

Board of Director's Meeting

Minutes-August 11, 2021

OPENING OF PUBLIC SESSION

The Public Session was called to order by Vice Board Chair Hagerty at 6:30 pm. Vice Board Chair Hagerty led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance:

X - Annis Leslie

X - Shane Stuart

X - Diane Boisa

X - Bill Hagerty, Vice Board Chair

X - Evan Carver, Board Chair – **Via Zoom**

X - Misty Wharton, Superintendent

X - Ken Richwine, Secondary Principal

X - Megan Kellow, Special Programs Administrator

X - Chad Holloway, District Facilities and Alternative Education Administrator

Patrons, Students and Staff: Bill Wilkinson, Diane Wilkinson, Kristina Albin, Sharman Ensminger, Colin Stapp, Chrissy Eichelberger, Autum Marsh, Natasha Durgan, Tori Schrock, Marcie Hurliman, Heidi Holzgrafe, Mark Laymon, Jana Black, Gus Forster, Cheryl Jones, Ashlee Sears, Brenda Charter, Kortny Chatelain, Josh Chatelain, Doug Keller, April Bailey, Sadie Mai, Mary Lou Fletcher, Laurie Caspell, Julie Fletcher, David Erickson, LeeAnn Reardon, **Via Zoom:** Robin Richwine, Liz Kellow, Amy Gianella, Andre Schellhaas, Sonja, Daniel DiCrispino, Kathleen Serven, Keith Serven, Lauren Stuart, Mary Hurliman, Dan Sheridan, Sandy Porter, Ursula McVittie, Bobbie Stirling, Madlen Silkwood, Heidi Morrell, Cara Elder, Ron Smith, Mark Cavatorta, Kim Cavatorta, Adriana Elizabeth

Approval of Agenda-August 11, 2021

MOTION: Diane Boisa 2nd: Shane Stuart AYES: 5 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

COMMUNITY/SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

- Superintendent Wharton discusses the press release yesterday regarding an announcement from the Governor for a mask mandate inside all public places, regardless of vaccination status.
Ms. Wharton reads a letter addressed to the community that will be posted on our websites. We all want our children in school five days a week. As a district, this is still our goal. With the current rate of numbers increasing in the COVID-19 Delta variant, all students and adults must wear a mask while in the school building as directed by the state of Oregon. We practiced this during our six weeks of summer school sessions, with up to 100 kids and they all seemed unfazed by wearing

masks while inside the building. They were all happy to be in school and it was a great six weeks. In order to be able to bring kids back five days a week with in-person instruction, it will take all of us practicing masking, hand washing and social distancing to accomplish our goal.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Bill Wilkinson thanks the Board and staff members for all they do.
- Laurie Caspell expresses concerns regarding masks and rashes around the face due to bacteria accumulating on them. As a custodian, she often feels like she is going to pass out while working and wearing a mask. She feels that kids are suffering from wearing the masks despite being stoic about them. She knows the Board has their best interest, she just wishes they could do more research regarding the masks.
- April Bailey recognizes the Board has hard decisions to make, but feels they do have local control and the choice to make concerning masks. She believes other schools are waiting to make the decision. She does not feel that masks are a tool and thinks they are dangerous due to breathing in CO2. April feels it's the parents right to decide if their child wears a mask. April feels policies are not being posted as said and passes out a handout to the Board.
- Mark Layman says this has been a difficult year for all of us in so many ways. He is glad the school district is taking precautions and expresses gratitude to the Board for putting public health and safety first.
- Cheryl Jones is here representing friends and family. She expresses concerns regarding page 19 of the handout on the matter of OHA sponsored COVID-19 testing in schools. Cheryl asks if the district is planning on screening children, who would administer this test and if parents will be notified before that happens? Superintendent Wharton agrees this is a good question. There will be more meetings to come next week regarding testing. It is possible that the state may mandate this. Information will be posted publicly. As far as administration, we have a school nurse that will be there every Monday. Cheryl thanks the district for not taking on the role of health care providers.
- Brenda Charter is concerned if parents don't want their children to wear a mask and send them to school without one, will the children get reprimanded? She refers to hearing this on the Lars Larson show and is concerned that if the children are reprimanded for not wearing a mask, this could be cause for a lawsuit. She feels it is important to address this matter.
- Julie Fletcher urges the Board to look to alternative news sources. She says doctors are speaking out with evidence that our first amendment is being violated. She suggests listening to Dr. Dan Stock at the Mt. Vernon school board meeting. She also suggests following Dr. Miguel Escobar. Julie

feels if people knew the power they had, this wouldn't happen. She urges people to get versed in the constitution.

- Sadie Mai has a son in the school district who has some learning difficulties. Part of his learning is seeing people speak and this is very difficult with masks on. He also feels the mask is suffocating and cuts off the circulation around his ears, impeding his hearing. Sadie also brings up Critical Race Theory and urges people to stand up against it. She mentions students who have had great experiences in the school district and does not feel like this community needs it to be taught.
- Kortny Chatelain says the Board and school district are responsible for all our kids, it doesn't have to be "her" kids. The Governor might not know what is best for our kids and we should not be following blindly. Kortny has questions regarding the PCR tests. How many cycles of the PCR tests are being ran and what are the threshold values? Are they only testing unvaccinated people and is there a separate test for the Delta variant? Ms. Wharton responds that criteria has been changing constantly and we should know more by the next meeting on 9/8/21.
- Ms. Wharton gives links on the Oregon Department of Education for further information.

CONSENT AGENDA—consolidated motion

- Board Minutes from the July 14, 2021 Board Meeting
- July 2021 Financial Report
- Ratification of Employment
- Approval of Amended Strategic Plan
- Quarterly Statement of Assurance
- Diane Boisa speaks regarding the revised Strategic Plan and the workshop that was held. She is happy with all the teacher involvement and feels the plan is very good.

MOTION: Annis Leslie 2nd: Shane Stuart AYES: 5 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

ACTION DISCUSSION

- **Recommendation:** Approve- All people in Nestucca Valley School District facilities will wear masks during the regular school day regardless of their vaccination status, until local control of the decision-making is granted and the rule can be reviewed.

Explanation – This follows the states newly issued directive. The state will be reviewing data and updating the guidance monthly, and amending the rule as needed in the interest of what is best for public health.

Vice Board Chair Hagerty understands people's concerns regarding masks, but we must follow state mandates and do what is best for public health. He adds that the school can be fined daily if we don't comply.

Board Chair Carver adds that it is not only a daily fine, but that OSHA also gives daily fines-up to thousands of dollars.

Diane Boisa comments that even if there was not a mask mandate, she would still be in support of masks. She feels the best way to keep ourselves and others safe is to wear masks, practice social distancing and good hand washing.

Mr. Stuart introduces himself as he is new to the board. He has been here for four years and is the HR director of Tillamook PUD. His wife is from the area and they have a 2nd and 4th grader in the school district. His kids love school and missed it so much they happily attended all six weeks of summer school. Mr. Stuart is concerned that if the school does not comply, that not only can they be fined, but licenses may be stripped as well. The goal is to be in school five days a week. He wants to be part of the solution and feels we have to work together for the betterment of our kids. He is in favor of the mask mandate.

MOTION: Shane Stuart 2nd: Diane Boisa **AYES: 5 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0**

INFORMATION/DIRECTOR QUESTIONS

- Superintendent Report:

Ms. Wharton gives details regarding registration. Online registration will begin next week. There will be three days of in-person registration, held outdoors at the K-8. There will be laptops set up and staff there to assist if needed. The following week the High School will be doing the same, with a chance for students to speak with staff regarding schedules.

The K-8 received its final "final" and new furniture is being put in. The fields are on time and on budget. We are looking forward to offering full time PE, Music, Science and more. There is increased staff and energy coming into our new school.

Summer school was very successful with help from Food Roots NW, the Sitka Center, the Fire Department and the Emergency Preparedness Committee. The summer program at the High School was very beneficial for students who needed to make up credits.

Easy CBM is tentatively scheduled for September to drive data for testing.

FURTHER BUSINESS

With no further business, Vice Board Chair Hagerty adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.