

**SHERMAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
March 13, 2017**

The Board of Directors of Sherman County School District met in the Sherman County School/Public Library Meeting Room in Moro, Oregon on March 13, 2017. The following were present: Chair, Bill Martin; Vice Chair, Kyle Blagg; Directors: Kristie Coelsch, Jim Macnab, Merrie von Borstel; Superintendent, Wes Owens; Principal, Bill Blevins; Business Manager, Kim McKinney; Board Secretary, Jeanie Pehlke; Staff Members: Gary Lewis, Gerald Casper, Samantha Roberts-Smith, Jessica Baptiste; Students: Hadley Baptiste, Dalton Roark, Bailey Roark, Ivan Roark; Visitors: Joe Dabulskis, Carol von Borstel, Neil Pattee, Johnathan Rolfe, Ali Roark, Steven Roark, Chris Whitley, Kristin Whitley, Meinrad Kuettel, Leta Ann Reckmann.

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN**

**Motion** by Director Blagg with second from Director von Borstel to approve the board meeting agenda as amended. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Blagg, Coelsch, Macnab, Martin, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

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

**Motion** by Director Blagg with second from Director Coelsch to Approve the Recommendation for Certified Contracts and Administrator Contract Renewals. **Vote:** 4 in Favor (Blagg, Coelsch, Martin, von Borstel) 1 No (Macnab) **Action:** The motion carried.

**Motion** by Director Coelsch with second from Director Blagg to authorize Superintendent Owens to begin the sealed offer process for the disposal of surplus District property once the deed is in hand. **Vote:** 4 in Favor (Blagg, Coelsch, Macnab, Martin, 1 No (von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried.

**Motion** by Director Macnab with second from Director Blagg to approve the Sherman County music program trip to Tacoma Washington. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Blagg, Coelsch, Macnab, Martin, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion** by Director Blagg with second from Director Coelsch to approve the 2017-18 NCESD Resolutions Services. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Blagg, Coelsch, Macnab, Martin, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion** by Director Blagg with second from Director von Borstel to approve the 2016-17 Budget Resolutions 02, 03 and 04. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Blagg, Coelsch, Macnab, Martin, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion** by Director von Borstel with second from Director Coelsch to have Director Blagg negotiate a contract with Mr. Owens. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Blagg, Coelsch, Macnab, Martin, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

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## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair, Bill Martin opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag at 6:00 p.m.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **Superintendent Evaluation Process**

The board went into an Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(i) to complete the annual evaluation of the Superintendent. Superintendent Owens was the only staff member invited to attend executive session.

The board came out of Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. and invited the public into the room for the Regular Meeting. No action was taken.

## **REGULAR MEETING**

### **Approve Board Meeting Agenda**

An opportunity was given to make changes to the presented Regular Board Meeting Agenda for this March 13, 2017 meeting. Board Members added 9.5 Superintendent Contract to the agenda.

**Motion** by Director Blagg with second from Director von Borstel to approve the board meeting agenda as amended. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Blagg, Coelsch, Macnab, Martin, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

## **COMMENTS FROM VISITORS**

No comments 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. 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.

- Classified employees week was last week. Special thanks to all classified employees and support staff for their dedicated efforts to the students and staff of the Sherman County School District.
- Susan Mobley for securing a grant through the Sherman County Cultural Coalition to bring the Artist in Residence program to our Elementary students. Leigh Hancock and Chloe Hight did a wonderful job!
- Jared Collins for coordinating FFA Week.
- Deanna Christiansen for taking the robotics team to the Sandy Vex Tournament.
- Ashley Danielson for providing dental screenings to our students.
- Sherman Lions Club for providing vision screenings to our elementary students.
- Patty Burnet for allowing our 2nd and 3rd grade students to release fish into her pond. James Burgett and M.J. Walker for chaperoning this field trip.
- Cindie King and Tionie Kock for organizing Dr. Seuss week.
- Kyle Blagg, Cindy Brown, and Merrie von Borstel for being our guest readers during Dr. Seuss week.
- Jen Berry and Tionie Kock for organizing the Dr. Seuss carnival.
- Ken Berry, Cindy Brown, MacKenna Cnossen, Kristie Coelsch, Tucker Coons, Liz Cranston, Amber DeGrange, Jessie Fuhrer, Emily Hill, Piper Jones, Cindie King, Brittney Orendorff, Bridget Poirier, Emily Poirier, Talese Slay, Cadence Smith, Samantha Smith, Arlone Stradley, Dick Stradley, and Rick Whitaker for running booths at the carnival.
- All of the generous people who made goodies for the carnival cake walk.
- Kalie Rolfe and the tennis program for providing a live broadcast of the championship basketball game to the community.
- Tyler Dearborn for organizing and running the new gaming club.
- MCMC for hosting our first grade students at Hospital Land and Jeremy Lanthorn for chaperoning this field trip.
- All of the elementary valentine party helpers.
- Thank you to Paula King for working hard to teach safe driving strategies to our driver education students.
- Thank you to Jarek Bartels, Gerald Casper and all pep band members for their support throughout the basketball season and at the state tournament in Baker City.
- Coaches Steve Bird and Laurie Perisho for coaching the girls' basketball team. Thank you to boys' basketball coaches Bill Blevins, Bill Martin, Gary Lewis, Clint Moore, and Ethan Moore for their successful state championship.
- Joe Justesen for driving the basketball team bus during the state tourney and the emergency services personnel for their wonderful escort as the team departed and arrived back home.
- Special thanks to all the parents and boosters who have supported our basketball teams this past season.

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 Quarter**

First grade student, Dalton Roark was honored as Student of the Quarter and received a plaque from his teacher Mrs. Baptiste.

### **Student Body Report**

No student body report was given.

## **ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA**

### **Business**

- ✓ Approved Minutes from Regular Board Meeting for February 13, 2017 as presented.
- ✓ Approved Bill Listing, Financial Statement.

### **Personnel**

- ✓ Approved Final Hire Piper Jones, Long-term Temporary 2nd Grade Teacher
- ✓ Accepted Resignation of Gabriella Sohl-Taylor, 7-12 English Teacher
- ✓ Approved Hire Joe Justesen, Head Baseball Coach
- ✓ Approved James Stroud, Volunteer Baseball Coach
- ✓ Approved Eliot Kaseberg, Volunteer Baseball Coach

Director Macnab asked board members if it would be possible to vote on 6.2.3 the Recommendation for Certified Contract and Administrator Contract Renewals as a separate motion. There was no objection.

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

**Motion** by Director Blagg with second from Director Coelsch to Approve the Recommendation for Certified Contracts and Administrator Contract Renewals. **Vote:** 4 in Favor (Blagg, Coelsch, Martin, von Borstel) 1 No (Macnab) **Action:** The motion carried.

## **REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **County Court Liaison – Joe Dabulskis**

Commissioner Dabulskis described his experience and schedule as the newly elected County Commissioner and reported on some of the county happenings. His report included the hiring of a new prevention coordinator, working with the city of Wasco on what to do with the Wasco Annex, duplexes that will be constructed in Moro, weed control notices that were sent to residents, and student, Isaak McLemore will be giving a presentation to County Court about his trip to Washington DC. Commissioner Dabulskis also mentioned that he has formed a relationship with students and administrators who live in south east Washington DC with whom he has starting sending videos of, "Life in Sherman County Oregon".

### **Superintendent Report**

Topics for Superintendent Owens' report included district enrollment, and appreciation for the classified and confidential staff. He also thanked the winter coaches, the Pep Band and congratulated the State Championship Boys' Basketball Team. He gave an update on the Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports/Response to Intervention program, the Character Matters program, current and upcoming job postings including the interview schedule, mentioned tours of the Grass Valley Facility, district-wide safety measures including a recent meeting with two FBI agents, and a positive meeting with Mid-Columbia Transportation Company. He also mentioned that the application for water rights to irrigate the north play fields was not submitted by Mike Marino until recently, even though it had been signed on August 3, 2016. Finally he reported that he has received positive feedback regarding the new administrative office configuration in the elementary wing.

### **Administrative Report for Sherman County School**

Principal Blevins' reported on this year's state testing schedule, recent FFA activities, Missoula Children's Theatre, new furniture in the student lounge, Cottonwood Crossing Summer Institute opportunities for high school students, an upcoming Red Cross Blood Drive that is scheduled for April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Pi Day activities, and Response to Intervention activities. He also announced that ODE has declared a teacher shortage in four (4) counties including Sherman County and will be offering federal loan forgiveness to those teachers who teach in Sherman County for 5 years. In addition, he thanked the classified employees, mentioned that the snow has finally melted so the elementary kids are going outside again for recess. He and Jeanie Pehlke will be meeting with the junior class tomorrow to introduce the Community Service Program. Finally, he announced that Taylor Olson is the new prevention coordinator.

### **Athletic Director Report**

Athletic Director Gary Lewis announced that our first spring sports contests are scheduled to begin this week and he is coordinating additional tennis and baseball games. He is still looking for a junior high track coach.

Mr. Lewis gave an update related to three agenda items that were discussed at his recent AD meeting. First, the standard operating procedures for rescheduling postponed games were clarified and he believes this will no longer be an issue for the league. The second item was concern related to schools that played A/B teams consisting of older students vs teams broken into 7/8 and 5/6 grade students. Mr. Lewis reported that there was a strong consensus that the league will stay with teams broken in 7/8 and 5/6 grade students. The last item of concern is that while Jewell is re-entering our football league, they have stated that they do not want to compete against Sherman and Dufur. With this as a possibility, Mr. Lewis is looking into scheduling a backup game in the event Jewell falls off the schedule. He also reported that next year's fall and winter schedules are in progress. He also congratulated Coach Bill Blevins, Coach Bill Martin, and the Boys' Basketball Team for their State Championship win.

### **Construction Project Manager Report**

This topic was moved to the **“Wish List” Add Back Items** agenda item that will be discussed later in this meeting.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Sheriff’s Office Safety Plan Continued Discussion**

Superintendent Owens reported that a Safety Subcommittee consisting of staff members and law enforcement met last Wednesday. This committee is beginning to develop a budget and refine the defensive safety plan that was recommended by the Safety Committee. He noted that there are a lot of details to discuss. He reminded the board that the staff survey showed an almost unanimous vote in favor of this plan. More information will be available next meeting.

#### **Grass Valley Facility Continued Discussion**

Superintendent Owens thanked Grass Valley Mayor, Neil Pattee and the City Council Members for attending this meeting. He informed the Board that he met with the City Council at their regular meeting last Monday to formally request that they approve a quit claim document that would remove a revisionary clause on the vacant elementary school’s deed (that requires the facility to be used only for school or public use). He added that clearing this requirement off the deed is the first step to make the property marketable. He then read district policies related to the disposal of district property and announced that the Board could either choose to use a bidding (offer) process to sell the property ourselves with the support of an attorney, or could market the facility for sale with a Real Estate agent for a 6% commission. He advised the board that a committee of staff members has reviewed proposals from three (3) Realtors and are ready to recommend one of them if the board wants to list the property for sale.

Superintendent Owens then explained details for both sales options. He stated that if the Board decides to sell the property ourselves, an attorney would draw up a contract with acceptable terms including the ability to reserve the right to reject all offers that are not in the best interest of the public. Potential buyers would then fill in a blank space for their offered price and return their sealed offers. The offers could then be opened in an executive session and the Board would come back to open session to accept an offer or decline all offers. Superintendent Owens clarified that the Board would not have to set or advertise a minimum offer that would be accepted, but they would have to reserve the right to refuse any offers that are not in the best interest of the public. Superintendent Owens said that if the Board would like to choose the option of listing the facility for sale with a Realtor, he is ready to give them a recommendation. If they want to go with the offering process, the Board would need to authorize the Superintendent to begin a sealed offer process for the disposal of surplus district property. Board members discussed the options and how the motion would need to read. Representatives from Grass Valley were asked for their thoughts.

Grass Valley City Manager, Carol von Borstel stated that the City would like to be part of the decision making process to approve the buyer because once it is sold any problems will become the City’s issues. She also noted that the property is zoned Residential Ag so depending on its future use, a conditional use permit may be needed. She stated that the City of Grass Valley is

very motivated to do something economically forward. A discussion related to how members of the City Council could be involved in the sales process took place. Mrs. von Borstel expressed that the City of Grass Valley is somewhat reluctant to approve the quit claim deed for the District unless they can be involved with the sales process. An extended discussion related to the City's reluctance to release the deed and how the two entities could cooperate for the best interest of both took place. It was pointed out that the buyer's offer would need to be contingent on a zoning change, so the City will need to be involved. Superintendent Owens stated that he has given tours of the surplus building and truly believes there are interested buyers. He also reminded everyone that moving the process forward is important because keeping the vacant building is at a cost of more than \$3,000 per month. A discussion of how the motion should be read took place. Superintendent Owens read three (3) previous motions from the January Board meeting that declared the property surplus, directed him to work with the City of Grass Valley to secure a marketable deed and directed him to secure a Realtor. Mrs. von Borstel clarified that it is not the City's intent to hold up a possible sale, they just want to be part of the process. Chair Martin thanked Ms. Von Borstel and expressed the Board's desire to work toward a positive outcome for Grass Valley and all of Sherman County.

**Motion** by Director Coelsch with second from Director Blagg to authorize Superintendent Owens to begin the sealed offer process for the disposal of surplus District property once the deed is in hand. **Vote: 4 in Favor** (Blagg, Coelsch, Macnab, Martin, 1 **No** (von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried.

A discussion related to the appraisal took place. Superintendent Owens thanked City Council Members and emphasized that his intent is to do what is best for Grass Valley, the School, and Sherman County. Superintendent Owens was asked to elaborate on the tours he has given to potential buyers. He stated that he has given tours to two private parties and one private/public entity. Superintendent Owens will give an update next month.

### **Special District Election, May 16, 2017**

Directors Blagg, Coelsch, and Macnab were reminded that their School Board Director terms will be up at the end of June and they will need to file for office prior to March 16, 2017 if they wish to run again.

The board took a break at 8:27 p.m. and returned to open session at 8:30 p.m.

### **"Wish List" Add Back Items**

Superintendent Owens clarified that according to KNCC the district has \$69,600 in remaining contingency money not \$63,000 as the original report had shown. The board discussed items on the wish list that could be added back. It was clarified that the Grass Valley facility fencing will be repurposed at the new ball fields. Chair Martin suggested tabling this topic until next month to give Superintendent Owens a chance to get with KNCC for possible discounts for items that might be able to be grouped together and to determine if other items are missing from the list. It was also suggested that Superintendent Owens visit with the Library Board to see what their thoughts are on the library desk. A discussion on adding additional sound panels

in the new elementary gym took place. Superintendent Owens will provide more information next month. Board members thanked Superintendent Owens for his work on the construction project.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Approve Out-of-State Travel**

Music Program Director, Jarek Bartels requested approval to take the junior and senior high band students on an out-of-state field trip to Tacoma, Washington on March 23-25.

**Motion** by Director Macnab with second from Director Blagg to approve the Sherman County music program trip to Tacoma Washington. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Blagg, Coelsch, Macnab, Martin, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **2017-18 NCESD Resolution Services**

Superintendent Owens recommended the board approve the 2017-18 NCESD Resolution Services.

**Motion** by Director Blagg with second from Director Coelsch to approve the 2017-18 NCESD Resolutions Services. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Blagg, Coelsch, Macnab, Martin, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Announce Budget Committee Vacancy**

It was noted that Kristie Coelsch was on the budget committee and now that she is on the School Board her position needs to be publicly announced as a vacancy for next year. Someone will be appointed at the April board meeting.

### **2016-17 Budget Resolutions**

Kim McKinney, Business Manager presented and explained three (3) 2016-17 Budget Resolutions.

**Motion** by Director Blagg with second from Director von Borstel to approve the 2016-17 Budget Resolutions 02, 03 and 04. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Blagg, Coelsch, Macnab, Martin, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Superintendent Contract**

Chair Martin stated that Superintendent Owens' contract is over at the end of this school year so it is an appropriate time to appoint a board member to negotiate his new contract.

**Motion** by Director von Borstel with second from Director Coelsch to have Director Blagg negotiate a contract with Mr. Owens. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Blagg, Coelsch, Macnab, Martin, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

## **COMMENTS FROM VISITORS**

No comments from visitors were received.



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

- Sheriff's Office Safety Plan Continued Discussion
- Grass Valley Facility Continued Discussion
- "Wish List" Add Back Items
- Future Board Training
- Superintendent Evaluation

A discussion regarding the rough areas of weeds near the new north playing fields took place. Superintendent Owens said the Athletic Foundation is aware of the situation.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for, April 10, 2017.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Martin declared the meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

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Chair, Bill Martin

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Board Secretary, Jeanie Pehlke