

**DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #15**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**COMBINED SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 31 2023**

The Board of Directors of Douglas County School District #15 convened in a combined board session at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, May 31, 2023 in Room 215 at Days Creek Charter School.

The following individuals were present:

District Board Members: Rex Fuller, John Boling, Rebekah Sawyer, Clint Thompson, Laura Stufflebeam, Valerie Anderson, and Charlie Sawyer

Charter Board Members: Diane Swingley, Matt Giles, Joanne Gordon, David Brown, Cathy Knapp, and Anna Rickards

Staff/Patrons: Paula Ellis, Larry Ellis, RuthAnn Crabtree, Rachel Matchett, Teresa Reed, Brian Arp, James Ellis, Jessica Walter, Hannah Hays, Brian Jenks, Vickey Dosier, Shari Ellis, Leta Abel, Wanita Negherbon, Rob McCallum

Breakthrough: Rob Hess

Board Secretary: Leah Giles

**1) Call to Order and Welcome:** R. Fuller called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

**2) Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**3) Approval of the Agenda:**

Charter:

Motion: J.Gordon moved to approve the agenda with no changes or additions.

Second: A. Rickards

Discussion: There was no discussion

*VOTING IN FAVOR:* D. Swingley, M. Giles, J. Gordon, D. Brown, C.Knapp and Anna Rickards

**MOTION PASSES**

District:

Motion: V. Anderson moved to approve the agenda with no changes or additions.

Second: L.Stufflebeam

Discussion: There was no discussion

*VOTING IN FAVOR:* R. Fuller, R. Sawyer, C. Sawyer, V. Anderson, L. Stufflebeam and C. Thompson

**MOTION PASSES**

**4) Approval of Minutes**

a. Charter Board [5-9-2023](#) [5-13-2023](#) [5-22-2023](#)

Motion: A. Richards moved to approve all three Charter Board Minutes with no changes.

Second: D. Brown

Discussion:

*VOTING IN FAVOR:* M.Giles, D.Swingley, J.Gordon, A. Rickards, C. Knapp, and D. Brown

**MOTION PASSES**

b. District Board [5-9-2023](#) [5-13-2023](#) [5-22-2023](#)

Motion: R.Sawyer moved to approve all three District Board minutes with no changes.

Second: V. Anderson

Discussion:

**VOTING IN FAVOR:** R. Fuller, L. Stufflebeam C. Thompson, R. Sawyer, V. Anderson, and C. Sawyer

## **MOTION PASSES**

### 5) Public Input

- Received one public notice: Letter from Vickey - Would like it read for both public notice times.
  - She asked the Board Chair to read her email out loud to the board. Her letter was read by Board Chair, R.Fuller.
  - She wanted to inform the board that she would like the board to consider continuing James Ellis' position at the school. He is a valued employee and has been employed by the school district for many years. Not only should his position be reinstated, but the board should negotiate with him to mold the position into what is needed for both the school and James to continue on in an Administrative and/or Athletic Director capacity full time. Please consider James Ellis as a Days Creek Charter School administrator for the current and future success of the school.
- Public input request - Jessica Walter
  - Let the board know that she is concerned about the candidate; After she has done research on her own and was shocked about what she had found online and google search. She doesn't think it is someone we would want to bring to our community or school. She reached out to the people from Rainer and was alarmed at their feedback and thinks the school board can do better.
- Public input request - Teresa Reed
  - Informed the board and read her response - "Having worked in this district for almost 32 years, I have seen many candidates. From the time I met your candidate my gut feeling was that he would not be a good fit for our district. I have reservations about him.
  - I strongly believe he will not work well with our staff, our students, or either board as well. I also strongly feel you will not only lose staff if you do hire him, but students as well. I encourage you to not hire him and to look for an interim or other permanent candidate."
- Public input request - Chrissy Hoffman -
  - She had entered her request but did not show up to speak at the board meeting.
- Public input request - Wanita Negherbon - decided not to speak
- Public input request - Shari Ellis
  - Shari is concerned about what seems to be a disconnect between the board and the staff at the school. She believes that hiring M. Carter would not be a good fit for the school. She really wants the board to hear the staff.
- Public input request - Rob McCallum - the board invited him to join their executive session
- Public input request - Sarah Hooper
  - Anna Rickards - on behalf of Sarah Hooper  
Wanted the board to know that she has concerns about hiring Michael Carter and would like the board to listen to the feedback from the staff and community members. She has heard many other members of the community who are not wanting to hire him.

### 6) Approval to Move into Executive Session with BreakThrough Consulting, Rob Hess and Cathy Hurowitz

- R. Fuller read the Executive Session ORS to the room

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*The school boards will meet in executive session to consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent. The executive session is held pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(a) which allows the board to meet in executive session for this purpose. All members of the audience are asked to leave the room. No decision will be made in the executive session. At the end of the executive session, the Board will return to open session.*

Charter:

Motion: M. Giles made a motion to enter into executive session for the above purpose at 6:45pm

Second: D. Brown

Discussion: None

VOTING IN FAVOR: D. Swingley, M. Giles, J. Gordon, A. Rickards, C.Knapp, and D. Brown

**MOTION PASSES**

District:

Motion: C.Thompson made a motion to enter into executive session for the above purpose at 6:46pm

Second: V.Anderson

Discussion: None

VOTING IN FAVOR:

District Board: R. Fuller, R. Sawyer, C. Thompson, C. Sawyer, L. Stufflebeam, and V. Anderson

**MOTION PASSES**

The Board ended Executive Session and returned to Regular Session: 8:13pm

- Note: J.Boling arrived during executive session at 6:53pm

**7) Action Item: Superintendent/Executive Director/Principal decision to enter into negotiations**

Charter Board recommends:

Diane Swingley read the last motion from the last meeting minutes. Motion from last time "M.Giles made a motion that it is the Charter Boards' recommendation to move forward with the hiring process of Michael Carter as the superintendent/principal/executive director, pending the vetting of the legal summaries, and dossier pertaining to past lawsuits and complaints.

Charter:

Motion: M.Giles made a motion having completed the vetting process we propose to move forward with entering into negotiations with Michael Carter as Superintendent/Executive Director/Principal

Second: A.Rickards

Discussion:

VOTING IN FAVOR: D.Swingley, J.Gordon

VOTING IN OPPOSITION: M.Giles, A.Rickards, C.Knapp, D. Brown

**MOTION FAILED**

- D.Swingley let the board know that the Charter board does not recommend on moving forward on the hiring of M.Carter as the Superintendent/Executive Director/Principal

District:

Motion: L.Stufflebeam made a motion to agree with the Charter Boards recommendation of not moving forward with the hiring process of M.Carter for superintendent/executive director/principal position.

Second: C.Sawyer

Discussion:

VOTING IN FAVOR: R. Fuller, L. Stufflebeam C. Sawyer, R. Sawyer, and V. Anderson

VOTING IN OPPOSITION: C. Thompson and J.Boling

**MOTION PASSES**

- Rob Hess informed the board of their next steps in the process. They needed to make a motion and decide on the next steps.

Charter:

Motion: M.Giles made a motion to move forward with the hiring of an interim position for the superintendent/executive director/principal.

Second: D.Brown

Discussion: R.Sawyer asked a question if there was an option to separate the position and what that would look like. There was discussion about finding someone who will come in and “keep the lights on” and keep the good things going that are already happening at the school.

VOTING IN FAVOR: M. Giles, A. Rickards, C.Knapp, J. Gordon, D. Brown, and D.Swingley

### **MOTION PASSES**

- D.Swingley let the District board know of the Charter Boards recommendation to move forward with the hiring of an interim position for the superintendent/executive director/principal.

District:

Motion: V.Anderon made a motion to move forward in the hiring process of an interim superintendent/executive director/principal.

Second: C.Thompson

Discussion:

Voting in favor: R. Fuller, L. Stufflebeam C. Thompson, R. Sawyer, V. Anderson, J.Boling, and C.Thompson

### **MOTION PASSES**

#### **8) Public input:**

- Letter from Vickey had requested to be read at both public input times. Vickey decided she was fine with her letter not being read again.
- R.Crabtree - Thanked the board for their decision
- D.Brown (as a parent) - Informed the room that we are all working for the kids and he wanted the staff to know that the board, staff and the community are one.

#### **9) Announcements:**

- a. Last day of school tomorrow June 1st
- b. Rob Hess requested that the board decide who will be assigned in moving forward with the hiring process of the interim position. There was some discussion on what that would look like and who would be a part of that committee.
  - i. Charter board decided on M.Giles, D.Brown and C.Knapp
  - ii. District board decided on V.Anderson, C.Sawyer, R.Sawyer

#### **10) Adjournment:**

Charter:

Motion: M.Giles moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40pm

Second: A.Rickards

Discussion: There was no discussion

VOTING IN FAVOR: D. Swingley, M.Giles, J. Gordon, D. Brown, C.Knapp, and A. Rickards

### **MOTION PASSES**

District:

Motion: V.Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:41pm.

Second: L.Stufflebeam

Discussion: There was no discussion

VOTING IN FAVOR: R. Fuller, R. Sawyer, C. Sawyer, V. Anderson, J. Boling, L. Stufflebeam and C. Thompson

### **MOTION PASSES**

Dated this June 1, 2023  
Respectfully submitted by  
Leah Giles/Board Secretary

**Next Regular Board Meeting June 7th, 2023 at 6:30pm**