

## **PHOENIX-TALENT SCHOOLS**

### **Regular School Board Meeting**

Thursday, April 8, 2021

6:00 p.m. – Virtual Google Meet

### **MINUTES**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Dawn Watson called the meeting to order at 6:05 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, Kent Vallier, Heather Lowe-Rogers, Shawna Schleif, Curt Shenk, 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**

- **TMS Principal Aaron Santi** said our return to full in-person learning is next week on the 13th. We are anticipating 80% of our students will be attending in person. Our spring conferences will be held virtually, on Monday the 19th. The application period will be opened next week for those students interested in the Outdoor Discovery Program and the School Design and Innovation.
- **OES Principal Curt Shenk** recognized the Blue Print team for their phenomenal job in getting us ready for in person learning. Mr. Shenk gave a note of appreciation to Rhonda Scoggins, who is a fifth grade teacher; she has the largest group of students which required us to move her classroom yesterday. It was strenuous and a lot of work and she and other staff worked hard to get the move done. Mr. Shenk thanked the entire staff yesterday for their work in getting classrooms ready; they were very supportive and helped each other out. Mr. Shenk recognized Bonnie Swanberg who has been at OES for 35 years. Twenty-seven of those as a teacher and the last eight years as an instructional assistant. Tomorrow will be her last day and she has served the district incredibly well and will be missed.
- **TES Principal Heather Lowe-Rogers** said we are excited about parent teacher conferences coming up. Mrs. Lowe-Rogers is very grateful for staff and their collaboration to get things done. Our business partners Sodexo, First Student, and Talent Boys & Girls Club have also helped to make this happen. As you know, Hoover Elementary adopted us as their Buddy School. They split their annual fundraiser with us and their PTO delivered a check last week for over \$6,200. TES is excited that we are going to host a new Sparrow this spring named Apollo.
- **PHS Principal Toby Walker** said we have 14 students who have earned the Biliiteracy Seal so far this year. Mr. Walker gave a shout out to Celine Farrimond who is working with our higher level Spanish speaking students who have been coming in on Wednesdays to take retake assessments in order to pass the test. Our record has been 10 so we are excited to see that 14 have taken and passed the test.

**ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE** (cont.)

Mr. Walker said that we have several seniors who have been selected by the Ford Foundation to participate in the interview process for a large scholarship. Those students are Kaia Eikenberry, Yareli Ledezma, and Student Representative Kylee Linnell. We are starting to get prepared for the eighth graders and we will have an eighth grade virtual parent meeting next Thursday to talk about classes and registration. After the meeting with parents, we will have staff go to TMS and help eighth grade students register for high school classes. We are looking to bring those students on campus in May so that they can see their new school and so that we can get them engaged in clubs and activities.

- **PES Principal Shawna Schleif** said that spring expansion is going really well because of the amazing teamwork here at PES. Our staff has gone above and beyond to help us transition to what feels like our fourth September of the year. Mrs. Schleif recognized two heroes of the week and the first is Christi Dixon, our Librarian and Greeter. Christi greets kids every day with a smile, peppers them with lots of screening questions, and is the epitome of flexibility, always willing to serve wherever is needed. Secondly, PES has our own resident video expert in Christian Nava. As we have transitioned into new procedures with lunches and recesses, Christian has made the most amazing and entertaining training videos by using our own students in the videos. Mrs. Schleif thanked Heather Rogers-Lowe and her team for creating an amazing Talent show. They did such a great job, we will be stealing the idea and calling ours Spring Showcase and will be presenting it later this month.
- **Amy Honts-Stark** thanked Rogue Valley Farm to School for their help in sourcing local spinach from Wondering Roots in time for Earth Day on April 22. Mrs. Honts-Stark thanked all of the admin as we navigate through all of the changes in preparation of in person learning again. Mrs. Honts-Stark recognized Delena Irvin, the new lead at OES, Brittney Rozzell at TES and Janell Hull at PHS for all receiving 100% on their health inspections.
- **Tiffanie Lambert** said they just had a very successful PTVA Open House and received great feedback. Mrs. Lambert thanked PTVA teachers Faith Milton, Sam Glickel, Laura Latham, Heather Ayers-Flood and assistants Deni Goodwin and Celia Parra. Mrs. Lambert also thanked Student Manager Christie Sanders for helping with transportation issues and making sure that our students were able to come to school.
- **Vice Chair Michael Campbell** is continually amazed at our Districts ability to respond to challenging circumstances in such an incredible way.
- **Director Nancy McKinnis** thanked PTS to allow us to work collaboratively with Jake Patoski to work with the vaccine effort, especially with our Latinx community.

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVE  
REPORT**

- **Bryan Flores** said that we are finishing up third quarter and for seniors, it will be our last quarter coming up. Students are getting excited for the year to almost be over. The Band will be playing at the football game tomorrow and we are all so excited for that.
- **Estefania Ortiz** said that the last quarter is coming up and the year is coming to an end. It is a little stressful with scholarships and grades, but it is also exciting to be in this process. Leadership is giving out thank you cards along with a note to a lot of people who helped after the Alameda fire. The boys' soccer Varsity team is warming up for the semi-finals right now and we are hopeful that they will go on to state. It is exciting to be able to go to the football game tomorrow and cheer our team on. Talent Elementary has a new Sparrow and we are excited that we will be able to use all of our volunteer hours that we have for this year for him.

**CITIZEN  
COMMENTS**

- Chair Dawn Watson said there were no comments received prior to the meeting.

**SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT**

- Supt. Barry is grateful for the amazing things we are hearing from the team and the mentioning of so many of our community partners. Supt. Barry appreciates the staff for their networking and continuing to support our kids and families.
- Supt. Barry shared about a story in the Mail Tribune about local photographers who are donating their time to take photos of students for their senior pictures. Christie Sanders and other staff members were a part of that.
- Supt. Barry referred to a few documents that were in the blue folders. Phoenix Varsity Volleyball was nominated for the OSAA Sportsmanship Award for their positive sportsmanship on the court.
- Supt. Barry shared an email from Greg Roe, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of the Rogue Valley. Mr. Roe thanked Heather Lowe-Rogers, Cheryl Joseph, and the wonderful team at Talent Elementary School for their help in identifying needs of families who were affected by the Alameda fires. To date, they have given a total of \$36,641.86.
- Supt. Barry thanked the entire staff including custodial and maintenance for all of their efforts in pivoting once again for full in person learning next week. This will be our fourth, first day of school this year and it is always the most stressful the week before starting.

**SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT** (cont.)

- There has been talk about standardized assessments this year and Oregon will implement a scaled back version of the statewide testing and parents can choose to opt-out.
- Supt. Barry thanked the curriculum adoption team for spending their Wednesday's reviewing and testing new Science curriculum. They have been looking at ways in how to score the curriculum with a DEI focus. Our team wants a more diverse curriculum that is culturally responsive and represents our population. Some of the funding will come from the SIA.
- Supt. Barry said that we had our initial session with licensed staff yesterday for Interest Based Bargaining. We bring interests rather than positions to the table and work together to try and find solutions. It was a positive meeting and we are looking forward to continuing the process.

**CONSENT  
AGENDA**

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes from 3/4/21
- Personnel Report
- Chair Dawn Watson presented the Consent Agenda for review which included the following:
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Minutes from 3/4/2021
  - Personnel Report

**EMPLOYMENT**

**Jakkie Balmain**, as Temporary 6 Hour Instructional Assistant at Orchard Hill Elementary School, effective April 5, 2021 through June 16, 2021. This is a new position.

**Leonore Bugarin**, as Special Education Teacher at Talent Elementary School, effective August 2021. Ms. Bugarin is replacing Ana Palaniuk.

**Todd Hansen**, as Evening Custodian at Phoenix Elementary School, effective April 6, 2021. Mr. Hansen replaces Frank Avila.

**Daisy Meraz**, as Temporary 7 Hour Special Education Instructional Assistant at Phoenix High School, effective March 5, 2021 through March 17, 2021. This is a new position.

**Tatiana Ramos-Gallardo**, as Speech Language Pathologist at Phoenix Elementary School, effective August 2021. Ms. Ramos-Gallardo is filling a previously contracted position.

**COACH/EXTRA DUTY**

**Stephanie Hayes**, as My Future, My Choice Advisor at Talent Middle School.

**ADDITIONAL HOURS**

**Gloria Westfall**, from 4 Hour to 8 Hour Bilingual Instructional Assistant at Phoenix High School, effective March 29, 2021. Ms. Westfall is replacing Bill Macias.

- Personnel Report (cont.)

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE RESCISSION REQUEST**

**Britney Villa**, as Student Services Clerk at Talent Middle School, effective April 12, 2021.

**RESIGNATION**

**Jim Janousek**, as Culinary Arts Teacher at Phoenix High School, effective June 30, 2021.

**Ashley Quay**, as Child Development Specialist at Talent Elementary School, effective June 17, 2021.

**Bonnie Swanberg**, as 4 Hour Instructional Assistant at Orchard Hill Elementary School, effective April 9, 2021.

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

**APPROVE GRAD NIGHT AS A SCHOOL FUNCTION**

- Chair Dawn Watson proposed that we table this action item and move it to our next meeting.
- Supt. Barry said that if the Board approves this, they would have to follow the RSSL (Ready Schools Safe Learners) and at this time, there is no overnight events allowed. The Grad Night Committee is looking at how they can insure themselves without having the board sanction the event.

**LICENSED MOU FOR SUMMER SCHOOL STAFF**

- Supt. Barry said we have an opportunity to expand summer school this year through the state of Oregon's extra funding. We hope to offer a more comprehensive summer school this year (depending on the staffing) and think it is only fair to compensate staff at their current hourly wage and propose that the Board adopt the MOU.
- On motion by Vice Chair Michael Campbell, seconded by Director Nancy McKinnis, to approve the MOU for Summer School for Licensed Staff as presented, was approved as per the following vote:

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

**MOU FOR ASST. SUPERINTENDENTS**

- Supt. Barry said that due to COVID and the Alameda fires, taking vacation time has been near impossible and rather than lose the time, the MOU would allow payment of unused hours for this year.

**MOU FOR ASST.  
SUPERINTENDENTS**  
(cont.)

- Vice Chair Michael Campbell motioned to suspend the rules and to move the MOU to an action item. Director Nancy McKinnis seconded the motion.
- On motion by Vice Chair Michael Campbell and seconded by Director Nancy McKinnis to approve the MOU as presented.

An opposition vote was taken and there was none so the motion passed.

**COAL MINE ROAD  
RESOLUTION 20-14**

- Supt. Barry said during this evening's Executive Session, the board met with legal counsel Thad Pauck and discussed an offer from D.R. Horton LLC. for the purchase of the district's 10.49 acres of vacant land on Coal Mine Road. Mr. Pauck felt it was a fair offer and Supt. Barry said that the buyer would prefer an answer as soon as possible.
- On motion by Vice Chair Michael Campbell to suspend the rules and move Resolution 20-14, to an action item. The motion was seconded by Director Rick Nagel.

An opposition vote was taken and there was none so the motion passed.

- On motion by Director Nagel, seconded by Vice Chair Michael Campbell, to adopt Resolution 20-14 as presented, authorizing the District to sell the Coal Mine Road property to D.R. Horton, LLC and to authorize Brent Barry as Superintendent to complete the sale, and was approved as per the following vote:

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

**RECESS**

- None

**FACILITIES/BOND  
UPDATE**

- Jon McCalip gave an update to the Board on current construction and remodel of PHS; maintenance staff have been busy assembling large tents for in person learning at each school; Mr. McCalip anticipates getting the results of the TES & TMS & seismic grants within the next month; and Mr. McCalip presented a facilities update on projects that are planned for this summer as well as a five-year plan.
- Supt. Barry said that HMK provided a Board Report for February, which is in their blue folders.
- Supt. Barry said that we just received a Facilities Grant, which allowed us to apply for a percentage of our project. We applied for the high

school grant and received a check for \$315,000 to go back into the bond fund to continue with our project.

- Jon McCalip thanked HMK for suggesting to apply for the grant and they prepared the application for us as well.

### LEGISLATIVE/ FINANCIAL UPDATE

- Chair Dawn Watson asked if there were any updates.
- Asst. Supt. Javier del Rio said that he would have a financial report at the end of the month. We are waiting to hear what the state school fund will be and we are also waiting for the legislature to pass a bill that will allow three school districts in Oregon to be held harmless for their ADMw due to the fires, which would allow us to be in a good financial position over the next five years.

Mr. del Rio said he has been working with FEMA for reimbursements for expenses related to the fires and COVID which should be approximately \$250,000.

Mr. del Rio updated the Board on the distribution of the Fire Relief Funds, the remaining balance and working with United Way to help us distribute the remaining funds.

- Supt. Barry said that Ameresco has given a \$5,000 commitment to go to the Scholarship fund to help those students affected by the fires. Supt. Barry complimented Javier, Yazmin Karabinas and the staff for all of their work as we will be receiving a lot of additional funds that the finance team has to navigate through and keep track of.
- Chair Dawn Watson briefed the board on various legislative topics including: OSBA Summer Virtual Conferences in July; PACE Day on April 15; the state education budget; Senate Bill 334 which is on mandatory Board training; Senate Bill 580 which deals with class size and caseload limits; and House Bill 2942 regarding criminal convictions.
- Vice Chair Michael Campbell gave an update on the use of Colver Road for emergency housing under FEMA as a contingent site. There have been some setbacks with FEMA's priority sites, which has increased the likelihood of the Colver Road property being used. Senators Wyden and Merkley are involved so we remain hopeful for other options. FEMA needs to work in their timeframe so we are exchanging lease information and dialing in language in the event this moves forward.
- Supt. Barry said that we received a lease document today that we passed on to our attorney for review. Potentially at the next meeting, we will have a lease agreement with FEMA for the Board to review and consider.
- Vice Chair Campbell said that what is under consideration now is a plan for 50 units, which is a much smaller scale than what was originally discussed for 130 units.

### ALMEDA FIRE UPDATE

**ACADEMIC  
CALENDARS 2020-  
2021 & 2021-2022**

- Supt. Barry said for the 20-21 calendar, we are requesting a final revision. There are no senior projects this year, so June 11 now shows as a regular school day for all schools; the 15<sup>th</sup> is now shown as the final day of school and the 16<sup>th</sup> is now an additional teacher in service day.
- The 21-22 calendar is largely unchanged but have some minor adjustments. The inservice day prior to winter break was eliminated; we are aligning K-12 to a quarter system; in keeping our goal to have consistent K-12 inservice days, elementary will now be included in the January 28 inservice; April Parent-Teacher conferences will be moved to February.

**SCHOOL BOARD  
MEETING  
CALENDAR 2021-  
2022**

- Chair Dawn Watson asked if there were any comments, as the calendar is very similar to this year's calendar.
- Director Sara Crawford suggested moving June 1 to Thursday, June 2 since the Wednesday is no longer needed.

**BOARD POLICY  
GCD**

- Supt. Barry explained that in order to be competitive and align our hiring practices with other Districts, we are requesting the Board delete policy GCD. This will allow more flexibility when determining the salary of a highly qualified candidate as a new licensed employee. This will be an action item at the next board meeting.

**JAB MEETING**

- Chair Dawn Watson said that during the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting the board discussed postponing the JAB meeting to spring and asked if anyone had comments.
- After much discussion it was agreed to forgo the JAB meeting for this year and table it to this fall when it is normally scheduled.

**EQUITY,  
DIVERSITY, &  
INCLUSION**

- Supt. Barry said that we have included DEI questions into our interviews and it has been amazing to hear the feedback;
- Clint Rodreick who leads our DEI committee has been working on the importance of pronouncing names correctly;
- Chair Dawn Watson said that she would like to add DEI language in our contracts with SODEXO, First Student, and others;
- Director Nancy McKinnis requests that the District hire a live interpreter for the graduation ceremony and that the programs be translated into Spanish so that families can feel fully engaged in the graduation ceremony;
- Vice Chair Michael Campbell said that he wants to understand how our students are doing by representation of our populations;

- Chair Dawn Watson suggested board members attend SIA meetings as Tiffanie Lambert shares a lot of that data.

**REVIEW OF NEXT MEETING**

- Chair Dawn Watson reviewed the draft agenda for the board meeting on Thursday, April 22, 2021 at PHS & via Google Meet at 6:00 p.m.
  - Program Report from ATI
  - 20-21 & 21-2022 Academic Calendars
  - 2021-2022 School Board Meeting Calendar
  - Board Policy GCD (Delete)
  - Facilities/Bond Update
  - Legislative/Financial Update
  - Alameda Fire Update
  - Equity Diversity & Inclusion

**ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 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