

**Nyssa School Board Minutes
Nyssa, OR**

Date: January 24, 2022

Time: 6:30 PM - Work Session

Location: Boardroom of Administration Building

In accordance with House Bill 2560 (ORS 192.670) all Regular session and Work session meetings can be viewed on the District YouTube channel: Nyssa School District - Board Room.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqiPYR14VSsPQWF6wk00qNg/videos>

Board Members Present: Susan Ramos, Alesha Munk, Pat Morinaka, Marlon Wilson, Jeremy Peterson, Donnie Ballou, Megan Robbins.

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Superintendent Johnson, Ryan Hawkins, Megan Glenn, Phil Torres

Members of the Press Present: None

Community Members Present: None

Call to Order

The Work Session Board Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Susan Ramos at 6:29pm.

Adoption of Agenda

Board Chair Susan Ramos called for a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Megan Robbins made a motion to amend the agenda. Amendments to include:

- C) Administration Survey
- D) 2022-23 Calendar

Motion for amended agenda seconded by Alesha Munk; motion carried unanimously.

Business

- A) Classified Union request for COVID leave

On December 13, 2021, the Classified Union requested consideration for additional paid administrative leave for COVID quarantine. Since the time of this request guidelines for COVID quarantine have changed. School aged children are now able to be vaccinated and contact tracing has been removed. A report was presented to the board showing how many, of the almost 80, classified employees have exhausted their sick leave; it was found to be 5 employees.

Discussion between the board included topics such as:

- Classified staff having a sick leave pool that they can donate their time and share with one another.
- Every year classified staff receive two weeks of sick leave that rolls over every year if not used.
- New employees do not have a built up bank of sick time.
- Companies in our area are not offering extra leave due to COVID.
- Classified pay is not a well paid position, being out of work without paid leave is a big financial impact.
- Previous COVID leave granted to employees was, in some cases, taken for granted or misused.
- The government distributed COVID relief checks for families to be able to plan for scenarios where they might be without work due to COVID.

The Board recommends that the Classified Union take a look at their sick leave pool and make a plan within their union to help fellow employees. The board has decided to take no action on this topic.

B) My Tech High enrollment and contract

The board had requested a revision of the My Tech High contract regarding a trial period until June 30, 2022. Attorney Mike Horton has reviewed the rewritten contract and has given his recommendations. Copy of the contract was given to the board for review. Ryan Hawkins explained to the board that the district has applied for another school code with ODE and when the new school code is granted My Tech High will have its own budget and payroll separate from the district. My Tech High will invoice the

district every month. Kathleen Burbank will be the teacher on record for My Tech High students. On April 1st there will be a re-evaluation to see how things are running and to review the contract for an extension passed the trial period.

The board would like an update from Kathleen Burbank at the March regular board meeting and monthly updates from Superintendent Johnson in the Superintendent report at monthly regular board meetings as well.

Discussion followed.

Copy of My Tech High contract is on file at the District Office.

C) Transportation Department

Ryan introduced transportation supervisor Phil Torres who was present to answer any questions from his discussion with the board. Ryan Hawkins presented a bulleted Nyssa Transportation summary to the board. This summary outlines a timeline of the struggles the transportation department has faced since the start of the school year and what steps have been taken to try to resolve issues. In August the department started with 8 drivers, by the time school started they were down to 6. Routes were modified to adjust to fewer drivers. In October the first wave of COVID hit with an employee falling ill and not being able to return to work. The school district researched alternative busing options and trained multiple employees on Type 20 certifications to help transport students. Three companies were contacted for possible outsourcing, none of these companies were interested. The district has also been researching purchasing new vans to help transport, but the current inventory on the market does not meet ODE and ODOT regulations. Current staff of the district have also been approached to receive their CDL certification with costs covered by the district. At the time of offering, there were no employees who used the opportunity to become certified. The district has met with the Union for viable solutions, but routes have still been canceled or drivers pulling double routes to accommodate the shortage. It is important to come to a solution so parents have a consistent schedule.

Based on ORS 327.043: "A school district is required to provide transportation for elementary students who reside more than one mile from school and for secondary students who reside more than 1.5 miles from school. A district is also required to provide transportation for any student identified in a supplemental plan approved by the State Board of Education." The transportation department proposes the plan to narrow

the offering of transportation to and from school to the community that lives beyond a .5 mile radius of the school.

Discussion followed.

Proposed plan would start mid February, with a letter going to families by the end of the week to explain the plan along with a map showing who would be affected. There will be hardship circumstances and families will be asked to fill out a form requesting consideration for transportation. Phil Torres, the transportation supervisor, explained that with this change it would affect 116 kids. This adjustment would free up two buses to help eliminate early pickups for out of town kids and relieve the staff from doing double routes and adjusting daily pickup/drop offs to accommodate available staff. Children that live across the railroad tracks will still be picked up by bus. The district will provide additional crosswalk guards to help with safety concerns and speak with the Police Department so they are aware of higher pedestrian traffic.

Map of the affected area is available at the District Office.

D) Survey

A district wide survey was sent out requesting staff to evaluate their school administrators. Staff is concerned that this survey is not anonymous and emails will be captured based on their response. Superintendent Johnson said that he checked the responses today and he did not see where it captured any details of who submitted the responses. It is his hope that this survey will help staff give feedback on their buildings, spur discussion, and help with evaluations. Superintendent Johnson will speak with the IT department to help reassure staff that this survey is anonymous.

E) 2022-23 Calendar

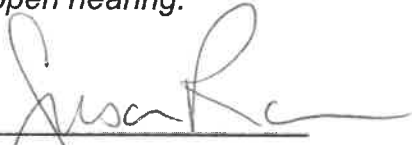
During the regular session board meeting on January 10, 2021 a drafted 2022-23 school calendar was presented to the school board. Based on discussion and recommendation from the board, unions, and administration a second calendar was drafted for consideration. Draft two of the 2022-23 calendar has changed from late start Mondays to an early release Mondays. School would be released at 2:45pm, allowing teachers 45 minutes for dedicated PLC collaboration. The newly drafted calendar has been sent to both Certified and Classified Unions for them to review and give feedback. The 2022-23 calendar will be addressed again at the next regular session board meeting on February 14, 2022.

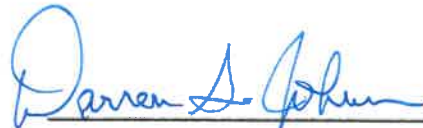
Discussion followed.

Adjournment

Board Chair Susan Ramos adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Following the Work Session, the board met in Executive Session per **ORS 192.660 (2)**
(i) To review and evaluate the employment related performance of the chief executive officer of any public body, a public officer, employee or staff member who does not request an open hearing.



Chair/Vice Chair

Superintendent/Clerk

Board Minutes by Megan Glenn, District Administrative Secretary