

Board Communication Update – December 2nd, 2021

Equity in Education Advisory Committee:

It is critical that we understand the new law and how it will be interpreted so that we can best establish our Banks School District Equity in Education Advisory Committee and be in compliance with the new law. We fully understand that this is a community advisory panel but the state law mandates that the establishment and oversight be performed by the BSD School Board and Superintendent. On November 15th, 2 members of the School Board, the Superintendent, and one Banks school administrator met for 1 hour with the NWRESD to begin to understand the new state law. Over the next two to three months, we will continue to work with NWRESD to understand the logistics of the new state law for things such as guidelines for establishing our advisory committee, identifying the appropriate meeting laws, reporting structure etc. Thus, all of the immediate efforts are focused on understanding the law, how to interpret the law, making sure we are in compliance when we establish our panel here in Banks. Once this part is finished, we plan to have an open discussion with the community to explain the law and to discuss how to establish the committee and to define the goals for what the panel should accomplish. In May, 2022, we plan to put out a call for applications to all community members for consideration to join the BSD Equity Advisory Committee. We expect to choose the panel of community members by July, and the first meetings to be held in September. While this timeline is subject to change, we will be on schedule to meet the timeline set by the Oregon state mandate. The BSD Board and Superintendent will quickly provide additional information as it becomes available.

Petition

We have addressed the concerns raised in the October Petition and the BSD responses are publicly available by clicking on the October 1, 2021 board communication on our communication page on the district website.

BSD Mission and Vision

The BSD School Board and Superintendent review and revise the Mission and Vision on a yearly basis, which is entirely appropriate and necessary. This review is usually performed at the beginning of the new school year in order to educate new board members (which we have two new board members this year) about the Mission/Vision statements and to identify and revise anything that requires

modification. For example, during last year's review, the Board identified and advocated for a change in the amount of time that is allowed for Community members to speak during our public School Board meetings. The original amount of time was 3 minutes, which some members of the Board felt was too short for some to properly convey their concerns or comments. In order to give Community members more time, the Mission and Vision Statement was revised to now include a 5-minute time slot for comment. Our goal was to make it as easy as possible for the community to convey their opinions. And while some may still view 5 minutes as too short, it was felt that 5 minutes is a compromise that allows for as many people as possible to take part in each meeting.

In Person Meetings

While some community members have advocated for in person meetings, an equal number in our community have voiced their opinions for continuing on-line meetings for various reasons. We appreciate both sides and while remote meetings are not ideal, the Board does plan to go back to in-person meetings in 2022.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board of Directors and the Superintendent,

Dan Streblow
Vice Chair
Banks School District Board of Directors