

**SHERMAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 10, 2015**

The Board of Directors of Sherman County School District met in the Sherman County Public/School Library Meeting Room in Moro, Oregon on August 10, 2015. The following were present: Chair, Bill Martin; Vice Chair, Angie Thompson; Directors: Kyle Blagg, Jim Macnab, Merrie von Borstel; Superintendent, Wes Owens; Administrator, Bill Blevins; Dean of Students, Cindie King; Business Manager, Kim McKinney; Confidential Secretary, Jeanie Pehlke; Staff Members: Gerald Casper, Kalie Rolfe; Visitors: Joe Justesen, Tracy Fields, Jesse Stutzman, and Janet Pinkerton.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN

Motion by Director, Kyle Blagg with second from Director, Jim Macnab to approve the Board Meeting Agenda for August 10, 2015 as presented. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Martin, Thompson, Blagg, Macnab, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Director, Kyle Blagg with second from Director, Jim Macnab to adopt the consent agenda as amended with the addition of the letter read into the minutes (July 29, 2015). **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Martin, Thompson, Blagg, Macnab, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Director, Kyle Blagg with second from Director, Angie Thompson to approve the hire of Bill Blevins as head football coach for the upcoming season. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Martin, Thompson, Blagg, Macnab, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Director Blagg with second from Director von Borstel to declare three (3) items surplus [a Modular Building at Sherman Jr./Sr. High School, an American Standard 80 Gallon Propane Water Heater, and three (3) Single Room Air Conditioners]and start the surplus process. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Martin, Thompson, Blagg, Macnab, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Bill Martin opened the regular School Board meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag at 7:03 p.m. and thanked everyone for coming.

Approve Board Meeting Agenda, August 10, 2015

Board members were given an opportunity to modify the meeting agenda. No changes were made.

Motion by Director, Kyle Blagg with second from Director, Jim Macnab to approve the Board Meeting Agenda for August 10, 2015 as presented. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Martin, Thompson, Blagg, Macnab, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

Joe Justesen read a letter he wrote conveying his dissatisfaction of the School Board not giving Bill Blevins unanimous support as head football coach. (Letter is Attached)

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Business

- ✓ Approved Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, on July 29, 2015.

Jim Macnab provided the Board Secretary with a copy of a letter he read at the July 29, 2015 School Board Meeting and requested it be added, as an attachment, to the presented Regular Board Meeting minutes for July 29, 2015. Superintendent Owens clarified for the audience that the letter Jim Macnab read was dated May 8, 2015 and was written to the Sherman County School District from the Sherman County Court - Judge Thompson, Commissioner Mike Smith and Commissioner Tom McCoy. Superintendent Owens further noted that the letter was read by Jim Macnab, acting as a community member.

Director Macnab also requested an amendment to the presented minutes from the July 29, 2015 Board Meeting to change what he actually said during the meeting related to the hire of Bill Blevins as Head Football Coach to a written statement he read and provided (attached). A discussion related to changing the record took place. It was determined that the minutes from July 29, 2015 would remain unchanged and Director Macnab's statement would be attached to this meeting's minutes (August 10, 2015) and he will be given an opportunity to make a new statement under Unfinished Business, section 5.1.1 High School Football Coach Position.

- ✓ Approved bill listing and financial statement

Personnel

- ✓ Approved final hire of Gabriella Sohl Taylor as Language Arts Teacher

Motion by Director, Kyle Blagg with second from Director, Jim Macnab to adopt the consent agenda as amended with the addition of the letter read into the minutes (July 29, 2015). **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Martin, Thompson, Blagg, Macnab, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of Students, Staff and Community Members – Wes Owens

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.

This is a perfect opportunity to recognize all the hard work it took from so many constituents to get to the historic moment of our groundbreaking ceremony on August 6, 2015...the reality of breaking ground on a project to relocate our precious elementary students and staff to a comprehensive K-12 Facility. This will be an educational site where all Sherman County students and community members will thrive in a physical environment that provides flexible, accessible and up-to-date spaces.

The Sherman County School District has been deeply engaged in a thorough and extended process of planning to provide the very best K-12 educational program in a single campus configuration. This process has included public input, surveys, community forums, focus groups, cost analysis and extensive planning that formally began in 2007.

Countless people and groups helped us get to this point...Please forgive me if I forget someone, but I believe it is very important to try and individually thank those that had a hand in the collaborative process.

- Sherman County Community Members.
- Sherman County Court (Judge Gary Thompson, Steve Burnet and Mike Smith) with the allocation of Strategic Investment Program funds to the School District in August 2009.
- Tom McCoy for his support when he became a County Court Member.
- All District Staff.
- District Parents and Students.

- Former Board members (Brett Grey, Alan von Borstel, Ted von Borstel, Verna McClennon, Elizabeth Mills, and Ken Melzer).
- Former Superintendents Ivan Ritchie and Peter Tarzian.
- Former Administrators and leaders (Nancy Kieling, Mike Somnis, Brandon Hammond, Sheri Sharp and Todd Swan).
- Brad Lohrey and the Sheriff's Department staff.
- Strategic Planning Team Members formed in 2010 (Shannon Hansen, Jeanie Pehlke, Janet Pinkerton, Ivan Ritchie, Steve Burnet, Cliff Jett, Chris Kaseberg, Brenda Padget, Jonathan Rolfe, Bill Martin, Ken Melzer, Verna McClennon, Ted von Borstel, and Alan von Borstel).
- Facilities Planning Committee formed in 2013 (Ree Ella von Borstel, Erin Stone, Kristi Coelsch, Cliff Jett, Jess Stutzman, Jim Macnab, Amy Huffman, Kalie Rolfe, Brandon Hammond, Ken Melzer and Bill Martin).
- Architect Selection Members (Sheri Sharp, Elizabeth Mills, Jim Macnab, Arla Melzer, Samantha Roberts-Smith, Dan Aldrich and Kristi Coelsch).
- Architectural Design Committee Members (Bill Blevins, Sheri Sharp, Amy Huffman, Gerald Casper, Craig Wood, Ree Ella von Borstel, Jeanie Pehlke, Ken Melzer, Lowell Smith, Bill Martin, Kyle Blagg, and Angie Thompson).
- James Weir Memorial Fund (Chair Norm Fridley, Kevin McCullough, and Jeff Fridley) for the generous donation of \$500,000 for support of the new Agriculture Building.
- Sherman County Planning Commission and Georgia Macnab and Dan Meader (Commission Members Don Hilderbrand, Forest Peters, Ray Smith, Ryan Thompson, and Roger Whitley).
- Wasco Electric Cooperative, Casey McCleary, and Dan Funkhouser.
- ODOT and Bert Perisho.
- Athletic Foundation for their continued support of our programs and facility upgrades.
- Sherry Kaseberg for all her assistance with disseminating District communication and information through her Enews publication.
- Behind the Scenes assistance (Kim McKinney, Jennifer Berry, Audrey Rooney, Jeanie Pehlke). As well as Linda Burnett, Patti Ketchum, and Linda Krafscic.
- Current Board Members (Angie Thompson, Merrie von Borstel, Kyle Blagg, Jim Macnab, and Bill Martin).
- Project Manager Mike Marino, BBT Architects, and Kirby Nagelhout Construction Company.
- And to all others who support the Sherman County School District, Staff and students.
- In addition, Superintendent Owens added a big thank you to Samantha Roberts-Smith and Cindie King for their work on the Kindergarten Round-up that will take place on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. He also noted Lisa Kaseberg will be attending the Kindergarten Round-up to help answer any transportation questions.

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.

Construction Project Manager Report – Mike Marino

Superintendent Owens gave the Construction Project Manager Report on behalf of Mike Marino who had provided an email update to him. For his report, Mr. Marino related that he was very impressed by the number of people who attended our ground breaking and the enthusiasm expressed by community members and our local service organizations at the ceremony. Mr. Marino praised the district and

noted that about half that number of people attended a groundbreaking ceremony he once took part in for a huge expansion project for Portland Public Schools. BBT will be submitting Phase 2 construction design documents for permitting this Friday. The permitting review process should take approximately four (4) weeks. They will also be submitting construction documents to KNCC for pre-bid design review this Friday. This should take approximately ten (10) days. Once KNCC has completed their review and questions have been vetted by BBT, then it will be advertised for bid. Mr. Marino's goal is to have advertisement in place the last week of August. Bidding and vetting of bids should take approximately one (1) month. His goal is to have the GMP for Phase 2 by October 1, 2015. Mobilization on Phase 2 can begin the first or second week in October.

In his email report, Mr. Marino recommended that the Design Committee take one last look at the design after this Friday. He will make a share file available to the Design Committee next week. Mr. Owens noted that a meeting schedule is being developed for regular meetings with Mike Marino and KNCC. He also reported that KNCC was onsite today. There was some discussion about a Design Committee meeting.

Superintendent Report – Wes Owens

Superintendent Owens thanked everyone who attended the ground breaking ceremony and reported that more than seventy (70) people attended the event. He then announced that Sherman County School District was ranked 5th in the state for the 2015 Best Places to Teach in Oregon by niche.com. This is based upon teacher salary, experience, attendance, as well as, the district's academics, safety, and resources grade. A high ranking indicates that the district contains great schools with exceptional teachers who are offered excellent support and compensation. District enrollment, as of today, Sherman Elementary has 127, Sherman Junior High with 35, and Sherman High with 72 for a total enrollment of 234 students. A copy of the Conditional Use Permit approval letter from Sherman County Community Development and Planning was provided to the Board. Superintendent Owens thanked the planning commission for their meeting time and discussions related to the permit process. He again mentioned the Kindergarten Round-up that is coming up on Thursday, August 13th at 6:00 p.m. He reported the administrative team of Bill Blevins and Cindie King are working well together with regular meetings taking place. District in-service is being planned for August 25th. Mr. Owens then shared his new telephone number with Board members and encouraged them to call him anytime. The Board was then invited to a district staff welcome back dinner on Tuesday, August 25th at 6:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Administrative Report for Jr./Sr. High School/Athletic Director – Bill Blevins

Principal Blevins reported that football and volleyball camps will begin tomorrow. Fall sports schedules are complete and were distributed to Board members. Mr. Blevins reported that volleyball has a little different schedule this year due to a new round-robin format that, on four occasions, will allow Sherman to play two league opponents at the same site on the same night. This will reduce travel time and provide a schedule that will give us an opportunity to play each team twice. It was noted that October 16th is homecoming vs. Arlington. Mr. Blevins further added that Condon may join Arlington to create one football team and there may be a possible combination of Wheeler, Spray and Mitchell.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Coaching Positions

Superintendent Owens reported High School Girls Basketball, Junior High Volleyball, Junior High Football and High School Football coaching positions are still unfilled. He reported that we have applicants for High School Girls Basketball and will be interviewing very soon. One person has expressed interest in Jr. High volleyball but more discussion is needed. There are no applicants for Junior High Football or High School Football. Director Blagg asked Director Macnab if his position has changed in regard to the Head High School Football coach position. Director Macnab had an

opportunity at this time to express his concerns related to the hire of Principal Blevins as Head Football Coach. An extended discussion took place among Board members and Superintendent Owens regarding various related topics. The topics included safety considerations, staff development, staff evaluation, and the responsibilities that School Board members play in the hiring of District staff. With only four away football games (and the season starting tomorrow) and Superintendent Owens' commitment to work hand-in-hand with building leadership on evaluations, staff development and student safety/discipline, the Board (as a team) came together on the decision to hire Bill Blevins as the Head Football coach. Both Chair Martin and Vice Chair Thompson thanked Director Macnab for his support. Chair Martin further recognized that it took a lot for Director Macnab to support the decision and stated that it is the best for kids.

Motion by Director, Kyle Blagg with second from Director, Angie Thompson to approve the hire of Bill Blevins as head football coach for the upcoming season. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Martin, Thompson, Blagg, Macnab, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

Following the motion, both Chair Martin and Superintendent Owens thanked Director Macnab for his concerns and his support of Principal Blevins. Superintendent Owens also expressed the administration's appreciation for the opportunity this will give our student athletes.

Instructional Positions K-12 Music / Art Position

Superintendent Owens reminded the board that a discussion took place at the last meeting related to the difficulty of finding a music teacher and the possibility of looking into other options. He reported that the music position has been posted for an extended period. Superintendent Owens asked the Board if they would consider an Art candidate or something related to Art in lieu of Music. Vice Chair Thompson strongly suggested a fulltime Art or Music position, to add back some electives for a year and see what happens. A brief discussion related to highly qualified endorsed teachers took place.

4th Grade Position

The position has been posted multiple times. No applications have been received to date. Superintendent Owens noted that there are people in the community who he believes could fill in as a certified substitute until we fill the position with a full time applicant.

Board Emails

Superintendent Owens offered Board Members support with their School District email.

Board Training

Steve Kelley, director of Board Development at OSBA is willing to facilitate board training. Some dates were discussed. The board agreed Thursday, September 3rd at 8:00 am or Thursday, September 10th at 8:00 a.m. would work. It was decided that Board members will each individually send Superintendent Owens their top three preferred training topics.

Mid-Columbia Bus Company

Superintendent Owens reported that he spoke with Lisa Kaseberg. She has committed to provide bus routes that will be posted on the school district website no later than the August 20th. There have been changes to two of the routes so that students are delivered to the high school between 7:45 am and 7:55 am and to the elementary school between 7:50 am and 8:05 am. Letters will be sent by the bus company directly to the families affected by these changes. Superintendent Owens thanked Mid Columbia Bus Company for providing the prime rib for the District back to school dinner on August 25th.

Board recessed for a quick break at 8:22 p.m. and returned to open session at 8:29 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

ORVED Update

Principal Blevins gave a quick background on ORVED stating that it is a charter online school that is attached to Sherman County School District. He reported that last year a structured schedule was created to support students taking ORVED classes so that they were assigned to mentor teachers who checked their progress and grades. Last year, 19 students from grades 6 through 12 took 27 ORVED classes at a cost of \$325 per class or a total of \$8,775. He explained that our contract with ORVED provides \$15,000 in ORVED class credit each year and this year we will receive \$8,500 back for unused classes. It has been a nice option for students. Principal Blevins reported that students who took ORVED classes in the summer were not as successful as those who took classes during school with a mentor teacher. Business Manager McKinney reported that we also have six fulltime kids enrolled in ORVED from other districts that we receive 5% of their state school fund for each student. Principal Blevins pointed out that it provides a lot of flexibility and expands options to the schedule. Chair Martin agreed that it hasn't been perfect, but it provides another alternative.

OASBO Conference Information

Kim McKinney reported she attended the OASBO conference on July 29th. She discussed the topics of the sessions she attended and committed to provide a new color coded format for financial reports soon.

Certificates of Election

Superintendent Owens presented Bill Martin and Merrie von Borstel with Certificates of Election and official election results and congratulated them both.

Surplus

Superintendent Owens reported that we have three (3) items that will need to go through the public process to be declared surplus. The items are as follows:

- ✓ Modular Building at Sherman Jr./Sr. High School
- ✓ American Standard 80 Gallon Propane Water Heater
- ✓ Three (3) Single Room Air Conditioners

Motion by Director Blagg with second from Director von Borstel to declare three (3) items surplus [a Modular Building at Sherman Jr./Sr. High School, an American Standard 80 Gallon Propane Water Heater, and Three (3) Single Room Air Conditioners]and start the surplus process. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Martin, Thompson, Blagg, Macnab, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

Board Goals

Superintendent Owens informed the audience that the Board Goals were discussed at the work session prior to this regular board meeting. The board decided to have a work session at 6:00 p.m. on September 14th prior to the next school board meeting. Chair Martin recommended board members provide a few notes on goals to Superintendent Owens so he can prepare for the next meeting.

Board and Superintendent Working Agreements

Superintendent Owens stated that the Board and Superintendent Working Agreement will come with the training and he will provide the board with some thoughts. This will be combined with Board Goals.

Kindergarten Round-up

Superintendent Owens reported that the Kindergarten Round-up will take place on August 13th at 6:00 p.m. Kindergarten Teacher, Samantha Roberts-Smith was in today getting everything ready for Thursday. Cindie King and Lisa Kaseberg will also be there.

Tennis Court Lights

Superintendent Owens stated he had a conversation with Chris Moore from the Athletic Foundation. The Athletic Foundation is looking into options for installing lights on the tennis court. Chair Martin inquired about who will pay for the electricity and who will handle the maintenance of the lights. Superintendent Owens will provide more information once it becomes available.

Student Dress

Superintendent Owens informed the Board that there has always been a no hat policy at the elementary school and we will be implementing a no hat policy at the Jr./Sr. High School facility. In addition, some changes in the dress code language related to form-fitting clothing has been added.

Business Manager McKinney reported that in the past we have allowed students to charge on a school meal account. This year we are implementing a prepay policy for lunch at the Jr/Sr. High School. It was noted that students will not be refused, but if there is no money on their account Principal Blevins will call their home.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

None received.

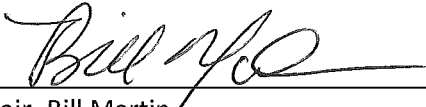
FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS, CLOSING COMMENTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Superintendent Owens thanked the Board for coming in for the work session today. He noted that it says a lot about the group wanting to work together as a team.

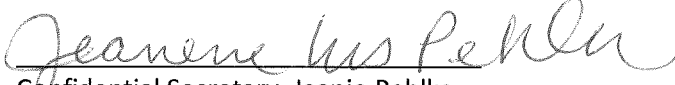
Superintendent Evaluation

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Martin declared the meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.



Chair, Bill Martin



Confidential Secretary, Jeanie Pehlke

JOE JUSTESEN LETTER 8-10-15

August 6, 2015

Dear Sherman County School Board Members,

I am writing this letter in order to convey my displeasure with the recent vote of Bill Blevins's as Head Football Coach. Mr. Blevins had agreed to become the head coach with the recognition that the three current assistant coaches do not have the flexibility of time that the commitment of head coaching requires. Mr. Blevins was willing to shoulder the role of head coach in order to insure that the students have the opportunity to field a football team and to support the program for the student-athletes; all Mr. Blevins asked in return for this additional responsibility and workload was the full support of the school board. I am very disappointed that he did not receive this. The lack of support does not just undermine Mr. Blevins as coach, but it also shows a lack of support for our kids, a choice that as both a parent and a coach, I find very upsetting.

The board's full support of Mr. Blevins as head coach seemed like an obvious choice to me as it is what is best for our kids. Having a teacher/staff member as the head coach gives the kids the stability and support they need throughout the day and at practice, with the three assistant coaches providing additional help as their jobs outside of the school allow. Mr. Blevins already has a great deal of responsibility with his duties as both principal and head basketball coach, and the idea that anyone would respond to his willingness to commit more time and energy to our kids with anything other than "Thank you!" completely astounds me. I am outraged that instead of supporting Mr. Blevins as coach, and by extension, our students as well, one of the board's members has decided to withhold support for him, and therefore, to our kids. The kids now do not have a leader because one board member has chosen to prioritize his own agenda over that which is best for them as a whole. When you activity vote against what is best for our kids, you are purposefully acting against the best interests and opportunities of the students, a choice that totally goes against what a school board member should be doing. If you are only voting for your own ego and not for what will best benefit the students, you have no place representing our community in choices that so greatly impact our kids.

The position one individual has taken on this issue is not about Mr. Blevins, is it about taking away opportunities from our kids. As head football coach, Mr. Blevins would have brought stability and a positive impact to them. To the four board members who chose to support the opportunities and experiences of our kids by supporting Mr. Blevins as coach, I thank you. To the member who is more invested in himself than the greater good, I am very disappointed, and I sincerely hope you begin thinking about what is best for our children, and not your own agenda, as the new school year begins. As board members, coaches, parents, teachers, and volunteers, we are all here to do what best benefits our kids. Let's all keep that in mind with the forthcoming choices we make and fully support our students and their opportunities this season and beyond.

Sincerely,

Joe Justesen

JIM MACNAB STATEMENT 8-10-15

I would like
~~to~~ ~~amend~~ my statement to be amended.
Re word - Football ^{+ sports} important
but Education is my top
priority. Sports are a beneficial
~~benefit~~ to our kids + community
but education has to be my
top objective objective