisions doesn't help anybody. How do we know it's a good decision? Chair Martin replied "how do you know it's a bad decision?"

Director Hardy brought up that if people have gone to talk to either Principals it is outside of the boundaries of the School Board. Director Martin disagrees. At the Special Board meeting on May 8, 2023, the issue of Superintendent Doland's resignation was talked about and voted on; the resignation date would be June 30, 2023. As a Board we need to discuss what we need to do. It seems the decision to place Principal McGrath as interim Superintendent was already made, prior to Board discussion. Director Curtis chose to have motion and meeting tonight to make decisions as to how to go forward. We need a plan now to go forward. Staff and students need to know that we have a plan. Vice-Chair suggests that we find someone from outside the Board, perhaps from COSA to help navigate the hiring of an Interim Superintendent. The motion is to appoint, not to discuss; we need to discuss before we appoint.

Director Martin stated that a motion needs to be made to start a conversation. Director Pope said that a task list did not get created as should have been done at the last meeting. Chair Martin said that he is more than willing to write to OSBA for support and COSA regarding Interim Superintendent options and there needs to be more information regarding the process before making a motion.

Superintendent Doland said that she does have a contract for her new position and is taking three days without pay to transition to that position. Other than those three days she will be here until June 30, 2023 and is more than willing to sit with the Board or Director Pope to help with the process. There is time to complete the process of hiring a new Superintendent.

Director Martin said that he does not want someone from the outside coming in; Principal McGrath has proven leadership and that he does not want to hire anyone else. Director Pope pointed out that Principal McGrath is not going to drop off the list and wondered what was the plan and what information was shared with Principal McGrath and to please give the Board the respect to share what information was being shared; that the Board deserves to have this information. Director Martin stated he asked both Principals if they wanted the job and that Principal McGrath wants it. Director Pope asked what is the plan and what is the plan that was talked about.

Director Curtis said that Principal McGrath is interested in the position and that Principal Maher is happy where she is (at OES). The way forward may be to hire an Interim Superintendent/Principal position and a Dean of Students to deal with behavior. This idea would be worth trying and worth our support going forward. Director Samuelson said that Principal McGrath came to her to discuss the Interim Superintendent's position. Director Hardy said that it is never appropriate to go to anyone to talk to someone as a Board Member. The ultimate bottom line is that the Board speaks as one and that speaking outside of that is stepping outside the bounds of what Board members' roles should be. Director Martin said as Board Chair he felt it was his responsibility to go to both principals and ask if they were interested in the job. Director Martin asked that question to be called. [see vote above].

Superintendent Doland asked who should she expect communication from? What is the plan for her until June 30, 2023? Does she work from home? Communication will come from Director Pope and Attorney Nancy Hungerford.

Director Pope said that this decision is uneducated, unguided and a poor decision.

*Chair Martin moved to choose a Board member to negotiate a contract with Mr. McGrath and to speak to District legal counsel about the process going forward.*

*Director Samuelson seconds.*

*Motion passes with three Directors voting Yes, Two voting No.*

Chair Martin asked who volunteers to steer the transition to Interim Superintendent. Director Curtis said that it should be Chair Martin. Director Pope and Hardy say no. Director Pope agreed to steer the transition and contact Principal McGrath and Attorney Nancy Hungerford to move forward with process and communication. Superintendent Doland offered to share contact information for District's legal counsel, Nancy Hungerford.

## **2. Public Comment**

\*Who will be at the District Office on May 30<sup>th</sup> with Authority; Authority to sign checks? *Chair Martin aid that it would be Principal McGrath.*

\*Appreciated comments by Directors Hardy and Pope. Hope that that the permanent Superintendent search will be more thoughtful, following policy.

\*Is a License in place for Principal McGrath? (Director Curtis said as far as I can tell. He is on the current list and that license is in place). This feels like it is being pushed through by the 'good 'ol boys. Some people on the Board are just pushing it through. There needs to be consistency; There was an expectation that Principal McGrath would be in his position for two to three years and it's disappointing that he will not be.

\*The incoming Board Member should be invited to work sessions and upcoming meetings relating to the Interim Superintendent search.

### **3. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm

APPROVED:

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CSK

  
Board Chair

  
Superintendent