



Oakridge School District #76

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Oakridge Board of Directors April 5, 2021 Work Session Board Meeting 5:30 p.m.

Chair Weddle called the Work Session Meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 5:31pm in Virtual Zoom Webinar.

Present: Director Tami Edmunds, Director Kevin Martin, Director Mikal McPherson, Superintendent Doland, Business Manager Peggy Mahla, Confidential Secretary Jayme Martin, and Carol Samuels, Piper Sandler & Company.

1. Pension Bond Discussion Carol Samuels, Piper Sandler & Company

Business Manager Peggy Mahla explained the District has an unfunded liability with PERS of approximately six million dollars. The Pension Bond is an opportunity to go out for a bond that is more like a loan. The purpose is to payoff off the debt by taking out the loan for 6M paying toward the debt to PERS. PERS would then invest this money on behalf of the school district and it would in turn lower our rates. The goal is to make lower payments to PERS and use the savings from the lower payments to make the loan payment. With PERS investing the funds, it is possible that it would earn more money than what is owed creating a savings for those years that it does not earn as much interest. Currently the interest rates are low, so Ms. Mahla stated it would be a good time to go out for the Pension Bond.

Carol Samuels explained the Pension Bond further, giving information on how PERS invests and in what type of accounts. She also explained PERS side account and how they draw it down using it to decrease the PERS rates that the employer pays. She showed different graphs and diagrams explaining the rates, and other districts that have gone out for pension bonds in the past. She showed positive returns on borrowings that most districts have saved money but not all districts. She explained there are no guarantees and that there is a possibility of losing funds.

Chair Weddle expressed his concern regarding the current economy and investments.

Director Edmunds asked about the unknown percentage rate and being able to back out of the bond once the interest rate is set. Ms. Samuels explained the Board will set the maximum interest rate. She stated other districts that have previously entered in the Pension Bond have set the rate between 4 and 4.5% interest rate.

Ms. Samuels explained the timeline of the Pension Bond process and showed many opportunities to back out of the loan.

2. Board Correspondence and Communication Guidelines

The Board discussed and edited the Correspondence and Communication Guidelines Agreement.

Director Edmunds stated she liked the way it was clarified on the top of the meeting agendas on how to make public comment. She stated she liked giving people who have signed up for public comment first

chance to make public comment. If time allowed, others who had not signed up, would be given a chance to make comment. All the other Directors agreed.

Director Martin asked about putting wording in the procedure regarding personnel complaints not being heard during public comment. Superintendent Doland stated that wording was in the policy and the procedures were in the policy as well.

Director Hardy spoke about making it clear that public comment was not a discussion point and that the Board was not going to respond to the commenters. Director Edmunds suggested adding that wording to the agenda. The other Directors agreed.

Discussion was had and wording was added regarding the placement of public comment on the agenda. They decided the Board may vote on moving public comment by majority vote if needed.

3. Superintendent Goals

Superintendent Doland shared three preliminary goals with the Board.

1. District Strategic Plan
Superintendent Doland stated this plan would align the District Goals, the Student Improvement Plan and State Standards. This would be a measurable plan with District achievement data.
2. Academic Growth Target and Academic Supports in place for all students
Superintendent Doland emphasized needed support at the Elementary school for the response to intervention process. As well as positive behavior interventions and supports and continuing to work on the social emotional goals, developing a comprehensive system. She also stated these will be implemented at the Middle and High School.
3. District Communications Plan
This plan is in order to establish a clear communications plan and effective communications status. This plan will align with the Districts Strategic direction.

Chair Weddle shared he had very similar ideas on the goals, adding a piece on the recovery from COVID. He mentioned discussing the goals 2 or 3 times a year.

Director Edmunds stated she like the District wide communications piece, stating the communications issue was not just a single person but included everyone. She stated it is important for staff members to read their emails in order to be informed.

Director Hardy spoke about the website and that it has a lot of information on it. Director Edmunds stated the information on the website might be good to include in the summer newsletter. Superintendent Doland stated the website is still in the process of improving.

Superintended Doland stated she would like to do board development in July and then start discussing the strategic plan.

4. Superintendent Update

Superintendent Doland spoke about ESSER I, II, and III as well as comprehensive distance learning. All of the funds and grants were a part of COVID recovery initiatives. She spoke about the state's 2.5 billion dollar project for Summer Learning. She stated at the beginning of the year the District received approximately \$400,000. These funds were spent on PPE for staff and students such as sanitizing

equipment. Additional funds were received. ESSER II funding was approximately 2.7 million. ESSER III funds will be approximately 7 million. These funds are allocated as follows:

ESSER II

- CDL
- Chromebooks
- Hotspots
- Online learning platforms
- Appogy project

ESSER III

- the building on Rose street for Ophilia's Place and Hoots
- the school based health center
- CTE classroom
- Ventilation system at Westridge
- Replacement of the windows throughout the District
- New portable classroom at OES
- Adding lockers
- Increasing security by replacing doors and adding access control panel to enter the building by using a card
- Student desks
- Staff chairs
- Partner with Upper Willamette Youth program to provide recreational activities outside of school
- Supporting the athletic program since they have not had a chance to make money this year with gate fees, or fundraising
- Funding bridge to mitigate effects of COVID on state school funding

Superintendent Doland spoke about staffing for next year. Student enrollment is down slightly and the poverty formula for state funding changed causing a decrease in funding. She stated the District will use ESSER III funds as a COVID recovery year bridge for staffing.

Summer Learning funds from the state require a 25% match. This match will come from ESSER III funds.

Director Edmunds asked if these are funds that are given to us, or if we get reimbursed. Business Manager, Peggy Mahla stated we get reimbursed for funds spent.

Director Martin made the comment that he would like to see the door replacement and card system be a high priority especially since the local locksmith is leaving the area.

Director Hardy stated she was glad to see the funds coming in from something that was terrible and nice that we will be able to complete some of our necessary things.

Director Edmunds asked if we just replaced windows at OES. Superintendent Doland stated she was unaware if windows were just replaced, but would look into it.

Director Edmunds asked about the process if the Board needed to approve the spending of these funds. Superintendent Doland stated she would like to receive the approval of the Board. Director Edmunds

asked if the cost is known for these items. Superintendent Doland stated McKenzie Commercial was working on cost analysis for the capital projects.

Chair Weddle would like to see a priority list made with these projects. Superintended Doland stated a survey for the Board is in process.

Superintendent Doland stated she would put in dollar amounts and bring it to the Board for a vote at the next Board meeting.

Business Manager, Peggy Mahla stated the most time sensitive event would be the bridge of salaries or offsetting salaries with ESSER funds for the next school year since she needs to present the budget prior to the Board meeting. Director Martin asked for a vote instead of a consensus for that topic.

Director Martin moved to add the offsetting of staff salaries with ESSER funds for school year 2021-22 as an agenda item to the meeting. Director Edmunds seconded the motion. Motion passed with all directors voting yes.

Director Martin asked if there was verbiage stating the ESSER funds could be used to offset staff salaries. Ms. Mahla stated that yes, the verbiage was very clear that it was allowable.

The Directors voted to offset staff salaries with ESSER funds. Vote passed with all directors voting yes.

5. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm

APPROVED:



JRM



Chairman



Superintendent