

HOOD RIVER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

February 7, 2024

I. REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING AND CALL TO ORDER – 6:31 P.M.

The Hood River County School District (HRCSD) regular board meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Board Chair, Chrissy Reitz, at Westside Elementary School, 3685 Belmont Dr, Hood River, OR 97031.

The following board members were present:

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

The following board members were absent:

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
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, Ocean Kuykendall, Adrienne Acosta, Emily Rappleya, Columba Jones, Dan Barnard, Lindsay Weseman, Gretchen VonLubken, Mikka Irusta, Pat Sublette,

II. REVIEW/REVISION OF AGENDA - 6:31 P.M.

Superintendent Newton shared there was a revised personnel report, and updated slide deck for the HRVHS graduation rates report.

III. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT - 6:32 P.M.

Superintendent Newton shared the following topics with the board:

- The district is prioritizing support for students, staff, and families following a student's tragic death, offering sessions, therapy, grief groups, a social media campaign, and a town hall event.
- Efforts are underway to gather feedback and develop the budget for the next school year, including participation in a budget symposium and conducting listening sessions with staff.
- Severe cold weather has caused significant damage to school facilities, resulting in an estimated cost of \$105,000, with expenses reported to insurers and the state for potential emergency funding.

- Secondary school staff engaged in professional development sessions focusing on various areas including learning targets, differentiation, trauma-informed classroom management, and electronic systems training.
- The Every Day Matters Team is addressing student attendance issues through collaborative efforts, data analysis, and specific school initiatives aimed at improving attendance rates.
- The transportation department acquired a new 77-passenger bus with enhanced safety features and efficiency, costing \$137,711, funded through reimbursement and depreciation mechanisms.
- The Hood River County Education Foundation provided \$64,051 in Impact Teaching Grants, Newton highlighted their ongoing support for the school district, to be discussed further in the board meeting.

IV. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS - 6:41 P.M.

Director Chrissy Reitz - Science Curriculum Adoption Committee

Reitz stated that both middle schools and the high school have made final selections to pilot, which is set to commence in the coming weeks. She noted the introduction of new science information and technology to teachers and she praised the thorough process. Reitz expressed her admiration for the dedication, time, and passion exhibited by the teachers in selecting the most suitable materials for their students.

Director Barb Hosford - HRMS Kindness Event

Hosford noted she was excited to see good things happening at Hood River Middle School.

Director Barb Hosford - OSEA Labor Negotiations Committee

Hosford shared the negotiations have started and they are meeting consistently.

V. STUDENT ENVOY AND BOARD COMMUNICATION - 6:43 P.M.

Student Envoy Ben Bauman shared the following information with the board:

- The canned food drive was a success, with an approximate collection of 24,000 items. While the official total is pending due to potential inclusion of FISH food bank items, all prizes have been won, including some staff members will be receiving piercings and tattoos.
- Next week will feature winter spirit week with themed days and lunchtime activities.
- HRV's Got Talent assembly is scheduled, providing students with an opportunity to showcase their hidden talents to the entire student body.
- The Spring Fling dance is set for Friday, March 8.
- "Shakespeare in Love," the winter play, will run from February 23-24 and March 1-3.
- Winter sports are concluding this month, while spring sports will commence on February 26th.

VI. RECOGNITION & GOOD NEWS - 6:49 P.M.

Director of Human Resources Gus Hedberg recognized the Hood River County School District Board of Directors. Hedberg shared information on each board member and gave them a small gift that was supplied by different schools in the district.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT/HEARING OF DELEGATIONS OR VISITORS - 6:56 P.M.

There was no one signed up for public comment.

VIII. CONSOLIDATED REPORTS - 6:56 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. January Financial Report

IX. CONSOLIDATED ACTION - 6:56 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 23, 2024
- B. Human Resources Report/Personnel Action

A motion was made by Julia Garcia Ramirez to approve the Consolidated Action as presented. It was seconded by Corinda Hankins Elliott and unanimously approved 7-0.

X. REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS – 6:56 P.M.

A. Westside Elementary School Report

Westside Elementary School Principal Ocean Kuykendall and Assistant Principal Dan Barnard presented the 23-24 continuous school improvement plan goals for Westside Elementary. They shared information on their AVID Site Plan, ECRI (Enhance Core Reading Instruction), Heggerty, SEL (Social Emotional Learning) small groups, Wildcat Ambassadors, Morning Meeting, Open House, Wildcat Chase, Family Nights, Swimming Lessons, Smart Reading, Artist in Residence, PTO Events, STEM & Fab Bus, Character Strong Events, Math and Reading Data, Highlighted Janitorial Staff.

B. AVID Program Report

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Amy McConnell and Cascade Locks Principal Adrienne Acosta updated the board on the AVID district wide implementation. McConnell shared how AVID looks at each building. They reviewed detailed information about district strategic planning including data informed next steps and goals for the program moving forward.

C. Hood River Valley High School (HRVHS) Graduation Rates Update

HRVHS Principal Columba Jones updated the board on the graduation rates. She shared different charts illustrating where HRVHS falls within different comparisons.

D. Core Value Report: Equity and Cultural Responsiveness

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Amy McConnell and Director of Equity and Family Partnerships Patricia Cooper presented an overview of the district's progress towards achieving the strategic plan goals of 1) Identify, target, and close opportunity and access gaps and 2) Implement relevant, rigorous, and engaging learning opportunities.

E. Columbia Gorge Education Service District Local Service Plan

Columbia Gorge Education Service District (CGESD) Superintendent Pat Sublette presented the local service plan to the board. She shared in Hood River County School District (HRCSD) the STEM Hub, Playworks, early learning, parenting education and beginning teacher mentoring are some of the initiatives facilitated by CGESD. The mission of Columbia Gorge ESD is to assist Hood River and Wasco County School districts and the Department of Education in achieving Oregon's educational goals by providing equitable, high quality, cost effective and locally responsive educational services at a regional level. Sublette shared the method used to ensure services are responsive to local district needs is the Local Service Plan.

XI. ACTION ITEMS – 8:31 P.M.

A. Approve Resolution #23/24-04 CGESD Local Service Plan

Columbia Gorge Education Service District (CGESD) Superintendent Pat Sublette shared the Local Service Plan describing the services that are provided by CGESD to each district within the CGESD

region during the 2024-25 school year. These services use state school dollars and local taxes allocated to CGESD and spent on behalf of each district within the service region. Any remaining allocated funds not delivered in services are sent to districts in the form of flow-through dollars. The school board must take action before March 1, 2024 in accordance with ORS 334.175.

A motion was made by Corinda Hankins Elliott to approve Resolution 23-24/04 CGESD Local Service Plan as presented. It was seconded by Brandi Sheppard and unanimously approved 7-0.

B. Accept Hood River County Education Foundation 2024 Impact Grants

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Amy McConnell shared The Hood River County Education Foundation (HRCEF) supports the Hood River County School District (HRCSD) through funding impactful and innovative educators and/or student-designed projects that exemplify excellence in education. HRCEF strives to support impactful projects that enrich student learning through direct academic benefit, staff development, and/or non-academic learning opportunities. This year, HRCEF is funding 28 individual grant applications for a total of \$66,973 grants awarded as presented below:

- Hood River Valley High School: \$13,496.90 for nine grants
- Hood River Middle School: \$8,147.90 for four grants
- Wy'east Middle School: \$4,952.75 for three grants
- Parkdale Elementary School: \$6,900.00 for two grant
- Westside Elementary School: \$9,941.00 for four grants
- Mid Valley Elementary School: \$1,200 for one grants
- Cascade Locks Elementary School: \$13,245.00 for two grants
- All Elementary (All Kids Learn to Bike!): \$3,998.00

A motion was made by Brandi Sheppard to accept the grants awarded to staff through the Hood River Education Foundation Impact Teaching Grants as presented. It was seconded by Barb Hosford and unanimously approved 7-0.

C. Appoint Superintendent Search Screening Committee

Milt Dennison, OSBA consultant, gave an update on the superintendent search process. Board Chair Chrissy Reitz shared she appreciated the willingness of these selected individuals to participate in this important endeavor for the Hood River County School District. She shared that the Hood River County School District's superintendent screening committee applications involved a random lottery drawing to select individuals to represent different segments of the school community as presented below:

Secondary Licensed Staff Representative: Shayla Moline (middle), Eric Keller (high school)
Elementary Licensed Staff Representative: Jessica McElfresh
Secondary Classified Staff Representative: Kate Sherrill
Elementary Classified Staff Representative: Jason Carpenter
Confidential Staff Representative: Gretchen Winans
Administrative Staff Representative: Tod Hilstad
Other Staff/Department Representative: Sarah Hayden
HRCSD Guardian/Parent Representatives: Adam McCarthy, Rachael Fuller
Community Member Representatives: Paul Zastrow, Angie Green

Reitz stated that the screening committee will meet at a special board meeting on February 28th from 6:30-8:30pm for the mandatory screening training.

A motion was made by David Stuben to appoint the applicants listed above to the HRCSD superintendent screening committee. It was seconded by Brandi Sheppard and unanimously approved 7-0.

D. Approve Education Field Trip to Washington DC

Director of Equity & Family Partnerships Patricia Cooper, Assistant Principal Tess Misa and HRV Graduation Specialist America Flores presented a field trip opportunity to the board for approval. Cooper shared that Hood River Valley High School students who qualify for migrant education services have the opportunity to attend the CLOSE UP program this spring and during this program, students participate in workshops, classes, and mock debates that push them to consider a variety of viewpoints on important current issues and build leadership skills.

A motion was made by Corinda Hankins Elliott to approve the proposed educational field trip of the HRVHS Migrant Students to Washington DC from Saturday March 24, 2024 to Friday March 29, 2024. It was seconded by Brandi Sheppard and unanimously approved 7-0.

E. Acceptance of Donations

Chair Chrissy Reitz read the list of generous donations:

- Julie Donahue donated hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes valued at \$200 to Westside Elementary.

A motion was made by David Stuben to accept the generous donations as presented. It was seconded by Julia Garcia Ramire and unanimously approved 7-0.

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

Director Barb Hosford

Director Barb Hosford thanked Principal Kuykendall and staff for hosting the meeting that night. She expressed gratitude for the opportunity to learn a lot. Reflecting on the presentations, she expressed a desire to be a kid again to fully embrace all the opportunities available now. She appreciated the hard work put into boosting kids and fostering a love for school. She particularly enjoyed the presentation that focused on one-pagers and other strategies at WSES, acknowledging the school district's dedication to improving education for children. Additionally, she was highly impressed with the seal of biliteracy program provided at the high school.

Director Julia Garcia-Ramirez

Director Garcia-Ramirez thanked the Education Foundation for consistently stepping up to support the school district. She acknowledged the various programs implemented by the board, emphasizing their alignment with the overarching goal of ensuring students graduate and are prepared for their careers. Director Garcia-Ramirez thanked everyone for their heartfelt presentations and their dedication day in and day out within the school district. She expressed pride in the positive developments happening within the district and her pride in being part of Hood River.

Director Corinda Hankins Elliott

Director Hankins Elliott expressed excitement about AVID and extended gratitude to Principal Kuykendall for hosting and for her wonderful presentation. She was pleased to see the continued strength in graduation rates and expressed enthusiasm about the screening committee, highlighting that it was a new endeavor during this superintendent process. Director Hankins Elliott eagerly anticipated hearing about the Washington D.C. student field trip and was excited about the opportunities it provided.

Director Brandi Sheppard

Director Sheppard thanked Principal Kuykendall and Vice Principal Dan Barnard for their great presentation. She noted that the theme of the meeting seemed to be how everything works together,

including equity, emphasizing how everything is intertwined. Director Sheppard expressed optimism about how the district is moving forward in the right direction.

Director David Stuben

Director Stuben extended thanks to Principal Kuykendall and Vice Principal Dan Barnard for hosting the meeting at Westside. He expressed enjoyment in hearing about the themes for the SSS and one-pagers, as well as amazement at the number of children's books he's read that he can see on the shelves in the library tonight. Director Stuben particularly appreciated the graduation rates report by Principal Jones and found encouragement in the subsequent report on equity and cultural response, highlighting its potential to close the gaps. Finally, he thanked everyone for their presentations that evening.

Director Jen Kelly

Director Kelly expressed gratitude to everyone involved in the meeting tonight, acknowledging the significant time and energy invested in their presentations. She appreciated the insights provided on graduation rates and was pleased to see strong numbers in the WSES report. Director Kelly requested Director McConnell share the scoring rubric for the survey indicators for AVID. Additionally, she commended Director Ortega-Cooper for her energy, perspective, and approach to her job, which was highly valued.

Director Chrissy Reitz

Director Reitz gave a shout out to the winter sports teams as the season comes to a close, noting their significant success and overall positive year for all these sports. She commended the work done on attendance, acknowledging the rising numbers and expressing gratitude for the continued vigilance in this area. Director Reitz also gave recognition to the transportation department and the district for prioritizing bus replacement, emphasizing that this is not the case in many districts, and highlighting the importance of having safer and more reliable transportation. She expressed interest in the former student advisory group Director Ortega-Cooper brought up, seeing it as a valuable perspective and looking forward to hearing from them. Finally, Director Reitz thanked the board for their continued work and expressed pleasure in working with the group.


XIII. ADJOURNMENT – 9:02 P.M.

Chair Reitz adjourned the meeting at 9:02 P.M.


Board Meeting Voting Chart			Date: Feb 7, 2024						Time: 6:30pm					
		MOTION NUMBER	1. Consolidated Action			2. Resolution 23-24 04 CGESD Local Service Plan			3. Accept HRCEF Grants			4. Appoint Superintendent Screening Committee		
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:	Julia Garcia Ramirez			Corinda Hankins Elliott			Brandi Sheppard			David Stuben		
		Seconded by:	Corinda Hankins Elliott			Brandi Sheppard			Barb Hosford			Brandi Sheppard		

		5. Approve Field Trip Request			6. Acceptance of Donations		
Position	Name	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			David Stuben		
Seconded by:		Brandi Sheppard			Julia Garcia Ramirez		

SIGNATURES


 Chrissy Reitz, Board Chair
 Board: mw

Date


 Bill Newton, Superintendent

Date

3/13/24