

**Nyssa School Board Minutes  
Nyssa, OR**

**Date: October 11, 2021**

**Time: 7:00 PM - Regular Session**

**Location: Boardroom of Administration Building**

**Board Members Present:** Susan Ramos, Megan Robbins, Alesha Munk, Jeremy Peterson

**Board Members Present via Zoom:** Pat Morinaka

**Board Members Absent:** Marlon Wilson

**Staff Members Present:** Superintendent Johnson, Ryan Hawkins, Megan Glenn, Crystal Rideau, Kristie Hernandez, Luke Cleaver, Brett Jackman, Matt Murray, Adam VanMeter, Lori Ballou, Chris Carlton, Emily DeLeon, Jose DeLeon, Christy Valero, Bobby DeLeon, Noemi Melendez, Roger Hunter, Araceli Gomez, Cindy Ramos, David McDonald.

**Members of the Press Present:** None

**Community Members Present:** Amy Shuster, Ballou Family, Derrick Draper Family, Emily Johnson, Megan Moreno, Juan, Moreno, Nash Sapp, Adyn Mcdermottroe, Kayla McDermottroe, Froerer Family, Ward Family

**Call to Order**

The Regular Session Board Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Susan Ramos at 7:00pm.

**Adoption of Agenda**

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

**Commendations**

**A) Students**

**Elementary School**

Principal Matt Murray introduced Cambrie Ward as the K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade Student of the Month. Cambrie is a new student to the district in Mrs. Koplin's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class. Mrs. Koplin wrote that Cambrie is a role model and great friend to her peers. She is always on task and strives to do her best. Mr. Evans wrote that she is a bright and willing music participant. Mrs. Steinmetz wrote that Cambrie is a great addition to our school who is hard working, a leader and nice to everyone.

Matt Murray also introduced Kade Froerer as the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade Student of the Month. His teacher Mrs. Moats nominated Kade for his hard work every day in all subjects. He is responsible with all his work and challenging himself to understand first. Kade wants his work to be his best and asks for clarification to fix any mistakes. Ms. Steinmetz wrote that he is positive, respectful and helpful to other students and makes her laugh often.

## **Middle School**

Principal Luke Cleaver introduced Adyn McDermotroe as the middle school Student of the Month. Dr. Longwell says Adyn is bright, inquisitive, and a positive member to the choir. He is not afraid to try new thing. Mrs. Arant wrote that he is punctual, diligent and kind, not only a great student, but great friend. Adyn always has his assignments done on time and helps other students if they need it and is not afraid of new topics. Mr. Moyes wrote that Adyn is a class leader and sets a positive example to others around him and does a great job at self-advocating.

## **High School**

Principal Brett Jackman introduced Elayna Draper as the high school Student of the Month. Ella is new to the school district, but several teachers nominated her for recognition even though she has only been here a short time. Ella is an outstanding student with 4.0gpa and has excellent attendance. Her teachers take note that she excels in both extracurricular activities and academics. She is pleasant, respectful and distinguishes herself by her depth of character. Mr. Dickey wrote that Ella has shown tremendous grit in adjusting to the changes in transferring from Ontario to Nyssa. Ella is considerate to others and has shown remarkable ability to advocate for her needs. She asks great questions and her intellectual ability is not only a benefit to her but her classmates. Ellie Cleaver noted that Ella is amazing in showing kindness to her fellow students and was one of the first new sign-ups for Key Club.

### **B) Staff**

Luke Cleaver introduced the Employee of the Month Adam VanMeter. The students love Adam and he always finds a way to say “yes” even when others are searching for reasons to say “no.” He has done an amazing job at displaying a commitment to serve others. Adam has been asked to do difficult work and wear multiple hats. One day he may be watching kids and the next he will be driving bus. Adam has the skills to tackle hard task and usually does so with a smile.

### **C) Parent(s)**

Luke Cleaver introduced parents of the month Juan and Megan Moreno. Juan has been involved with Nyssa Youth Athletics for 14 years helping with youth football as a fifth and six grade football coach. This year is the first year Juan has had a child in the youth football program. Megan has also stepped in to help with fundraising and different ways to raise money for Nyssa Youth Athletics. Football is an extremely expensive sport and the money raised helps buy safer equipment for our participants. Money raised that is not needed for the football program is shared with other Nyssa Youth Athletic sports to give other kids opportunity to play.

## **Superintendent Report**

### **1. Division 22 Report:**

Superintendent Johnson reviewed the Division 22 Report and stated that this report is required every year for school districts to report their compliance to the standards set by the State Board of Education. Some standards were suspended this year due to COVID such as the kindergarten assessment. Nyssa School District is in compliance with all standards.

Division 22 Report shared with board members and is on file in the District Office.

### **2. Enrollment updates:**

- A) Elementary: 545
- B) Middle School: 285
- C) High School: 369
- Total: 1199

We are up in enrollment this year with a total of 1199 students, whereas we are usually below 1150. Our increased numbers don't seem to be disrupting class sizes. The elementary is at 545 students, middle school at 285, and high school at 369 students. Superintendent Johnson states this could be due to several things including COVID and households needing to readjust how they do things and Nyssa is a welcoming district.

Jeremy Peterson asked how many of these students are out of district students.

Our total Inter-District students are currently 111.

3. COVID/Quarantine update:

- A) 5 positive
- B) 3 positive staff
- C) Today's quarantine count 29 (lowest since starting school)

The district posts updates to these statistics on our website through the live feed. Recent count as of today Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> is 29.

4. Elementary School Counselor update:

- A) Rachel Robb has been offered and accepted the position now that we have received clearance from TSPC for her licensure. She will start the end of October.

Elementary students need emotion support, help with problem solving and personal issues, while being taught character education. The District has offered the counselor position to Rachel Robb who has worked in the community for many years as a community counselor. Rachel has been in the schools working, but not as a district employee. All background information has been cleared through TSPC and she has been cleared to start with a projected date of October 25<sup>th</sup>.

5. Oct 18<sup>th</sup> deadline for vaccinations or exceptions:

- A) 161 out of 188 (85%) of employees have complied so far
- B) We expect all to be in full compliance by 11:59pm on October 18, 2021. If not, employees will be placed on unpaid leave.

October 18<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for all public school employees to either be vaccinated or fill out an "exception" form. It is important to note that it is not an "exemption," but an "exception;" the difference is that an "exception" is more temporary. Out of 188 district employees there are 161 employees (85%) who have provided documentation. Ryan Hawkins is working with those employees that are still needing to comply. We have worked hard to educate employees about their options and that there are no reasons to refuse or lose their job.

Alesha Munk asked if we anticipate needing to hire for those that do not comply.

Ryan Hawkins reiterated that we are having conversations with those employees still needing to comply.

6. ESSER III Funds: we were told last week that 20% of these funds need to be spent on “unfinished learning,” so we only have 80% for the high school air flow and social distancing upgrades.  
This may require us to limit the scope of the project unless we use contingency funds or Facilities management funds (#440)-board decision.
  - A) Total ESSER is \$3,630,707.70
    - i. 80% available for the project at the HS: \$2,904,566.16
    - ii. 20% required for “unfinished learning” = \$726,141.54
  - B) Estimated cost of project: HVAC and roof strengthening = \$2.0 million
  - C) Office and student commons for social distancing = \$2.0 million

ESSER III funds are funds from the government. After reviewing these funds available we learned that 20% of the funds must be spent on unfinished learning. The extensive HVAC project that was presented for use of these funds is in the neighborhood of 2 million and another 2 million for the office and commons project for social distancing. With our allowance of 80% of our funds for this project it allows us just over 2.9 million. The 20% remaining is for unfinished learning that is required by Department of Education. Example of what these funds would be used for is textbook adoptions. The projected 2.9 million available for HVAC project and enlarging commons area for social distancing leaves us 1.1 million short of our goal. Project committee will need to reconsider project or figure out ways to allocate more money. Business Manager Crystal Rideau along with Superintendent Johnson are working to gather RFP's (request for proposals) to hire a Construction Manager to lead this project. This Construction Manager would line up contractors and timelines for project.

7. FFA/Eastern Oregon Border Board article:

Eastern Oregon Border Board is a group of businesses that have lobbied the legislature for funding to improve the border region. Their goal is to make a stronger economy by creating opportunities for students. Mr. Cruickshank applied for a grant through the Eastern Oregon Border Board and received \$43k for his programs. Thirty seven of the welding program students were able to earn industry certifications to operate high end welding machines. The program was also able to purchase a forklift to enable students to earn forklift certification for possible future employment.

8. State report cards:

Very different from previous years because many sections were suspended due to COVID, much of the data is not the same as previous years. Nyssa High Schools data shows that 9<sup>th</sup> graders are earning one quarter of their graduation credits as freshman, which is above 95% that are on track to graduate.

### **Visiting Patrons & Delegations**

- A) Amy Shuster

Amy Shuster introduced herself and asked to read a statement that she wrote. In her statement Amy addressed concern over unprofessional behavior between “old board vs. new board.” She hopes that all board members were elected to the board for the purpose of the kids and to help provide the kids with a great education.

### **Financial Report**

Business Manager Crystal Rideau presented the financials up to Sept 30<sup>th</sup>. The district has brought in \$1,090,157 and our expenses are \$1,086,172. September was a full payroll month as all staff are back. No unexpected expenditures for this month. Review of LGIP account is what went out and what came in. This is similar to a saving account where all our funds are kept and then transferred to checking accounts for payments and expenditures. Statement of Middle school bond reviewed with a balance of a little more than 33k; this is set aside to pay debt services and nothing else. Debt service payment will be coming up in December. LGIP breakdown of the Middle School bond showing what was received as nothing has come out of that account. Report also provided with a breakdown of taxes received. Early Head Start Operating statement shows a revenue of a little over 127k with expenditures of a little over 79k bringing their balance to a little over 48k. Approval of the bills report also provided. Two payrolls were run for the month of September when direct deposits to employees were denied and paper checks had to be issued. Food service account is 53k in the negative and Crystal provided a breakdown of this year's numbers compared to last year's numbers. Biggest difference in numbers is our federal revenue. Park feed last year was required all of June and July whereas this year we were only required to do 2 weeks. Other factors include an Oregon law no longer allowing use of Styrofoam as of July 1, 2021, which has caused our cost of food containers to double in price. Also due to low stock of food items we are forced to pay higher rates which has increased our average food cost by 36%.

Alesha Munk asked why our park feed was shortened this year. Crystal explained that it was mainly due to operating difficulties with staff and cafeteria remodel/repairs.

Financial report on file at the District Office.

### **Consent Agenda**

- A) Approve minutes of the September 13, 2021 Regular Board Meeting and Special Session/Work Session minutes from August 2, 2021
- B) Approve Financial Reports as presented.
- C) Hire:
  - 1. Rachel Robb- Elem. Counselor (Contingent upon obtaining the appropriate licensure)
  - 2. Jesus Prado- Migrant Specialist (transfer from Custodial)
  - 3. Cecilia Escobedo- Migrant Specialist
- D) Resignation:
  - 1. Brooke Brown- Elem. Counselor (Declined offer after Board approval)
  - 2. Derek Carr- Transportation
  - 3. Jaimi Greenwood- MS Basketball

Board Chair Susan Ramos called for a motion to approve consent agenda as presented. Alesha Munk made a motion to approve the consent agenda; seconded by Jeremy Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Old Business**

- A) Approve Consent Agenda from September 12, 2021 Regular Board meeting

Board Chair Susan Ramos called for a motion to approve consent agenda from September 12, 2021 regular board meeting due to a lack of vote during September 12<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Jeremy Peterson

made a motion to approve the September 12, 2021 consent agenda; seconded by Megan Robbins. Motion carried unanimously.

### B) High School HVAC Update

Brett Jackman explained the need to hire a constructions manager for the high school project. The committee has requested a bid to find someone to fill this position, which is crucial in knowing what the project will cost and how it will be laid out and when it will be completed. The committee did follow up with law enforcement and fire department; both departments communicated the proposed plan looked well laid out. Law enforcement believes proposed plan will help tighten up security from the front of the building and fire department said the plan still allowed access through the back of the building and a smaller truck still has the capability to enter opening into courtyard if needed.

Discussion followed.

### **New Business**

#### A) Ray Rau Resignation-Board Vacancy

Board Chair Susan Ramos announced the resignation of board member Ray Rau and officially opened his seat for applications. Susan explained the process/requirements and let community know that applications will be available in the District Office.

Requirements:

- Resident of Nyssa District for at least one year
- Registered Voter
- Meet the deadline for application

County will review candidates and let us know if they are eligible prior to proceeding. Open position will be posted to the district website and pushout notification will be sent out via text. Other forms of communication of opening will be discussed and notification will be bilingual.

Deadline for board applications was set for November 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### B) Board Operating Agreement

Pat suggested that after community member Amy Shuster's comments that the board thoroughly review operating agreement before taking a vote. The board has not had a board operating agreement before so it would be beneficial to create one that will be good for a couple of years. A work/study session was suggested for November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm. This item will be tabled until after work/study session.

### **Board Study**

#### A) Review Public Comment Policy BDDH

Janet Avila-Medina with OSBA has requested that the board review policy BDDH. This policy explains how the board accepts public comments at board meetings and the procedure in which

community members request to give public comment at board meetings. Pat Morinaka made a motion to move this item to work/study session on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>; seconded by Alesha Munk. Motion carried unanimously.

### B) Strategic Planning Process

The Strategic Planning Process involves the district leadership team who met with board members and came up with plans on how we want the district to proceed and what goals our district wants to focus on. This also includes Superintendent Goals and areas the board would like the superintendent to focus on. This plan needs to be a transparent process so everyone knows what the focuses of the district are and how we can meet our goals. This process also includes a Monitoring Plan which some of our previous and current board members participated in creating. There is a timeline within this monitoring plan that we need to address.

Discussion followed.

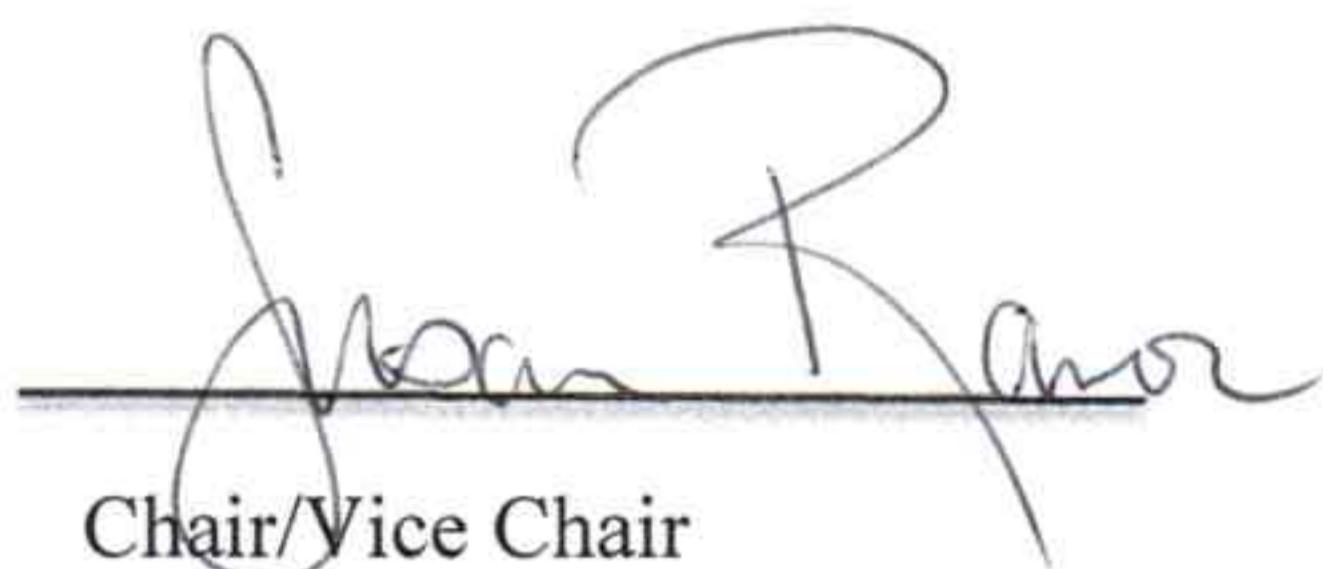
Jeremy Peterson made a motion to move this item to work/study session on November 2<sup>nd</sup>; seconded by Alesha Munk. Motion carried unanimously.

### C) Monitoring Plan

Discussed with above Strategic Planning Process and voted to be moved to November 2<sup>nd</sup> work/study session along with Strategic Planning Process.

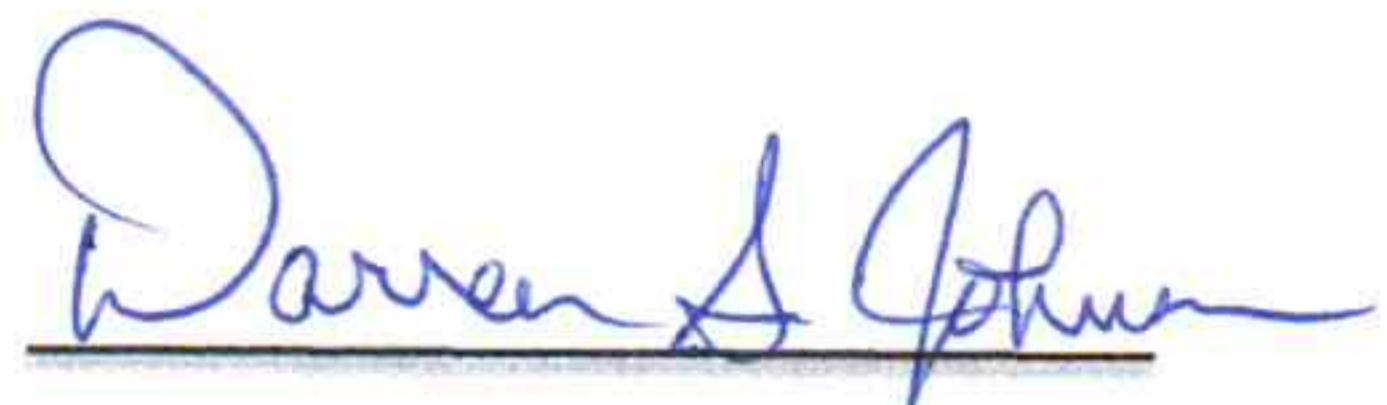
### Adjournment

At 8:09p.m., Board Chair Susan Ramos adjourned the meeting.



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Chair/Vice Chair



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Superintendent/Clerk

Board Minutes by: Megan Glenn, District Administrative Secretary