

**PHOENIX-TALENT SCHOOLS**  
**Regular School Board Meeting**  
Thursday, February 3, 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, Rick Nagel and Rebecca Weathers. Nancy McKinnis and Polly Farrimond (virtual). Student Representative: Cedahlia Gorman. Absent: Student Representatives Joseph Hiatt and Ruby Rector. Also present: Aaron Santi, Toby Walker, Shawna Schleif, Curt Shenk, Heather Lowe-Rogers, Kent Vallier, Randy Waite, Amy Honts-Stark (on line), Joe Zavala, Tiffanie Lambert, Supt. Brent Barry and Denise Skinner.

**ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE**

- **TES Principal Heather Lowe-Rogers** shared the following:
  - Mrs. Lowe-Rogers gave a shout out to the entire TES team including title, special education, and teachers. TES has completed the mid-year assessments and did a core review where teachers analyzed the data and made instructional plans moving forward.
  - Mrs. Lowe-Rogers announced that TES will adopt a new Sparrow whose name is Bob. Bob is a kindergartener and he will be introduced to the students tomorrow.
  - TES is starting a fundraiser next week in association with the American Heart Association. Students will be challenged to participate in heart healthy activities to earn money for our school.
  - Mrs. Lowe-Rogers gave a shout out to Rene Cabrera, our school psychologist intern. Rene has been a great addition to our team and we are grateful for his expertise.
  
- **OHES Principal Curt Shenk** shared the following:
  - Mr. Shenk thanked the Bear Creek Valley Rotary for offering the Rogue Power Pack program again which is food packages for families in need.
  - Mr. Shenk gave a shout out to Tracy Koa for implementing the PTS Rising supply locker. The necessities that are available to the families in need.
  - Our PTA is offering a parent's night out Saturday, February 12. The PTA has organized games and activities for children with volunteers to provide parents a night out.
  - Music will be starting at OHES on Monday, Feb 14. Wendy Savage will be joining us next week and starting her classes on the 14<sup>th</sup>.
  
- **PES Principal Shawna Schleif** shared the following:
  - Tonight was our first night for our Family Connection Club. It is wonderful to see families gather together to learn together, and support one another. Mrs. Schleif gave a shout out to Nony Bugarin, Zoey Boyles, Tiffany Nunez, and Keasha Cunningham.

## **ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE** (cont.)

- Mrs. Schleif gave a shout out to Katie McCormick, our child development specialist, for creating a kindness campaign during the month of February. Katie has orchestrated many curricular events for students and social connections with staff to celebrate Random Acts of Kindness.
  - In honor of Black History Month, we have beautiful murals around the building and lessons being taught to celebrate our diversity.
  - Mrs. Schleif gave a shout out to Kerri Brooks who is one of our special education teachers who lost her home in the fire. During that time, Venafi saw her video ***Rising from the Ashes*** on the OSBA website. They reached out to Kerri asking her if she could have anything, what would be on her wish list. Kerri gave them her wish list and received almost everything on it. It has been almost a year later and Venafi reached out again and asked again if she needed anything. Kerri said not for herself but all the staff have been working so hard and it would be great if they could have something. Venafi will be supporting the staff in an event titled, ***A Day to Remember*** on February 25. It will be a staff-wide party to help recognize and reward our educators at PES.
- **PTRA Principal Aaron Santi** shared the following:
    - Mr. Santi said that the Bug Guy presentation is coming to PTRAs for our primary kids.
    - Enrollment in PTRAs is maintaining. With the cross over to second semester, we anticipated losing some students but we ended up gaining some students. Those numbers indicate that we are providing a service for a period longer than just the current health crisis.
    - The elementary schools have rolled out the new report cards, which are standard based. They are very informative and detailed in every area.
  - **TMS Principal Kent Vallier** shared the following:
    - Mr. Vallier congratulated PHS Principal Toby Walker for the recently announced high graduation rate for last year.
    - TMS recently completed iReady assessments in math and reading at all grade levels. We made testing day a celebratory event. We coordinated snacks/breaks/raffles and Mr. Vallier thanked Jamar Boyd, instructional leader, for her work in coordinating those efforts.
    - Mr. Vallier shared that in reading, TMS is currently at 64% of its yearlong growth goal. That is 14% percentage points ahead of projection. Math is 57% (7% ahead of our yearlong growth goal). These numbers are a testament to our staff's hard work, their dedication, and their expertise.
    - The attendance rate has increased tremendously. Mr. Vallier thanked Marina McCambridge and Tracy Koa for their efforts in making connections with families, and making sure we are eliminating roadblocks for students to get to school.
    - Mr. Vallier thanked Sandra Tringolo (brain bowl winner) who is working across the curriculum with all staff to increase the use of writing to enhance critical thinking.

**ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE** (cont.)

- **PHS Principal Toby Walker** shared the following:
  - Mr. Walker shared that PHS had a 95% graduation rate for 20-21. That is the best graduation in the history of PHS and the highest graduation rate in the Rogue Valley. All the staff, families, and students really earned this.
  - Mr. Walker shared about a 2015 graduate, Irving Cortes-Martinez, who was one of the nicest and most motivated students he has seen in years. Irving was recently awarded the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship. The fellowship includes two years of graduate study and an internship with a member of Congress. After the completion of his master's and internship, he will be a U.S. Diplomat in the summer of 2024.
  - PHS is celebrating the end of the first semester. We had some bumps, bruises, and challenges but we see a smooth ride to the end of June.
  - Asst. Principal and Athletic Director Dave Ehrhardt is at a basketball game so Mr. Walker shared for him that we are happy to be able to have a full winter sports season. Special thanks to staff members Maria Thompson, Christie Sanders, and Yaneth Garcia for their help with mitigation efforts in keeping everyone safe.
  - We will soon have a new softball scoreboard at Colver Field. A local business has donated the entire cost of the project.
  - Our youth sports programs are continuing to grow. The middle school is in the midst of its wrestling and girls' basketball seasons, and is looking forward to a large number of kids taking part in track and field this spring. We just finished JPAL cheer, baseball, and softball. We have two weeks left of our biggest camp ever of JPAL soccer with 90 kids taking part. After spring break, we are planning track and field and football camps, and will host a district-wide track and field meet for fourth and fifth graders in early June.
- **Amy Honts-Stark** from Sodexo said that they are adding more programs for afterschool snacks and we are working on summer plans so we can see the students more.
- **Director Rick Nagel** said that the board really appreciated their gift baskets they received last month for Board Appreciation Month, and thanked all those who contributed.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

- **Student Representative Cedahlia Gorman** shared that she is happy that the first semester is over and things seem to be getting back to normal. Now that first semester is over, Link Crew no longer has a class for brainstorming and planning our freshman events, so we will start meeting once a month during lunch. Band has played at two basketball games and it has been fun. We have winter guard, which is a flag team, and we have been practicing our routine for about three months. We plan to do a show next Friday on the 11<sup>th</sup> during half time at a basketball game. We just started drum line practice and we will have it every Saturday from 9am to noon.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

- Chair Dawn Watson reported that the board received emails from: Alicia Cool, Melissa Moody, and Jennifer Sousa. Chair Watson reminded citizens that rather than emailing comments to the Supt. and/or board directly, that all public comments should be submitted online through our website so that they can be tracked and documented correctly.
- Mark Laughlin and Chris Luz provided in person comments and Lindsay Rusher provided a comment from online.

## **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

- Supt. Barry said that he is so thankful for Joe Zavala, who is our Communications and Media Relations Specialist. Joe's work in highlighting our district and programs with the news media and social media has been great. Supt. Barry received a text the other day from a friend that said one of the news channels featured the first three stories about PTS. The stories were on the Songbirds music program, ADM security, and the Rosa Parks campaign. Thank you Joe for continuing to share about what is going on in our district and what is great about PTS.
- Supt. Barry said that Academia Latina at SOU is back on for this summer. We will again be applying for a grant through the Carpenter Foundation. Since we have been doing this event for many years, almost 300 students have taken part in this rich program.
- Supt. Barry is hoping to solidify the 2022-23 academic calendar earlier than previous years, as it seems that families and staff ask for details earlier and earlier each year. At this point, we are looking at a traditional start for students after Labor Day.
- Supt. Barry referred to the documents in their blue folders regarding federal ESSER funds and our expenditures of those funds through 12/31/21. Also shared was a document that explains what allowable activities/uses are eligible for expenses from the three pools of funding. We will be posting to the website soon.
- Supt. Barry gave clarification about temporary and permanent rules with OHA. Although the OHA announcement maintaining face covering and vaccination requirements in K-12 schools to keep students learning in-person just became a permanent rule, OHA has stated they will continue to review the need for this rule and will rescind or repeal the rule as soon as it is safe to do so.
- Supt. Barry referred to a COSA document in their blue folders that addressed House Bill 4026, which is for funding stability for school districts impacted by wildfires in 2020. Supt. Barry said this is top priority for our district. Supt. Barry testified earlier this evening to advocate for this bill and we will find out how quickly that moves through the session.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes from 1/13/22
- Personnel Report

- Chair Dawn Watson presented the Consent Agenda for review which included the following:
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Minutes of 1/13/22 Regular Board Meeting
  - Personnel Report

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

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

- Chair Watson referred to Resolution 21-9 and asked for comment.
- On motion by Director Rick Nagel, seconded by Vice Chair Michael Campbell, to approve Resolution 21-9 as presented, was approved as per the following vote:

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

## **CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF SUPERINTENDENT**

- Chair Dawn Watson referred to form D-518 and asked for comment regarding the current process and form.
- On motion by Director Sara Crawford, seconded by Director Rebecca Weathers, to approve Form D-518 for evaluating the superintendent as presented, was approved as per the following vote:

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

Supt. Barry said the he would not be present at the February 17<sup>th</sup> board meeting so he proposes to have the Executive Session for his evaluation on February 10<sup>th</sup> or the 15<sup>th</sup>. It was decided to have it on the 10<sup>th</sup> at 5pm at the district office.

## **RECESS**

- 7:00 p.m. – 7:07 p.m.

## **FACILITIES/BOND UPDATE**

- Supt. Barry said we would be submitting seismic grant applications for TES and TMS, which will be the final two projects of the bond.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

- Supt. Barry said that we would have a financial report at the second meeting this month.

## LEGISLATIVE / OSBA UPDATE

- Chair Watson said that on Friday at noon, OSBA will be having a policy update meeting and that information will be posted on Monday on their website under Legislative Highlights.
- Those who are interested can also go to [oregonlegislature.gov](http://oregonlegislature.gov) and subscribe for a daily report to learn about every education bill being presented.
- SB 1521 – Offers protections to superintendents facing dismissal. The bill would make it so that school boards could terminate superintendents without cause only if certain conditions are met.
- HB 4029 - Mandatory Leadership training for School Boards and Superintendents.
- HB 4026 – Wildfire relief grants for fire impacted school districts. We appreciate all the work that Pam Marsh has done.

## ALMEDA FIRE UPDATE

- Supt. Barry said Royal Oaks is rebuilding through the Housing Authority. They are purchasing 125 mobile homes to put at that site and there could be a grant opportunity for fire survivors to purchase those. Supt. Barry was contacted because they may need a temporary place to store them while the site is completed. Jon is working with them to see if the Colver Road property would work for them.
- Director Polly Farrimond attended a meeting last week about our current housing situation and reported that three hotels are still housing people with 178 rooms occupied by 305 fire survivors. The Southern Oregon RV Park has 24 spots that must be moved by the end of April. Emigrant Lake will be closing 21 spots at the end of February, thirteen of those families may be moving to Gateway.

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

- Supt. Barry said that the monthly DEI meeting was yesterday. We solidified that the elementary schools will be having a book study group discussing the book *Leading for All*. The book is about how to create an inclusive learning environment for all students, not just special education students.
- At the secondary level, we have partnered with D.L. Richardson to work with staff to give them tools and strategies to stop some discriminatory acts on the spot, and making sure that staff feel comfortable addressing those situations. We have asked staff to do an audit of the DEI work that we are doing outside of the co-facilitators and the committee.
- Supt. Barry referred to the SOESD Local Service Plan for 2022-2023 and said that it is essentially the same as last year. We count on and rely on ESD services and this plan reflects that service.

**SOESD LOCAL  
SERVICES PLAN  
FOR 22-23**

**DROPOUT/  
GRADUATION  
REPORT FOR  
2020-2021**

**COMMUNITY  
LISTENING  
SESSION**

**BOARD POLICY  
REWRITE  
SECTIONS C & D**

**REVIEW OF NEXT  
MEETING**

**ADJOURNMENT**

- Supt. Barry referred to the Dropout/Graduation report for 2020-2021, which represents the final numbers released in January; he said that Mr. Walker had already mentioned that our rate was the best in the valley.
- Director Crawford said that she and Board members Nancy McKinnis and Polly Farrimond along with Supt. Barry met Tuesday evening to discuss having more community listening sessions.
- Director Farrimond said that we discussed having specific topics for the sessions such as Budgeting 101 and Federal Funding.
- Director Crawford said that the district has sessions planned in the near future regarding SIA funds and how those funds could be invested. Based on recent citizen comments received, we feel it would be good to have a session on how school districts receive funding and how those funds are spent. We are looking at a potential meeting after spring break.
- Supt. Barry said that the desire is to be in collaboration with the SIA listening sessions planned already; have a General Session in English and a General Session in Spanish; have one for parents with students with disabilities; and one for Migrant Ed families.
- Supt. Barry said we would plan to have informational sessions on budgeting including federal funding, and one on what the process is for adopting curriculum.
- Chair Watson opened the topic up for comments and questions regarding the policies in both sections. Some discussion ensued but there were no changes to suggestions made by administration.
- Chair Dawn Watson reviewed the draft agenda for the meeting on Thursday, February 17, 2022.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

---

Brent Barry, Clerk of the Board

---

Dawn Watson, Board Chair

Recording Secretary: Denise Skinner  
Board Secretary/Executive Assistant