

**Nyssa School Board Minutes  
Nyssa, OR**

**Date: March 14, 2022**

**Time: 7:00 PM - Regular 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, Megan Robbins, Jeremy Peterson, Donnie Ballou, Marlon Wilson, Pat Morinaka

**Board Members Absent:** None

**Staff Members Present:** Superintendent Johnson, Ryan Hawkins, Megan Glenn, Crystal Rideau, Kristie Hernandez, Anna Long, Luke Cleaver, Araceli Gomez, Matt Murray, Josh De Anda, Jesse Melendez, Roseanne Caputi, Noemi Melendez, Scott Rodman, Chris Carlton, Miguel Segura, Carrie Aguas, Jose DeLeon, Emily DeLeon, David McDonald, Kathleen Burbank, Tara Skeen, Spencer Esplin, Brenda Kesler, Brian Beck, Barry Hartley, Jeremy Chamberlain, Phil Torres, Naomi Castro

**Members of the Press Present:** None

**Community Members Present:** Peggi Phair, Dennis Savage, Chema Valdez, Sharla Froerer, Emily Johnson, Abigail Alatorre, Olga Alatorre, Jesus Carrillo, Silvana Carrillo, Saraly Castellanos, Kierra Hernandez, Briana Banuelos, Rafael Williams, Girls HS basketball team: Ambrie Draper, Leti Trinidad, Clarissa and Clarita Arizmendi, Lauren Sapp, Brooklyn and Morgan Johns, Lynzie Torres, Laney Hartley, Kate Vineyard, Gracie Johnson, Malerie Long, London Hartley. HS Wrestling team: Ashton Wilson, Porter Carlton, Dennis Savage, Alec Carey, Jesse Arragon, Kody VanMeter.

**Call to Order**

Board Chair Susan Ramos called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Board Chair Susan Ramos called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Marlon Wilson made a motion to amend the agenda. Amendments to include removing mask requirements from New Business (9-A) and adding it to the Consent Agenda (7-D):

7. Consent Agenda

- A) Approve minutes of the February 14, 2022 Regular Board Meeting and ~~Work Session minutes from February 28, 2022.~~
- B) Approve corrected minutes from November 8, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.
- C) Approve Financial Reports as presented
- D) Mask Requirements - Optional after March 12, 2022**
- E) Hire:
  - 1. Sara Sapp - HS Assistant Softball
  - 2. Colleen Mitchell - Special Education Office Manager (Transfer from MS IA)
  - 3. Talon Vickers - MS Tennis
  - 4. Naomi Gallegos - Elem. Instructional Assistant
- F) Resignations:
  - 1. Jacey Wagstaff - Elem. IA
  - 2. Sarah Barnhart - Elem. IA
  - 3. Crystal Rojas - Migrant Data Specialist
  - 4. Rachele Phillips - Fourth Grade Teacher
- G) Retirement:
  - 1. Sandra Carpenter - HS Special Education Teacher (As of July 1, 2022)
  - 2. Lois Peterson - Custodial (As of March 14, 2022)

9. New Business

**A) Mask Requirements - Action Item**

- A) Budget Committee-Open position(s) - Application Deadline: Thursday, March 31, 2022 by 5:00 p.m.
- B) Annual Requirement, Action Item: The board is required to renew or extend the teacher/administrator contracts at the March board meeting.
  - 1. 1,2 & 3 year probationary teacher renewal
  - 2. Contract teacher extension
  - 3. Probationary administrator renewal
  - 4. Contract administrator extension
- C) Annual Requirement, Action Item: The Board is required to renew the Classified Staff Members, Supervisors and Confidential Employees.

Donnie Ballou seconded the motion to amend the agenda as stated by Marlon Wilson. Motion carried unanimously.

**Commendations**

**A) Students**

**Elementary**

### **Grades K-2nd**

Vice Principal Scott Rodman introduced the Elementary Kindergarten-2nd grade student of the month as Joselyn Castro. Her teacher Mrs. Book says that Joselyn is a very hard worker who has grown in all academic areas. She is a great role model who is always willing to help others in need and gives 110% in everything she does. Joselyn has met both her math and reading fluency goals. Mr. Evans, her music teacher, says she is a great singer who participates in music and someone who works well with her peers. Mrs. Steinmetz, her P.E. teacher, says she is happy, helpful and always on task. Joselyn works hard and is determined to do things to the best of her ability.

### **Grades 3rd-5th**

Principal Matt Murray introduced Abigail Alatorre as the 3rd-5th grade student of the month. Abigail is in the dual language program. Mrs. Aguas, her English teacher, says that online school was very difficult for Abigail, but once she was able to attend in-person her skills and attitude improved. Abigail was able to attend the after school program and often took home homework several times a week for improvement. Mr. Segura, her Spanish teacher, says that Abigail has shown amazing growth academically. She has worked hard and improved in math and reading the last two months.

### **Middle**

Principal Luke Cleaver introduced the middle school student of the month as Rafael Williams. Rafael's art teacher, Mr. Boyer says that Rafael is a model student who is always on task and a pleasure to have in class. He takes criticism well and is working on an art piece for the art show and is excited about his progress. Mrs. Cuevas says that Rafael has done well at self-advocating and taking the challenges of middle school head on. Mr. Lasnick, his band teacher, says that Rafael has made significant progress in band class. When he struggles he works hard to do better. He is an all around nice kid and a pleasure to have in class.

### **High**

Vice Principal David McDonald introduced Briana Banuelos as the high school student of the month. Mr. Sapp says that he has had the privilege of teaching Briana since the 8th grade. She is a great student who is also nice and funny. He is confident that she will be successful in the future and is proud of the person she has become. Mrs. Vargas says she really enjoys having her in class. Briana takes a genuine interest in learning. Mr. Boyer, her art teacher, says that she is an amazing student who works hard to do her best. He has had the privilege of teaching art to Briana since the 6th grade and in that time she has developed into a great artist.

## **B) Employee**

### **Elementary**

Principal Matt Murray introduced Carrie Aguas and Miguel Segura as employees of the month. Carrie and Miguel teach alongside each other sharing two sets of students in the dual language program for the fifth grade. Their students' math and reading test scores are the highest. These two teachers have been able to teach the same students since fourth grade where their math proficiency scores were 11%, now in the fifth grade, their scores are 100% across the board for forty two students. Reading scores in English were 54% and 24% in Spanish, currently their proficiency has improved to 88% and 84%. Reading fluency is a national assessment that checks if students are reading at or above grade level. In seven years of measuring fluency we have never seen scores this high. These two teachers have great teamwork.

## **C) Parent(s)/Volunteer(s)**

### **Elementary**

Vice Principal Scott Rodman introduced Chema Valdez as the volunteer of the month. Chema not only volunteers at the elementary, but also at the middle school. She is a great addition to the bullpups who helps with anything needed from the teachers and students. Mrs. Esplin, an elementary teacher, says that she is so helpful and always has a smile on her face. Elementary IA's thought she was part of the staff because she is consistent in volunteering and helping with whatever task is needed. Chema is very much appreciated for her dedication.

## **Visiting Patrons & Delegations**

Superintendent Johnson asked to recognize visiting patrons & delegations (HS Girls Basketball Team and HS Wrestling Team) during his Superintendent Report.

## **Superintendent Report**

- 1. Enrollment as of today:**
  - a. Elementary = 545**
  - b. MS = 288**
  - c. HS = 353**
  - d. Baker Web Academy = 25 students**
  - e. Nyssa My Tech High = 14 students**

Superintendent Johnson quickly updated the board regarding current enrollment numbers in the district per school.

## **2. Girls Basketball team State Champions**

Superintendent Johnson gave the floor to head Girls Basketball coach, Jeremy Chamberlain. Coach Chamberlain said he had a good group of girls this year. COVID was rough on the girls basketball season last year, many players chose to play on their own time in Idaho where they were able to do workouts and play in tournaments. During this time their efforts paid off and they made remarkable progress. The team ended the season as District, League, and State Champions. Coach Chamberlain introduced his team to those in attendance.

Ambrie Draper, Leti Trinidad, Clarissa and Clarita Arizmendi, Lauren Sapp, Brooklyn and Morgan Johns, Lynzie Torres, Laney Hartley, Kate Vineyard, Gracie Johnson, Malerie Long, London Hartley.

Three members of the team were selected to the All-Tournament team; Laney Hartley, Malerie Long and Gracie Johnson. All-State teams will be announced in the next week. Coach Chamberlain said the girls did a great job representing their family and our school.

## **3. Wrestlers finished 4th as a team. 2 individual State champions, 2nd place and 4th place. Middle School wrestling just finished this past weekend and one wrestler placed 6th.**

Superintendent Johnson gave the floor to head Wrestling coach, Luke Cleaver. Luke introduced the wrestlers that competed at the State Wrestling Tournament. Those in attendance were Ashton Wilson who went 2-2 at the State Tournament. Porter Carlton ,who competed as a senior. Dennis Savage, who placed 4th as a freshman. State Champions Alec Carey and Jesse Arragon. Kody VanMeter who placed 2nd place and Orlando Perfecto who qualified for state, but was not in attendance at the board meeting. Coach Cleaver said the team had a tough year coming out of COVID. Idaho teams were able to have a regular season last year, which put Nyssa wrestlers dramatically behind in our local area. It was a hard year, but the kids learned a lot as the season went on and finished 4th place at State.

## **4. Confidential Employee of the Month - Freddie Rideau**

Superintendent Johnson wanted to recognize Freddie Rideau as the district employee of the month. Freddie is an exemplary employee who puts the students of the district first. He is always talking with the students and asking what they would like within the

menu and the cafeteria. Freddie gets to work early and often stays late. His goal is to always offer superior and higher quality food for the students.

### **5. Proposed 2022-23 calendar**

There have been several drafts for the proposed 2022-23 calendar which have included community and staff input. Although the district is unable to meet all wishes of those inputs, there have been some adjustments from the last draft to reflect changes heard from staff and the community. These changes include at least one Friday off every month, some months having several Friday's off. Administration will work with building principals to use school improvement days to hold morning tutorials with the afternoon blocked out for staff training.

### **6. COVID leave proposal**

COVID leave proposal has been debated for several months. Superintendent Johnson said he has worked with Crystal Rideau, Krisite Hernandez and Ryan Hawkins to draft a "Special One-Time COVID Leave Offer" as well as a breakdown of costs to the district if granted. The board can choose to approve or deny.

Copy of cost breakdown and Special One-Time COVID Leave Offer on file at the District Office.

### **7. Audit note from ODE:**

**"The 2020-21 Audit Review for the Nyssa School District has been completed and no further action is needed by you. Nice Job!"  
Thank you to Crystal Rideau for her dedication and work for our district!**

Superintendent Johnson wanted the board to know that the 2020-21 Audit is complete and no further action is needed according to ODE. He also expressed his appreciation to Business Manager, Crystal Rideau for her hard work that allowed for this audit to be completed.

### **8. Masks optional (letter)**

The Oregon Health Authority has lifted mask requirements for indoor public spaces and Oregon's schools. The decision will be left to the School Board to decide if masks will be optional on our campus. Superintendent Johnson sent out a letter to the community with this information in both English and Spanish.

Copies of letter on file at the District Office.

**9. My Tech High (MTH) update**

**a. We need to decide as a board by April 1 if we are going to go forward with this- that is when our contract with MTH expires. We'll need an open session in order to vote, perhaps an executive session to discuss details first. Before April 1.**

Superintendent Johnson gave the floor to Kathleen Burbank who is our teacher of record for MTH students. Kathleen was hired as a math coach for the district and now spends her evenings conducting MTH obligations. There are currently fourteen MTH students. Kathleen explained what her role as a teacher of record is for these fourteen enrolled students. Enrolled students create a schedule that includes selections of offered courses. Once they have their schedule they must submit a weekly log that is 3-5 sentences explaining what learning they have accomplished for the week and how they were able to accomplish their learning. Kathleen explained that these students are doing amazing things, their logs really emphasize very interesting ways these students are learning and problem solving. Kathleen then responds back to the submitted logs with one paragraph response regarding their weekly log to interact with them regarding what they just learned. Her next paragraph includes upcoming learning and age appropriate information about the upcoming week to help push their learning further; for example daylight savings time. This paragraph will include learning around that subject and prompt them to learn more about the subject. Kathleen says so far this has been very rewarding and asked the board if they had any questions for her.

Alesha Munk asked Kathleen if she felt this program could work on a larger scale if the program were to grow and how she sees it growing?

Kathleen says that a lot of her fellow colleagues that she is in communication with have 300-500 kids so her experience is very different. When a lesson is created it feels like a waste to spend time on it and only send it to 1-2 students, where on a larger scale it would be more beneficial. The program is very adaptable to be able to grow. Currently it is taking about 1-1.5 hours a week, which is not a lot of time currently. Response from parents of students that were unable to enroll in the program have been very disappointed they missed the opportunity.

Superintendent Johnson mentioned that our current trial contract states that the district will have a decision by April 1st whether it will continue the program with MTH and

extend their contract to 4 years. A special session or work session will need to be set to discuss this decision.

The board agreed that they will meet on Monday March 28, 2022 at 6:30pm to discuss the extension of My Tech High contract as well as finishing up the Superintendent Evaluation.

#### **10. Policy JECB proposed language amendment:**

- **If the district is offering an online option, enrollment will be open twice each year, previous to the beginning of each semester. Enrollment will close for online enrollment within a reasonable time after the semester has begun. The school board may limit the number of students accepted as transfers into the online school, considering the ability of our district to provide the support necessary for these students to successfully complete their program of study.**

Proposed language amendment given to the School Board for review, this item will be an action item further in the agenda.

#### **Financial Report**

Business Manager Crystal Rideau presented the financials through February 28th. General fund received \$1.1 million in revenue and sent out \$1.2 million. Higher expenditures due to increased payroll. January payroll was increased from December's payroll due to Christmas break. There were no discrepancies on the LGIP account. Middle school bond operating statement has a balance of over \$303,000. Payment of \$329,000 will be due in June. During the months of March - May we will be receiving taxes that should bring in \$32,000. With these taxes there should be \$5,000 to carry over to the next year for payment. The Early Head Start operating statement ended the month with just under \$41,000 in the black. Main expense for the Early Head Start is payroll. The Food Service report did not include all final numbers when packets were given to the board. Crystal provided the board with updated numbers, which are also on file at the district office. Numbers through February 22nd show revenue of \$602,000 with an ending balance of \$19,618. Approval of the bills provide numbers for what was paid out from February 5th to March 4th. Crystal was asked by a board member to project transportation and food cost for the upcoming year. Crystal reviewed past expenditures for fuel and calculated to the best of her ability potential future costs for



the district. Since fuel cost drives food costs she also calculated to the best of her ability possible food expenditures for the coming year. Currently food costs have gone up by 42% from last year. Projected fuel and food cost breakdown provided to the board is on file at the district office. Crystal reassured the board that next year's budget will be adjusted to account for rising costs in food and fuel.

### **Consent Agenda**

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- E) Hire:**
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- F) Resignations:**
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  - 3. Crystal Rojas - Migrant Data Specialist**
  - 4. Rachelle Phillips - Fourth Grade Teacher**
- G) Retirement:**
  - 1. Sandra Carpenter - HS Special Education Teacher (As of July 1, 2022)**
  - 2. Lois Peterson - Custodial (As of March 14, 2022)**

Board Chair Susan Ramos called for a motion to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Jeremy Peterson made a motion to adopt the consent agenda as presented; seconded by Marlon Wilson. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Old Business**

#### **A) 2022-23 Calendar- Draft #4**

Board Chair Susan Ramos asked the board if they would like to discuss the proposed calendar before calling for a vote. Alesha Munk expressed that she would like to see more tutorial Friday's due to teacher input. Pat Morinaka reminded the board that they

are voting on calendar days and not schedules within that calendar. Tutorial Friday's will be left up to building administration on Fridays that are available to accommodate.

Discussion followed.

Board Chair Susan Ramos called for a motion. Marlon Wilson made a motion that the board adopt the proposed 2022-23 calendar. Motion was seconded by Pat Morinaka. All in favor: Marlon Wilson, Pat Morinaka, Susan Ramos, Jeremy Peterson, Donnie Ballou. In opposition: Alesha Munk, Megan Robbins; motions carried 5 to 2.

### **B) Policy Updates from Jan. 2022- Second Reading**

- 1. IGDJ- Interscholastic Activities-Optional (Currently do not have this policy)-Missed policy update from November 2021.**
- 2. ACB- Every Student Belongs (Currently All Students Belong), Required**
- 3. ACB-AR- Bias Incident Complaint Procedure, Required**
- 4. DH- Loss Coverage, Highly Recommended**
- 5. EEAB - School Bus Scheduling and Routing, DELETE**
- 6. EEA-AR- School Bus Scheduling and Routing, Optional**
- 7. GBA-AR- Veterans' Preference, Highly Recommended**
- 8. GBL- Personnel Records, Required**
- 9. GBLA- Disclosure of Information, (Previously highly recommended) DELETE**
- 10. GCBDA/GDBDA-AR (1)- Family Leave\*, Highly Recommended**
- 11. IGBAF-AR- Special Education- Individualized Education Program, Required**
- 12. IGBAG-AR- Special Education- Procedural Safeguards, Required**
- 13. IGBB- Talented and Gifted Program, Required**

Pat Morinaka recommended that policies EEAB and GBLA be deleted. Ryan Hawkins and Phil Torres have both reviewed policy EEAB and EEA-AR and they both agree with deletion of EEAB and adoption of policy EEA-AR to replace previous policy. Policies IGDJ and policy IGBAF-AR to be tabled for further review. Megan Robbins would like OSBA clarification on IGBAF-AR #7 sections B & C as to why those two sections are separate. Policies ACB, ACB-AR, DH, EEA-AR, GBA-AR, GBL, GCBDA/GDBDA-AR(1), IGBAG-AR, IGBB be adopted with suggested edits. Pat would also recommend that policy JECB that is listed as next agenda item to be approved as well with suggested language change presented to the board in Superintendent Johnson's superintendent report. After Pat Morinaka reviewed these suggestions and recommendations with the

board she made a motion to approve as stated. Jeremy Peterson seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**C) JECB-Proposed language amendment - Action Item**

Policy JECB with proposed language amendment was approved along with previous agenda items Old Business-Policy Updates from Jan. 2022- Second Reading.

**D) OSEA Request for COVID leave**

Superintendent Johnson read the proposed one-time COVID leave to the board. Board Chair Susan Ramos asked the board if they would like to discuss the request of COVID leave request prior to calling for a motion. Pat Morinaka wanted to state that one year ago the board decided to extend COVID relief. Currently we have access to the vaccine and boosters with new guidelines from OHA. The School District has also had relatively low COVID rates among staff and students. The government also released stimulus money and child tax credits to families to help during COVID shut down and strict quarantine guidelines. Pat Morinaka made a motion to deny OSEA request for COVID leave; seconded by Marlon Wilson. Board members in favor of denying the request: Marlon Wilson, Pat Morinaka, Jeremy Peterson and Alesha Munk. Those in favor or approving the request: Megan Robbins, Susan Ramos and Donnie Ballou. Motion carried to deny OSEA request for COVID leave 4 to 3.

**New Business**

~~A) Mask Requirements - Action Item~~

**B) Budget Committee-Open position(s) - Application Deadline:  
Thursday, March 31, 2022 by 5:00 p.m.**

Board Chair Susan Ramos announced the vacancy on the budget committee and those interested should fill out an application prior to March 31, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

**C) Annual Requirement, Action Item: The board is required to renew or extend the teacher/administrator contracts at the March board meeting.**

- 1. 1,2 & 3 year probationary teacher renewal**
- 2. Contract teacher extension**
- 3. Probationary administrator renewal**
- 4. Contract administrator extension**

**D) Annual Requirement, Action Item: The Board is required to renew the Classified Staff Members, Supervisors and Confidential Employees.**

Board Chair Susan Ramos called for a motion to renew teachers/administrators, classified staff, supervisors, and confidential employees. Pat Morinaka asked Superintendent Johnson if all administrators have all had their annual evaluation. Superintendent Johnson said that either evaluations have been done or communication has been relayed regarding any concerns. Principals in each building have discussed staff renewals and they are comfortable with renewing their staff. Marlon Wilson made a motion to renew all staff listed in C and D of New Business; seconded by Megan Robbins. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Board Study**

Pat Morinaka wanted to state that she attended the Malheur County Spelling Bee, it was well attended, but she had one suggestion for next year. She would like to see more signage on campus so that spectators attending know where buildings are located on campus. Pat would also like the Nyssa students who won to attend the next regular board meeting for recognition.

The board will meet for Special/Executive Session meeting on March 28, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of:

- My Tech High contract
- Policy Updates- IGBAF-AR - Special Education- Individual Education Program (IEP), IGDJ - Interscholastic Activities
- Superintendent Evaluation

### **Adjournment**

Board Chair Susan Ramos adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.



Chair/Vice Chair



Superintendent/Clerk

Board Minutes by Megan Glenn, District Administrative Secretary.