



# HOOD RIVER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Excellence. Every student. Every day.*

## MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 23, 2024

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### **I. REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING AND CALL TO ORDER – 6:35 P.M.**

The Hood River County School District (HRCSD) regular board meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Board Chair, Chrissy Reitz, at Hood River Middle School, 1602 May St, Hood River, OR 97031.

The following board members were present:

Chrissy Reitz, Chair  
Brandi Sheppard, Vice-Chair  
Corinda Hankins Elliott  
Barb Hosford  
David Stuben  
Julia Garcia-Ramirez

The following board members were absent:

Jen Kelly

The following members of the superintendent's cabinet were present:

Bill Newton, Superintendent  
Gus Hedberg Executive Director of Human Resources  
Amy McConnell, Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
Anne Carloss, Executive Director of Student Services (virtual)  
Patricia Ortega-Cooper, Executive Director of Equity & Family Partnerships

The following HRCSD staff/community members were present:

Tod Hilstad, Meghan West, Abe Rieke, Trisha Walker, Mikka Irusta, Nan Noteboom, Mark Hickok, Rolland Hayden, Jennifer Schlosser,

### **II. REVIEW/REVISION OF AGENDA - 6:36 P.M.**

Superintendent Newton shared there was a revised personnel report, an added link for HRVHS Academic Planning Guide, and an updated slideshow for the Cascade Locks Heating. He also noted that there will be no superintendent search application screening agenda item as it has been moved to the next board meeting due to the weather closures and to ensure that anyone who would like to apply has the opportunity to do so.

### **III. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT - 6:37 P.M.**

Superintendent Newton shared the following topics with the board:

- Superintendent Bill Newton expressed his sorrow as he shared the news of the loss within our school community. The death of one of Hood River Valley High School students, Tristin Baker, was learned yesterday. He shared in this challenging period, his thoughts and hearts were with Tristin Baker's family and the entire school community. Newton shared that the crisis counseling support services team had been providing assistance at HRVHS for students and staff throughout

the day. Additionally, he noted that support was extended to Wy'east Middle School and Parkdale Elementary School students and staff as they mourned. He emphasized that leaning on each other and offering assistance where needed was crucial during this time. Newton shared that anyone struggling was encouraged to reach out to a counselor, teacher, family member, or friend. Superintendent Bill Newton expressed that no words could adequately convey the sorrow felt by himself and the community for the Baker family and Tristin's friends.

#### **IV. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS - 6:39 P.M.**

No board member reports were presented.

#### **V. STUDENT ENVOY AND BOARD COMMUNICATION - 6:39 P.M.**

No student envoy reports were presented.

#### **VI. RECOGNITION & GOOD NEWS - 6:39 P.M.**

Director of Human Resources Gus Hedberg shared that the recognition and good news would not be occurring tonight. He shared they will bring back recognition and good news for the next meeting.

#### **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT/HEARING OF DELEGATIONS OR VISITORS - 6:40 P.M.**

There was no one signed up for public comment.

#### **VIII. CONSOLIDATED REPORTS - 6:40 P.M.**

All items listed below are matters considered by the Board of Directors to be routine information items. There was no separate discussion of these items.

##### **A. December Financial Report**

#### **IX. CONSOLIDATED ACTION - 6:40 P.M.**

All items listed below are matters considered by the Board of Directors to be routine and were enacted by one motion. There was no separate discussion of these items. The Consolidated Action consisted of the following items:

- A. Regular Business Meeting Minutes - January 10, 2024
- B. Human Resources Report/Personnel Action
- C. HRVHS Academic Planning Guide

A motion was made by Barb Hosford to approve the Consolidated action as presented. It was seconded by Corinda Hankins Elliott and unanimously approved 6-0.

#### **X. REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS – 6:41 P.M.**

##### **A. Hood River Middle School Report**

Hood River Middle School Principal Rolland Hayden and Assistant Principal Jennifer Schlosser presented the 23-24 continuous school improvement plan focus areas for Hood River Middle School. They shared information on teaching and learning, evidence based decision making, reading and math data, accessible and international instruction, and strengthening programs.

##### **B. Hood River Valley Parks & Rec Bond/Levy Planning**

The Director of Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District Mark Hickok and Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation Board president Nan Noteboom presented the bond and levy planning to the board. Hickok shared that the recreation district is planning to put a capital bond and operational levy on the May 2024 ballot. Hickok shared that some of the projects have crossover with the school district such as



the pool/community center replacement, developing Westside Park, and operating funds for recreation programming. He shared that they will be moving forward with their plan and bringing it to the voters.

### **C. Annual Financial Report for Year Ended June 30, 2023**

Interim Chief Financial Officer Nancy Hall and Tara Kamp of Pauly Rogers and Co presented the Annual Financial Report is the document that presents the audited financial position of the Hood River County School District as of June 30, 2023 and the results of operations for the fiscal year then ended. They stated that the District met the filing requirements of the Oregon Secretary of State Audits Division, the Oregon Department of Education, the Federal Audit Clearinghouse, and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board.

Tara Kamp, C.P.A., Pauly Rogers and Co., P.C., presented the audited Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2023 and the accompanying letter, Communication to the Governing Body. She reviewed the purpose and scope of the audit, results, findings, future accounting and auditing issues, and best practices.

## **XI. ACTION ITEMS – 7:51 P.M.**

### **A. Adopt Corrective Action Plan**

Interim Chief Financial Officer Nancy Hall presented the corrective action plan for the annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 included an audit finding of a Material Weakness on page 68 of the report. She shared that OMB Uniform Guidance requires that a separate corrective action plan be prepared that provides: the name of the contact person; the corrective action planned; and the anticipated completion date.

A motion was made by Brandi Sheppard to adopt the Corrective Action Plan as presented. It was seconded by David Stuben and unanimously approved 6-0.

### **B. Approve Educational Equity Advisory Committee Timeline**

Director of Equity and Family Partnerships Patricia Cooper and Superintendent Bill Newton presented that in 2021 the Oregon Legislature passed SB 732, which requires the establishment of an educational equity advisory committee in each school district to advise school boards and superintendents about the educational equity impacts of policy decisions and to inform district leaders when situations arise that negatively impact underrepresented students. They provided information about the district's steps to convene this committee and propose an implementation timeline.

A motion was made by Corinda Hankins Elliott to approve the timeline to convene the HRCSD Equity Advisory Committee as presented. It was seconded by Brandi Sheppard and unanimously approved 6-0.

### **C. Approve Emergency Contract for Cascade Locks HVAC Improvements**

Luke Harkness from the project management team, Wenaha Group, and Superintendent Bill Newton presented to the board the urgent need for immediate action on the HVAC issues at Cascade Locks Elementary. Wenaha advised bypassing the typical bidding process, citing Oregon law that allows for emergency bids in these types of emergency situations. They proposed the approval of a contractor's bid as soon as possible to rectify the HVAC issues at Cascade Locks Elementary.

A motion was made by David Stuben to declare this an emergency situation and give the District the right to directly hire a qualified contractor so that the impacted areas of Cascade Locks Elementary can be addressed in a timely fashion. It was seconded by Corinda Hankins Elliott and unanimously approved 6-0.

#### **D. Approve Resolution #23-24/03 National School Board Recognition Month**

Director of Human Resources Gus Hedberg presented the resolution recommending HRCSD celebrates National School Board Recognition Month by approving the Resolution presented

A motion was made by Corinda Hankins Elliott to approve Resolution #23-24/03 National School Board Recognition Month. It was seconded by Brandi Sheppard and unanimously approved 6-0.

#### **E. Acceptance of Donations**

Chair Chrissy Reitz read the list of generous donations:

- Thanh Huynh of the Columbia Gorge Inn donated \$1000 worth of art supplies to Cascade Locks Elementary.
- Albert Nance of Buddy's Barcade donated \$1,353 worth of art supplies to Cascade Locks Elementary.
- Wimpy Kid Inc and Jeff Kinney donated \$350 worth of materials to the library at Westside Elementary.
- Juanita's Chips donated chips estimated at \$25 to the tuffy store at Wy'east Middle School.
- Hood River Parks and Recreation donated 25 swimming passes valued at \$106.25 to the tuffy store at Wy'east Middle School.
- Jennifer Graves donated headphones valued at \$125 to the tuffy store at Wy'east Middle School.
- ACE Hardware donated \$200 worth of gift cards to be used at the tuffy store at Wy'east Middle School.
- Duckwall Fruit donated \$100 to be used for the tuffy store at Wy'east Middle School.
- Big Gene's donated \$50 to be used for the tuffy store at Wy'east Middle School.

A motion was made by Brandi Sheppard to accept the generous donations as presented. It was seconded by David Stuben and unanimously approved 6-0.

#### **F. Approve Field Trip Request**

Superintendent Bill Newton, standing in for HRVHS Principal Columba Jones, presented the board with a field trip request. He shared that the students participating in the TRIO Upward Bound Program have the opportunity to attend the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute in Chicago IL. This conference will allow students to strengthen and develop leadership skills and grow as servant leaders.

A motion was made by David Stuben to approve the proposed educational trip to Chicago, IL February 15-18th, 2024. It was seconded by Corinda Hankins Elliott and unanimously approved 6-0.

### **XII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – 8:53 P.M.**

#### Director Julia Garcia-Ramirez

Director Garcia-Ramirez extended heartfelt condolences to the Baker family, expressing a sincere wish for them to find strength and community support during this painful time of loss.

#### Director Barb Hosford

Director Hosford, echoing Director Julia Garcia-Ramirez's condolences, emphasized the need for peace and time to navigate the current situation, expressing confidence in the community's support for the Baker family. She gave appreciation to the transportation team, Bill Newton, and those ensuring safe decisions in challenging weather. Grateful for Jennifer Schlosser and Rolland Hayden's presentation, Director Hosford highlighted their focus on engagement and supporting students during the difficult middle school years. Commending Parks and Rec for their outstanding presentation, she wished them the best and urged strong community support on their upcoming bond and levy.



Director Corinda Hankins Elliott

Director Hankins Elliott extended condolences to the Baker family and expressed a sincere desire for the school district to provide any necessary support to the family and students during this difficult time. She conveyed appreciation for being at HRMS and commended their presentation. Additionally, she expressed gratitude to Parks and Rec for their long-awaited presentation, highlighting that it aligns with the community's preferences. Director Hankins Elliott encouraged community support on the upcoming ballot in May, emphasizing the importance of the much-needed pool and community center. She also expressed excitement for the new equity committee.

Director Brandi Sheppard

Director Sheppard expressed heartfelt sympathies to the Baker family, students, staff, and members of the community. She also conveyed gratitude to HRMS for hosting the meeting this evening.

Director David Stuben

Director Stuben expressed gratitude to Principal Hayden and Assistant Principal Schlosser for hosting the meeting and delivering a wonderful presentation. He particularly appreciated hearing about the positive attendance data and the reduction in referrals. Director Stuben acknowledged the exciting developments for Parks and Rec and gave a special shoutout to Kyle Rosselle, Bill Newton, and Todd Rainwater for their efforts in navigating challenging weather conditions and ensuring the facilities were fixed, plowed, and opened. He recognized the significant behind-the-scenes work involved to make that happen.

Director Stuben extended thanks to Bill Newton, Gus Hedberg, Stephanie Hoppe, Columba Jones, and everyone offering support in the wake of the distressing news about Tristin Baker. He shared that he carries a heavy heart and conveyed his thoughts and prayers to the Baker family, as well as to the staff, students, coaches, and everyone affected by the tragic loss.

Director Chrissy Reitz

Director Reitz expressed gratitude to everyone for attending the meeting after a long day, acknowledging the challenge of conducting business during difficult times. She sincerely appreciated the dedication of the staff across every area of the district, thanking them for their hard work and willingness to step up.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT – 8:44 P.M.**

Chair Reitz adjourned the meeting at 8:44 P.M.

Board Meeting Voting Chart			Date: Jan 23, 2024						Time: 6:30pm					
		MOTION NUMBER	1. Consolidated Action			2. Approve Audit Corrective Action Plan			3. Approve Educational Equity Advisory Committee Timeline			4. Approve Emergency Contract for Cascade Locks Heating		
Position	Name	ATTENDANCE	Aye	No	Abstain	Aye	No	Abstain	Aye	No	Abstain	Aye	No	Abstain
Position 1	Chrissy Reitz	✓	✓			✓			✓			✓		
Position 2	Barb Hosford	✓	✓			✓			✓			✓		
Position 3	Corinda Hankins Elliott	✓	✓			✓			✓			✓		
Position 4	Julia Garcia-Ramirez	✓	✓			✓			✓			✓		
Position 5	David Stuben	✓	✓			✓			✓			✓		
Position 6	Brandi Sheppard	✓	✓			✓			✓			✓		
Position 7 Member at Large	Jen Kelly													
		Motion made by:	Barb Hosford			Brandi Sheppard			Corinda Hankins Elliott			David Stuben		
		Seconded by:	Corinda Hankins Elliott			David Stuben			Brandi Sheppard			Corinda Hankins Elliott		

		5. Resolution 23-24 03 Board Member Recognition Month			6. Acceptance of Donations			7. Approve Field Trip Request		
Position	Name	Aye	No	Abstain	Aye	No	Abstain	Aye	No	Abstain
Position 1	Chrissy Reitz	✓			✓			✓		
Position 2	Barb Hosford	✓			✓			✓		
Position 3	Corinda Hankins Elliott	✓			✓			✓		
Position 4	Julia Garcia-Ramirez	✓			✓			✓		
Position 5	David Stuben	✓			✓			✓		
Position 6	Brandi Sheppard	✓			✓			✓		
Position 7 Member at Large	Jen Kelly									
Motion made by:		Corinda Hankins Elliott			Brandi Sheppard			David Stuben		
Seconded by:		Brandi Sheppard			David Stuben			Corinda Hankins Elliott		

## SIGNATURES

Chrissy Reitz, Board Chair  
Board:mw

2/9/24  
Date

Bill Newton, Superintendent

02/09/2024  
Date