

Board Meeting June 9, 2021

REGULAR BOARD MEETING:

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Prosser School District was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Peggy Douglas. Other Board members present included Vice President Jesalyn Cole, Mr. Andy Howe, and Mr. Scott Coleman. Also present were Mr. Matt Ellis, Superintendent; Mrs. Deanna Flores and Mr. Craig Reynolds, Assistant Superintendents.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A request was made to include the following changes to the agenda:

- Inclusion of Action Item #6, G. – Award of Desktop Computers to the CTE program.
- The approval of the meeting minutes from May 26, 2021 were removed to be corrected.

Motion to approve the revised agenda was made by Andy Howe, seconded by Jesalyn Cole and motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Matt Ellis recognized the following staff who are retiring this year, and he thanked them for their years of service:

Ann Adams	Melanie Henager	Julie Larson	Kris Moore
Bob Alter	Julie Hyatt	Debbie Lemke	Ruben Workman
Terri Bakken	Brian Jones	Mark Little	Gayle Wright
Allison Burgett	Mike Kelly	Louie Long	Linda Zenger-O'Brien
Mary Jean Field			

The Student Board Representatives were honored as well:

Kate Ashton	Emma Bazzell	Jennifer Juarez
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Finally, Mr. Ellis shared that one person had sent an email to the District Office and asked to speak at today's Board meeting, this information was passed on to the Board.

Peggy Douglas indicated that she received a couple of communications from Prosser High School teachers with their thoughts on open vs. closed campus. She also received a NY Times guest essay from Adriana Beale that addresses mandated "back to normal" school operations this Fall 2021.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

None.

PROTOCOL FOR ADDRESSING BOARD:

President Douglas reviewed the protocols for addressing the Board of Directors. Input on all issues of discussion at the business meeting is requested and encouraged. There are two ways to sign up in advance – either by sending an email to Matt Ellis, Superintendent at matt.ellis@prosserschools.org, or in person by requesting to be heard during this portion of the meeting. Comments will be limited to two minutes per person, with a maximum of 10 visitors per meeting. Please keep comments concise, non-emotional, and brief, and before speaking please

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share your full name and spelling of the last name for meeting minute documentation.

Maricela Sanchez – Expressed concerns about the proposed District Use of Force Policy and its potential for placing students at risk of excessive uses of force. She reviewed the proposed policy with OSPI's Supervisor for School Safety, and he commented that Prosser's proposed policy does not currently follow state model policy. Mrs. Sanchez sent an email to the Board of Directors on May 25th but has not received a reply and offered to resend if needed.

REPORTS:

Deanna Flores, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

- Grand opening of the new Prosser High School is this weekend. Construction will be substantially complete with some finishing touches to be completed in the next month. Due to restrictions of the pandemic we will be live-streaming the event on YouTube and a link will be provided on the Prosser School District and social media websites.
- Mrs. Flores asked Bryan Bailey to share his findings on the topic of open vs. closed campus and how this could have an impact on local businesses and restaurants. Mr. Bailey commented that most businesses surveyed indicated they would prefer an open campus and are hoping to receive increased traffic due to proximity.
- Summer school preparation is underway and professional development on June 23-24 of this month. Currently over 240 students are signed up.
- Lastly, Mrs. Flores indicated that staffing updates for next year are mostly completed with the exception of Special Education. Peggy Douglas asked Mrs. Flores to work with Dr. Syndi Duehn to provide a report to the board about SpEd staffing at the next Board meeting.

Craig Reynolds, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations

- Currently focused on preparing the proposed budget for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Earlier this week the District received \$8M in state-match funding related to new school construction.

Matt Ellis, Superintendent

- There will need to be a Special Board Meeting scheduled for some time between June 15-17 in order to interview Student Board Representatives and potential board member for District 5. This would also be a good opportunity to discuss the safety and security policy and finalize plans for summer school.
- Mr. Ellis invited Dax Logsdon from Construction Service Group (CSG) to continue discussions on the potential partnership with Paterson School District for a Transportation Cooperative and renovations to Art Fiker Stadium.
 - When a transportation co-op is formed, the State will pay a large portion of the costs, however, a strategy will be needed to pay for the local school portion.
 - The proposal for renovating Art Fiker Stadium includes utilizing grant funds issued through the CARES Act from ESSER funds for a total of approximately \$6.6M available for use. Because these are federal funds, the projects would be subject to federal bidding rules, modified front end documentation, and compliance within a combination of both state and federal requirements. Mr. Logsdon's recommendation is to focus these ESSER funds on the Whitstran Elementary project to get the most for your money.
- President Douglas stated concerns with inflation of construction costs and asked if the additional funds that are left over will be used for improvements to Art Fiker? Mr. Logsdon

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replied that this was possible.

- Superintendent Ellis indicated that he will reach out to Paterson to request another joint board meeting, and Dax said would be happy to attend if needed. Matt Ellis also discussed the possibility of liquidating unused land parcels and using that money if needed. Once the Board is back to a five-member group we will begin to develop our vision for the facilities in the future.

Board Members' Reports

Scott Coleman

- Big kudos to the retirees and is looking forward to the new teachers coming in.
- Kudos to Terry Christensen for taking over the land lease on O.I.E. and Missimer Rd. and the field looks great.
- There have been complaints about Art Fiker and needs to be cleaned up and the grass recovered while we still can.

Jesalyn Cole

- Echoed Mr. Coleman's sentiments related to the retirees and commented that their impact is immeasurable.

Peggy Douglas

- Continued with thanks to the retirees who have helped raise our kids, they are leaving big shoes to fill.
- AVID family night was wonderful way to celebrate the program and Peggy has been a fan of AVID for a long time. She also commented on how beneficial the program is for students and the District needs to find a way to get more kids involved.

Student Representatives' Reports

Emma Bazzell

- Friday is last basketball game and Senior Night for winter sports.
- Band Senior Night was last Friday.
- Students are eager for this year to be over.

Kate Ashton

- Pulled off a Spirit Week that was awesome. Students turned out-everyone wanted to be a part of it. Spirit Week made us feel normal and it was really nice. Blackout volleyball huge turnout, murals, Powder Puff game.
- The National Honor Society will hold their induction night tomorrow, as well as the athletic banquet. Scholarship and Awards Night will be on Monday, baccalaureate on Wednesday, and finally the parade and graduation ceremony on Saturday.
- Four students passed their second round of Nursing Assistant exams and are now certified.

Peggy Douglas commented that it has been an honor to have the student representatives on the board, and she thanked them for sticking it out during a crazy school year.

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CONSENT ITEMS:

Motion to approve agenda items A, B, and E as presented by Jesalyn Cole, seconded by Andy Howe and motion carried unanimously.

Peggy Douglas brought a second motion to approve the four items listed separately under agenda item D as presented:

- Jesalyn Cole – Yea
- Scott Coleman – Yea
- Andy Howe – Nay on Communities in Schools

Second motion carried based on 3:1 majority vote.

ACTION ITEMS:

Accounts Payable Vouchers

Motion to approve by Andy Howe, seconded by Jesalyn Cole, carried unanimously with no questions.

Temporary Out of Endorsement Area for Michael Harris

Motion to approve by Andy Howe, seconded by Scott Coleman, carried unanimously.

WIAA Renewal

Motion to approve by Andy Howe, seconded by Scott Coleman, carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 02-21: Declaring Surplus

Motion to approve by Jesalyn Cole, seconded by Andy Howe, carried unanimously through role call.

MOU between Housel MS, Americorps, and United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties

Motion to approve by Andy Howe, seconded by Jesalyn Cole, carried unanimously with no questions.

Laura Schneider, PhD Contract

Motion to approve by Andy Howe, seconded by Jesalyn Cole, carried unanimously with questions and comments:

- Lacey Steffey – Shared concerns with the cost, specifically travel. Deanna Flores indicated that the estimated cost is for more than 2 days travel and the travel estimate was completed internally. Peggy Douglas clarified that the actual contract document states up to 10 days.
- Superintendent Ellis – The intent of this consultant contract is to add value to the summer school program, and make it more robust with new instructional ideas to recover learning loss.
- Deanna Flores – Commented that summer school is funded through a combination of Migrant, Title I, LAP, Title IV, and some ESSER funds. Summer School is open to all students and currently there are a high number of elementary students scheduled to participate and this is also a great opportunity for credit retrieval for high school students.
- Elisa Riley – Asked if there is a process to get feedback from the teachers on the effectiveness of the consultant.
- Superintendent Ellis – Replied that we are mostly focused on student outcomes, as well as leading indicators (implementation of curriculum and instructional strategies) and lagging indicators (student performance on common and state assessments).

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Award of Desktop Computers

Motion to approve by Scott Coleman, seconded by Andy Howe, carried unanimously

- Craig Reynolds explained that the Career and Technical Education Program at the high school is in need of updated computers and software, and CTE Director Rick Follett secured a bid from Princeton IT Services. These are to be paid out of excess CTE program dollars and federal Perkins grant funds.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Deanna Flores shared staffing requests from Principals that include 6-7 new positions district-wide, and she will send an email to the Board outlining the staffing needs and funding sources for these new positions.
- Matt Ellis commented that the District has reduced instructional coaching staff through attrition in the past, and this has resulted in the need to hire outside consultants to fill this need and provide more teachers for the classrooms to reduce class size. Reductions in student enrollment is also a factor.
- Craig Reynolds echoed the steady decline in student enrollment and has concerns about increasing staff during this downward trend, however, it may be possible to accomplish this by using available ESSER and federal program funds that won't impact basic education dollars.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

- Regular Board Meeting, June 23, 2021, Location TBD, 7:00 p.m.
- Special Board Meetings will be planned to review new student representative applications and possibly review the safety and security policy and provide opportunity for public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by Jesalyn Cole, seconded by Andy Howe, meeting was adjourned by unanimous consensus at 8:57 p.m.

Clerk to the Board

Board President

Secretary to the Clerk of the Board