



Columbia Gorge Education Service District
Dedicated to Enhancing Educational Opportunities

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on November 17, 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
- Stacey Holeman
- Stephanie Ritchie
- Doug Nelson

Staff/Guests Present:

- Pat Sublette, Superintendent
- Penny Fender, Assistant Superintendent
- Jamie Campos, Financial Controller
- Bob Dais, Director of Human Resources
- Alison Donnelly, Director of Health Services
- Christa Rude, Four Rivers Early Learning and Parenting Hubs Director
- Christy Christopher, STEM Hub Director
- Claire Ranit, School Safety & Prevention Specialist
- Dan Patton, SSA Design Administrator
- Gabrielle DeLeone, Regional Educator Network Director
- Jonathan Fost, Migrant and Native American Education Director
- Maggie Lowe, Early Learning Director
- Mauree Donahue-Revier, REN Design Coach/Coordinator
- Shira Skybinsky, Four Rivers Early Learning and Parenting Hubs Assistant Director
- Stan Felderman, Director of Technology
- Susan Vallie, Executive Assistant

Call to Order and Flag Salute

Chair Nigl opened the meeting at 7:02pm.

Director Ritchie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introductions

Introductions were not necessary.

Comments from Audience about Non-Agenda Items

Audience members had no comments.

Presentations/Reports

Superintendent's Message

Superintendent Sublette opened her report by sharing how disheartening it has been to see Superintendents being fired, by their boards, for following the laws. She then went on to express her appreciation for the support of the Columbia Gorge ESD Board.

Updates highlighted from the pre-submitted Superintendent's Report included;

- Progress made thus far with regard the design process.
A Design Specifications for the Next Generation of Columbia Gorge ESD handout, which highlighted seven themes which have been clearly identified through the process so far, was also shared with the board.
- The upcoming Oregon Legislative Short Session where four initiatives seem to have broad support; Help for districts impacted by wildfires; the racial equity and justice student collaboration bill; superintendent contract protection; board and superintendent professional learning.
- Additional funding which is expected to be allocated to ESD's and Early Childhood Special Education through the Oregon Department of Education, and how the Columbia Gorge ESD could best use the added funds.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Assistant Superintendent Fender, who shared how she will also be including updates on behalf of the Director of School Improvement, Scott Whitbeck. Scott was unable to be at the meeting this evening.

The Assistant Superintendent, in addition to staff coaching and Federal program monitoring, has been working with Director Whitbeck on the 21st Century After School Academy. With the assistance of the ESD Migrant Department, the After School Academy at Chenoweth Elementary is set to open soon. As additional staffing is secured, academies will be opening at the other elementary schools in the North Wasco County School District. In addition to his work with the After School Academy, Director Whitbeck has also been holding monthly Professional Development Sessions about instructional enhancements, and working with an ELA Curriculum Adoption Team, in preparation for a fall 2022 release.

Personnel Report

Bob Dais, the Director of Human Resources, reviewed his submitted Personnel Report which included two employees who will be changing departments. He then went on to speak of the dynamic nature of hiring during this time, and how a number of positions at the ESD remain open. In addition, Improved communication streams are being put into place with the Finance Department, and preparation for deployment of the Talent Ed (employee) Records program continues.

Financial Report

Jamie Campos, the Columbia Gorge ESD Financial Controller, gave a brief overview of the financial reports which were presented for ratification at this meeting. *It was noted how, going forward, all parts of the financial reports will be sent in a portrait format.*

She also shared how the auditors have been confirmed to present last year's fiscal audit at the December meeting and of her desire to get the posted accounts receivable position filled as soon as possible.

Health Services

Per Director Allison Donnelly, the recently hired school nurses started last Wednesday. Both will be working with the Hood River County School District.

Once approved by the board, a (medical) charting program, which can eventually expand for use in all area school districts, will be implemented. Other updates included how a partnership with the Bridges to Health program are being developed as plans for school-based health centers are explored.

Four Rivers Early Learning and Parenting Hubs

Director Christa Rude shared how the Pre-School Promise Program is almost full. The exploration of waivers is taking place. The waivers would allow those families who are over the income threshold the opportunity to participate in the program as well. She also mentioned how it has been a busy month for the hubs, as they have been working on infrastructure, setting up supports, and training. Systems are being put into place for a new reporting process which will better help connect families with the service their children may need.

The Assistant Director for the Hub, Shira Skybinskyy has been focusing on the Regional Parenting Program. Funding for the program is currently being evaluated.

School Safety and Prevention

Claire Ranit, School Safety and Prevention Specialist for the ESD, spoke of the Trauma Informed Care, in conjunction with Emergency Drills, coaching which will be taking place. She also spoke of the prospect for permanent funding for school safety and emergency management which is expected to be looked at during the 2023 Oregon Legislative Session.

Regional Educator Network

Director Gabrielle DeLeone shared her excitement regarding Toña Sanchez joining the REN Department as an Administrative Assistant. Toña currently in a similar position in the ESD's Migrant program. The REN also hopes to be filling their posted Data and Engagement Specialist position soon. This position will be assisting with the work currently taking place by the REN of providing staff supports.

Migrant and Native American Education Program

Director Jonathan Fost, who recently attended a National Homeless Conference noted how he found we are ahead of others with utilizing the American Rescue Funding. In addition, earlier this evening he attended a Dual Language Immersion Family Night where the benefits of the program and strategies were shared among families.

Upcoming program events include:

- Talk Saves Program Presentation, for families, in Spanish, tomorrow. The program provides information on suicide, and its prevention.
- students in the Native American Program will be visiting Columbia Gorge Community College at the end of the month.

Early Learning

With the additional funding, which is anticipated, program Director Maggie Lowe hopes to be adding staff to assist with serving the needs of families. Several items she highlighted this evening included:

- The evaluation, and qualification of, children for programs continues as the December 1st deadline approaches
- The third coaching session for the LEAP program has taken place with staff.
- A Pre-School Parents Committee has formed, and monthly parent nights are being held. The topic discussed at their last meeting; Tantrums.

Mauree Donahue-Revier, REN Design Coach/Coordinator who, when asked if she had anything to say, shared how this year she and Sue Winnett, in addition to mentoring district teachers, have been focusing on building sustainable coaching staff, and practices, by helping districts develop their own programs.

Technology

Director Stan Felderman shared how camera upgrades for the North Wasco School District have been approved. Planning for the installation of cameras, starting at the Elementary School level, is in the works, as is planning for future projects, especially for the ESD who has been experiencing much growth.

STEM Hub

STEM Hub Coordinator Julie Cucuel will be focusing on the Early Learning and Elementary After School Makers clubs which will allow Director Christy Christopher to focus on the Career Connected Learning Program which was piloted with Hood River this past year.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Minutes from the Work Session, and Regular Meeting, of the Board held on October 20, 2021
- b. Ratify Financial Reports for September 2021 and October 2021
- c. Acceptance of Awarded Grant Funds
 - i. From Google for STEM Hub – Afternoon Academy
 - ii. From ODE/High Desert ESD for STEM Hub – Career Connected Learning
- d. Approval of Contracts/Agreements
 - i. Interagency Agreement with Douglas ESD for EID Electronic Nursing Services Platform
 - ii. Personal Services Contract with Education Northwest for Dual Language Instruction support for the Sunshine Kids Bilingual Program
 - iii. Contract with US Cellular for Business Services
- e. Approval of Resolutions regarding Unanticipated Revenue
 - i. Resolution 2021-2022-03 STEM Hub – Afternoon Academy
 - ii. Resolution 2021-2022-04 STEM Hub – Career Connected Learning
 - iii. Resolution 2021-2022-05 American Rescue Plan for Homeless Children and Youth Grant.
 - iv. Resolution 2021-2022-06 EI/ECSE Services
 - v. Resolution 2021-2022-07 Google-TIDES Foundation Grant for Health Services
 - vi. Resolution 2021-2022-08 Yakima Nation for Title VI Program
 - vii. Resolution 2021-2022-09 ODE for MTSS Program

It was moved by Director Zastrow to accept consent agenda items 5a-e.
Director Stromquist seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. Discussion/Action Items

Non-routine items which require discussion/action individually.

- a. Second Reading, and adoption of, OSBA Recommended Policy Updates and Revisions for Columbia Gorge ESD Policies in Section D – Fiscal Management

For consistency and clarity, where Business Manager or Fiscal Manager was mentioned throughout the policies, it would be replaced by the current title of the head of the finance department; Finance Controller.

It was moved by Director Zastrow to approve the policy revisions with notations Director Holeman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- b. Zone 3 Vacancy – Recommendation the position remain open, until filled
It was moved by Director Zastrow the position remain vacant, until filled.
Director Holeman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Additional Item:

Upcoming Oregon School Boards Association Office Elections

Director Zastrow wanted to make sure the board was aware of the upcoming OSBA elections. The deadline which the board's vote to be case is December 17th.

Current Open Positions, which the ESD Board may cast a vote for:

OSBA Board of Directors Position 2 (Gorge Region).

Two Candidates have been nominated:

- Jacob Cain, who has been nominated by the Morrow county School District
- Emily Smith, who has been nominated by the Helix School District.

Given there were two candidates running, and to give the members of the board the opportunity to review the applications, the voting for this position was deferred until the December meeting.

Regarding the opening on the Legislative Policy Committee, which was uncontested, it was felt action could be taken at this meeting.

Legislative Policy Committee - Position 2, Gorge Region

One candidate has been nominated;

- Dr. Judy Richardson. She had been by the North Wasco County School District.

Director Nelson moved the Columbia Gorge ESD approve the appointment of Judy Richards to be on the Legislative Policy Committee.

Motion was seconded by Director Zastrow, and it passed unanimously.

7. Informational Items

General information for the Board and items not requiring Board approval

OSBA Recommended Policy Updates and Revisions for ESD Policies in Section E – Support Services, for a first reading.

Several suggestions, and clarity edits had already been received. Those, and any additional ones which may come in, will be incorporated into the policies which will be presented for a Second Reading, and Adoption, at the December Meeting.

Adjourn

Chairman Nigl adjourned the meeting at 8:29pm.