

McKenzie School District
School Board Meeting

April 21, 2021

Regular School Board Meeting 5:30 P.M.

Budget Committee Orientation Workshop 7 P.M.

Meeting will be livestreamed viewing available at

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC14_qR6Fmaelcllzi4UMCeQ/videos

Submit Public Comment to public.comment@mckenziesd.org all comments submitted before noon on April 20th will be presented to the Board for review and submission to the meeting minutes.

If you would like to give comments live via Zoom please email public.comment@mckenziesd.org by noon on Tuesday, April 20th. The first 10 people to email in will be allowed to give comments. Anyone not selected for this meeting will be given priority for giving comments at the next regular board meeting.

5:30 P.M. Meeting called to Order

Present: Tim Halloran, Alyssa Brownlee, Kent Roberts, Elaine Bryson, Patence Winningham

Absent: Melissa Norlund

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

No comments were received for the board meeting tonight.

CONSENT AGENDA

Actions that are routine or usually call for no discussion, such as approving minutes of previous meetings, acceptance of donations and similar actions, often handled together in one vote by the Board.

Agenda Amendment: Tim Halloran added Jack Devereaux-Varsity Track Coach

1. Minutes Regular School Board March 17, 2021
2. Approval of Financial Report/Statements
3. Acceptance of Donations -none
4. Personnel
Hire Full Time Custodians Cody Martin and Teresa Vromans
Hire Varsity Track Coach
5. Enrollment

Alyssa Brownlee moved to approve the consent agenda as amended, seconded by Kent Roberts unanimously approved.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

US Ignite Project Overcome Grant Award

Matt Sayre introduced himself, by day he works for an Economic Development non-profit called Onward Eugene. He has gotten to know many people in the local community as one of many volunteers that were part of Oregon Internet Response.

Recently he had an opportunity to partner with Superintendent Tompkins, Lacey Joy, and Geoff Turner on a OVERCOME grant application to US Ignite and the National Science Foundation to help build internet infrastructure back to the school and the surrounding area. They were selected to receive a \$300,000 grant that will fund the construction of a resilient second internet connection to the school and create a new educational wireless network in the area. As part of a pilot project, 100 hotspots will be deployed for students and affected families this coming fall, to take advantage of that network. He is hopeful this infrastructure will be something that other public and private sector projects can build on and do more good up here.

Writing a federal grant is not an easy thing to do; it became possible because Superintendent Tompkins and Lacey Joy were willing to work some really late nights during the winter holidays. The reviewers of the grant proposal cited “Strong partnerships” as one of the key reasons why our proposal was chosen; that was the direct result of the great work of Lacey Joy especially, working as a connector between the school and many community partners. The grant received 8 letters of support from organizations in the Blue River community.

He presented a trophy to Lacey Joy, Superintendent Tompkins, and the McKenzie School.

District Report

Superintendent /Principal – Lane Tompkins

Good Evening Esteemed Members of the Board,

- **Administrative Professionals Day**

Today is Administrative Professionals Day and I'd like to thank our dedicated team of Administrative Professionals. Lorinda Marcy, Pam Sullivan, Lacey Joy, Wendy Whitson and Nancy Asman. Their coordination, organization, encouragement and guidance make what we do each day possible. They were among the first staff to return to campus and get this school year going following the fire. They are the true face and ears of this institution in the community and we are grateful to call them our colleagues.

- **Restoring Campus**

Now that clean up has concluded, we are transitioning to replacing things lost to the fire. We are working with PACE and FEMA to clarify coverage around replacing the grandstands, concession stand and storage building. Beyond those buildings, we are working on repairs to get our field lights operational, our irrigation pump running and our greenhouse replaced. Today Lacey, Brent and I met with Ken Brown with Project Hope/Rexius. They are going to look at helping us replace that great resource.

- **Restoring Academic Support**

As Brent mentioned, all grades are back on campus. We continue to follow and monitor the enforcement of COVID protocols. I'd like to commend Greg Garrelts and our drivers for working diligently to find ways to get students to and from school safely while working to keep students safely spaced and masked.

- **Legislative Update**

We are closely tracking two pieces of legislation with local impacts. The first being HB2630 which would give the three fire affected districts a five year floor on ADMw enrollment numbers for the State School Fund tied to 2019-2020 levels. This would mean staving off a \$300,000 reduction this coming year.

Another bill we are watching is HB2607 which would exempt homes destroyed by natural disasters from paying construction excise taxes when rebuilding. It passed the House unanimously. Why we are watching it is because it may have direct implications on some decisions you make tonight in regards to our CET.

These bills are in a holding pattern due to some political maneuvering as well as a positive COVID-19 case in the Legislature. I will update you as the legislative session progresses.

- **Community Resource**

We remain the host of the United States Postal Service now located in the New Gym concession stand. They are looking to have a grand opening of the new facility soon!

- **Friday Visitor**

I wanted to briefly speak again to the incident on campus Friday in which a suspected car-thief came on campus. I made you all aware of the incident the day it happened. Working in

collaboration with Oregon State Police and eventually Lane County Sheriff's Office we were able to maintain safety on campus while assisting with the arrest of the suspect by providing pictures and a description to law enforcement. While assisting with the law enforcement investigation security footage showed the suspect entering the high school building and exiting within a few minutes. When this was discovered, the campus was immediately placed on lockout, securing the exterior of all buildings as we were unsure if they remained on campus somewhere. Although the suspect briefly entered the high school, he was out of the building well before students arrived. Mr. Meister, Jack Devereaux and I began to search campus. The lack of a unified, quality camera system made knowing if the suspect was on or off campus a challenge. As LCSO began to sweep the campus, they received word that the suspect was apprehended in Blue River. A big thanks are due to OSP and LCSO for their response, to Brent Meister for responding to the incident quickly, to Jack Devereaux for reviewing the security camera footage and checking the areas the suspect was in to make sure the spaces were safe for staff and students and to our flexible staff and students who took the lockout in stride and continued their day as best as they could.

- **Summer Programming**

The legislature and Governor are collaborating on HB 5042 which would provide funding to districts to offer summer programming and support in three ways. The first, the Summer Academic Support Grant Program, would provide credit offering opportunities to high school students to ensure they are not credit deficient. The second, the Summer Enrichment/Academic Program Grant, would provide enrichment activities and academic support for students grade K-8. The third grant, the School Child Care Grant, would provide child care for students K-5 who are accessing the summer enrichment programming. The three funds combined would provide around \$106,000 to McKenzie for summer learning and enrichment. These funds, coupled with the ESSER III funds from the recently passed American Rescue Plan would allow us the resources to offer some really dynamic options for students this summer.

We are currently in the process of planning what this may look like for students, families and staff. We are leaning on Lane ESD's school improvement department to help plan and develop our programming. There are additional funds for community partners interested in providing summer opportunities for our community youth through the Oregon Community Foundation. I have reached out to the Blue River Park Board as well as the McKenzie Community Track to gauge interest. Please let me know of any other groups I should contact. OCF has not released guidance on how to apply yet but I would be more than happy to pass it along to a willing group when it comes out.

Building Report-Brent Mesiter

Hello Members of the Board,

I am happy to report that grades K-12 are being served on site and in person. We still have students learning virtually due to being displaced from the fire or by family choice due to concerns around COVID, however, the majority of our K-8 students have returned in person, and around 40% of HS students. COVID protocols are in place and are being followed by students and staff alike. Reminders to socially distance, keep masks above noses and to wash hands are common, but we continue to push forward and students are aware of the requirements. Overall, students are doing very well with this. Kudos to our maintenance and custodial staff for keeping a consistent yet flexible cleaning regimen and keeping our school clean and safe.

Schedules within both buildings are starting to feel more familiar and predictable for students, staff and families. This is signaling a return to positive structure and routines, and hopefully a reprieve from crisis management and reactivity. Many staff members have reported that they are feeling very happy to be back on site and resume positive and meaningful interactions with students on a regular basis. Students are appreciative to have a safe and consistent environment to be in regularly.

The end of Quarter 3 is tomorrow, and the last nine weeks of the school year begins on Monday. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held virtually next week via Google Meet.

Beyond being back in the classroom, McKenzie students are giving back to the community as well. In a partnership with LCC and the Lane ESD, students are participating in a shed building project on Fridays and Saturdays in April/May. Sheds are built on site and then are brought out to the community members in need. Students can earn up to one credit in math, and one credit in fine arts and earn \$500 stipend. Thank you to Lacey Joy for managing all of the logistics and to Jaylee Jordan for overseeing the students on the work days! This has been a great opportunity for all involved. We are currently fielding a small track team, which will participate in several meets in upcoming weeks, and have received word that OHS and OSSA have signed off on basketball, which will occur towards the end of the year. Thanks to our AD Fred Heins for getting these programs moving again and providing a great outlet for so many students that has been lacking throughout the last year.

Financial

Wendy reviewed the financial information

March Revenue \$187,538

Expenditures \$275,357

Revenue received 88%

Expended 62%

District Accounts Payable

Ck # 19141-19207 140,793.29 We paid the final payment to Belfor \$31,393

Payroll

Ck # 4282—4289 12,230.79

V # 11858-11901 \$116,204.70

High School Student Body

10896-10897 \$374.28

Construction Excise Tax (CET) – Lane Tompkins

I was directed to look into the Construction Excise Tax and our options to provide relief for those rebuilding in our community. I had previously sent you what I had learned from Lane County about how the CET is currently being levied and what our options might be if you all should choose to waive them for those rebuilding. Currently, the county levies a prorated CET on homes being built up to the existing square footage. Recently, the county has waived permitting fees for residential buildings that are being rebuilt for five years. Earlier I mentioned HB2607 in which the state would waive CET for buildings that were destroyed by a natural disaster making that relief more broad and permanent.

You were provided three options of a resolution that would align our CET to various considerations.

Option 1 is what the Phoenix-Talent District recently passed. It is a two year waiver.

Option 2 is more closely aligned with Lane County. It is a five year waiver on all CET payments regardless of square footage.

Option 3 is inline with HB2607 making any building replaced following a natural disaster exempt from our CET.

We will need to work with Lane County to work out the best mechanism to offer refunds to folks who have already paid their CET. From initial discussions that will most likely be having patrons directly come to us with proof of payment and we directly refund them. There is one hiccup in that the county's vendor collects and pays out these funds quarterly, so we may not have received all of the

assessed CET that is out there yet. We will have to work with the county and their vendor to get an accounting and work out the best processes if you decide to move forward with any of the resolutions.

There was discussion on each resolution; Lane preferred to go with the version that aligned with the State approving the waiver of Construction Excise Tax for those structures, both residential and commercial, that will be rebuilt on a pre-existing site in an area that has been declared an emergency. Discussion continued concerning original owner, primary home or business, land being sold without a residence and future property owners wanting to build.

Bond Measure 20-321 Report – Lane Tompkins

The District will be holding a Bond Information Night Tomorrow Thursday April 22 at 6pm and two sessions next Friday April 30th at 1pm and 3pm. District patrons will learn more about the process and the elements included in the proposed bond as well as be able to take walking tours of the campus. COVID-19 protocols will be followed including masking, distancing and hand sanitation.

A mailer should be arriving in district mailboxes soon with facts about the proposed bond measure.

ACTION ITEM

CET Resolution 20-L

Elaine moved to approve version 3 of Resolution 20-L A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WAIVING THE CONSTRUCTION EXCISE TAX ON RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES REBUILT ON PRE-EXISTING SITE DUE TO THE HOLIDAY FARM WILD FIRE ON 9-07-2020 as amended to include (by the original owner, or family member who owned it at the time of the emergency) , seconded by Alyssa Brownlee. The motion carried with Elaine Bryson, Alyssa Brownlee, Kent Roberts, Patence Winningham voting in favor, and Tim Halloran recused.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

- Elaine Bryson asked about Bond meetings April 22 and 30th, she plans to attend
Tim Halloran will also attend
- Alyssa Brownlee was amazed at all the projects going on, the community is coming together; the shed project represents so many groups coming together
- Elaine Bryson thanked the administrative team for their hard work
- Patence Winningham asked if the bus barn would get a generator if the bond passes
She also asked about 406 dollars for public assistance

FUTURE AGENDA

Budget Committee Meeting May 19, 2021 5:00 P.M.

Regular School Board Meeting May 19, 2021 6:30 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT 6:43 P.M. Kent Roberts moved to adjourn, seconded by Alyssa Brownlee and unanimously approved.