



BANKS SCHOOL DISTRICT

12950 NW Main St. Banks OR 97106

Administration Building

Minutes April 12, 2021

REGULAR SESSION

Meeting held via Zoom

In attendance:

Norie Dimeo-Ediger, Chair
Ron Frame, Vice-Chairman
Dan Streblov
Raymond Mott
Will Moore

Jeff Leo, Superintendent
Administrators, Staff, Patrons

CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

Norie Dimeo-Ediger called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. She said if anyone in the audience had any comments/questions to email Mr. Leo and he would respond later this week. Mr. Leo commented that questions and comments could be typed into chat.

PUBLIC WELCOME/RECOGNITION

There was no public recognition.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Raymond Mott moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ron Frame seconded. Discussion: There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

There were no reports.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

There were no audience comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Minutes: March 8, 2021

Routine Personnel Matters

Resignation:

Effective 4/16/21

Auschere Caufield 1.0FTE Teacher

Effective 6/11/21

Dan Harris 1.0FTE Teacher

Hiring:

Temporary end of 2020-21 School Year Only

Kara LaMotte Littlejohn .40625FTE Instructional Asst.

Start of 2021-22 School Year

Casey Mitchell 1.0FTE Teacher BMS

Glenn Smith 1.0FTE Teacher BMS

Lindsey Flores 1.0FTE Social Worker BES

Transfer:

Start of 2021-22 School Year

Cory Del Villar 1,0FTE Counselor BHS to BMS

Raymond Mott moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Dan Streblov seconded. Discussion: There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Crosswalk Discussion

Ken Shonkwiler Project Manager from ODOT spoke to the board about moving the crosswalk in the middle school parking lot. The proposal is to move the cross walk farther north to in front of BHS. They will put bull dogs (concrete ramps into parking space), rectangular flashing beacons students can use to let drivers know students are crossing and updated crossing markings. The current crosswalk would be removed. Raymond Mott discussed the use of the district lot to park and go over to the Sunset Park for activities. Mr. Mott expressed concern if the crosswalk signs and overhead signal were removed drivers wouldn't be watching for people crossing. Mr. Shonkwiler asked if this is a private park. Mr. Leo said yes, but the district does use the park for certain activities. Mr. Shonkwiler said the crossing being considered is primarily for school travel. He asked about parking at the park. Mr. Leo said they do have parking, but for some people it is more convenient to park at the schools. Mr. Moore said it was asking for a safety problem. Mr. Mott asked if there could be 2 crosswalks, one further south. Mr. Shonkwiler said he understood people cross without a crosswalk now to get over to the park. He said there is only funding for one crosswalk at one location at this time. He would have to look into having 2 crosswalks. It couldn't be part of the current project. The bull dog would be on both sides of the street and takes up one parking space. Drop-off plans for students would have to be discussed – it is not legal to drop off in a cross walk. The district uses permitted flaggers for before and after school crossing. Mr. Shonkwiler said permitted flaggers are not used anywhere else in the region. Dan Streblov asked the distance required for a crosswalk from a driveway. Mr. Shonkwiler said he was not sure. Mr. Shonkwiler said he didn't realize the ball fields were such an issue for the school district. Mr. Leo said when this was originally discussed he was looking from the mindset of school hours/school times and the ball fields are used more in the evening. The crosswalk was approached from the idea of school hours. The board discussed students crossing at Wilkes Street. Mr. Shonkwiler said any intersection is a legal crossing whether or not marked. Mr. Shonkwiler will look at the possibility to put an additional crosswalk in or move the proposed crossing. Mr. Mott asked if there could just be a painted crosswalk near to the park. Mr. Shonkwiler said there are other considerations other than just striping it, e.g. ADA considerations. Mr. Leo said most of foot traffic is coming from the north in the morning. Mr. Moore said that's why he is suggesting painting a crosswalk at Wilkes.

COVID 19 Update

Mr. Leo said this is our third week of full days in our hybrid. He said he had asked principals to meet with school teams to look at getting more students on site – this is another major pivot. A year ago the district started to plan for return to 5 days a week. Then the state moved to CDL only, then LIPI, which shut down for a bit in November/December. In January we were moving forward, the governor moved teachers up to Class 1A for vaccines. The district started with students back on-site near the March 8 proposed date. We are using 6 ft. distance right now. The governor has announced changing from 6 ft. to 3 ft. in the classroom. Banks is ahead of the timeline for students to return to on-site learning. There is still some anxiety. The elementary and middle school will like stay the course with Increased In Person instruction for students who are struggling. There may be potential for a change in teachers and classrooms. The high school is using simulcast in classrooms currently – but the high school is better set up to increase numbers in classrooms due to early graduation, limited classes needed by some seniors and 60 students in CDL. There are 9 teachers in elementary and middle school dedicated to CDL which would affect the teacher to student ratio in the classroom if more students returned. Another consideration is that if we go from 6 ft. to 3 ft., exposure in the classroom rises and more potential cohort exposure. A positive spin is the potential to get more kids in the buildings this spring will make for a more positive position going into the fall. The district is not sure what CDL requirements for fall will be. It is possible we could potentially have 30+ students in middle school classrooms. Mr. Leo said he will continue to allow school teams to problem solve. Another major shift at this time would be a huge pivot. Mr. Moore said he liked the support given to the building principals to work on the problem. Everyone interests are the same. Dan Streblov asked if bringing back some students and not others could raise equity issues. Mr. Pence said in the high school 24 students have met grad requirements, and some only need a few classes. Most classes and classrooms could handle all students back. He would like to survey parents and kids – some students watch younger siblings during the day and some parents nervous about in person learning. He said people are feeling much better with safety protocols. He said not making a big change – small group focus for students – more kids in person will help academically.

If changes were to be made, how will it effect families and how many would opt in to 5 days. Ron Frame commented on transportation concerns with space on the buses. He asked Jeff how fast this change could happen in the high school? Is it worth it based on how much time left in school year. Mr. Pence said the last quarter is a 10 week quarter. Even if only 6 to 7 weeks could be in person it would be huge having them all in. Grades will most likely continue to increase but returning has to be done safely. A COVID case could possibly shut down a classroom or the school for 14 days. Mr. Leo said the quality of education at the elementary level now allows for a lot of individual instruction. 3 ft. in classroom is allowed, but 6 ft. is required in hallways and the cafeteria. Mr. Streblow sad at least starting the high school in the spring we might get an idea how it will work for the fall. He asked the principals if the students are more or less on track. Mrs. Salter said there isn't much assessment being done right now – mostly social/emotional building. Assessments will come, and the kids are happy. Mrs. Waite-Larkin agreed with Mrs. Salter. She said there has been a lot of social/emotional issues that have come up. Every student gets individual attention and have been able to make students feel seen, cared for and supported. Mr. Pence said assessment in the high school shows classes haven't covered what they normally would cover. It is looking different for different groups of kids in each grade. The transition for high school kids coming back has allowed for interaction with other kids - it's been a long time. This interaction is balanced with academics. The high school is talking about credit recovery. Mr. Streblow asked if the staff members were OK with safety. Mrs. Waite-Larkin said she feels they had what they needed to come back. Mrs. Salter agreed with Mrs. Waite Larkin. Mr. Pence agreed. Mr. Pence said learning simulcast has been challenging. Athletics has been very busy in the last few week, lots of organizing and logistics. Mr. Streblow asked about the machine detecting COVID – Mr. Pence said the district received plenty of rapid test materials. Mr. Moore said he thought the principals have followed a good methodical process and defers to Jeff and the principals to make the right decisions going forward and getting set for the fall.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Superintendent's Contract One Year Extension

Currently Mr. Leo is under contract through 2022-23 and would like his contract extended through 2023-24. Financials are set for 2021-22 but they would need to be set next spring for beyond next year. Will Moore moved to approve the Superintendent's contract one year extension for 2023-24. Dan Streblow seconded. Discussion: There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of Board Members to Certified Classified Negotiations

Most of the meetings will be held right after school if possible. Dan Streblow moved to appoint Will Moore to the negotiations. Ron Frame seconded. Vote was unanimous. Ron Frame moved to appoint Raymond Mott to the negotiations. Dan Streblow seconded. Vote was unanimous. Dates and times will be determined and shared with the board members.

BOARD COMMUNICATION

Superintendent Comments

Mr. Leo proposed a work session on 4/19 with an executive session at 5:15 with the negotiations team. At 6PM a work session with the board and Joni to present an overall budget report leading us into budget season. He asked the board to let him know if this doesn't work. There is summer school funding potential and the district has already started to work with staff that would be interested in participating. He will have more information after tomorrow. We are beginning hiring for next year. This is SIA funding using a similar plan as last year hiring counselors, TOSA and middle school teachers. Mr. Leo said he would like the May board meeting to be in person if board is comfortable with that. It would be broadcast to the community. Mr. Mott asked if the date could be changed for negotiations to Tuesday. Mr. Moore indicated that would work for him also.

Board Member Comments

Will Moore said he was impressed with the plans to return to school and he looks forward to more good decision making and processes.

Raymond Mott said he thinks everyone is doing a good job.

Ron Frame said he was happy to see the seniors were able to play at home for the football home game. He said to all administrators to hang in there - they are doing a good job and it is very hard to follow all the new and ever changing rules. He said he is encouraged to see seniors may be able to return full time in spring.

Dan Streblov thanked the administrators for their reports and said they have done a great job getting students back in the building. He thanked them for their efforts. He said there is not much time left, but things done now will carry forward to the fall.

Norie Dimeo-Ediger said she was grateful for all the efforts by everyone.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM.