

## **PHOENIX-TALENT SCHOOLS**

### **Regular School Board Meeting**

Thursday, March 4, 2021

6:00 p.m. – Virtual Google Meet

### **MINUTES**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Dawn Watson called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. Other Board Members present: Vice Chair Michael Campbell, Directors Rick Nagel, Nancy McKinnis, and Sara Crawford. Absent: None. Also present: Aaron Santi, Toby Walker, Dave Ehrhardt, Kent Vallier, Heather Lowe-Rogers, Shawna Schleif, Curt Shenk, Kylee Linnell, Bryan Flores, Estefania Ortiz, Amy Honts-Stark, Lisa Rullman, Tiffanie Lambert, Javier del Rio, Jake Patoski, Supt. Brent Barry and Denise Skinner.

#### **ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE**

- **TES Principal Heather Lowe-Rogers** is happy to be celebrating Classified Appreciation Week. All classified employees are the backbone of the school and they are appreciated very much. Our Oregon Battle of the Book (OBOB) competition is next week and we have about 25 kiddos participating. Mrs. Heather Lowe-Rogers sends her appreciation to the Elementary PLC leaders. We have been working to fine tune progress reports, which is new to us at the elementary level. Mrs. Heather Lowe-Rogers gave a shout out to Asst. Supt. Tiffanie Lambert for organizing a book study on inclusion.
- **PES Principal Shawna Schleif** said we have had a wonderful week celebrating, honoring, and appreciating the classified employees. We have been celebrating Literacy Week at PES with dress-up days each day, and Mrs. Schleif gave a big thanks to Christi Dixon for organizing this fun event. Mrs. Schleif gave a shout out to the teachers who have volunteered to be on a curriculum adoption committee. There is a committee for Science curriculum and one for English Language Arts.
- **PHS Principal Toby Walker** said that the pirate ship would sink without the classified staff. Mr. Walker is grateful for the work that they do and for being so flexible and doing it all with a smile on their face. Mr. Walker is also grateful for Dave Ehrhardt for his work in getting the extracurricular activities started at PHS. It is so awesome to see kids engaged in school and at a different level. Mr. Walker also recognized Nurse Carrie McDonald for her guidance and support.
- **OES Principal Curt Shenk** gave a huge shout out to the OES classified staff. They are incredibly professional, dedicated group of individuals to our students, and have demonstrated incredible flexibility this year. As superintendent Barry said, "They are the Glue that holds us together" and they make our schools wonderful places for our students. Mr. Shenk extended a note of appreciation to the First Student bus drivers for all they have done to get our students to and from school. It has been a challenging year to say the least and Jonel and her crew deserve a sincere thank you for their persistence, flexibility, and the many modifications they have done to routes!

**ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE** (cont.)

- **TMS Principal Aaron Santi** said that TMS has 21 professionals that do everything from custodial work to clerical and office work, a media manager, instructional assistants, and more. They all do so much work for us that allows us to move forward so that our teachers can engage with kids. This week we have Rogue Valley Mentors in the building. They are one of our partners that work with our students each year. They will be meeting with all sixth grade classes this week and next week working with students on community building circles and on bullying prevention. This weekend is flag football and the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade teams will all be playing. We are looking forward to having all of our bulldogs out on the field. We have track and cross-country coming up so there will be more to share later.
- **Amy Honts-Stark** gave a shout out to the custodians and all of the other classified staff. We could not do all that we have been doing these past few months without their help and support.
- **Director Sara Crawford** gave a shout out to the Fire Relief Fund Committee members for all the work they have done. Mrs. Crawford also thanked former Supt. Teresa Sayer and Board member Nancy McKinnis for their work on a YouTube video, which talked about the fire relief fund, and was produced in both Spanish and English.
- **Vice Chair Michael Campbell** gave a huge shout out to all of the classified staff for all that they do from the office managers to custodians as they are all appreciated. Mr. Campbell said the board had an opportunity to see the new turf field this evening and what a tremendous gift it is to our community. Great job to all involved in that, especially Dave Ehrhardt for his efforts in bringing it all together, and to the board for their support and our vendors and partners who also helped make it happen.
- **Dave Ehrhardt** said that they just played their first home game in a year. The girls just played on the soccer fields at Colver Field. Last night we were in Klamath Falls for volleyball and soccer. After a long wait, it is good to be back. Tomorrow night is our first home football game, Saturday we will play flag football here and then we have soccer, volleyball and then another soccer game at night. We are excited to be back and we appreciate all the efforts of those who have helped us get here.
- **Estefania Ortiz** said that she just came from her soccer game, which was the first game of the season. Although we lost, it felt great to be on the field but it felt weird not being able to hi-five the other team. Leadership has a lot going on right now. We are having a homecoming week without the homecoming so we are having Spirit Days. Tomorrow we will have all students and advisory vote for the homecoming court. We are also providing snacks for classified staff as we appreciate all that they do for us.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVE  
REPORT** (cont.)

- **Bryan Flores** said this week has been exciting and we are looking forward to having spirit days next week. We have picture day coming up along with a Senior Toga Run. The band is excited now that sports have started. We are waiting to find out when we can perform because after a year now, we are finally going to be able to play for an audience.
- **Kylee Linnell** said she played volleyball last night. It was such a fun game just to be there even though we lost. It was better to lose than not play at all. This has been a good week overall and we are looking forward to Spirit Week and Senior Toga Run. The Spanish class is taking their Biliteracy test, which we did not know we would be able to do.

**CITIZEN  
COMMENTS**

- Chair Dawn Watson said we had received an email from Ryan Lees with a question regarding students attending full time and in person. Mr. Lees email will become part of the approved minutes.

**SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT**

- Supt. Barry said it is amazing that we can actually have a Toga run this year and the seniors will establish their new route in this new building.
- Supt. Barry said he has appreciation for the classified staff this year more than ever. As Vice Chair Campbell spoke to, last March our classified staff were out delivering technology. Putting hot spots in the hands of students, placing routers around town so students could access their distance learning, delivering food, and a number of things outside of their normal duties. After the fires, they were out in the community doing what was necessary to help our students and families. As we navigate through this year, their flexibility in the ever-changing flow of the waters has been amazing.
- Supt. Barry thanked Asst. Supt.'s, Javier del Rio and Tiffanie Lambert. We have so many things going on which are under their umbrella of responsibilities. Their leadership is appreciated for the staff that they direct in the District Office, and how they support our schools. They do tireless work, which puts us in a good position moving forward in our District.
- Supt Barry said we had a community member, Carolyn Bartell, who passed away earlier in the week. Carolyn was a tremendous supporter of our schools and really was a Phoenix Pirate. Carolyn reinvigorated the home coming parade, which is a big community event. She has been a huge supporter in many ways and we will really miss her.

**PROGRAM  
REPORT – CSA  
PLANNING**

- Chair Dawn Watson introduced Jay Harland with CSA who will talk about our Urban Growth Plan (UGP).
- Jay Harland updated the Board on the Colver Field UGB Amendment. The technical work is substantially complete and the proposal does not include the surplus land, which may be considered for temporary housing. It is a possibility that the city and county staff will take 5-6 months for the initial review regardless of any other actions. After staff review, City/County Planning Commissions will then review. Mr. Harland said that the draft UGB document is almost complete and District staff should have it for review Friday, March 5. Barring any major revisions, the Concept Plan can be submitted immediately to the City/Council, followed shortly thereafter by the UGB Amendment Application.

**CONSENT  
AGENDA**

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes from 2/18/21
- Personnel Report

- Chair Dawn Watson presented the Consent Agenda for review which included the following:
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes from 2/18/2021
- Personnel Report

**EMPLOYMENT**

**Aaron Chapman**, as Temporary 7 Hour Instructional Assistant at Phoenix High School, effective February 26, 2021 through June 17, 2021. This is a new position.

**Allegra Guevara**, as 7 Hour Special Education Instructional Assistant at Talent Middle School, effective March 8, 2021. Ms. Guevara replaces Opal McGowan.

**COACH/EXTRA DUTY**

**Devin Rodman**, as Assistant Track Coach at Talent Middle School.

**TRANSFER**

**Frank Avila**, from Evening Custodian at Phoenix Elementary School to Day Custodian at Phoenix High School, effective March 22, 2021.

**Mark Gardner**, from Evening Custodian to Day Custodian at Phoenix High School, effective March 1, 2021.

**RESIGNATION**

**Hillary Emerson**, as Agriculture Teacher at Phoenix High School, effective June 30, 2021. Ms. Emerson will have served the District for seven years.

**RETIREMENT**

**Carolyn White**, as .50 FTE TOSA for Phoenix-Talent Schools, effective June 24, 2021. Ms. White will have served the District for twenty-five years.

On motion by Director Sara Crawford, seconded by Director Nancy McKinnis, to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

**SUPERINTENDENT  
EVALUATION  
SUMMARY**

- Chair Dawn Watson read the summary she prepared for Supt. Barry's evaluation given at the Executive meeting held on February 18.

Mr. Barry received a score of 476 out of a possible 480, which is 99%. Chair Watson included the following comments from Board members in her summary:

**Sara Crawford:** Brent is an exceptional superintendent leading by example. Brent goes beyond expectations and has handled a challenging year with calm, clarity, compassion and courage. Brent is an example for others to follow.

**Rick Nagel:** Brent has performed well handling regular school duties coupled with other difficult issues such as COVID, historic fires, bond issue matters, school construction, Zoom meetings and more. Brent's attitude and composure throughout has remained positive and upbeat.

**Dawn Watson:** This year was by far the hardest year for our District with so many unexpected challenges. Brent learned more things this year than anyone could have ever imagined. Brent is an outstanding person with a heart of gold. He is constantly thinking about what is best for our students, staff and community.

**Michael Campbell:** The SIA process offers a great example of Brent's visionary leadership and ability to foster a culture that values input from multiple voices. His work supporting the District's diversity, equity, and inclusion practices and bringing forward the equity policy for the passage of the board is indicative of Brent's ability to execute on important initiatives. He has rightfully earned the trust and respect of the board, staff and the community.

**Nancy McKinnis:** As a parent who has children in the District, I am grateful for his willingness to shift, pivot, and respond to anything sent in his direction. With everything that happened this past year, Brent has done everything with grace, in the way that he moves and continues to empower his staff.

- On motion by Director Nagel, seconded by Director Sara Crawford, to approve the Superintendent evaluation summary prepared by Chair Watson as presented, was approved as per the following vote:

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

**TEACHER &  
ADMINISTRATOR  
CONTRACT  
RENEWALS**

- Chair Dawn Watson asked Supt. Barry for comment.
- Supt. Barry referred to the contract licensed staff renewals for 2021-22 that were in the board's blue folders and said the list is the final document for the board to approve. Renewal notices are required to be sent out by March 15.

**TEACHER &  
ADMINISTRATOR  
CONTRACT  
RENEWALS** (cont.)

- On motion by Chair Dawn Watson, seconded by Director Rick Nagel, to approve the Teacher & Administrator Contract Renewals as presented, was approved as per the following vote:

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

**RESOLUTION  
20-13 –  
CONSTRUCTION  
EXCISE TAX  
EXEMPTION**

- Supt. Barry recommends that the Board consider exempting Construction Excise Tax (CET) for any residential and commercial structures that will be rebuilt due to the Alameda fires on 9/8/2020. Resolution 20-13 outlines the specifics regarding building on a pre-existing site with equivalent square footage and a timeline.
- Supt. Barry explained that this is not revenue that was expected anyway as these were existing homes. The tax is for new construction and we feel that a rebuild due to the fire should not be considered new construction.
- Director Sara Crawford voted to suspend the rules and move Resolution 20-13 to action item #3. Director Nagel seconded the move.
- On motion by Director Sara Crawford, seconded by Vice Chair Michael Campbell, to approve Resolution 20-13 as presented with a valid through date of June 30, 2023, was approved as per the following vote:

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

**RECESS**

- 6:50 – 7:00

**LEGISLATIVE/  
FINANCIAL  
UPDATE**

- Chair Dawn Watson asked if there were any updates.
- Supt. Barry said we have meetings with the legislators every two weeks for local Supt's and our local legislature. The meetings have been very informative and it opens the lines of communication if there are bills that would affect schools.
- Director Sara Crawford said she recently learned about HB2942 and she wanted to see if the other board members were aware of the bills content. HB2942, if approved, would remove certain nonviolent crimes from a list of crimes that automatically make a person ineligible to hold a license or registration issued by the TSPC if a person has been convicted of those crimes.

**LEGISLATIVE/  
FINANCIAL  
UPDATE** (cont.)

- Director Crawford is concerned about some of those crimes that they are wanting to remove from the list.
- Supt. Barry said that this bill had been discussed at length on our first call with the legislators and they will be modifying the language. This board and our District believe that our kids are our most precious asset and we need to make sure that we protect that precious asset by putting people with them that we desire.
- Supt. Barry said there are about 37 bills between the house and the senate that have to do with education. Supt. Barry will keep the board updated on those that will be an impact.

**FACILITIES/BOND  
UPDATE**

- Supt. Barry said that Jon McCalip gave a review at the last meeting and not much else is new. The tear down and the remodel of the old high school is going well.

**ALMEDA FIRE  
UPDATE**

- Vice Chair Michael Campbell said that the application for Colver Road has not yet been submitted to the county. Tom Humphrey is still working some things out with FEMA. Colver Road is still a contingency plan as the existing mobile home parks are a priority at this point. FEMA is negotiating with the owners of the private mobile home parks so there is a lot that still has to happen.
- Asst. Supt. Javier del Rio updated the board on the Fire Relief Fund. We have had total donations of \$2,066,850. We have distributed all funds except for \$845,774 and we are about to send out \$828,750. That amount is approximately \$1,650 per family plus \$100 per child that lives in the household under the age of 21. We are ready to print the checks and mail out to the families.

**APPROVE GRAD  
NIGHT AS A  
SCHOOL  
FUNCTION**

- Chair Dawn Watson said that the board would consider Grad Night as a District sponsored event for insurance purposes and it will be an action item at the next meeting.
- Supt. Barry said that the Grad Night Committee is still working hard on finalizing the event. At this time, the party is still planned to be held at the Family Fun Center unless COVID restrictions deem otherwise.

**REVIEW  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
TEAM SALARIES**

- Chair Dawn Watson said that per Board Annual Agenda Items, administrative team salaries are to be reviewed in March.
- Supt. Barry suggested that it would be more appropriate to review them in May so that there is time to research comparability information and then we will share information with the board on recommendations when information is gathered. COSA and OSBA did a joint review this year of the salaries and that data is not yet available.
- Chair Watson suggested reviewing the Admin salaries after the licensed staff has completed negotiations.

**REVIEW OF NEXT  
MEETING**

- Chair Dawn Watson reviewed the draft agenda for the board meeting on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at PHS & via Google Meet at 6:00 p.m.
  - Approve Grad Night as a School Function
  - Legislative/Financial Update
  - Facilities/Bond Update
  - Alameda Fire Update
  - JAB Meeting
  - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
  - 2021-2022 Academic Calendar
  - 2021-2022 School Board Meeting Calendar

**ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 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

**CITIZEN COMMENT RECEIVED 3-3-21**

**AT 3:18 PM VIA EMAIL TO BOARD SECRETARY**

Hello. My name is Ryan Lees, parent of two children attending schools in the Phoenix/Talent School District.

According the Governor of Oregon, the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority each school district in Oregon can conduct full time, in person schooling as/if they see fit on a local basis.

It is understood that each of the previous mentioned authorities have guidelines for reopening during the time of the current virus crisis but they are not enforced restrictions.

My question is simply put, if no leading government authority local, state or federal, is lawfully restricting full time in person learning and/or withholding funding due to incompliance then why are the children not attending full time in person with masks on if need be? Or possibly outside some if need be?

Thank You for Your Consideration,

Ryan Lees      Phone: 541-951-4947