

PHOENIX-TALENT SCHOOLS
Regular School Board Meeting
Thursday, January 13, 2022
6:00 p.m. – PHS & Virtual Google Meet

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dawn Watson called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Other Board Members present: Vice Chair Michael Campbell, Directors Sara Crawford, Polly Farrimond (virtual), Nancy McKinnis, Rick Nagel and Rebecca Weathers. Absent: Student Representative Joseph Hiatt. Also present: Aaron Santi, Toby Walker, Shawna Schleif, Curt Shenk, Heather Lowe-Rogers, Kent Vallier, Randy Waite, Amy Honts-Stark, Jon McCalip, Joe Zavala, Yazmin Karabinas, Jessica Hamlin, Tiffanie Lambert, Supt. Brent Barry and Denise Skinner.

ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE

- **TMS Principal Kent Vallier** said that in honor of Board appreciation month, he and all of his staff appreciate the board for their time, effort, energy, patience, and understanding in all that they do as Board members.
- Mr. Vallier shared the results and data of their recent parent survey:
 - Seventy-five percent of our parents say their kids feel safe at school while about twenty percent of parents report their child only feels "slightly" safe. Our coming student survey will more deeply investigate these data and attempt to determine if it is an emotional or physical safety for the kids. While we are happy that the vast majority of our students feel safe, we want EVERY child to feel safe in school and to be in a learning, safe and secure environment.
 - As we all know, adolescents need social connections and strong relationships in order to thrive in middle school. Fifty-three percent of our students (as reported by parents) are only "slightly" comfortable asking for help from an adult at school. Further, nearly twenty percent of our students report not having at least one trusted adult they can go to at school for help.
 - A staff leadership team is studying these results and will be creating a student survey very soon. Obviously, we want those two data points to increase. Our goal is that one hundred percent of all TMS Bulldogs feel comfortable asking for help and one hundred percent can identify, by name, a trusted adult.
 - Lastly, ninety-three percent of parents report that the adults at TMS treat their child kindly.
- **PHS Principal Toby Walker** welcomed everyone to the Rose Street Theater. In speaking of Board appreciation month, this facility and all of the other improvements in the District are a result of the support of the school board. We appreciate your grace, patience, leadership, your listening ears, and the support you provide this district and our students. Mr. Walker spoke about some of the gifts that are in their appreciation basket. The TLC students provided the boxes containing the bean and soup packets and Christie Sanders, culinary teacher, had her class put together the basket of fresh food items and baked goods.

ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE (cont.)

- Mr. Walker shared the following:
 - Mr. Walker said that our goal is to remain having in-person learning. In order to do that, we have to have teachers and staff. Our teachers have given up their prep time to step in and help and we are grateful for them.
 - Mr. Walker said that we are in the middle of the accreditation process and he thanked the following staff for their help with that process: Celine Farrimond, Tami Ingwerson, Dave Ehrhardt, and Randy Waite.

- **TES Principal Heather Lowe-Rogers** echoed her appreciation to the Board. She and her staff deeply appreciate all that the Board does for the District and our community. Mrs. Lowe-Rogers shared the following:
 - Thank you to Carrie McDonald who is working around the clock to ensure the safety of our students, families, and staff through the most challenging two years, especially now. She is doing an amazing job to make sure we keep our school doors open.
 - Mrs. Lowe-Rogers gave a big shout out to our Instructional Coaches who have arranged and organized a week of professional development with our coach from Ready Math. Teachers are engaged in observations, coaching, and training.
 - A big thank you to Tracy Koa who recently brought some innovative training to the district in the area of Family Engagement. We are exploring new ways that we can deepen our connection to the families we serve.
 - Finally, this week our Site Council met to review our Improvement Plans and building goals. It was amazing to look back at how much we have already accomplished in four short months. Thank you to our team leaders Karinn Calhoun, Kristen Zehren, Sara Burt, Kathleen Lemcke, and Zach Boyd. These leaders do a great job and are they are driving the work forward to improve TES.

- **PES Principal Shawna Schleif** spoke about her appreciation of the board for their service and being so supportive. Mrs. Schleif is thinking about the positive influence this team of individuals has been, how dedicated they are, and how they serve with all of their heart, skills, and passion.
 - We are working with PLC's to revamp the elementary report cards so that they can better align with our standards and what we are doing in the District.
 - Mrs. Schleif gave a shout out to Aaron Santi for all of his work in this process.
 - We have had staffing shortages but we have had great people step in and help during those times. Mrs. Schleif thanked Sean Spillane, Jennifer Mohatt, Celine Rodriguez, Pam Ward, and Rheana Knapp for their flexibility to ensure that all students have a teacher in their classroom.
 - Mrs. Schleif also thanked the students for being so flexible and doing a phenomenal job of adjusting to all the staffing changes.
 - This week our teachers have been engaged in the learning process and deepening their knowledge around math. We had our math curriculum trainer here this week observing teachers and giving great feedback to our staff.

ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE (cont.)

- Mrs. Schleif gave a shout out to Tiffanie Lambert for doing all of the COVID testing.
- **OHES Principal Curt Shenk** echoed his appreciation of the board. This is his 18th year with the District and he appreciates the Board for their support, time, energy and dedication to the community. Mr. Shenk shared the following:
 - Mr. Shenk thanked Sarah Engstrom and Laurie Evans for their work on professional development for the instructional aids.
 - We are in the middle of our mid-year assessments and Mr. Shenk thanked all of the staff who participated in that process.
 - Mr. Shenk gave a shout out to office manager Dianne Wolff. Dianne has been running the show for the last couple of weeks due to the absence of other staff members.
- **PTRA Principal Aaron Santi** echoed all the appreciation for the Board that the others shared and said that the Board has new PTRAs t-shirts in their baskets with the new logo and we are excited to share them with all of you.
 - We will be featuring our advisory program and our two-way immersion program on our website. Mr. Santi and the IT department have been working on getting it ready to publish.
 - Our standard based report cards will be coming out soon for our elementary schools at the end of the semester. It will be a new way of reporting how our students are performing standard by standard.
- **Amy Honts-Stark** from Sodexo thanked the Board for their volunteer work. Sodexo has two new hires who have recently joined their team. Tessa Castellano is at PES and Heather Kerr is at TMS. Mrs. Honts-Stark thanked all of her staff and the district staff for their support.
- **Director Sara Crawford** gave a shout out to Dave Ehrhardt for spearheading the JPAL program and to all those who are participating. Seeing the student athletes step up, mentor, and be in leadership roles was very exciting.
- **Chair Dawn Watson** thanked the custodians, Jon, and anyone else who set this beautiful space up for us. Chair Watson thanked all those who gave kind words to the Board in honor of Board Appreciation Month. Chair Watson thanked the staff for their flexibility, hard work and their support of the students to make sure that we can still have activities and in person learning.
- **Student Representative Cedahlia Gorman** shared that the band is going to be performing at some basketball games and wrestling matches to support those teams. We will have a band concert sometime in March. Along with band, Color Guard has been practicing a couple times a week on a routine to perform at basketball games. Link Crew is hosting cocoa and cram for the freshman. Before winter break, we had a game night that was a lot of fun. Some students are having trouble keeping up with school

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVE
REPORT** (cont.)

so we are having an opportunity day coming up soon. It will give the students an opportunity to meet with teachers and get the help they need to catch up.

- **Student Representative Ruby Rector** said that winter sports just started which includes boys' and girls' basketball and wrestling. The wrestling team just had a match on Wednesday and our basketball teams will play against Mazama tomorrow night. Leadership started to sell candy bars last month and they sold all 50 boxes. The proceeds go to fun activities and events that Leadership holds and plans. Leadership also just had our first assembly in two years. We all appreciated being able to get together and play games.

**CITIZEN
COMMENTS**

- Chair Dawn Watson reported that there was one email received from Andrea James after the last board meeting.
- The following citizens provided comments:
Andrea Walker, Jen Sousa, Erin Parent, Melissa Moody, Zac Moody, Mark Laughlin, Lisa Jennings, and Lindsey Rusher.

**SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT**

- Supt. Barry said that he appreciates those in attendance following safety protocols so we can meet in this great venue. He also thanked the staff for setting up the venue and for Chris Plouhar for being behind the scenes in running the virtual meeting.
- Supt. Barry echoed the appreciation of the school board for all that they do. For being so involved and taking their time to serve the District and for taking on many challenges such as policy rewrite and policy review.
- With the help of Dave Ehrhardt and Joe Zavala we had put together an appeal to the OSSA to request to play down to a 3A classification. The appeal was denied which is disappointing.
- Supt. Barry referred to the memo addressed to the City of Talent regarding the UGB amendment application. After we received the Letters of Intent from the Boys and Girls Club about constructing a facility and the Phoenix-Talent Little League about relocating to the site, the District intends to amend its pending UGB amendment application and request the entire parcel be included in the UGB. We hope to get some meetings with the City of Talent to adopt that into the UGB.
- Supt. Barry invited the Board to attend the upcoming reopener for financial negotiations with licensed staff. Our next meetings are scheduled for 1/25 & 2/28 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. and 3/1 & 3/15 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Please let Mr. Barry know if you are interested in attending.
- Supt. Barry met with a parent who expressed that there is a desire to have a parent advisory group to the board and said that he would bring that to the board's attention. With that said, there are many opportunities for parents to get involved such as the student investment account, curriculum adoption, site councils, etc. We can work with our team on sharing with parents what the options are, which might be a good start.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT (cont.)

- Supt. Barry commended the students, staff and our families for their diligence in doing what we can to ensure we can continue in person learning and have extra-curricular activities. Supt. Barry gave a shout out to all in the district as we all have Covid fatigue. Kids are happy to be in the buildings and staff is dedicated to make sure we can continue to be here in person.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes from 12/09/21
- Personnel Report
- Board Policy Sections A & B

- Chair Dawn Watson presented the Consent Agenda for review which included the following:
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Minutes of 12/09/21 Regular Board Meeting
 - Personnel Report
 - Board Policy Rewrite Sections A & B

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

LETTER TO LEGISLATURE

- Supt. Barry said that staff prepared a draft letter per the Board's request. Should the Board approve it, we will send it now, and again, to the new speaker of the house.
- Director Sara Crawford made a suggestion in how the first sentence should read and there was consensus for the change.
- On motion by Director Sara Crawford, seconded by Director Rebecca Weathers, to approve the letter to the legislature regarding HB 2630 for ADM security as presented with the suggested change to the first sentence, was approved as per the following vote:

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

RECESS

- 7:10 p.m. – 7:17 p.m.

FACILITIES/BOND UPDATE

- Jon McCalip echoed his appreciation in all of the comments made by administration for the boards support and all of their hard work. Several members worked on the bond and worked on the design for this space. It is a great testament to what it takes to be a Board member and all of the hard work involved.
- Mr. McCalip shared a memo with the Board that recapped the improvements and accomplishments for 2021 that included opening the new high school, the seismic upgrade and remodel of this part of the old building, the seismic upgrade and remodel at PES, ODP upgrades, and the remodel of the facility building. Mr. McCalip summarized the goals and

**FACILITIES/BOND
UPDATE (cont.)**

plans for 2022 for the Facilities Department, which includes upgrading the work ticket system and adding a reservation model, which will help automate that process; staff training to be able to polish concrete; seismic grant applications for TES and TMS; a new cooling tower at OHES; and a remodel of the District office.

**FINANCIAL
UPDATE**

- Supt. Barry referred to the financial report and said there will be adjustments made once we find out about ADM security. Salaries and benefits are lower than what we expected but some of that is due to not being able to find qualified applicants to fill positions at the beginning of the year. We also had some late retirees and we did not need to fill those positions at the elementary level. We are still projecting a good ending fund balance and Supt. Barry gave kudos to Jon McCalip for finding and using the funds he has, using the CET, and for his help in making sure we receive grants and other incentives.

**LEGISLATIVE /
OSBA UPDATE**

- Chair Dawn Watson congratulated Sara Crawford for her election as the new LPC representative for the southern region.
- OSBA Board will still be reviewing their goals for the year. LPC will be talking about policies so that lobbyists can support us best.
- OSBA Board had a call with the Governor earlier this month. Chair Watson shared her challenges and concerns with the Governor about districts having local decision-making.

**ALMEDA FIRE
UPDATE**

- Supt. Barry said that we continue to work with families moving into the Gateway. Tracy Koa is working with them and helping to process applications. There are 53 units and approximately 20 families have moved in. DHS is still working with families who are in hotels and letting them know how long that support will last.
- Vice Chair Michael Campbell wants the District to stay involved, advocate for bringing our families back, and help with the rebuild effort.
- Supt. Barry has reached out to the school district in Colorado that experienced the recent fires and told them to reach out if they have any questions or concerns that we can help with.

**DIVERSITY,
EQUITY &
INCLUSION**

- Supt. Barry said that we had a meeting last week and set some priorities. We will have a book study meeting for all. It is about inclusion with special education students. It is important to raise awareness on how important that is. The elementary schools will be leading the book study.
- The middle school and high school will work with D.L. Richardson from SOESD. D.L. will work with staff on tools in how to make sure we are addressing behaviors, whether it be racial or derogatory comments, making sure that staff are fair and feel comfortable when addressing those incidents on the spot.

**STRATEGY FOR
LEGISLATIVE
SESSION FOR
ADM**

- Supt. Barry said that writing the letter is the first step. Pam Marsh wrote HB 2630 and it has a lot of bipartisan support. We should still be prepared to address the bill when the time comes.
- Vice Chair Michael Campbell suggested that we find a way to build awareness and get information to the public on how they can email their representative in support of the bill.

**RESOLUTION 21-9
FOR LOCAL
DECISION MAKING**

- Chair Watson referred to Resolution 21-9 that Supt. Barry drafted per their request. The resolution outlines our District priorities regarding having local decision-making relating to COVID issues.
- Vice Chair Michael Campbell shared what the resolution means to him.
- Chair Watson said that every district statewide is advocating for something different. It is important to have a stance on paper for the Governor, and for those that advocate for us, to understand what is important to our district.
- The resolution will be on the next agenda as an action item.

**CRITERIA FOR
EVALUATION OF
SUPERINTENDENT**

- Chair Dawn Watson referred to form D-518 and explained the current procedure to those members who were new. Chair Watson asked for comment regarding the current process and form.

**COMMUNITY
LISTENING
SESSION**

- Chair Dawn Watson said that there was earlier discussion at previous meetings about having quarterly community listening sessions and asked the board members when they would like to have another session. A discussion ensued and there was a desire to have a committee to decide what topic(s) to discuss. This item will be on the next agenda for further discussion.

**REVIEW OF NEXT
MEETING**

- Chair Dawn Watson reviewed the draft agenda for the meeting on Thursday, February 3, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Brent Barry, Clerk of the Board

Dawn Watson, Board Chair

Recording Secretary: Denise Skinner
Board Secretary/Executive Assistant