

**PHOENIX-TALENT SCHOOLS**  
**Regular School Board Meeting**  
Thursday, April 7, 2022  
6:00 p.m. – PHS & Virtual via ZOOM

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Dawn Watson called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. Other Board Members present: Vice Chair Michael Campbell, Directors Sara Crawford, Rick Nagel, Rebecca Weathers, Polly Farrimond and Nancy McKinnis (via ZOOM). Student Representatives: Joseph Hiatt and Ruby Rector. Also present: Aaron Santi, Curt Shenk, Heather Lowe-Rogers, Toby Walker, Kent Vallier, Lisa Rullman, Randy Waite, Joe Zavala, Jon McCalip, Jessica Hamlin, Tiffanie Lambert, Brent Barry and Denise Skinner.

**ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE**

- **TES Principal Heather Lowe-Rogers** shared the following:
  - Mrs. Lowe-Rogers said they are starting their second round of Family Connection Club this Saturday. We have 18 families signed up and we will be providing childcare and snacks. We will be serving families from TES, PES, OHES, and TMS.
  - We are also starting another round of enrichment opportunities. This opportunity is offered through our partnership with the OSU extension office. The robotics class starts next week and we had 32 students sign up. The class will go for seven weeks this spring.
  - Our Kindergarten Roundup is on April 20. Mrs. Lowe-Rogers gave a shout out to office managers Cheryl Joseph, Wendy Duffie, and Dianne Wolff for their work in getting this event organized.
  - We had a great Coffee with the Principal session yesterday at Sweet Beet. There were good conversations about Family Engagement and DEI work.
  - We are excited about field trips and we have a special opportunity for our second and third graders to have swim lessons.
  
- **OHES Principal Curt Shenk** shared the following:
  - Mr. Shenk thanked the Rogue Powerpack program and all those involved with that for the continued service; they provide our families with bags of food for the weekends. Our families greatly appreciate this service.
  - Mr. Shenk gave a shout-out to Tiffanie Lambert, Arica Cassarotti, and Mari Martinen for their collaboration work this afternoon on a placement meeting for an incoming student. The meeting was so collaborative and positive, and the parents gave such positive feedback.
  - Mr. Shenk recognized and gave thanks to Melanie Kwiatkowski who is a fifth grade teacher. On behalf of OES, Melanie applied for and received a \$10,000 grant from the Trail Blazers Foundation. This money will be used for a multitude of projects to enhance the learning opportunities and have a lot of fun at Orchard Hill.

**ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE** (cont.)

- **PTRA Principal Aaron Santi** shared the following:
  - Mr. Santi said that all kids K-5 are going on two separate field trips in the next couple of weeks to Todd Wood which is south of Ashland.
  - The ELPA testing is just wrapping up and we are getting started on SBAC testing. We have started at the high school and will continue in the middle and elementary schools in the next few weeks.
  
- **On behalf of PES Principal Shawna Schleif, Aaron Santi shared the following:**
  - Mrs. Schleif thanked Christie Dixon, Media Manager, for putting on a book fair this last week, which raised over \$3,000.
  - Mrs. Schleif thanked Zoey Boyles's fourth grade class for stepping in and providing announcements to the school.
  - Second graders across the building are all involved in research, mostly on animals. The second graders shared their animal research with the first graders.
  
- **TMS Principal Kent Vallier** shared the following:
  - Mr. Vallier reported that the lifting of the mask mandate has been a smooth transition. Although there are still kids wearing masks, there have been no reports of any teasing or harassment about the issue. Mr. Vallier is very proud of our students and how they assimilate to rapid change
  - Mr. Vallier thanked Carolina Campbell, Tami Ingwerson, Michelle House, Angelica Mendoza, Celine Farrimond, Ben Evans, and Cody Lindsay for their work getting our 8th grade Bulldogs transitioned to PHS Pirates. Carolina's Link Crew work is such a great credit to PHS and its students.
  - Mr. Vallier shared more good news about the district's investment in band. This week our band students came over to PHS to hear a concert. Mr. Vallier gave thanks to Mike DeRoest, Bret Eason, and Jayme Dittburner for their coordination and leadership with band in our district. University of Oregon's Euphonium Ensemble came to play for PHS and TMS band students. Not only was the music beautiful but band members answered questions about college and music education as a major.
  
- **Asst Principal Randy Waite** shared the following on behalf of **Athletic Director Dave Ehrhardt**.
  - Unified Sports are back and we are playing soccer this spring. Unified Sports combine students from special education along with general education students. Mr. Waite thanked Christie Sanders and Yaneth Garcia who are coaching the team, which will play five nights. We will host events at P-T Rising Field on April 26 and May 10.
  - The stadium and PTS rising field are being used daily and nightly. Soccer, flag football, track and field (high school and middle school) and the Southern Oregon Pow Wow are just a few of the events taking place. We will host a large invitational track meet on April 22-23.

**ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE** (cont.)

- Spring sports are up and running. We have approximately 150 students taking part. In addition, 80 more are in the track and field program at the middle school. Thanks to all of our dedicated coaches for their time.
- We have started planning for the First Annual PTSD Elementary Track & Field Championships. This special event will be held on June 14 and include fourth and fifth graders from all three of our elementary schools.
- Like Orchard Hill Elementary School, PHS also received a \$10,000 grant from the Trailblazers Foundation for community building events after losses due to the 2020 fires.
- **PHS Principal Toby Walker** shared the following:
  - Kelly Johnson, English Teacher at PHS, has been invited to present at the National Council of Teachers of English with other professionals from around the region. Kelly earned this invitation based on a regional presentation she did about how PHS makes AP and advanced courses more accessible to all students, including those groups who are typically underrepresented. This is a nice feather in her cap and a great recognition of what we are doing here on the Pirate ship.
  - Mr. Walker gave a shout out to Neill Carvalho and the DECA team. Zyan Shull-Bain, Courtney House, Ava Robinson, Makaio Potts, and David Arellano will be representing the Pirates at DECA Nationals in Georgia in two weeks.
  - Representing the Pirates this weekend is senior Madelyn Mayer who was chosen as Pear Blossom Queen. This honor is well deserved and we look forward to seeing Maddie wearing the Pear Blossom crown that she earned.
  - Mr. Walker gave an update on the accreditation process that he mentioned at previous board meetings. We received our results and we received numerous glowing scores. Overall, we scored higher than the National Average by over 20 points. Although we have areas we are still fine-tuning and growing in, it is always nice when an outside entity recognizes our great work.
  - April 14<sup>th</sup> is our Eighth Grade Parent Night. We are looking forward to connecting with students and meeting the parents and sharing all that PHS has to offer.
  - Pirate Care Day is April 16. This is our community-wide clean-up event that we are looking to make an annual community service opportunity. We have about 40 people signed up.
  - We are in the midst of the senior push with many exciting things happening. One of those is that Jostens will be here on Wednesday, April 13 to deliver graduation supplies. This is just one more event that makes graduation feel even closer. Stay tuned as we share in upcoming meetings about the spectacular awards and scholarships the class of 2022 is going to earn.
- **Chair Watson** congratulated Asst. Supt. Tiffanie Lambert for her acceptance into a Doctorate program. Tiffanie is one of 15 in the state that was accepted and it is well deserved.

- **Supt. Barry** said that Tiffanie had an amazing application and he is happy that the committee recognized it and he looks forward to supporting her in this endeavor.
- **Director Nancy McKinnis** gave a shout out to our communications department for sharing information on Ramadan to support students who are practicing. Mrs. McKinnis gave a shout out to Kerry Brooks who is leading the EDI Committee for the school District. Kerry opens challenging and rich conversations so we can continue to grow and learn in the space of equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- **Director Rebecca Weathers** said she attended Coffee with the Principal yesterday. It was very nice, there was a lot of parent engagement, ideas, and it was a lovely setting to meet other parents and get to talk to the principal.

### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

- **Student Representative Joseph Hiatt** said that he is part of the Brain Bowl Team and they had their competition at SOU and our varsity team ranked second. May 12 we will be going to the televised finals. There are many seniors who are excited about graduating and we are pushing through. Joseph gave a shout out to Celia Rivera Neeley for her help with college prep, scholarships, and applications.
- **Student Representative Ruby Rector** said that the third quarter just ended today and everyone worked hard. There is a lot of anticipation for next year. Link Crew and Leadership are sending out applications in preparation for next year. They will be selecting members during the next two weeks. Fall sports are getting ready with summer practices, training, and summer games.

### CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Chair Watson asked if there were any citizens joining us virtually or in person who would like to make a comment and there were none.

### SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Supt. Barry said that Battalion Chief Brian Bolstad with Fire District 5 approached him over a year ago and said they wanted to provide PHS Stop the Bleed kits. These kits have been proven to save lives in the event a tragic event happened on our campus and provides tourniquet kits for staff or emergency personnel to use. Employees of Fire District 5 donated their own funds to purchase the kits for PHS classrooms. There will be training in the next couple of weeks on how to use the kits.
- Supt. Barry thanked Joe Zavala, Communications Specialist, for his work in communicating information about our programs and events. This weekend there will be a tree-planting event at TMS & TES and we will be planting about 60 trees. The tree-planting event is being organized by the Talent Urban Forestry Committee and will be on Saturday at 10 a.m.
- We have talked about having a Budget 101 session for our community and this budget session that is coming up involves a lot of information to

**SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT** (cont.)

prepare for. Instead of an in person or virtual class, we will be posting a presentation on our website on the Budget page that the community can review prior to our Budget Committee meeting on May 10.

- Supt. Barry referred to the First Student weekly report in their blue folders. First Student is continuing to hire more employees. We were eleven routes down at the beginning of the year and we are now only four routes down. We are still transporting students from all over the valley to our schools and taking them home.
- The Colver Road property UGB finally has a date to start that process: Stakeholders Meeting – April 21, 2022; a Conceptual Planning Open House will be April 28; and tentatively the Planning Commission/City Council Work Session will be May 17, 2022.

**CONSENT  
AGENDA**

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes from 3/03/22
- Personnel Report

- Chair Dawn Watson presented the Consent Agenda for review which included the following:
  - Approval of Revised Agenda
  - Approval of Minutes of 3/03/22 Regular Board Meeting
  - Personnel Report

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.

**2022-2023  
ACADEMIC  
CALENDAR**

- Supt. Barry said that we presented the calendar at the last meeting. There has been some disagreement on the October statewide inservice day. Right now we show October 7, however, many districts in the area are recognizing the 14th except for Ashland. Supt. Barry feels it would be in our best interest if we change our date to the 14th.
- On motion by Vice Chair Michael Campbell, seconded by Director Rebecca Weathers to approve the 2022-2023 academic calendar as presented and moving the October 7<sup>th</sup> inservice date to the 14th, was approved as per the following vote:

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

**BUDGET  
COMMITTEE  
APPLICANT  
INTERVIEWS**

- Chair Watson explained the process for interviewing and selecting the applicant to fill the vacancy. The Board interviewed applicant Elle Powell as she was the only one present.
- Director Rick Nagel spoke on behalf of Craig Prewitt who is the absent applicant and said Craig has previously been on the school board for 29

**BUDGET  
COMMITTEE  
APPLICANT  
INTERVIEWS**

(cont.)

years, he has been an OSBA board member, and Rick recommends Craig Prewitt for the vacancy.

- Director Sara Crawford nominated Elle Powell to fill the vacancy.
- On motion by Director Sara Crawford, seconded by Vice Chair Campbell, to appoint Elle Powell to the Budget Committee to fill Ericka Beck-Bratton's vacancy due to her resignation as per the following vote:

Ayes: Farrimond, Crawford, Campbell, Weathers, McKinnis, Watson

Noes: Nagel

Absent: None

Abstain: None

**ADULT MEAL  
PRICE REVISION**

- Supt. Barry said that the 21-22 meal prices were set before we found out the actual pricing and this is a small increase that is necessary.
- On motion by Director Rick Nagel, seconded by Director Rebecca Weathers to approve the adult meal price revision as presented, was approved as per the following vote:

Ayes: Weathers, Nagel, Campbell, Crawford, Farrimond, McKinnis, Watson

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

**PROGRAM  
REPORT**

- Supt. Barry introduced Representative Pam Marsh and Senator Jeff Golden, and expressed the district's appreciation for all of their work for our communities, but in particular our district. After the September 2020 wildfires, we especially appreciated your work in the legislative body. Although your bill was not passed in the first session, we trusted and still had hope that it would in the short session. This year the legislature passed HB 4026 securing ADM funds through 2024-2025, which was huge for our district.
- Each Board member spoke and thanked them individually.
- Senator Jeff Golden shared how wonderful it is to come and hear about the gratitude that everyone has. Senator Golden believes the reasons that they were so successful in lobbying to get the bill passed was not only the work of the Phoenix and Talent community in general, but the wonderful work that this district did. What the district did right after the fire and all that was organized in such a short amount of time made our job a lot easier.
- Rep. Pam Marsh shared that within just a couple of days after the fire she was at the expo and saw what the district had done. Having the staff there as a lifeline for the families, calling all the families to connect and find out where everyone was, making sure there was food and supplies, all those

**PROGRAM  
REPORT**  
(cont.)

efforts were just incredible. All of this was done in the midst of the pandemic.

- Supt. Barry, with the help of Student Representatives Joseph Hiett and Ruby Rector, presented both with a canvas print of a manzanita tree. Manzanita trees are symbolic for rebirth, resilience and new beginnings.

**RECESS**

- 7:10 p.m. – 7:26 p.m.

**FACILITIES/BOND  
UPDATE**

- Jon McCalip said that the Board should have received his facilities newsletter via email. Over spring break, we had a very productive time. We built a new IT area in the warehouse with heating and cooling; new speed bumps were put in the student parking lot at PHS; new HVAC was installed in the cafeteria at TES; today we finished an LED lighting upgrade to TMS to add light in the common areas; and we sent two employees to learn how to polish concrete in preparation of our summer projects. It is spring and the ground crew is very busy and trying to keep ahead of things.

**FINANCIAL  
UPDATE**

- Supt. Barry said that we would have a financial report at the next board meeting. With the HB 4026 bill that was unanimously passed, ODE just funded the \$2.5 million back to the beginning of this school year. Next year it is looking like it will be a \$4.5 million back fill. That is just the first two years of the funding. We just received our federal allocation estimates and they are down due to the loss of students. We will see about a 14% decrease next year in title funding and we are expecting about a 20% decrease overall in federal funding.
- Last year we budgeted \$1 million for our future PERS liability and a few years back we took advantage of a matching grant up to a certain percent. That program was so successful that there are forty-two schools on a waitlist for the matching grant.

**LEGISLATIVE /  
OSBA UPDATE**

- Chair Watson said the OSBA Summer Board Conference is being held in Bend July 8-10. Please let Denise know if you plan to attend.
- PACE Days is coming April 14. They will be in person and virtual. The workshops look very informative.
- An email from Board Chairs and Vice Chairs was sent regarding fentanyl poisoning and the use of vape pens. One of the school districts just passed a policy to supply Narcan to all schools in their district in the event that there is an overdose. Vice Chair Watson suggested that the policy might be something that we look at.
- OSBA shared that the National School Board Association is losing members who have started a new consortium. The new consortium contacted the OSBA board and asked if they wanted to be a founding partner. At this time, they are staying with the NSBA.
- OSBA wants to create a Rural Caucus so they started a Rural School's Advisory Committee. Vice Chair Watson was asked to join the advisory committee and the meetings are at the end of the month.

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

- Director Sara Crawford said LPC will have their meeting April 22 & 23 in Eugene, which will set the framework that will formulate the legislative policy priorities.
- Director Polly Farrimond shared that there are 153 hotel rooms housing 238 total survivors. Southern Oregon RV reported that 22 families have moved and two are in the process of looking for other options. Disaster Case Managers are at maximum capacity for caseloads. Three emergency locations including the Loring, Roxy, and The Merrick at the Commons is being used for emergency housing. The Jackson, which was a hotel that has been converted to long-term housing, has 38 rooms occupied. ODHS and other community partners are still having ongoing outreach meetings. They recently met in Talent and they found ten more families who had not been reached out to. There is a block grant of several million dollars that will be coming soon and that will be used for housing. Jackson County Recovery group conducted a survey and they did in depth interviews with families that were affected by the fires. The modular units that are located on highway 99 will be going into the Royal Oaks. They are currently accepting applications through Oregon Housing Community Service. The Fire Hardening grants are encouraging families to landscape their homes so they are better protected in fire situations. There have been 155 grant applications with Phoenix leading in the total number. There will be a Talent Chamber of Commerce, which will be called the Talent Business Alliance, and they are meeting on April 21.

**EQUITY,  
DIVERSITY, &  
INCLUSION**

- Director Nancy McKinnis shared that the DEI subcommittee (now referred to as EDI) met yesterday and there was a rich discussion about group agreements and how the space might feel for those who are coming in to participate.
- The goal is to have a space where we can have discussions with others and allow them to feel safe about having difficult conversations. We are hoping to have a specific line item in the budget to support EDI efforts and have professional development regarding EDI.
- Director McKinnis thanked the communication department for acknowledging our diverse population and reaching out and raising awareness, such as those students who might be observing Ramadan.
- Supt. Barry said that we would now start calling it EDI - Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

**BOARD POLICY  
REWRITE  
SECTIONS E & F**

- Chair Watson asked if there were any comments or questions regarding board policy sections E & F. Supt. Barry reviewed the policies that were optional and those that the administration is recommending not to adopt.



**REVIEW OF NEXT MEETING**

- Chair Dawn Watson reviewed the draft agenda for the meeting on Thursday, April 21, 2022. This meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. at Talent Middle School in the library.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting adjourned at 8:20 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