

# Nyssa Public Schools

## Special/Executive Session Minutes

**Date: March 28, 2022**

**Time: 6:30 PM**

**Location: Boardroom of Administration Building**

*The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to Megan Glenn at 541-72-2275 Ext. 0*

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

**Board Members Absent:** None

**Staff Members Present:** Superintendent Johnson, Ryan Hawkins, Megan Glenn, Sandy Carpenter

**Community Members Present:** None

**Members of the Press Present:** None

### Call to Order

Board Chair Susan Ramos called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

### Adoption of Agenda

Board Chair Susan Ramos called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Pat Morinaka made a suggestion to review policy updates without any motions until a regular session meeting. Motion was seconded by Jeremy Peterson; seconded by Donnie Ballou. Motion carried unanimously.

### Business

#### **A) My Tech High Contract (to be referred to in minutes as MTH)**

Superintendent Johnson referred back to Kathleen Burbanks' review of how My Tech High is operating during the regular session meeting held on March 14th. Superintendent Johnson recognized Pat Morinakas request to see more data from other states. Unfortunately Superintendent Johnson has been unable to gather any further data from Idaho and Colorado. Certain data is only possessed by the State. Pat Morinaka expressed her frustration with not being able to obtain further data to review as she feels Matt Bowman, the CEO of MTH, is a

“salesman.” He presented to the board several highlights to promote MTH, but no numbers or data to back up his claims. There should be numbers available when promoting a program.

Board Chair Susan Ramos asked for each board member to take time to discuss their concerns about extending the MTH contract past the trial period for 4 years.

Donnie Ballou recognizes that there should be more information available and presented from Matt Bowman. He also recognized the community's concern with focusing on our current student population first rather than students outside our boundaries.

Board Chair Susan Ramos would like more time spent on concerns regarding the functioning of our buildings (i.e. Elementary School) within our district prior to taking our focus and time away with MTH.

Alesha Munk reiterated she does hear community concern with MTH and the lack of data being a concern as well. She would like to know how many resources are being pulled away from daily operations to focus on MTH. The pilot has not been perfect, all online programs have their own benefits and disadvantages. The community has voiced their concern with the administration taking too much focus away from daily operations for MTH. Alesha recommended that if this program is to continue that administration consider offering a teacher on staff that is looking to get experience in an administrator role the opportunity to be the administrator over MTH. This allows for staff to gain experience and not take current administration away from their current responsibilities. Alesha would also like the administration to consider being transparent in the time they are dedicating to MTH so people do not perceive the reasoning behind MTH for monetary purposes.

Jeremy Peterson stated that he was excited in the beginning for MTH and was hoping more students from our area would take advantage of the program. Jeremy wonders if the only way for the program to work is for it to be a separate entity from the district. Staff would be separate so that no employees are both MTH and NSD shared staff. Currently Jeremy does not see it benefiting the district as of right now.

Megan Robbins voiced her concern over the curriculum. The demo provided for the board to review was very basic and didn't give them a good idea of all curriculum offered. Megan wonders if the district could create something themselves to offer online services rather than paying an outside company.

Marlon Wilson stated that there are too many questions and not enough answers for a 4 year contract. Marlon agreed with Pat that Matt Bowman felt very “salesy” in his presentation. The financial benefit would be fantastic, but there are too many concerns. The trial period has not

been what we expected to make the board feel comfortable with extending into a contract past the trial period.

Discussion followed regarding voiced concerns between board, Superintendent Johnson and Ryan Hawkins.

Superintendent Johnsons recognizes that administration did not communicate well with the community regarding MTH, but moving forward wants to make sure things are done right. Ryan Hawkins researched online programs and found MTH which focuses on entrepreneurship and stem programs and that's why it stood out from the other online schooling that is currently out there.

Board Chair asked Ryan Hawkins if the extension of the contract has to be 4 years. Ryan Hawkins stated that because there is so much work that goes into getting things started the contract length was decided so that the district could commit and ensure that we are the only one in our state doing something like MTH. The real growth comes in year two and three so see how far we have expanded from our first year of work.

Superintendent Johnson recognizes the difficulties the trial period has run into. This is a new concept in Oregon and many districts got held up on the 3% rule and the misconception of MTH being a charter school. We hope to work through these problems as they arise so that we are ahead of the game when we see an increase in enrollment in the future. Superintendent Johnson also recognizes the need for other options for students to seek different styles of education. There are many reasons students seek online schooling.

Megan Robbins asked how contracted services such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, etc will be handled since those services are not provided by MTH. These services are very expensive services which the district is responsible for providing. Pat Morinaka also asked the administration if they have done a projection of costs for those services if a certain percentage of students require them. Ryan Hawkins stated that these services would need to be contracted out, which is still being worked out. Depending on the number of special education students would dictate how many teachers would need to be hired, but most likely would only need to hire one. If special services are needed then those services would need to be contracted out through a subcontractor.

Alesha Munk asked Superintendent Johnson and Ryan Hawkins how much time they are spending on MTH. Ryan Hawkins stated that it is hard to say. Superintendent Johnson recognizes the need for him to be available all the time. Administration knows that MTH will require evenings and weekend work that would not interfere with normal everyday operations of the district and to make sure the needs of our students in our community are taken care of.

Marlon Wilson asked Superintendent Johnson and Ryan Hawkins what the overall feelings are from staff. Superintendent Johnson stated that it is a new concept so not much has been shared, but discussions with building administration have taken place regarding MTH and he feels they are on board. Ryan Hawkins believes the staff is concerned about what MTH means regarding their workload, which would not impact their workload/schedule at all, but hopefully only benefit them in the long run in regards to bonuses. Marlon Wilson wanted to remind the administration that you cannot sell something you don't own yet. Since MTH will be part of our district then the plan and how we succeed needs to be conveyed to all staff.

Pat Morinaka wanted to know if we still have a relationship with TVCC, which Superintendent Johnson confirmed that we still offer college credit classes on campus through TVCC. The board questions if MTH and their connection with Snow College will hurt our relationship with TVCC. Jeremy Peterson questions whether Snow College offers more than TVC and does not want to hurt our relationship with TVCC. The question as to if Snow College credit transfers to other colleges if students do not complete Associates prior to graduation is also something to consider.

Marlon Wilson would also like Superintendent Johnson and Ryan Hawkins to find out what the district's liability is if numbers of MTH students exceed the volume that MTH can handle in regards to having enough staff, does that in turn become a liability on our part.

The board requests that Superintendent Johnson and Ryan Hawkins communicate with Matt Bowman at MTH that they would like to extend the trial period to June 30, 2023, then at which point they will then decide if MTH is something they would like to extend into a contract or cut ties. If Matt Bowman with MTH is unwilling to compromise on those terms then the board does not wish to continue at this time. If Matt Bowman is willing to re-write the terms of the contract then the board agrees to extend the trial period to June 30, 2023 and then revisit when it is time to decide on extension of contract. The board also asks Superintendent Johnson to give monthly updates on MTH within his Superintendent Report at every regular monthly board meeting.

### **1. MTH Compensation**

The Board requests open communication from Superintendent Johnson and Ryan Hawkins when enrollment is opened up and numbers are available for enrollment in July so the board has more of an idea of funds that will be brought in. The Board discussed several options of how to spend income from enrollment from MTH students, but recognizes that until we have the money they cannot agree on any set compensation at this time. As of right now the district is fronting the money to MTH until the district can receive state school funds from enrolled students. Any incoming funds can not be projected on how to spend compared to the cost going out. The

district is billed every 15th of the month as of today the district has paid \$11k, but has not received any money to date.

### **B) ODE New School Code**

Ryan Hawkins explained the need for an additional ODE School code so that MTH students will be separated by that school code for data purposes. The board came to an agreement that they approved the district seeking an additional school code with ODE in preparation for MTH.

### **C) Policy Updates**

#### **1. IGBAF-AR - Special Education-Individualized Education Program (IEP)**

Superintendent Johnson reached out to Spencer Lewis with OSBA regarding Megan Robbins questions on #7 section B & C. He had not heard back prior to this meeting, he will communicate with the board as soon as he gets a response. This was tabled until response has been received.

#### **2. IGDJ - Interscholastic Activities**

Pat Morinaka suggested that the board review this policy further and will readdress at the next regular session board meeting.

### **Superintendent Evaluation**

Board Chair Susan Ramos recessed the Special Session meeting at 7:53 to meet 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.***

### **Adjournment**

The board came out of Executive session and adjourned the meeting at 10:02 p.m.

  
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Chair/Vice Chair

  
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Superintendent/Clerk

Board Minutes by Megan Glenn, District Administrative Secretary.