



Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on August 18, 2021

Starting at 7:00pm ~ This Meeting was held Virtually, via Zoom

These are unofficial minutes. The Board has not approved them.

Members Present: Suze Nigl, Chair
Paul Zastrow, Vice Chair
Ian Stromquist
Stacy Holeman
Stephanie Richie

Staff/Guests Present: Pat Sublette, Superintendent
Penny Fender, Assistant Superintendent
Kim Domenighini, Director of Fiscal Services
Bob Dais, Director of Human Resources
Alison Donnelly, Whole Child Nursing Administrator
Christa Rude, Four Rivers Early Learning and Parenting Hubs Director
Christy Christopher, STEM Hub Director
Gabrielle DeLeone, Regional Educator Network Director
Jonathan Fost, Migrant Education Director
Lori Burkart, EI/ECSE Assessment Specialist
Maggie Lowe, Early Learning Director
Scott Whitbeck, Director of School Improvement
Shira Skybinskyy, Four Rivers Early Learning and Parenting Hubs
Assistant Director
Stan Felderman, Director of Technology
Susan Vallie, Executive Assistant
Vanessa Uhalde, Administrative Assistant/Assistant Bookkeeper

Call to Order and Flag Salute

- Chair Nigl opened the meeting at 7:00pm.
- Director Zastrow led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introductions

- Christa Rude, Director of the Four Rivers Early Learning and Parenting Hubs introduced Shira Skybinskyy, who had been hired as an Assistant Director for the program.
- Alison Donnelly, the recently hired Whole Child Nursing Administrator for the ESD, was introduced by Superintendent Sublette.

Comments from Audience about Non-Agenda Items

Audience members had no comments.

Presentations/Reports

Superintendent's Message

Superintendent Sublette opened her report by speaking of the challenges districts across the state are facing as they prepare for in-person classes, and the implementation of the statewide indoor mask requirement the Governor of Oregon announced last week.

A tentative agreement has been reached with the Columbia Gorge ESD Education Association. The association will be presenting the agreement to their membership next week.

The North Central ESD will not be able to continue to support our ESD's Fiscal Services Department. Options to fill that void are currently being evaluated. Kim Domenighini, who was acknowledged for her service to the Columbia Gorge ESD, will be assisting with the transition and will be staying on until the audit, for the past school year, is completed.

The first All Staff Inservice Day of the year is scheduled for Friday, August 27th. Staff members will meet in the Columbia Gorge Community College's outdoor amphitheater for a welcome and introductions. Staff will then move to classrooms where information will be shared with them. Presenters will rotate through the various classrooms, versus staff members moving from class to class, to reduce the number of people encounter during the meeting. The morning will conclude with the distribution of box lunches for everyone.

Tomorrow the Department Directors will be holding a retreat at the Discovery Center. Agenda items include talking about what has been learned this past year, identifying how we can grow this year and an introduction to the design (strategic planning) process the ESD is going to be starting this fall.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Assistant Superintendent Fender has been busy working with districts as they prepare for in person instruction. Back up plans are also being developed in case a shift in education delivery is needed. In addition, she has been working with the Oregon Association of Education Service Districts (OAESD) and Oregon Department of Education (ODE) developing ways to allow program funding to get to ESD's, and school districts, quicker.

Personnel Report

Bob Dais, Director of Human Resources thanked the Collective Bargaining Team who helped draft the tentative agreement which is being taken the association for their approval next week.

Preparation for the fall has been of focus for his department and, like other school districts and ESD's across the state, the Columbia Gorge ESD has positions posted which have yet to be filled for the upcoming school year.

Financial Report

Kim Domenighini, Director of Fiscal Services has been busy wrapping up last year and setting up for the new year. There were no Financial Report this evening as the Pre-Audit Reconciliation is in progress.

Department Reports

Four Rivers Early Learning and Parenting Hubs

Director Christa Rude has been getting processes aligned for the new year. Her department is moving forward with coordinated enrollment plans and is continuing to build community partnerships, which will be of benefit for the families in our area.

STEM Hub

Director Christy Christopher recently attended a symposium for STEM Leaders where ideas for the fall were shared. In addition, she is preparing for the new school year and is in the process of hiring a Career Connected Learning Coordinator for the STEM Hub and two Administrative Assistants, whose time will be shared with the Four Rivers Early Learning and Parenting Hubs.

Regional Educator Network

Director Gabrielle DeLeone has been gearing up for the start of the school year. She is looking forward to the Fall, even with the uncertainty and stress levels many teachers are experiencing. Helping to address those uncertainties, and the associated stress, for teachers will be incorporated into her work this year.

Migrant Education

Director Jonathan Fost, who just returned from a two-week vacation, is in the process of filing reports for the summer school program and gearing up for fall.

Early Learning

Lori Burkart, EI/ECSE Assessment Specialist shared how training, and research, on how to best provide services for students has been taking place. She also spoke of how summer came late for their department this year because of extra funding which came through. Because of the additional funding, they were able to provide services for students through the end of June.

Per Director Maggie Lowe the EI/ECSE staff are taking a much deserved break this week. Planning, and the coordination of services (transportation, food, etc.), has been taking place as preparations for fall are underway.

School Improvement

Director of School Improvement Scott Whitbeck, along with Mauree Donahue Revier and Sue Winnett, have been matching mentors with new educators in preparation for the start of the school year.

In addition, he has been working on professional development planning, and prioritization, to ensure instructional practices, and activities, are welcoming to all students.

At the North Wasco County School District Board Meeting tomorrow evening he will be presenting an online program option for use this fall, for the district.

Technology

Director Stan Felderman shared how the Technology Department has been preparing schools for onsite education. Part of that preparation has been deploying numerous Chromebooks which can be used for in person and/or distance learning, if needed.

He then took the opportunity to share how the Tech Team has been developing plans, strengthening electronic security systems, and setting up better ways for offsite access of information for staff.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board held on July 21, 2021.
- b. Approval of Contracts/Agreements
 - i. MOU with AESA for Facilitation Services
 - ii. MOU with HRCSD for School Nursing Services

Director Zastrow moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

Director Holeman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Note: There were no Financial Reports for July to ratify, so they were not approved as part of the consent agenda.

Discussion/Action Items

Non-routine items which require discussion/action individually.

- a. Board Member Interview/Appointment for Zone 4 At-Large
This item was removed from the agenda as the candidate, who had applied, was not able to attend the meeting this evening.
- b. Board Member Appointment for the Future Planning Process (Strategic Planning), starting with a half day workshop on September 23rd.

Director Zastrow moved the position be filled, and offered to fill the vacancy

Director Stromquist seconded the motion that the position be filled and by Director Zastrow. The motion passed unanimously.

Informational Items

General information items shared with the Board, which did not require action at this meeting included:

- a. Recommended Policy Updates and Revisions for the Columbia Gorge ESD Policies in Section A/B: Board Governance and Operation for a First Reading.
- b. Information regarding an upcoming OSBA Training - Basic Roles and Responsibilities: Board Best Practices Free Webinar.
- c. Information about the upcoming OSBA Winter Convention is Salem.
- d. A copy of a letter from Oregon Governor Brown to Superintendents and School Board Members regarding mask requirements.
- e. A copy of the CGESD All-Staff Inservice Day Agenda.

Adjourn

Chairman Nigl adjourned the meeting at 7:59pm.