

**Nyssa School Board Minutes  
Nyssa, OR**

**Date: December 12, 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, Megan Robbins, Pat Morinaka, Jeremy Peterson, Alesha Munk, Maribel Ramirez, Donny Ballou

**Board Members Absent:** None

**Staff Members Present:** Superintendent Johnson, Megan Glenn, Ryan Hawkins, Crystal Rideau, Sara Sapp, Matt Murray, Brett Jackman, Luke Cleaver, Araceli Gomez, Tricia Book, Kristie Hernandez, Roger Hunter, Veronica Bunn, Emily Olson, Bobby DeLeon, Kevin Draper

**Community Members Present:** Lauren Sapp, Andrew Maeda, Naomi Rich, Hailey Harnden, Alyssa Harnden, Wyatt Olson, Michael Hartley, London Hartley, Amy Shuster, Mauricio Gomez, Javier Gomez, Elizabeth Diaz, Cristian Ponce, Alma Ponce, Marcelino Perez, Jessica and Juan Estrada, Zack Olson, Wyatt Olson, Oliver Olson, Kurt Romans, Emma Lynn Romans, Rachel Romans, Carmen Rodelo, Ricky Rodelo, Yessena Gomez, Jayden Ponce

**Via Zoom:** Tim Hoyt, Quest CPA's, PLLC

**Members of the Press Present:** None

**Call to Order**

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

**Adoption of Agenda**

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

**Commendations**

**A) Students**

**Elementary K-2**

Interim Vice Principal Tricia Book introduced the kindergarten through second grade student of the month as Jayden Ponce. Jayden is a hard working student who struggles to focus sometimes but manages to stay caught up in his work. He has improved since the beginning of the year and has demonstrated growth in his reading fluency

increasing by twice the average rate of growth. Jayden is also a valuable part of the yearbook club.

### **Elementary 3-5**

Principal Matt Murray introduced the third through fifth grade student of the month as Carmen Rodelo. Carmen is a member of Bullpup Leadership. She is a young scholar and a leader in class, showing respect, safety, and responsibility. She meets her goals and seeks others' perspectives. Carmen advocates for herself and is willing to share her thoughts even if it is a risk.

### **Middle**

Principal Luke Cleaver introduced the middle school student of the month as Yessena Gomez. Yessena is an eighth grader who has recently helped keep stats for MS Basketball. She is a student that wants to learn and asks intelligent questions. Yessena is a positive influence to those around her and maintains the right balance between socializing and focusing on the task at hand. Yessena has a magnetic personality who cheers everyone up and is friendly to her peers. She is dedicated to learning and willing to take risks that other students won't.

### **High**

Principal Brett Jackman introduced the high school student of the month as Emma Romans. Emma is a senior with a 4.0 GPA with excellent attendance. Emma is humble, quiet, and intelligent. Emma is a gifted artist and has left her mark at the high school by creating a mural in the library. She shows initiative and can be counted on to get things done. Emma is also kind and compassionate to her classmates. She has made an impact on Nyssa High by being inclusive and seeking ways to do good.

### **B) Staff**

Matt Murray introduced the employee of the month as Emily Olson. Emily teaches 5th grade. She is someone who is always supportive to new staff and happy to answer questions. Emily cares deeply for her students and takes the time to break down lessons so students truly understand the reasoning behind the right answer.

### **C) Volunteer(s)**

Matt Murray introduced the volunteer of the month as Naomi Rich. Naomi is a positive support who is ready to jump in whenever needed. Naomi is President of the PTO which has helped purchase necessary materials for the school. She has the students' best interest at heart and with her help parent participation has multiplied with her efforts. She plays a key role in fundraising, the spelling bee, purchasing playground equipment and staff appreciation. Naomi rarely says no; between being a mom, a substitute teacher, and PTO President, she can be counted on when needed.

### **Visiting Patrons & Delegations**

**A) Tim Hoyt, Quest CPA's, PLLC - District Fiscal Year 2021-22 Financial Audit (Via Zoom)**

Tim Hoyt with Quest CPA's was present via zoom to present the district fiscal year 2021-22 financial audit. Tim relayed to the school board that the financial audit went well and he appreciates Business Manager, Crystal Rideau's hard work. Financial audit standards are getting harder and harder, which require more in depth requests and documentation from Business Managers. Tim started by reviewing Page 1 with the Independent Auditor Report. This report explains the changes in standards, but the bulk of the report has stayed the same. An audit opinion and an outline of responsibilities of the auditor and management are included here. Unmodified opinions are the official auditor opinions and Tim stated there were no issues that he came across. Financial statements are accurate and can be relied on by board, state, and other pertinent parties. Tim further reviewed page 61, which reviews the auditor report of internal controls. Part of a financial audit is to make sure that internal procedures are in place, and he confirmed internal controls are in place. Page 63 reviews compliance over major programs, which showed no issues. Ending fund balance which is carried over to next year for future expenses was \$5.95 million. For the year there was a \$781,462.00 increase from the previous year's ending balance. Operating reserve is how many months of expenditures the district can function with that balance. You take total expenditures and divide by 12 and that will give us an idea of how many months the district can stay afloat if all revenue was cut off. The district would have 5 months reserve, which is a good spot to be in according to the auditor. The recommended operating reserve is 3-5 months.

District Financial Audit 2021-22 is on file at the District Office.

## **B) Ontario Recreation District**

Andrew Maeda was in attendance from the Ontario Recreation District. Andrew was there to present a resolution of support for LC-1465. This resolution will help to approach legislation for a request of lottery bonds. LC-1465 authorizes issuance of lottery bonds in the amount of \$4.5 million. This bond would facilitate the construction and project management of the Ontario Community Recreation Center. Andrew spoke to the board and those in attendance of the closing of the Ontario public pool and the negative impact it has had for the community and communities surrounding Ontario. This support does not require any legal or financial support from Nyssa, it just shows that Nyssa supports this action. Andrew explained the scope of the project and where they are financially with current fundraising. This project is a six phase project and the Ontario Recreation District is currently in its second phase. Andrew explained the beneficial impact on youth in the surrounding areas from this project. They want a nice place for kids to go after school and give them responsibilities by helping staff the facilities. Andrew hopes that the recreation district will be ready for construction in March with a 6-9 month construction timeframe.

Jeremy Peterson made a motion to support the resolution in support of LC-1465; seconded by Pat Morinaka. Motion carried.

Project documents are on file at the District Office.

## **All Student Body President Report**

All Student Body President, Lauren Sapp was present to give the school board an update from the high school student body. Lauren provided the board with a wrestling schedule. She also invited the board to attend their upcoming pep assembly on Friday at 1pm for their Ugly Sweater competition. The student body would like to meet the board members so they would like to introduce those that could attend to the student body during the pep assembly. She also encouraged the members to join in on the ugly sweater competition. Pep club has been busy putting together a Winter Spirit Week as well for the student body. The band will hold a concert on Thursday at 7pm. The Student Council will also be helping deliver items for Help Them to Hope on Thursday.

## **Superintendent Report**

<b>1. Enrollment</b>	<b>Nov.</b>	<b>Dec.</b>
<b>a. Elementary:</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>544</b>
<b>b. Middle:</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>294</b>
<b>c. High:</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>345</b>
<b>d. TOTAL in-person:</b>	<b>1,179</b>	<b>1,183</b>
<b>e. My Tech High (Nyssa Virtual):</b>		<b>145</b>

Superintendent Johnson briefly reviewed enrollment numbers with the board. Historical numbers from the previous month were also provided.

### **2. Attendance at the Oregon Law Conference in Eugene last week**

#### **a. Information on sessions attended**

Superintendent Johnson attended the Oregon Law Conference in Eugene. Attorneys discussed with administration legal issues that schools might come up against and issues that are important to consider and how to navigate those situations.

**3. Title IC update - As you know, I have been meeting with officials from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and our consortium partners to make sure we are meeting all requirements asked of us. I have also reached out to attorneys at the law firm Miller Nash in Portland, OR to get their help with navigating the complexities of this situation. I met with them in person recently and would like to suggest that our school board meet in executive session this evening to consider retaining legal counsel to advise us in this matter.**

Superintendent Johnson has continued to meet with ODE. Superintendent Johnson has reached out to the law firm Miller Nash to help navigate the audit and investigation in hopes to allow the district's voice to be heard. The board would like to discuss the hiring

of Miller Nash further in executive session prior to adjournment of the regular session meeting.

#### **4. Bullying update**

Superintendent Johnson wanted the community to know that the board met in a special session meeting with administration to discuss processes and concerns regarding bullying behavior. Board Chair Susan Ramos reiterated that this was a lengthy discussion with each building explaining their processes and how complaints are handled. Alesha Munk also wanted to point out that a district wide text went out relaying to the community how to report incidents. One take away from the meeting was that meeting with students does not necessarily stop behavior; it has to be continual reporting. Pat Morinaka would like to see reporting uniformity between buildings, she feels the complaint procedure is a good stepping stone.

#### **5. Transgender locker room/restrooms**

Superintendent Johnson wanted to address rumors regarding the remodeling of locker rooms to create a transgender locker room. He reiterated that what has been done are discussions to create a safe and private changing area for all. This area will not be labeled as transgender locker room or bathroom, but just a safe place for all students to feel comfortable.

#### **6. County truancy ordinance proposal**

**We used to have truancy court based on statute that allowed us to fine students/parents for lack of attendance. Some judges across the state, including Judge Mahoney in Vale, recently interpreted this statute to mean they could no longer issue fines for lack of school attendance. The superintendents in Malheur County have worked with David Goldthorpe, Malheur County District Attorney, to prepare an ordinance that the county court can approve that will give us authority to issue fines to parents and students for lack of attendance in light of the current situation. Mark Redmond, Superintendent at the Malheur ESD will present the proposal at the county court this Wednesday morning at 9:30am if anyone is interested in attending. I will be there.**

Superintendent Johnson wanted the board to know that Malheur County courts feel they can no longer issue truancy citations for chronic absenteeism due to their interpretation of the law. Superintendent of Malheur ESD, Mark Redmond has been working with District Attorney David Goldthorpe to draft a county wide ordinance.

#### **7. Presentation of i-Ready data - Roger Hunter**

Mr. Hunter presented the board a slide to explain what i-Ready means. "i-Ready" means diagnostic test in Math for K-8, diagnostic test for reading 6-8 and online instruction as part of the math curriculum. Mr. Draper first introduced i-Ready for the reading

department and recommended it to the math department. In 2014-15 it was piloted in the district and the elementary school went full time using i-Ready. Tests have been run to make sure if diagnostic tests are valid and does it report what it is supposed to report. Does it interpret score to grade level? They also looked at how i-Ready compares to state tests. Mr. Hunter displayed graphs with correlation between i-Ready diagnostic and OSAS Achievement for grades 6-8 and elementary for math and reading. When taking all the data and reports from over the years the correlation is there. This gives validation that these tests are working and shows valuable data. This data is very useful for class placement. Superintendent Johnson reiterated that this information and correlation was powerful and very useful for the district.

i-Ready graphs on file at the District Office.

### **Financial Report**

Business Manager Crystal Rideau presented the financial report for the month of November. Total revenue was \$2,014,502 with expenditures of \$1,368,759. First round of extra duty stipends were distributed from the general fund. Cumulative balance ended at \$3,126,342. Middle School Bond started at \$86,215.74 with first rounds of taxes received leaving a total of \$412,989.77. Debt service payment of \$90,120.01 was paid, leaving a new balance of \$322,869.76. This fund will continue to collect taxes until the next payment in June. Early Head Start ended the month with \$34,846.64. Food Service ended the month with \$51,578.38.

The Financial Report is on file at the District Office.

### **Consent Agenda**

- A) Approve minutes of the November 14, 2022 Regular Session meeting and minutes from the November 28, 2022 Work Session meeting.**
- B) Approve Financial Reports as presented**
- C) Hire:**
  - 1. Gaylen Spear - Transportation**
- D) Resignations:**
  - 1. Keta Cline - Elementary Vice Principal**
  - 2. DeAnn Atkinson - MS/HS Choir**
- E) Retirement/Continuation of Employment:**
  - 1. Jolene O'Connor - Retirement from Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) of Oregon effective December 31, 2022**

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

### **Old Business**

- A) Staff Wellness**

Pat Morinaka met with high school counselor Melissa Vargas to inquire further on concerns with staff wellness. She feels there is an increased need for wellness amongst staff which might include things such as time and stress management. There is a concern for burn out amongst staff. Pat hoped there are some things that could happen quickly to help since there are only five months left in the school year. The two discussed ways to keep staff. Melissa emphasized communication between the buildings and staff and possibly including some wellness in professional development and more activities for staff bonding. Melissa would be willing to set up a committee involving staff from all buildings and the school board to work on staff wellness. Her hope is that something could be rolled out in early January by possibly putting together a staff survey and get a feel for what their concept of wellness is. If enough people are interested then the process for the committee could proceed.

Superintendent Johnson said this is something that can be discussed in Ad Council. He also wanted the board to know that there are staff wellness opportunities already available through employee health insurance.

### **New Business**

#### **A) OSBA Elections**

Board of Directors Eastern Region Position 1 has one candidate, Chrs Cronin from Grant ESD, running in this year's election. Pat Morinaka wanted to encourage the board to support Chris Cronin by casting a vote in her favor. Pat feels she is knowledgeable and has done well in her position for the short time she has been in the position. Pat Morinaka made a motion to vote for Chris Cronin in the Board of Directors Position 1 elections; seconded by Maribel Ramirez. Motion carried.

#### **B) OSBA Resolution**

OSBA is requesting support for a resolution to adopt the OSBA Legislative Priorities and Principles recommended by the Legislative Policy Committee. Pat Morinaks relayed to the board that she has reviewed the resolution and feels it is very suitable for adoption. Pat Morinaka made a motion to adopt the OSBA Legislative Priorities and Principles; seconded by Jeremy Peterson. Motion carried.

### **Board Study**

There were no board study items on tonight's agenda.

Board Chair Susan Ramos took a comment from the audience from community member Amy Shuster. Amy asked again what the board's stance would be if the CDC required school aged children to receive the COVID vaccination to attend school. The board again reiterated to Amy that they cannot speak on the matter as it is not required at this time nor do they know what say they will have in the matter. Jeremy Peterson stated that his stance on the matter he would vote to leave it in the parents hands to make that decision, but he reminded her he cannot speak for the entire board.


Board recessed the Regular Session meeting at 8:33 p.m. to enter into executive session per **ORS. 192.600(2)(a) To consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent and ORS 192.600(2)(h) To consult with counsel concerning current or possible litigation.**

The board reentered Regular Session at 9:08 p.m. Alesha Munk made a motion to hire law firm Miller Nash to seek legal counsel regarding the Tile 1C audit/investigation; seconded by Megan Robbins. Motion carried.

**Adjournment**

Board Chair Susan Ramos adjourned the Regular Session meeting at 9:09 p.m.

  
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Chair/Vice Chair

  
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Superintendent/Clerk

Board Minutes by Megan Glenn, District Administrative Secretary