



12950 NW Main St. Banks OR 97106  
Administration Building  
**Minutes September 13, 2021**

## **REGULAR SESSION**

### **Via Zoom**

#### **In attendance:**

Ron Frame, Chair

Dan Streblov, Vice-Chairman

Will Moore

Corissa Mazurkiewicz

Leslee Sipp

Jeff Leo, Superintendent

Administrators, Staff, Patrons

## **CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE**

Ron Frame called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Comments are limited to 5 minutes maximum per speaker. Chair, Vice-Chair and Superintendent will meet and decide the appropriate response. Mr. Frame led the flag salute postponed until back in person.

## **PUBLIC WELCOME/RECOGNITION**

There was no public recognition.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Corissa Mazurkiewicz moved to approve the agenda as presented. Will Moore seconded. Discussion: There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

## **PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS**

There were no presentations.

## **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Attached summary of parent comments.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Board Minutes:** August 9, 2021

### **Routine Personnel Matters**

#### Hiring:

Rachel Beckwith, 1.0FTE Student Services Secretary effective September 7, 2021

Abby Friant, .49375FTE Playground Assistant

Will Moore moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Leslee Sipp seconded. Discussion: There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **COVID 19 Update**

Mr. Leo focused on positives. There are increasing cases and concerns throughout the country. However, Banks had a great opening of the school year. Everyone is wearing masks, following safety protocols. Successful start. Stay focused on safety protocols. Main goal – in person schooling entire year with little disruptions and maintain a work force to allow for school in-person. Safety protocols will be followed to achieve this goals. Remain focused on student learning. Eliminate as much as possible the distractions of COVID. We get stuck on announcements or mandates. Imperative district stays focused on student learning, health and safety. We continue to face challenges. Will Moore: very impressed with the work we're doing. He asked Mr. Pence what Mr. Rice is doing with the ASVAB results student by student as

the high school gets them. Mr. Pence said it depends on the recruiters. Some positive experiences, where recruiters met with students and gone over results, sometimes just give scores. Varies. End of October early November. This last year later in the spring due to CDL. Mr. Moore said ASVAB is very telling about their aptitudes and would like to talk about it with Jacob. They will talk off line. Ron Frame asked if the number of student quarantined is higher than in the spring. How is contact tracing working? What would it look like if we didn't follow the mask mandate? Mr. Pence said that people took the advice if they are not well don't come to school and didn't start the school year. Didn't start immediate need for contact tracing since they didn't start the year. The school is constantly monitoring. Infographic/guidance – students wearing masks 3' or more distancing and don't develop symptoms don't have to quarantine. High school kids have done outstanding job. Didn't have mask mandate there would be lots more quarantine situations.

### **SB732**

Mr. Leo met with Corissa Mazurkiewicz to discuss about 3 weeks ago. Corissa works with equity groups at Pacific University. SB732 requires school district to form educational equity advisory committee members selected by board and superintendent. Membership primarily representing underserved student groups. Must be in place by September 2025.

District staff has been to several trainings at NWRES D and discussions to ensure all students are provided additional support if needed. In working w/NWRES D the district will be putting together the process to form the committee and will work with NWRES D to provide support for equity training for committee members. He asked for patience. This is something he will be working on getting together this fall and early winter. He has reached out to NWRES D – they're working on it. The district needs to make sure all students, no matter what they need, are put on a path to success.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

There are no action items tonight.

### **BOARD COMMUNICATION**

#### **Superintendent Comments**

Not much to add. Reiterate the #1 goal is for the district to remain in person. We will stay focused on goal. OHSU will be coming to do a vaccination clinic. He will get out information to community. It is for the community, staff and students. He thanked Mr. Streblov.

#### **Board Member Comments**

Leslie Sipp thanked everyone. Loves hearing from administrators. PTO meeting Thursday night 6PM. Volunteers are so necessary for our school. Middle school – students are excited about seeing their friends every day. High School – recognizes student and staff. Thank everyone for the kind words tonight.

Will Moore pleased to see students back. Unfortunate when we have to give in for our own choices or liberties for the greater good. Pleased the way the school has done that. Focus on keeping the kids in school major focus of the board. Appreciated comments tonight and thru email. Appreciate support and perspective. He said he is comfortable the way the board is responding to the majority of the community wants for their kids. Input is welcome. Appreciation to staff and students.

Dan Streblov echoed appreciation to getting back to school safely. Important to figure out where the kids are and make adjustments to get them back on track. SB732 – will there be an application process? Mr. Leo: Yes. It is important to honor what is stated in the legislation. Congratulations to faculty and staff getting kids back in. Canvas as backup to provide seamless education in case of an outbreak.

Corissa Mazurkiewicz thanked everyone for their comments. Very clear some things we all disagree on. Doing the best we can. Commonality - passion and love for the kids. Thank staff bringing kids back.

Students elated to be back in school with their friends. Thanks all to teachers, Jeff and administration. We need to focus on mental health needs of our students. They are still going thru trauma as is everyone. Taking care of emotional and social needs most important. Academics will come. Acknowledge publicly the board members took of oath of office to follow laws in Oregon and federal laws. Doing the best we can.

Ron Frame staff and administration thank you so much. Sees kids go to school and get back in the groove. The excitement is there. Appreciative of all the work being done. Can be overwhelming. Thank everyone. If any board member has an interest in equity training, please email Ron.

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 710 PM.

### **Public Comments September 13, 2021**

#### **Jody Hailey**

Acknowledge and appreciate the work being done and good intentions of all.

May disagree on ideological issues.

Philosophical statement:

Democracy works starting at local level. Public schools belong to the public. In her opinion state and education unions run the schools, the superintendent is next, parents are toward the bottom of the list, she believes parents and community members should run the schools elects the board who hires the superintendent. Local control of public schools means strong school boards. Put students first. Education unions shut down schools. School board not representing, receiving dialogue from parents. Makes democracy work.

Vaccine mandate: Masks are one thing. In her opinion vaccine mandate utterly immoral.

Community needs to stand together with those not wishing to be vaccinated no matter how they personally feel. Public school belongs to community.

Ask the board be willing stand up to the mandate from the state and to face consequences not following vaccine mandate. Will lose some coaches, staff, volunteers who won't be vaccinated.

Vaccine mandate comes into effect for school students, if the board enforces it, parents will take students out.

#### **Kristin Accardi**

Student in BSD 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Last year CDL did fine 6<sup>th</sup> grade starting out. Spring, not as well.

Family was lucky during pandemic. Didn't have to worry about exposure, irregardless her daughter suffered mental and emotional stress. It is hard for students to recover.

2021 showed how critical schools are for students' well being. Schools are connections, safety and stability and it is critical to keep students in person full time.

When audience members demand the school board force superintendent and admin. reject mask and vaccine mandate makes her angry. The district cannot afford the the exposure to the civil and financial liability. Placing their personal agendas above the well-being of the school district and students. They say they are speaking for the community, which they have no authority or right to do.

They say they are owed a town hall forum – board policy prohibits the creation of standing general purpose committees. This would not create constructive opportunity for dialogue. Over 5000 registered voters. If 100 people showed up for a town hall that is less than 2% of registered voters. If a survey was sent out unless there was a majority return it is a waste of time and money. This is nothing more than theatre. Urge board to reject request – waste of board time, tax dollars and disenfranchise majority of the community. The community holds elections.

Grateful good judgement electing school board. Top priority keep schools open and kids in school full time. Remarkable change in her daughter returning to school full time. Thank the board and the district for their hard work to keep schools open for all children.

### **Kathryn Williams**

3 kids in school. Speaking for many disabled families. Loud aggressive voices take center stage. Solution presented before listening to experiences. Energy taking care of family and medically fragile child. Everyone benefits from access and equity. SB732 can be an amplifying tool. Early in the pandemic she was concerned special ed students slipping thru the cracks. Encourage the board to meet the milestone to establish a committee now not wait until 2025. Hope will have on line access for all future board meetings. Allows parents and care givers to stay engaged. Thank administration staff for the hard work to support the safety and care of the students.

### **Dan Williams**

6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grader in the district. Words of encouragement to the board. Not in favor of creating town halls or open forum. Proposed forum would place requirements on the board not defined by Oregon public meeting law. Undermining the decision making authority of the school board. Forum could degrade the ability of the board to do the district's business. Requests the board stay the course and maintain their integrity. August board meeting offered example of direct confrontation. The effort to maximize public comment time for public speaking was interpreted as trying to limit comment. Board standing policy is to not to answer direct questions. Board collection of experience will yield better outcomes than polls. Community has in place the best form of polling – board seat elections. He will strengthen listening prior to strengthening his arguments.

### **Jared Benson**

Resident of Banks - 3 children in schools. Members of community feel decisions by the board does not allow for dialogue. Respectful discussion of all sides is requested. Petition for meeting of community members. Read petition and sent copy to board. Town Hall open forum 1 hour before every school board meeting. Give board insight from community. Establish method for gathering community input of concerns. 100% transparency on survey results. Respond in writing to all requests. Community should be able to have ongoing dialogue.

### **Daniel Scoveren**

2 children in elementary. Stand on COVID – unmasking kids so parents have right to make decision. Does not support vaccine mandate for anyone. Support others rights to make own decisions. Written response preferred.

Questions:

For or against mask mandate

For or against vaccine mandate for teachers – allow medical and religious exemptions

For or against vaccine mandate for children 12 and older

For or against vaccine mandate for coaches and volunteer coaches

For or against volunteers must show proof of vaccination

For or against creating policy parental consent for specific classes even if contradicts guidelines

For or against CRT in classroom

For or against sex education in the elementary/middle school levels

For or against biological males participating in female sports

### **Travis Schlegel**

Thank board for taking time to listen to the public. The board is not required to accept public comment. Speaks volumes that the board wants to solicit feedback. Most members of the community appreciate opportunity to engage with local government. School trying to return to some semblance of normal. All doing the best we can. Most important to return to in person learning safely as possible keeping everyone safe. Leading scientific and medical authority have determined several ways to accomplish this – ventilation, limited class size, social distancing, co-horts. 2 greatest: vaccination and wearing a mask. New vaccine fully proven. Masks work to stop spread of airborne diseases. Proven fact. Protecting those that can't wear masks as well as self. None of controversial subjects recently discussed have a thing to do with getting kids back to school and keeping them there. Wants to know what he and the community can do to help the school keep kids in school full time and safe. That's what needs to be focused on.

**Amy Siadal (via letter)**

3 children in Banks. Support of teachers, staff and school board. Children of color in Banks. Happy with the curriculum. Looking toward creation of diversity. No proof of CRT indoctrinating. Distraction for the board. Unnecessary solution nonsense. Need to plan for a new high school and bond. Public school accepts state funding. Have to meet requirements. Agree to disagree. No need for a combative environment at meetings.