



# HOOD RIVER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Excellence. Every student. Every day.*

## MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORK SESSION

February 23, 2022

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### **BOARD WORK SESSION WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER** – 5:30 P.M.

The Hood River County School District (HRCSD) board work session was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by the board chair, Chrissy Reitz in a google meets virtual meeting. It was available as a livestream at <https://www.hoodriver.k12.or.us/boardmeetings>. The work session was recorded and is now available online by following the same link.

The following board members were present

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

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

Rich Polkinghorn, Superintendent

The following HRCSD staff/community members were present:

Tod Hilstad, Meghan West, Abe Rieke, Vincent Adams

### **I. REVIEW/REVISION OF AGENDA** - 5:31 P.M.

Superintendent Polkinghorn shared there were no revisions to the agenda.

### **II. WORK SESSION** - 5:32 P.M.

#### **A. OSBA Led Work Session**

Oregon School Board Association (OSBA) Board Development Specialist Vincent Adams gave a brief history of his experience with OSBA and on the Corvallis School Board. He began his presentation on Board Roles and Responsibilities noting he will share his presentation after the meeting. Adams shared topics being covered tonight: Research Review & Collaborative Governance, Governance vs. Management, Individual Member Responsibilities, Policy Process, Retaining Focus

#### **Research**

Adams shared the chronology of applicable research informing effective boardsmanship. He shared the history of school board research and how their governance practices affect student achievement and outcomes. He noted everything he shared was evidence based practices that have a positive impact on student outcomes. Adams shared that high-performing boards have the following qualities: vision and

goals, climate and resources, data and monitoring, cohesive teaming, stakeholder and community engagement and policy and accountability. He shared two studies (Lee & Eadens 2014 and Dervarics & O'Brien 2016) on low-performing board qualities and the negative impact on student achievement and outcomes.

### Collaborative Governance

Adams spoke on balanced governance and finding the happy medium between a disengaged board and an overreaching board.

### Five Roles of the Board

Adams reviewed the five major roles of the board as follows:

1. Learn as a Leadership Team
2. Set Clear Expectations
3. Create the Conditions for Success
4. Hold the system accountable
5. Create the public will to succeed

### Governance vs. Management

Adams shared that the board is setting goals, advocates, and setting policies. The superintendent runs the day to day operations, personnel and regulations. The superintendent is the key resource to the board and the only employee of the board. He shared the superintendent has one boss which is the board as a whole, not seven individual bosses.

### Goals

Adams reviewed the different goals and how each faction works within those goals.

1. District Goals: aligned to vision, describe “what” will get done, organizes district effort
2. Superintendent Goals: rooted professional performance, aimed at strategic priorities, developed collaboratively
3. Board Goals: board growth/learning, board practice, aimed at strategic priorities

### Role of the Board vs Role of Superintendent

1. Board - Hires Superintendent, Approve Contracts, Sets Vision & Goals, Adopts Policy, Sets Budget, Monitors Progress
2. Superintendent - Hires Staff, Employee Relations, Turns into Action, Develops Administrative Regulations, Plans Expenditures, Reports Progress

### Complaints

Adams reviewed how boards handle complaints and referenced Policy KL. He stated the 4 complaints that the boards hear are:

1. Complaints on appeal
2. Complaint against the superintendent
3. Complaint against a board member
4. Complaint against the whole board

He shared that if board members do go against policy KL and hear complaints to honor the conversations, avoid hearing the details of a potential formal complaint, and then close the loop and communicate back to the superintendent.

### Policy Process

Adams shared information on the policy process and how school boards adopt policy. He noted this is one of the most important things that a school board does.

Retaining Focus

Adams shared information on using an equity lens and always keeping the children’s interests first. He encouraged the board to use this frame of mind when doing board work.

Questions

Adams ended his presentation with a time for board members to ask questions.

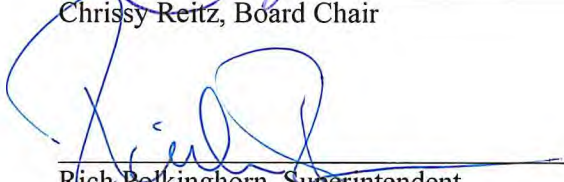
A full recording of the work session is available online at <https://www.hoodriver.k12.or.us/boardmeetings>.

**III. ADJOURN** – 8:36 P.M.

Chair Chrissy Reitz adjourned the meeting at 8:36 P.M.

**SIGNATURES**

  
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Chrissy Reitz, Board Chair 3/10/2022  
Date

  
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Rich Polkinghorn, Superintendent 3/10/2022  
Date  
*Board: mw*