



# HOOD RIVER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Excellence. Every student. Every day.*

## MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

November 8, 2023

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### **I. REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING AND CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 P.M.**

The Hood River County School District (HRCSD) regular board meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Board Chair, Chrissy Reitz, at Nathaniel Coe Administration Center, 1011 Eugene St, Hood River, OR 97031.

The following board members were present:

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

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

The following HRCSD staff/community members were present:

Tod Hilstad, Meghan West, Nate Parson, Kelly Running, Mikka Irusta, Sarah Hayden, Milt Dennison, Columba Jones, Trisha Walker, Joe Kelly, Maria Aguilar, Rocio Rodriguez, Veronica Rodriguez, Martha Rodriguez, Cony Rodriguez, Evelyn Areac, Lilia Hernandez, Juan Monje, Maricela Avalos, Maria Jaimes, Jaime Martinez, Yesmi Avalos, Maria Cortes, Shira Skybinskyy

### **II. REVIEW/REVISION OF AGENDA - 6:30 P.M.**

Superintendent Newton shared there was a revised personnel report.

### **III. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT - 6:31 P.M.**

Superintendent Newton shared the following topics with the board:

- Welcomed all the spectators and especially the Comunidades group that attended the meeting.
- Hood River Middle School 6th graders attended outdoor school. Wy'east Middle School will do their outdoor school experience in the spring.
- HRCSD is requesting stakeholders complete the core value survey.
- Elementary and high school staff attended district inservice on October 30th.
- Migrant Education Parent Action Committee event at HRVHS on November 13th from 4-7:30pm.

- Shout out to fall extra curricular activities including cross country teams, water polo teams, boys soccer and musical, "Mean Girls".
- Reminder of the budget committee openings, noting applications are due November 30th.

#### **IV. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS - 6:38 P.M.**

No board member reports presented.

#### **V. STUDENT ENVOY AND BOARD COMMUNICATION - 6:38 P.M.**

No student envoy report presented.

#### **VI. RECOGNITION & GOOD NEWS - 6:38 P.M.**

Director of Human Resources Gus Hedberg recognized the Hood River County School District Employees that have served in the Military. She shared Veteran's Day is always on November 11th, no matter which day it falls on. Below is a list of who was recognized and their branch of service.

Angela Patterson - Navy Veteran - Instruction Assistant at HRVHS  
 Annie Haifley - Army Veteran - 2nd/3rd Grade Teacher at Cascade Locks Elementary  
 Dave Case - Army Veteran - History and Journalism Teacher at HRVHS  
 David Scharfenberg - Navy Veteran - Science and STEM Teacher at HRMS  
 Debra Nunez - Army Veteran - Bus Driver  
 Gary Schilling - Air Force Veteran - Head Custodian at HRMS  
 Jaime Campos - Army Veteran - Maintenance III Specialist  
 Joshua Sims - Marine Corps Veteran - Head Custodian at Pine Grove  
 Maleah Bauman - Army Veteran - ASPIRE at HRVHS  
 Nick Murphy - Marine Corps Veteran - Head Custodian at May Street Elementary  
 Russell Bucio - Army Veteran - Custodian at May Street Elementary  
 Steve Malone - Navy Veteran - Head Custodian at Cascade Locks Elementary  
 Tegner Weiseth - Coast Guard Veteran - Science Teacher at HRVHS  
 Tod Hilstad - Air Force Veteran - Technology Director  
 Wendy Herman - Army Veteran - District Behavior Support Specialist

#### **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT/HEARING OF DELEGATIONS OR VISITORS - 6:43 P.M.**

Below is a list of who gave public comment and the topic they spoke on:

Mikka Irusta - Solidarity with Portland Association of Teachers (PAT) and Safety Issues

#### **VIII. CONSOLIDATED REPORTS - 6:47 P.M.**

There were no consolidated reports presented.

#### **IX. CONSOLIDATED ACTION - 6:47 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 - October 25, 2023
- B. Human Resources Report/Personnel Action

A motion was made by Barb Hosford to approve the Consolidated action as presented. It was seconded by Corinda Hankins Elliot and unanimously approved 7-0.

## **X. REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS – 6:48 P.M.**

### **A. Hood River Options Academy (HROA) Report**

Principal Joe Kelly presented the board with an update on the Hood River Options Academy. He shared information on new staff, accessing services, the elementary program and schedule, math and reading data, middle school goals and curriculum, high school 9th grade on track, graduation rate, enrichment opportunities offered, and HROA goals.

### **B. K-12 Science Adoption Report**

Director of Curriculum & Instruction Amy McConnell and District Instructional Coach Sarah Hayden reviewed the current science adoption process. They shared information about the adoption process, specific timeline, and roles and responsibilities of the team.

### **C. Core Value: Wellness & Safety**

Human Resource Director Gus Hedberg updated the school board on the 2023-34 actions under the core value of wellness and safety. He highlighted the core value survey results. Hedberg shared safety initiatives and staff wellness initiatives.

### **D. 9th Grade On-Track Report**

Hood River Valley High School (HRVHS) Principal Columba Jones presented the board with an update on 9th grade students on track to graduate. She shared reports on HRVHS vs. comparison schools and HRVHS 9th grade on track by year reports. Jones spoke about monitoring and new research showed ninth graders do better with fewer classes. She reviewed HRVHS's collective agreement which was a commitment to high standards for all students created by staff. Jones shared the early warning systems include grade level meetings, data review, evidence based interventions and additional support. She highlighted the new WIN (What I Need) time and how that pilot program has been working.

## **XI. ACTION ITEMS – 8:20 P.M.**

### **A. CTE Revitalization Grant**

Director of Curriculum & Instruction Amy McConnell presented the CTE Revitalization Grant. She shared the CTE Revitalization Grant program is a concept designed with the purpose to support student engagement and success, completion leading to career and college preparation, and a potential boost to local/regional economic development. HRVHS is requesting to use these grant funds to create a state-of-the-art computer lab where our CTE Engineering and Computer Science program can utilize and implement high-tech industry standards. HRVHS will also use these funds to research, develop, and structure a new proposed course offering, an Electric Vehicle Program. The automotive industry is on a fast-paced track with electric vehicles, and the development of this program will be sure to benefit these students within this industry.

A motion was made by Corinda Hankins Elliott to approve the request for Hood River County School District to apply for the CTE Revitalization Grant. It was seconded by Brandi Sheppard and unanimously approved 7-0.

### **B. Rogers Billings Rescue Grant**

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Amy McConnell presented the Roger Billings Rescue Grant. She shared The Roger Billings Rescue Grant provides up to 12 licenses to support students identified eligible for special education with access to digital learning with the goal of closing any gaps related to lost



learning due to a variety of reasons: lost time due to COVID or other medical, potential issues with learning in the traditional classroom environment.

A motion was made by Corinda Hankins Elliott to approve the request for Hood River County School District to apply for the Roger Billings Rescue Grant. It was seconded by David Stuben and unanimously approved 7-0.

#### **C. Mills Davis Foundation Grant**

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Amy McConnell presented the Mills Davis Foundation Grant. She shared The Mills Davis Grant will provide the funding to purchase a new mobile STEM Classroom. The mobile STEM Classroom will allow us to continue to provide STEM Lessons to all K-5 Students across the district. This robust 5 day STEM Program introduces students to real-world careers and provides an opportunity to develop technology skills in the areas of science, math, engineering and robotics.

A motion was made by Corinda Hankins Elliott to approve the request for Hood River County School District to apply for the Mills Davis Foundation Grant. It was seconded by Brandi Sheppard and unanimously approved 7-0.

#### **D. Declaration of Superintendent Vacancy**

Board Chair Chrissy Reitz shared the need to declare the vacancy of the Superintendent for Hood River County School District. In order to start a superintendent search, the Hood River County School District Board must declare the superintendent position vacant effective June 30, 2024. The board had a conversation about whether or not to declare the vacancy.

A motion was made by Corinda Hankins Elliott to declare the vacancy of the superintendent position effective June 30, 2024. It was seconded by Julia Garcia-Ramirez and unanimously approved 7-0.

#### **E. Approve Search Contract with Oregon School Board Association (OSBA)**

Board Chair Chrissy Reitz presented the contract with the Oregon School Board Association (OSBA) for the Executive Search Services for the Superintendent of Hood River County School District Position.

A motion was made by Julia Garcia-Ramirez to approve the search contract with OSBA with the start date of November 8th. It was seconded by Corinda Hankins Elliott and unanimously approved 7-0.

#### **F. Approve Executive Search Process Calendar**

Board Chair Chrissy Reitz and OSBA representative Milt Dennison provided an overview of a possible hiring timeline and process to hire a superintendent beginning the 2024-25 school year. The board discussed the proposed calendar.

A motion was made by Brandi Sheppard to approve the executive search process calendar as presented. It was seconded by David Stuben and unanimously approved 7-0.

#### **G. Acceptance of Donations**

Chair Chrissy Reitz read the list of generous donations:

- Kelly & Dave Dittmar donated \$4,171.48 to support students at Parkdale Elementary.
- Shayla Moline donated \$100 to the Wy'east Middle School Tuffy Store.
- Cathy Roberts donated insulated pants and jackets valued at \$524 to the HRVHS Ski Team.

A motion was made by Barb Hosford to accept the generous donations as presented. It was seconded by Brandi Sheppard and unanimously approved 7-0.

## **XII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – 8:45 P.M.**

### Director Corinda Hankins Elliott

Director Hankins Elliott shared there are numerous chances for the community to observe students in various upcoming activities. She encourages community members to engage in upcoming surveys. Elliott expressed satisfaction with the interim process, commending the team for accomplishing tasks efficiently in a short period. She appreciates the commitment to fulfilling the promises made during the full search. Additionally, she anticipates participation in the science adoption committee and expresses gratitude to Joe Kelly and Kelly Running for the data they provided.

### Director Barb Hosford

Director Hosford expressed gratitude to Gus Hedberg for the presentation and for recognizing staff veterans. She extended congratulations to the fall sports teams advancing to the playoffs. Hosford highlighted the ongoing progress of wellness and safety initiatives, and she emphasized the importance of public involvement in all stages of the superintendent search.

### Director Julia Garcia-Ramirez

Director Garcia-Ramirez had no comments.

### Director Jen Kelly

Director Kelly expressed her appreciation for Principal Columba Jones' 9th-grade on-track presentation, valuing the historical data and perspective shared. She was pleased to learn about equitable grading practices and the monitoring efforts in that regard. Kelly thanked Amy McConnell for promptly providing grant approval forms, which greatly contributed to addressing her questions. She expressed satisfaction with Chrissy's involvement in the feedback loop, emphasizing her happiness with their collaborative efforts.

### Director David Stuben

Director Stuben conveyed gratitude to veterans for their service to both the country and the school district. Additionally, he extended best wishes to student athletes for success over the upcoming weekend.

### Director Brandi Sheppard

Director Sheppard expressed well wishes for success to all fall sports and participants this week. She was excited for the CTE (Career and Technical Education) sampler at the high school and is pleased to hear that outdoor school opportunities are back.

### Director Chrissy Reitz

Director Reitz commended the excellent reports presented emphasizing that HRCSD offers opportunities for students to excel in various areas beyond academics. Reitz expressed gratitude to the board for the thoughtful conversation around the superintendent search and ensuring that the board followed through on their commitments.

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT – 9:16 P.M.**

Chair Reitz adjourned the meeting at 9:16 P.M.

Board Meeting Voting Chart			Date: Nov 8, 2023						Time: 6:30pm					
		MOTION NUMBER	1. Consolidated Action			2. Approved CTE Revitalization Grant			3. Approve Roger Billings Rescue Grant			4. Approve Mills Davis Foundation Grant		
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			Corinda Hankins Elliott			Corinda Hankins Elliott			Corinda Hankins Elliott		
		Seconded by:	Corinda Hankins Elliott			Brandi Sheppard			David Stuben			Brand Sheppardi		

		5. Declare the Superintendent Vacancy			6. Approve Search Contract with OSBA			7. Approve Superintendent Search Calendar			8. Acceptance of Donations		
Position	Name	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:		Corinda Hankins Elliott			Julia Garcia-Ramirez			Brandi Sheppard			Barb Hosford		
Seconded by:		Julia Garcia-Ramirez			Corinda Hankins Elliott			David Stuben			Brandi Sheppard		

## SIGNATURES

Chrissy Reitz, Board Chair  
Board: mw

Date

Bill Newton, Superintendent

Date