

**Nyssa School Board Minutes
Nyssa, OR**

Date: November 28, 2022

Time: 5:00 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, Megan Robbins, Pat Morinaka, Jeremy Peterson, Alesha Munk, Donny Ballou

Board Members Absent: Maribel Ramirez

Staff Members Present: Superintendent Johnson, Megan Glenn, Araceli Gomez, Luke Cleaver, David McDonald, Matt Murray, Ryan Hawkins, Gina White, Crystal Rideau

Community Members Present: None

Members of the Press Present: None

Call to Order

Board Chair Susan Ramos called the Work Session meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

Board Chair Susan Ramos called for a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Donny Ballou made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented; seconded by Pat Morinaka. Motion carried.

Business:

A) Bullying

Board Chair Susan Ramos addressed the board that the purpose of this Work Session meeting was to address the complaints brought to the board at the November 14th Regular Session meeting regarding bullying and the processes that are taking place to handle these situations. Administration from each building were present for discussion and questions from the board. The complaint brought to the board at the November regular board meeting specifically questioned the processes that were taken in regards to a specific incident. There was discussion that an expulsion hearing took place regarding the student and this incident. Special Education Director Gina White was in attendance and she wanted to make a clarification regarding what type of hearing took place. Regarding this specific student and incident it was not an expulsion

hearing, but a manifestation hearing. Gina proceeded to explain the difference between the two. A manifestation hearing examines a student's IEP and examines if actions by the student were due to their disability. In this specific incident it was determined that the student's behavior was due to their disability. Placement rather than expulsion was decided as a course of action. Gina explained that this student was placed in a restricted environment to help teach appropriate behavior skills while still receiving their education and while protecting other students.

In the written complaint regarding the incident at the elementary school, parents labeled the behavior as bullying and asked why this child was still allowed in school.

Jeremy Peterson said he has read Board Policy JFCF regarding bullying and felt it was vague.

Administration wanted to remind the board that each school outlines consequences for poor behavior in their individual handbooks even though policy does not.

Pat Morinaka asked if there were a certain number of incidents of bullying before it got to the point of an expulsion hearing and how many times does it need to occur before it is bullying.

Middle School Principal Luke Cleaver wanted to point out that in many instances bad behavior is labeled as bullying. Is the behavior bullying or is it conflict?

Alesha Munk asked if it is not considered bullying then what are the consequences of behavior?

Luke explained some of the processes they have in place at the middle school regarding boundaries and reporting. There are several tactics for intervention that they have taught the students and they have instructed students on how to report behavior.

Superintendent Johnson wanted to state that every building has tactics in place and that maybe we need to do better at communicating to parents about interventions done to keep kids safe.

When administration is made aware of bad behavior we work with the kids and families. Administration also stated that not all actions taken can be communicated with parents due to confidentiality, because of this other parties involved might not feel like action has been taken. Administration wanted to relay that indeed processes are being done behind the scenes to correct and teach behavior and hold kids accountable for their actions. Students are encouraged to report behavior, actions can not be taken if administration is unaware of the situation. District Counselor Bobby DeLeon has worked to create one universal incident reporting form for all three buildings to help support the process of conflict resolution.

Araceli Gomez stated that there is significant time spent with students teaching them about setting boundaries, how to address if someone crosses those boundaries and how to report if the situation continues.

Elementary School Principal Matt Murray acknowledges that there are behavior issues at the elementary school. One of the initiatives brought back to help address these issues proactively was PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports). Part of the elementary school's processes include parent conferences and counseling. Unfortunately we do not have facilities to send students with behavioral needs. Araceli wanted to remind everyone that there are laws that prohibit the expulsion of an elementary student without certain guidelines being met.

Superintendent Johnson said the purpose of discipline is to change behavior, and what works for one may not work for another.

The middle school is working hard to fix behavior issues and encouraging students to report behavior within 24 hours. They do recognize that one piece that is missing is follow-up. A document has been created to help with the follow-up process that will help with behavior modification.

Jeremy Peterson asked how we change their habits. Araceli responded by saying that we have to give the parents a chance to parent.

Superintendent Johnson reassured the board that administration is handling behavior issues as they are reported. Changes don't happen overnight, but we are working on trying to figure out how to change bad behavior.

Pat Morinaka met with Matt Murray after the November Regular board meeting and discussed the complaint brought to the board by a community member. Pat and Matt had a good conversation and she was satisfied with the way things were handled regarding the specific incident brought to their attention.

Gina White wanted the board to also know that there are threat assessments done when needed. In his particular incident mentioned there was a threat assessment done even though it was an instance not of a threatening manner.

Superintendent Johnson asked that when board members receive phone calls from the community regarding a complaint to please ask if they have tried to resolve the matter with the building administration. If they feel it has not been resolved then please refer them to board policy KL-AR to submit a formal complaint.

Luke explained that if a community member/parent feels they did not receive justice, then they will hold a meeting to inform them of the process for discipline that was given. As much information as legally allowed will be given, if they are still not satisfied then they can go to Superintendent Johnson and appeal and if needed come to the board. It is important that the administration knows exactly what was unsatisfactory with the process so that it can be fixed.

Gina White explained the manifestation hearing process more in depth and the role as the Special Education Department. If an incident is reported and that student has an IEP, then the incident and the IEP are evaluated to determine if the behavior is based on students' disability. If a student has impulsive behavior based on their disability that causes them to make bad decisions, then their IEP is evaluated. In evaluating their IEP we look at how we can revise their behavior plan. If the incident is found to not be caused by their disability then we help with consequences and how to move forward to help make the right decision. We help provide a behavior plan and help with social skills.

Superintendent Johnson said that if our course of action is not helping then we work with outside agencies, such as counselors from the ESD and by referring parents to lifeways. We cannot force parents to take the outside help we recommend, but our main goal is to help change behavior. Students are here to learn, but the reality is some are here to learn how to behave as well.

Board Chair Susan Ramos asked if the board needs to formalize a letter to send to the parent that brought their complaint to the board. Superintendent Johnson said he will formalize a letter to send to the parent and share with the board as well.

Luke provided the middle school handbook to the board members in attendance so they could review the steps of discipline for poor behavior for middle school students. Pat Morinaka asked if the elementary and high school had handbooks available. It was relayed that the information is out there, on websites and available during online registration for parents to review and sign.

Araceli asked board members to please let administration know if they receive phone calls to report behavior so they can provide an opportunity to change behavior. Luke reiterated the importance of immediately communicating reports so that an investigation can take place. They are working to help kids feel safe in reporting so they do not feel like they are "tattle telling."

Alesha Munk also wanted to touch base on the complaint brought up regarding stuffed animals being brought by high school students to classes. Alesha spoke with her students that attend the high school and asked if there was a disturbance regarding stuffed animals and they relayed that they are not. Students that bring them to class place them on their desk and do not use them in a distracting manner.

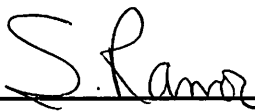
B) HS HVAC

Superintendent Johnson asked Business Manager, Crystal Rideau to inform the board of available funds for the HS HVAC project. Crystal relayed to the board that \$2.9 million will come from ESSER III funds. Beniton Constructions presented to the board final bid result estimates at the November regular board meeting with a final base bid cost of \$4,368,495, leaving a \$1.4 million deficit. Crystal wanted to present to the board financial options to cover that shortfall. This project is not slated to begin until the end of May, which is the last month for the fiscal year budget. The facilities and management fund 440 has a balance of \$717k and the contingency fund has a balance of \$2.1 million. These are estimates based on current financial records, the fiscal year 2021-22 audit will be completed in the coming weeks that will give a clearer picture on beginning fund balance. Crystal believes that the beginning fund balance in the 2022-23 budget was less than actual available funds. This will increase the beginning fund balance for the 2023-24 budget leaving plenty of funds to relieve the shortfall for the HS HVAC project without using fund 440.

Superintendent Johnson also wanted to let the board know that he has met with Lori Holcomb who has experience with grant writing. He has gotten some good recommendations from her and hopes to retain more funding to preserve the ending fund balance as much as possible.

Adjournment

Board Chair Susan Ramos adjourned the meeting at 6:03 p.m.



Chair/Vice Chair



Superintendent/Clerk

Board Minutes by Megan Glenn, District Administrative Secretary