

# HOOD RIVER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Excellence. Every student. Every day.*

## MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

September 13, 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, in 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  
Amy McConnell, Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
Doug Holmes, Executive Director of Finance  
Gus Hedberg Executive Director of Human Resources  
Anne Carlross, Executive Director of Student Services  
Patricia Ortega Cooper, Executive Director of Equity and Family Engagement

The following HRCSD staff/community members were present:

Tod Hilstad, Meghan West, Trish Walker, Luke Harkness, Todd Rainwater, Tess Misa, Allison Doss, Sarah Maddox, Holly Lavoie, Maureen Donahue Revier,

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

Superintendent Newton shared there was a revised personnel report and updated slides for the summer school presentation.

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

- Open Houses at buildings were successful and well attended.
- HRVHS Fall Community Celebration tomorrow Sept 14th from 4:30-7:30 pm all are welcome.
- Positive outcomes from change to Kindergarten start process.
- Shout out to Stephanie Hoppe on her work on improving district communication.
- Update on district enrollment numbers and the anticipated continued decline in enrollment.
- Board work session on October 11, 2023 will be centered around mental health services.

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

Jen Kelly - Kelly shared she had met with Communication Director Stephanie Hoppe and learned the district is in the process of changing vendors for the website. She noted there is an effort to update the website and there is a process and timeline in place.

#### **V. STUDENT ENVOY AND BOARD COMMUNICATION - 6:40 P.M.**

No student envoy reported this evening.

#### **VI. RECOGNITION & GOOD NEWS - 6:40 P.M.**

Director of Human Resources Gus Hedberg recognized new staff that had been hired by the district. This is the list of staff that were recognized: Emma Healy, Alisha Hay, Gloria Lachino, Zach Teckenburg, Nora Richardson, Sophie Phelps, John Ritchie, Briana Grajeda, Erin Rust, Jessica Oberg, Brittany Bigley, Sarah Rice, Scott Compton, Silvia Huszar-Serrano, Michael Shields, Angel LeVan, Leslie Jones, Tom Ames, David DeHart, Ariel Rolfe, Patty Fateley, Morgan Holloway, Ximena Galvez, Ava Barr, Ansley Farrell, Erin Peters, Jessica Dehart, Jessica Dye, Amy Felt, Krista Cushman, Anna Arntz, Abigail Medina, Ashley Johnson, Kathleen Philibin, Yasmin Toche-Lica, Frank Mendoza, Cecilia Gonzalez, Susan Wade, Kamilla Palomo, Ariana Rodriguez, Carol Stockwell, Kipp Dixon, Veronica Alcantar, Dafne Valencia, Michael Kobylarczyk, Amber Todd, Martha Dell, Claire Oswald, Paige Lindley, Diego Betancourt-Valle, Anders Foster, Nicole Tunnell, Becky Trejo, and Evelyn Herrera.

#### **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT/HEARING OF DELEGATIONS OR VISITORS - 6:50 P.M.**

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

Allison Doss - Title IX Violations at Hood River Valley High School

#### **VIII. CONSOLIDATED REPORTS - 6:54 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. Restraints and Seclusion Report**

#### **IX. CONSOLIDATED ACTION - 6:54 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 for August 30, 2023
- B. Human Resources Report/Personnel Action

A motion was made by Corinda Hankins Elliott to approve the Consolidated action as presented. It was seconded by Jen Kelly and unanimously approved 7-0.

#### **X. REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS – 6:55 P.M.**

##### **A. Safe Routes to School Report**

Safe Routes to School Coordinator Megan Ramey provided an overview and update on the Safe Routes to School program. She shared information about the demonstration happening around Hood River Middle School. She shared the project will be removed this fall and considered for permanent placement based on community response and student outcomes. Ramey asked everyone to fill out the survey to share their thoughts on the program.

### **B. Summer School Report**

Superintendent Bill Newton, Director of Equity and Family Partnerships Patricia Ortega-Cooper and Summer School Directors Holly Lavoie, Sarah Maddox and Tess Misa shared a presentation to the board on the 2023 Summer School, Jump Start Kindergarten, and Migrant Summer School. They shared it was a blend of academic learning and enrichment activities. They also discussed the summer school academic growth data.

### **C. Core Value Report: Operations & Safety**

Chief Financial Officer Doug Holmes and Director of Human Resources Gus Hedberg presented a report to the board that outlined the district's continuous improvement plan data review for operations and safety. They shared the proposed action plans for the 2023-24 school year. Also, in attendance to help present the information was Director of Operations Todd Rainwater, Director of Safety Kyle Rosselle, and School Resource Officer Pete Hughes. They highlighted the community partnerships and the work around preparedness.

### **D. Capital Projects Update**

Chief Financial Officer Doug Holmes and Luke Harkness of the Wenaha Group presented general information about recent and upcoming capital projects. They reviewed the Mid Valley Elementary air handler replacement, Parkdale Elementary HVAC, and the Hood River Valley High School roof replacement.

## **XI. ACTION ITEMS – 8:43 P.M.**

### **A. Approve OSBA Board of Directors Nomination**

Board Chair Chrissy Reitz shared that the Hood River County School Board of Directors is a member of the Oregon School Board Association (OSBA). The OSBA requests the board nominate and vote for OSBA governance positions and resolutions. This year position 8 on the OSBA board of directors is open for nominations which Chrissy Reitz currently holds.

A motion was made by Brandi Sheppard to approve the nomination of Chrissy Reitz to position 8 of the OSBA Board of Directors. It was seconded by Julia Garcia Ramirez and unanimously approved 7-0.

### **B. Acceptance of Donations**

Chair Chrissy Reitz read the list of generous donations:

- Christine Barthmus donated \$219 worth of jewelry to Wy'east Middle School.

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

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

### Director Corinda Hankins Elliott

Director Hankins Elliott expressed her enthusiasm for the summer school report and encouraged the community to support increased funding for summer school programs. She also shared she's glad that the board had initiated collaborative efforts focused on safety years ago. Hankins Elliott shared her happiness about the progress of roofing work at HRVHS and her excitement for the upcoming open house at the school. She concluded by thanking everyone involved for their dedicated efforts in these endeavors.



#### Director David Stuben

Director Stuben expressed his admiration for the safe routes to school presentation and satisfaction with the collaborative efforts that made it possible. He also appreciated the visibility of community signs addressing everyday matters and thanked the administration for emphasizing the importance of attendance.

#### Director Barb Hosford

Director Hosford thanked the support staff and administration within the district for a successful start to the school year. She also extended a welcome to all the new staff members. Hosford acknowledged the increased attendance at open house events and thanked parents for their participation. She recognized Megan Ramey for her contributions to the safe routes to school program. Hosford mentioned positive feedback from a high school student regarding a schedule change and thanked Kyle Rosselle for his diligent efforts in ensuring safety, acknowledging the challenges of his work. She also shared her experience teaching first responders.

#### Director Brandi Sheppard

Director Sheppard welcomed all the new staff members and expressed her delight at witnessing the new staff presentation slides. She appreciated the significance of the summer school program and acknowledged its importance. Sheppard extended her gratitude to Director of Safety Kyle Rosselle and his team for their efforts in ensuring safety and conducting emergency drills. She emphasized that their work was both challenging and essential, highlighting the importance of preparedness and communication in this regard. Sheppard shared she took pleasure in observing the return of all the children to various activities, including the play and fall sports.

#### Director Jen Kelly

Director Kelly emphasized that tonight she heard the School Resource Officer Pete Hughes's primary objective revolves around ensuring a sense of safety, emphasizing that it becomes challenging to foster such an environment when rules are not rigorously enforced. Kelly stressed the importance of striking a delicate balance between cultivating a feeling of safety for the students and holding them accountable by enforcing rules within the school. She expressed the belief that further contemplation on this matter would be beneficial. Additionally, Kelly extended her gratitude to the summer school team for their efforts in incorporating information regarding data analysis, growth assessment, and program evaluation which she has been requesting.

#### Director Julia Garcia-Ramirez

Director Garcia-Ramirez commended all the presentations for their excellent and clear information, emphasizing the positive impact of collaboration with community partners. She extended a warm welcome to the 64 new district staff members. However, she expressed concern about the trend of declining enrollment, highlighting it as an area of particular concern.

#### Director Chrissy Reitz

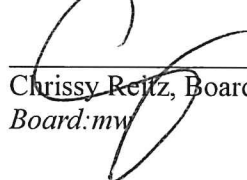
Director Reitz enjoyed hearing about the many positive aspects of the summer school report, particularly the inclusion of binational teachers, which she found to be an excellent offering for students, and also promoting joy in attending school. She also expressed appreciation for the report on deferred maintenance and having a budget allocated for facilities upkeep, addressing a community concern. Reitz shared the importance of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program and its approach since the beginning of implementation, emphasizing its role in education and building relationships with students to ensure their comfort with law enforcement. She commended the program's effectiveness, highlighting the trust it has fostered within the school community. Reitz applauded the SRO program as a positive example for others in the state to follow.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT – 8:57 P.M.**

Chair Reitz adjourned the meeting at 8:57 P.M.

<b>Board Meeting Voting Chart</b>			<b>Date: Sept 13, 2023</b>						<b>Time: 6:30pm</b>		
		<b>MOTION NUMBER</b>	<b>1. Consolidated Action</b>			<b>2. Approve OSBA Nomination</b>			<b>3. Acceptance of Donation</b>		
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
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	✓	✓			✓			✓		
		<b>Motion made by:</b>	Corinda Hankins Elliott			Brandi Sheppard			Barb Hosford		
		<b>Seconded by:</b>	Jen Kelly			Julia Garcia Ramirez			David Stuben		

**SIGNATURES**


 10.25.23  
 Chrissy Reitz, Board Chair      Date  
 Board: mw


 10/26/23  
 Bill Newton, Superintendent      Date