

**SHERMAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
November 13, 2018**

The Board of Directors of Sherman County School District met in the Sherman County School/Public Library Meeting Room in Moro, Oregon on November 13, 2018. The following were present: Chair, Kristie Coelsch; Vice Chair, Jesse Stutzman; Directors: Bill Martin, Scott Susi and Merrie von Borstel; Superintendent, Wes Owens; Principal, Mike Somnis; Business Manager, Kim McKinney; Board Secretary, Jen Berry; Staff Members: Gerald Casper, Amy R-Huffman, Samantha R-Smith, Kevin Stuart, and Tim Zacharias; ESD Employee, Stacy Shown; Students: Natalie Phillips, Catherine Rhodes, Caiden Walker, Pyeper Walker, Robert Williams, Desiree Winslow; Visitors: Larry Hctor, Kristen Labenske, Daryl Melzer, Kris Melzer, Virginia Melzer, Janie Parker, Garret, Kelsey, and Paisley Phillips, MJ Walker, Tawnya Williams.

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN**

**Motion** by Vice Chair Stutzman with second from Director von Borstel to approve the board meeting agenda for November 13, 2018 as presented. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Coelsch, Martin, Stutzman, Susi, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion** by Director von Borstel with second from Director Martin to adopt the consent agenda as presented. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Coelsch, Martin, Stutzman, Susi, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion** by Director Martin with second from Director von Borstel to hold another listening session next month to consider the question to move to 5 at large positions. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Coelsch, Martin, Stutzman, Susi, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion** by Vice Chair Stutzman with second from Director Martin to accept the Statements, Values and Priorities 2018-19 sheet as presented. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Coelsch, Martin, Stutzman, Susi, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion** by Director von Borstel with second from Director Susi to approve the temporary connection to the City of Moro for the north playing field. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Coelsch, Martin, Stutzman, Susi, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion** by Vice Chair Stutzman with second from Director von Borstel to approve Erik Glover as Sherman County Scholarship Association Board Appointed Committee Member. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Coelsch, Martin, Stutzman, Susi, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair, Kristie Coelsch opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag at 6:33 p.m.

## **APPROVE BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

An opportunity was given to make changes to the presented Regular Board Meeting Agenda for this November 13, 2018 meeting. No changes were made.

**Motion** by Vice Chair Stutzman with second from Director von Borstel to approve the board meeting agenda for November 13, 2018 as presented. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Coelsch, Martin, Stutzman, Susi, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION**

### **Should the Sherman County School District Consider Rezoning Board Positions?**

Superintendent Owens thanked the only attendee, Larry Hctor, for coming to the listening session. He reviewed the purpose of the comment session, should the Sherman County School District Consider Rezoning Board Positions, and stated that it is important to the board to get feedback from the community. He reminded everyone that at the last meeting there was a motion to consider three zoned and two at large positions. This is not a new topic of discussion and has been considered for many years.

Director Martin agreed that this topic has come up a number of times over the years. He stated that we have been one district for quite some time and are now one consolidated campus. With that being said there are really no boundaries anymore. He shared that it has been difficult to find people to run in these positions and questions why should we limit the number of people who can run to a geographical area if there are people outside of the zone that are interested in running. He has not heard a negative concern on changing this as of yet.

Chair Coelsch agreed with Director Martin's comments and commented that board members do this for the kids and she would rather see someone eager to be on the board than someone that needed to be persuaded into it.

Director Susi agreed with Chair Coelsch's comments and thinks that three zones and two at large positions is a good idea. He is aware of a couple special districts with similar zoning as the board is considering and it works well for them.

Chair Coelsch gave Larry Hctor an opportunity to speak. Mr. Hctor asked Chair Martin if he remembered how many votes during his 12 years on the board have been a two to three margin based on location. Chair Martin couldn't think of any that fit that criteria. Mr. Hctor explained that he has seen the time consumed drawing boundaries and suggests having five at large positions. Chair Martin agrees with Mr. Hctor and says that he thinks that change is needed and they are looking at taking steps in that direction. Mr. Hctor also noted to keep in mind that some people may reside in one district but have land or financial interests in another.

Chair Stutzman stated that there are other school districts that have all at large positions.

Superintendent Owens explained that the district is mandated to follow particular guidelines when drawing new boundary lines if it is decided to go that way.

The board thanked Mr. Hctor for his thoughts and appreciated him attending.

Director Susi asked what the draw backs would be of having five at large positions. Chair Stutzman stated possibly having five people from one household or the same family.

Director von Borstel asked if it was easier to switch to five at large and Business Manager McKinney stated that it would be simpler.

Superintendent Owens said the board can make a decision through resolution, but they may want to consider putting it out to voters.

A few more visitors joined the meeting. They were updated on the discussion and given a chance to make comments. No further comments were given.

### **COMMENTS FROM VISITORS**

No comments related to agenda items were received.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### **Recognition of Students, Staff, and Community Members**

We are extremely fortunate to have gracious staff and community members who support our school and students. This school year we are continuing the tradition of recognizing various supporters at the beginning portion of each School Board Meeting. While it is possible that we may periodically miss an opportunity to thank someone, we sincerely appreciate the commitment of all of our supporters. We would like to recognize the following people for their devotion to our schools, students, staff and community.

- Thank you to the teachers who nominated the Students of the Quarter Awards tonight. This is a great honor for recipients Luke Martin, Natalie Phillips, Catherine Rhodes, Pyeper Walker, and Robert Williams.
- To all of the parents and guardians who attended the Parent-Teacher Conferences.
- High School volleyball coaches Karissa Gorham and Julie Justesen.
- Football coaches Mike Somnis, Steve Bird, and Kyle Blagg.
- Jr. High Football coaches Gary Lewis and MJ Walker.
- Jr. High volleyball coaches Kari Peters and Kristen Stuart.
- Jeremy Lanthorn for taking sports photos for the yearbook and sports programs.
- Sherman County Sheriff's Department for their continued support and partnership.
- Tionie Kock, Talese Slay, Mike Somnis, and Seth von Borstel for chaperoning the homecoming dance and Deidra von Borstel for organizing the evening.
- Special thanks to the Elementary PTO and the Booster Club for providing dinner for school staff during parent teacher conferences.
- SCHoLaRs! program volunteers: Cindy Brown, Patty Burnet, Sheri Carlson, Krista Coelsch, Doris Hubbard, Patti Ketchum, Lynn McIntosh, Connie Powell, Amber Riley, Carol Sather, Nancy Simpson, Sherrie Slay-Martin, Karen Umemoto, and Ree Ella von Borstel. The SCHoLaRs! program is led by Janet Pinkerton.
- Thank you Deidra von Borstel and the leadership class for coordinating all of the fun activities for homecoming.
- Thank you to MCP for supplying the wood materials for the bon fire.
- Sherman County Fire Department for their support during the bon fire.

- Jessianne Miller and Kevin Stuart for their work supporting students at Husky Helping Hands.
- Deanna Christiansen for coordinating the Book Fair.
- Deanna Christiansen, Liz Cranston, Tabettha Hein, William Parkki, and Dick Stradley for chaperoning the 5th grade field trip to the Fish Hatchery.
- Juston Huffman, Becky Jones, Lacey Vaughn, and Kayla von Borstel for chaperoning the Kindergarten field trip to the pumpkin patch.
- The Sherman PTO and all of the volunteers for putting on Trunk 'r' Treat for our elementary students.
- Tionie Kock, Kelsey Phillips, Talese Slay, and all of the student volunteers for creating a very spooky Haunted House for students to enjoy.
- Deidra von Borstel and Samantha Roberts-Smith for the Jr. High Dance and Jen Berry, Kristie Coelsch, and Kari Peters for chaperoning.
- Patti Ketchum, Brad Lohrey, Janet Pinkerton, and Sherrie Slay-Martin for judging at the Halloween Parade.
- Cindie King and Susan Mobley for hosting 4<sup>th</sup> grade Read n' Rec night.
- The Scholarship Association Committee for all the work they do supporting our students.

We truly appreciate the amazing support we receive from so many thoughtful people. Thank you to everyone in our great community and school district for your continued support! When you have time please visit our Sherman County School District Web Page for the monthly appreciation comments.

### **Students of the First Quarter**

Luke Martin, Natalie Phillips, Catherine Rhodes, Pyeper Walker, and Robert Williams were honored as Students of the First Quarter and each received a plaque. Awards were presented by Amy Huffman, Samantha R-Smith, Kevin Stuart, and Tim Zacharias.

### **Student Body Report**

Desiree Winslow gave the Student Body Report that included highlights from homecoming and a future fundraiser with Clutch Coffee that will take place at the bazaar.

## **ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA**

### **Business**

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on October 8, 2018.
- Approved Bill Listing, Financial Statement.

### **Personnel**

- Approved hire of Steve Bird, Head High School Girls Basketball
- Approved hire of Laurie Perisho, Junior Varsity Girls Basketball
- Approved hire of Gary Lewis, Head High School Boys Basketball
- Approved hire of Tim Zacharias, Junior Varsity Boys Basketball
- Approved hire of Samantha Roberts-Smith, A Girls Basketball
- Approved hire of Kari Peters, B Girls Basketball
- Approved hire of Rick Whitaker, A Boys Basketball
- Approved hire of Mike Somnis, AD starting October 22, 2018

**Motion** by Director von Borstel with second from Director Martin to adopt the consent agenda as presented. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Coelsch, Martin, Stutzman, Susi, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

## **REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Owens updated the board on district enrollment and conference attendance. He discussed recent and upcoming training such as district professional development and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Workshop (Federal Monitoring). He shared and reviewed a handout on the Educator Advancement Council. He updated the board on recent changes at Mid-Columbia Bus and transportation safety including the addition of a base station radio. This radio will be reimbursed therefore, will be no cost to the district. Superintendent Owens reviewed past and upcoming meetings he has scheduled including the Safety Committee Meeting, County Court, and the NCESD Superintendent Meeting. He thanked the counseling and student success program and discussed their recent accomplishments. He noted that Mid-Columbia Center for Living has posted the recent vacated position at the school and stated that they are hoping to change it to a five day a week position. Superintendent Owens shared that the north entrance clean-up has started and will continue to the play field. He advised that the NCESD Consortium is having discussions on moving to the Internet Service Provider that our district moved to a few years ago.

### **K-12 Principal Report**

Principal Somnis reviewed the schools report card published by ODE. He gave highlights of recent events including Homecoming, Trunk 'r Treat, the Haunted House, the Jr. High Dance, the Halloween Parade, the College Fair, and the Veteran's Day Assembly.

### **Athletic Director Report**

Athletic Director Somnis reported on the conclusion of the volleyball season, the start of basketball practice, the upcoming AD's meeting and a Football Ad Hoc meeting. He explained a change in the Sports Awards night.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Board Zone Position Consideration Continued Discussion**

Superintendent Owens thanked Business Manager McKinney for all of the time and effort she has put into this. He reviewed information that was included in the packet. He informed the board that they did not have to decide tonight but, if they decide to do an election it is possible to do it this year. He stated that they could also make the decision through a resolution. Vice Chair Stutzman asked if there could be choices on the ballot or does it have to be able to be a yes or no vote. Business Manager McKinney stated that there could not be choices. Business Manager McKinney explained that the complicated part of drawing the zone boundaries is getting the population information and drawing lines that would create zones with equal population. Superintendent Owens stated that there was an attempt to draw out new zones and it proved to be a difficult process.

Director Martin stated that he'd like to first answer the question if they want to make changes and then decide what change to make. Chair Coelsch thinks it would be beneficial to make

change but also sees the importance of getting a vote from the county. Director Martin would like to see it put out to voters as five at large positions.

The board agreed that they wish more people from the community would have attended the listening session so that they could get feedback from them on what they want.

Questions about terms were discussed and how the election process would work with the suggested proposals.

Superintendent Owens advised the board that he can get any of their questions answered that they are still unsure of. For example, the questions that they are discussing regarding terms. He explained that this has been discussed with OSBA, County Clerk, and the district representation and one of the opinions was to not put the burden of the decision on the board and allow the voters decide.

The board agreed that they want to make a change and discussed what change they wanted to make. Chair Coelsch stated that changing to five at large would be the easiest and Director Martin responded that it may be the easiest but is it the best. Chair Coelsch stated that if the reasoning for change is that they want the people on the board that is best for the school, then what does it matter where you live.

The board decided to have another listening session in hopes of getting more community input and presenting it as abolishing all zones and moving to five at large positions.

**Motion** by Director Martin with second from Director von Borstel to hold another listening session next month to consider the question to move to 5 at large positions. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Coelsch, Martin, Stutzman, Susi, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Monument Sign Continued Discussion**

The committee is set to meet for the first time on November 26<sup>th</sup>. Vice Chair Stutzman stated that he has two people on the committee right now and he will continue working on getting more people. Director Susi offered help in getting more people on the committee.

#### **Strategic Plan and Goal Setting/District Statements, Values, and Priorities Continued Discussion and Possible Action**

Superintendent Owens updated the board on the progress of the document. A behind the scenes action plan is still being worked on and he hopes to bring that to the board next month. Superintendent Owens offered staff members that were present an opportunity to comment. Gerald Casper stated that he is supportive of the document and the rest will follow as they are still working on it. Samantha R-Smith thought it was nice to review it along with the new staff members so that it was a document that included their language and was meaningful to them.

Appreciation was given to Gary Peterson for his guidance and support during this process.

Superintendent Owens stated that you may notice that some items have been removed since the last strategic plan because those items have been met and there are new goals and priorities for the future.

Chair Coelsch expressed her appreciation for the time and effort the staff has put into this. She stated that if the staff has buy-in she doesn't see any reason not to accept it.

**Motion** by Vice Chair Stutzman with second from Director Martin to accept the Statements, Values and Priorities 2018-19 sheet as presented. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Coelsch, Martin, Stutzman, Susi, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Safety Plan Update**

Superintendent Owens informed the board that the program has been implemented. There are a number of safety measures that have been put into place, not just one. He noted that the signs have been up for 16 days now at all entrances. There has been ongoing training that has taken place with the volunteers that have gone through the certification and deputization. He stated that this is completely voluntary and does not conflict with any regularly scheduled teaching days or professional development as the focus is always on providing a comprehensive educational program. He shared with the board a conversation he had with someone at the Sheriff's Office. This person expressed how good they feel that we have highly competent and trained personnel on site every day. He reminded everyone that at times we could have a 45 minute response time and we are located on a major highway. He agrees that he feels more comfortable coming to school every day. Director Martin states that this is a tremendous achievement during the time that he has been on the board. He acknowledged that he has done little of the work but support it and he appreciates the administration and staffs attention to safety. Superintendent Owens says it's important to mention that this has been accomplished through the full support of the staff, the Board, County Couty, the Sheriff's Office, and the multi-disciplinary safety committee.

### **North Playing Field Update**

Superintendent Owens updated the board on the progress of the north playing field. He thanked the Athletic Foundation for their support. The north playing field, little league field and multi-use community field has been seeded. Fencing is currently being researched for use during the school day. Superintendent Owens expressed his appreciation for all of the support from the many volunteers that have helped with this process.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Well Information and Water Agreement with the City of Moro**

Superintendent Owens gave a background on the addition of the north playing field and the water issues. He reviewed the options that the district has in regards to getting water to the field. They can temporarily hook up to City of Moro according to their agreement, work with the Athletic Foundation to use their well located on the south side, work with Nate Stice at Water Resources to get permission to use the existing school well, or drill a new well and abandon the old one. The Athletic Foundation said they will cover the fees to connect to city water and the school would have to cover the cost of the water. The cost to the school would be approximately \$400-500 per month to water the field. This could be a temporary fix or long term if necessary.

**Motion** by Director von Borstel with second from Director Susi to approve the temporary connection to the City of Moro for the north playing field. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Coelsch, Martin, Stutzman, Susi, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

**Approve Erik Glover as Sherman County Scholarship Association Board Appointed Committee Member**

Superintendent Owens stated that in the by-laws of the Sherman County Scholarship Association there is a board appointed committee member. Erik Glover has agreed to be a member. Erik is a 2010 Sherman graduate. He was the first student that graduated with an Associate's Degree and it was through the support of the Scholarship Association. He is now wanting to give back to the community and the Scholarship Association.

**Motion** by Vice Chair Stutzman with second from Director von Borstel to approve Erik Glover as Sherman County Scholarship Association Board Appointed Committee Member. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Coelsch, Martin, Stutzman, Susi, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

**COMMENTS FROM VISITORS**

No comments from visitors.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS, CLOSING COMMENTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Board Zone Position Listening Session
- Monument Sign Committee

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 10, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Coelsch declared the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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Chair, Kristie Coelsch

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Board Secretary, Jen Berry