



HOOD RIVER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Finance Advisory and Bond Oversight Committee Minutes

August 20, 2020 – 4:00 P.M.

Committee Members:

Present: Rich Polkinghorn, Sandra Buchanan, Kelly Beard, Jesus Becerra, Sandra Bielen, Brent Emmons, Columba Jones, Michael McElwee, Chrissy Reitz, Rich Truax, Nancy Rowley - OSEA Representative, Trish Leighton - HREA Representative.

Absent: Julia Garcia-Ramirez

Welcome & Call to Order – 4:05 P.M.

Superintendent Rich Polkinghorn called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. on August 20, 2020, in a virtual Google meeting.

Public Comment

Sandra Buchanan opened the meeting for public comment, but no comments were shared.

Reports & Discussions – 4:05 P.M.

Superintendent Update – 4:05 P.M.

Superintendent Rich Polkinghorn opened with an update on the opening of school with Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) and Hood River Options Academy (HROA) with each program being online. CDL will eventually become on-site instruction when the COVID-19 metrics set by Governor Brown are met. Polkinghorn shared that the on-site instruction will begin with a hybrid option where students will attend on a part-time basis. He explained that this circumstance is requiring an increase to the budget for employing new teachers. He said some teachers will move temporarily to HROA to cover gaps.

Bond Projects Report – 4:19 P.M.

Jose Aparicio, Wenaha Group Project Manager, shared the update on the bond projects.

Mid Valley Elementary School seismic project

- The area behind the stage is being closed in to create a classroom.
- Work on the gym floor begins in mid-August.

Hood River Valley High School

- On the north end, a covered area has been added to provide for storage (particularly metal class)

- Another storage space will be located in a new covered area for staging large shipments of supplies.
- The area between the shop and the building has been closed in to create a hallway and an informal meeting area.

State Update – 4:29 P.M.

Chief Financial Officer Sandra Buchanan gave an update on the budget in Oregon legislature. She said that there has been a revenue shortfall in the state, so the Student Success Act (SSA) budget has been greatly reduced. Hood River County School District (HRCSD) will receive approximately one-third of the amount originally estimated. She said some of that shortfall will be compensated with CARES Act funding. This includes:

ESSER grant to HRCSD of approximately \$550,000

CDL grant of \$122,000

Oregon broadband grant of \$70,900.

Buchanan said that the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) anticipates a budget reduction for the next biennium, 2021 – 2023.

Buchanan gave a brief district update. She said a limited number of iPads have been purchased for substitute teachers, who will also receive training. She explained that the district had to switch gears almost overnight from the hybrid-learning model they were planning on, to the CDL model. She said that the Nutrition Services Department will continue to deliver meals during CDL, using the services of the Operations Department transportation staff. She said that a big change from last spring is that the classified staff will only be paid for hours worked this school year. Last school year the Governor’s Executive Order required the district to pay all employees whether they worked or not. She shared that work assignments are being re-arranged to try to keep as many staff as possible still involved. She said that the district values all of their employees and does not want to lose them due to a decrease in work hours.

Adjourn – 5:00 P.M.

Superintendent Polkinghorn thanked everyone for attending the meeting virtually and adjourned the meeting at 5:00 P.M.

RP:cw 8/20/20