

**PHOENIX-TALENT SCHOOLS**  
**Regular School Board Meeting**  
Thursday, October 21, 2021  
10:00 a.m. – PHS & Virtual Google Meet

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Dawn Watson called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Other Board Members present: Vice Chair Michael Campbell, Directors Sara Crawford, Polly Farrimond, Nancy McKinnis, Rick Nagel and Rebecca Weathers. Absent: None. Also present: Aaron Santi, Toby Walker, Shawna Schleif, Curt Shenk, Kent Vallier, Randy Waite, Dave Ehrhardt, Amy Honts-Stark, Joe Zavala, Jessica Hamlin, Tiffanie Lambert, Supt. Brent Barry and Denise Skinner.

**PUBLIC MEETING  
ON DIVISION 22  
STANDARDS &  
COMPLIANCE**

- Chair Dawn Watson called the Public Meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.
- Supt. Barry said that we have a new change of date as to when the report needs to be submitted. By November 1 of each year, school district superintendents are required to report to their community on the district's status with respect to all of the Standards for Public Elementary and Secondary Schools.
- Supt. Barry shared his presentation on Division 22 Standards on Compliance for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Supt. Barry thanked Asst. Supt. Tiffanie Lambert for her help in compiling the information for the report. Phoenix-Talent Schools were in compliance with all 57 standards except those that had been waived by ODE for the school year. Those waived include the following: Assessment of Essential Skills; Kindergarten Assessment; Report on PE Data; Identification of Academically Talented and Intellectually Gifted Students; and Required Instructional Time which we received a special waiver for due to the impact of the Alameda Fire.
- Supt. Barry said that we are in good shape for the 21-22 year to be in compliance of all standards.
- At the end of the presentation, Supt. Barry asked for public comment.
- There were no comments so Chair Dawn Watson closed the public meeting at 10:10 a.m.

**ACCENTUATE THE  
POSITIVE**

- **PHS Principal Toby Walker** shared the following:
  - Mr. Walker said last week was homecoming week. The energy was amazing and our students did awesome. The activities that our leadership students and leadership advisor Lisa Robin put together did a phenomenal job rebuilding students' energy and excitement. Mr. Walker thanked the leadership students and Ms. Robin for getting the school spirit and pride back in the building.

**ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE** (cont.)

- Mr. Walker read a letter from a new student who transferred to PHS from another district. The student wrote that they had a great experience at PHS so far and has met many acquaintances and thinks the teachers are all very friendly and welcoming.
- Mr. Walker is proud of the students and staff at PHS for being so welcoming and building a community of support and relationships.
- **TMS Principal Kent Vallier** the following:
  - Mr. Vallier reported that TMS has 95 students enrolled in band and he is looking forward to the growth in high school band numbers in a few years.
  - Mr. Vallier highlighted students in the TLC program. They are participating in our exploratory classes and others. Mr. Vallier expressed his appreciation of Marina Piacentini, Garrett Cooper, and Rich Hobbins. With Marina's expertise, Rich and Garrett have done some great work with integrating classrooms and thereby including those students in Marina's class in the everyday fabric of middle school.
- **PTRA Principal Aaron Santi** shared the following:
  - Mr. Santi said the PTRA elementary students and some of the younger ODP students went to Pheasant Fields Farm on Friday. They were able to bring back a pumpkin and they had a great time.
  - Mr. Santi thanked our Communications Specialist, Joe Zavala for creating the PTRA Facebook page.
  - Mr. Santi recognized Faith Milton, K-2 teacher at PTRA. Mr. Santi observed an online kindergarten math class and Mrs. Milton did such an amazing job of interacting with those kids. Mr. Santi was so impressed and he wanted to thank her for the work that she does.
- **TES Principal Heather Lowe-Rogers** shared the following:
  - Mrs. Lowe-Rogers said that Mike DeRoest is coming to the elementary schools and teaching all of the fifth graders music.
  - TES will be hosting our first ever Trunk or Treat event at school on the 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.
  - Mrs. Lowe-Rogers recognized Kathleen Lemcke who is leading the Family Engagement Leadership team. She and her team put together the Trunk or Treat event.
  - Mrs. Lowe-Rogers recognized the new first grade teachers McKenzie Stewart and Miguel Gutierrez. Both were student teachers with us last year and they are doing great work.
- **PES Principal Shawna Schleif** shared the following:
  - Mrs. Schleif said PES has been undergoing a lot of construction and she gave a shout out to Jon McCalip and his team and the crews from Outlier. They are doing a wonderful job in completing the seismic upgrade and the remodel of the cafeteria.
  - Mrs. Schleif said they were honored to be able to eat inside the cafeteria yesterday for the first time.

**ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE** (cont.)

- PES will be celebrating with our traditional Halloween parade next Friday.
- Mrs. Schleif gave a shout out to Christy Dixon for organizing the Book Fair.
- Mrs. Schleif gave a shout out to Rogue Valley Farm to School for starting a composting program at PES that our third and fourth graders are participating in.
- Students have been able to take several field trips including a trip to see a salmon watch, and a trip to the SOU farm and the pumpkin patch.  
About 80% of students have been able to participate in a field trip so far this year.
- **OES Principal Curt Shenk** shared the following:
  - Mr. Shenk gave a shout out to Sara Engstrom. Sara was a kindergarten teacher for the past 6 or 7 years at OES. Sara has replaced Chris Dovci as the Title 1 Specialist and she has been doing a phenomenal job.
  - Next week we will have spirit week, dress up days, and a Trunk or Treat. The Trunk or Treat will be in the evening.
  - Mr. Shenk thanked Sodexo for doing a phenomenal job of serving students in the new cafeteria. They are serving great meals without restrictions and limitations.
  - Mr. Shenk said that we had a group of first graders who went on their first field trip yesterday and they had a great time. They went to the SOU farm and came back with pumpkins.
  - Mr. Shenk recognized Nick Elliott and Mario Ortiz, custodians who have done a wonderful job in keeping the building clean and sanitized. Mr. Shenk gave a special shout out to Mario for helping him take down the tent.
- **Amy Honts-Stark from Sodexo** gave thanks to the following:
  - Aaron Santi and Deni Goodwin for helping us add weekly food packs for PTRA students who are not here in person.
  - Mrs. Honts-Stark thanked Debbie Rogers for her help in getting their CACFP approval back for the after school program.
  - Mrs. Honts-Stark thanked all of the local farmers including Naumes, Fry Family Farms, and J.L. Orchards, for giving us such wonderful produce.
  - Mrs. Honts-Stark Shout gave a shout out to all staff in the kitchens. With staff shortages, they have all been eager to help where they can.
- **PHS Asst. Principal Randy Waite** shared that Opportunity Day was the first Friday in October. Opportunity Day is a time for students to be rewarded for good grades or have an opportunity to meet with teachers. We are hopeful that by having this day available every three weeks students can meet deadlines and stay on top of their work. Great feedback was received for the first one and our second one is this Friday. Mr. Waite gave a shout to Tami Ingwerson for her help in working with the students.

**ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE** (cont.)

- **PHS Asst. Principal & Athletic Director Dave Ehrhardt shared the following:**
  - Dave Ehrhardt said fall sports are winding down and we have had a fun season. We have been able to overcome some transportation challenges. Senior Nights are coming up and include last Thursday's, volleyball game; tonight is girls' soccer, next Monday is boys soccer, and next Friday is football. We are moving through the fall season.
  - Youth sports are going really well. We have about 150 students participating in the Junior Pirate program so far. We just opened up more camps including basketball and after the holidays, we will have baseball, softball, soccer and cheerleading.
  - On November 10, we have our Sportsmanship and Leadership Conference here at PHS. The entire conference, which includes the three Klamath Falls schools, two schools from the Grants Pass area and PHS, will be taking part as we address some issues that are out there nationally, around the state and our communities about respect and moving forward together in equity in sports.
- **City of Talent Mayor Darby Ayers-Flood** said the City of Talent was excited when they heard Supt. Barry had been chosen for Superintendent of the Year for the state of Oregon. Mrs. Ayers-Flood said that when they learned that he also could be considered for National Superintendent of the Year, they immediately understood what their role could be in the process. Mayor Darby Ayers-Flood read a resolution that was unanimously adopted at their City Council meeting last night. The resolution was in support of Brent Barry and acknowledged his service and many contributions to the City of Talent and its community members. The City Council offers Mr. Barry their strongest endorsement for National Superintendent of the Year.
- **Director Sara Crawford** said that the homecoming game on Friday was fantastic and super fun to see things getting back to normal.
- **Vice Chair Michael Campbell** thanked all those who organized getting community members to the game. The staff did a tremendous job.
- Board Secretary, Denise Skinner, reported that there were no citizen comments received prior to the meeting.
- Chair Dawn Watson thanked the community members who joined virtually and asked if there was anyone who would like to share a comment.
  - Jen Sousa, Zac Moody, and Lisa Jennings gave comments.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

## **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

- Supt. Barry said that the homecoming week was amazing and there was a lot of work from the students and staff that went into it. Supt. Barry commended Dave Ehrhardt for having the forethought of opening up the game to the whole community without charging a gate fee.
- Supt. Barry said that along with Division 22 standards reporting, the ESSER III report was due yesterday. Supt. Barry thanked Tiffanie Lambert and the work of the SIA team that guided the ESSER III because our strategic plan met many of the criteria. The SIA team worked hard to gather input and looked at data.
- ODE has provided some flexibility on teacher and administrative evaluations for this coming year. We are looking at what that flexibility will be and will work with our team to review the options. If we choose to utilize the flexibility, we will share that with the board when ready.
- Supt. Barry said that we have a potential buyer for the Coal Mine Road property. We had an initial discussion yesterday regarding a Letter of Intent and look forward to being able to provide something to the board at the next meeting.
- Supt. Barry said that for the JAB Meeting location, both the Phoenix and Talent community centers will not be available for use at this time due to COVID restrictions and same with the Rogue Valley Manor, so we will look at having a venue at PHS set up for the evening and will have more information next meeting.
- Supt. Barry said we are working on an MOU with the classified association to allow for greater flexibility for filling positions. More flexibility would allow us to get more applicants to fill much needed positions in our schools.
- Supt. Barry spoke about the impact of the Almeda fire and property loss and the impact on our bond levy responsibility. When we had the bond language in place in 2017 and estimated that levy rate, we have been .07 or .08 cents short of the projection since the implementation of the bond. It will have a slight increase this year but when we analyze the numbers, we are hopeful that it will continue to stay at a good rate. It is still significantly under the bond promise.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes from 10/07/21
- Personnel Report

- Chair Dawn Watson presented the Consent Agenda for review which included the following:
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Minutes of 10/07/21 Regular Board Meeting
  - Personnel Report

On motion by Vice Chair Michael Campbell, seconded by Director Sara Crawford, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

- Chair Dawn Watson and board members introduced themselves.
- The following students shared their answer to the following question: “If you were given a magic wand and money was not an issue, what would you do to improve or change PHS and why?”
  - Brianna Gaal – 10<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Jacob Hall – 10<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Ruby Rector – 11<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Ava Robinson – 10<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Courtney House – 12<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Cedahlia Gorman – 11<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Andrew Hiatt – 10<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Joseph Hiatt – 12<sup>th</sup> grade (online)

## **RECESS**

- The board took a recess to discuss the applicants who spoke.
- After the recess, Chair Dawn Watson announced that the following students were selected as Student Representatives to the board: Cedahlia Gorman, Joseph Hiatt, and Ruby Rector.
- Chair Dawn Watson asked the board who would like to be a liaison to the student representatives. After some discussion, Vice Chair Michael Campbell was selected for the liaison role.

## **BOARD GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- Chair Dawn Watson referred to the Guiding Principles draft that was in their packets and asked for comments.
- On motion by Vice Chair Michael Campbell, seconded by Director Polly Farrimond, to approve the changes to Board Guiding Principles as presented, was approved as per the following vote:

Ayes: McKinnis, Weathers, Campbell, Crawford, Nagel, Farrimond, Watson  
Noes: None  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None

## **FACILITIES/BOND UPDATE**

- Supt. Barry said we are reaching the end of the renovation of PHS and will offer the board a tour after the meeting if they like. PES will be finishing up as well and the kitchen should be completed in the next week or so. The PHS building was built at \$340 sq. ft. and projects now of this magnitude are looking at \$600-\$700 sq. ft. Our timing was impeccable and the voters can be proud that their money was spent well and every dollar was maximized.
- Supt. Barry said we were able to utilize some funds that we spent on some Sodexo and kitchen supplies that we purchased out of bond. In our partnership with Sodexo, we were able to use some of that funding from Sodexo so those expenditures went back into the bond fund for unallocated contingencies.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

- Supt. Barry said the audit is next week. Yazmin Karabinas and her team in the business department is working hard to gather all of the information to be able to present to the auditors. There was a number of funding opportunities to take advantage of for summer school so they have been extremely busy.

## LEGISLATIVE / OSBA UPDATE

- Chair Dawn Watson said that the Southern Region OSBA Fall Listening Session was changed to a zoom meeting that will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 28, 2021.
- Chair Dawn Watson attended a Board Café meeting for board members in Oregon. There were about 20 who participated in the meeting. They all shared ideas and talked about what was going on in their districts.
- Director Crawford attended Pam Marsh's manufactured housing forum last night and it was fantastic. There were many great agencies in the meeting and her goal is to centralize all of the information. ACCESS will be the point of contact for those Alameda fire survivors who are looking to purchase a manufactured home. There is a lot money and opportunities for home ownership back in the parks.
- Chair Dawn Watson said there should be a story coming out soon on ADM and why it is important to the districts that were impacted. The legislators know how vital it is to our students and families.

## ALMEDA FIRE UPDATE

- Supt. Barry said ACCESS is an amazing organization and they would be a major resource in the Gateway Project for families that transition into that space and then to permanent housing. The state of Oregon is committed to funding this project.
- Vice Chair Michael Campbell talked about a ribbon-cutting event on October 30 at 11 a.m. for the Gateway Project. Knowing that we are actually having families move in is rewarding and incredible. Vice Chair Campbell is thankful for the City and the Talent Urban Renewal Agency for helping make that a possibility.
- Supt. Barry recognized Tracy Koa who is our Student and Family Engagement Liaison for helping families complete the applications and get them to Rogue Retreat.

## INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER REPORT

- Supt. Barry referred to the Interdistrict Transfer Report and explained that the incoming transfers were unusually high but most of them were from existing students who had been displaced by the fire. The outgoing transfers were almost identical to last year's numbers and those transfers mostly had to do with childcare.

**PTRA MASCOT**

- Supt. Barry said that Aaron Santi of PTRA had previously mentioned this but we wanted to get the blessing of the board to have the new PTRA mascot be the Phoenix. The design is currently being worked on now by the students.

**COAL MINE ROAD PROPERTY**

- Supt. Barry said that as previously mentioned we have a potential buyer and that discussions are ongoing. We hope to have more information at the next meeting as a possible action item.

**OSBA BOARD POLICY REWRITE**

- Chair Dawn Watson said that we have received sections A-G, which is the first half and there are about 350 policies. About 90 of those are recommended for deletion. Chair Watson proposed reviewing them section by section.
- Supt. Barry said that we have policies that have not been updated for 10-20+ years. This rewrite will clean up all of our policies so that going forward we will just need to do the quarterly updates.
- The board will review a section at a time and have that section for information and discussion and then at the next board meeting, the policies would be included in the consent agenda.

**REVIEW OF NEXT MEETING**

- Chair Dawn Watson said the draft agenda for the board meeting on Thursday, November 4, 2021 is in their blue folders.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

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Brent Barry, Clerk of the Board

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Dawn Watson, Board Chair

Recording Secretary: Denise Skinner  
Board Secretary/Executive Assistant