

**DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #15**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**July 10th, 2023**

The Board of Directors of Douglas County School District #15 convened in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Monday July 10th, 2023 in Room 215 at Days Creek Charter School.

The following individuals were present:

District Board Members: Laura Stufflebeam, Valerie Anderson, Clint Thompson, Rebekah Sawyer, Todd Vaughn, Charlie Sawyer and Charlie Pritchard

Staff/Patrons: JoAnne Gordon and Diane Swingley

Superintendent: Joe La Fountaine

Business Manager: Claire Cotton

Assistant Business Manager: Leah Giles

Board Secretary: Dawna Connor

**1) Call to Order and Welcome:** Laura Stufflebeam called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

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

**3) Oath of office** [new board members](#)

New board members introduced themselves and recited the following;

"I, Todd Vaughn, do solemnly *affirm* that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the constitution and the laws of the state of Oregon, and the policies of Douglas County School District 15. During my term, I will faithfully and impartially discharge the responsibilities of the office to the best of my ability."

"I, Charlie Pritchard, do solemnly *affirm* that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the constitution and the laws of the state of Oregon, and the policies of Douglas County School District 15. During my term, I will faithfully and impartially discharge the responsibilities of the office to the best of my ability."

**4) Approval of the Agenda:**

**Motion:** Valerie Anderson moved to approve the agenda.

**Second:** Rebekah Sawyer seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion

**Voting in Favor:** Laura Stufflebeam, Valerie Anderson, Clint Thompson, Rebekah Sawyer, Todd Vaughn, Charlie Sawyer and Charlie Pritchard.

**5) Election of 2023-24 Board Officers**

a) Charlie Sawyer nominated Valerie Anderson for Chair;

**Motion:** Rebekah Sawyer moved to approve the new board members.

**Second:** Laura Stufflebeam seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Voting in Favor:** Laura Stufflebeam, Valerie Anderson, Clint Thompson, Rebekah Sawyer, Todd Vaughn, Charlie Sawyer and Charlie Pritchard.

b) Rebekah Sawyer nominated Laura Crume for Vice Chair;

**Motion:** Rebekah Sawyer motioned to approve

**Second:** Valerie Anderson seconded the motion

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Voting in Favor:** Laura Stufflebeam, Valerie Anderson, Clint Thompson, Rebekah Sawyer, Todd Vaughn, Charlie Sawyer and Charlie Pritchard.

**6) Charter Board Meeting Report:** Diane Swingley, Charter Board President noted that there was not a quorum for the scheduled meeting on July 5th, so the meeting has been moved to Wednesday the 12th. She anticipates that the charter board will recommend the adoption of the math curriculum and welcome Jo La Fountaine as the new superintendent.

## **7) Public Input**

There was no public input.

## **8) Interim Superintendent negotiations**

**Motion:** Laura Stufflebeam motioned to enter into executive session

**Second:** Rebekah Sawyer seconded the motion

**Discussion:** There was no discussion

**Voting in Favor:** Laura Stufflebeam, Valerie Anderson, Clint Thompson, Rebekah Sawyer, Todd Vaughn, Charlie Sawyer and Charlie Pritchard.

Executive session began at 6:06 PM

The board returned to regular session at 6:35 PM.

## **9) Consent Agenda Items**

a) Approval of minutes;

i) Regular Board Meeting - [June 7, 2023 Minutes](#)

ii) Combined Board Meeting - [June 26, 2023 Minutes](#)

**Motion:** Laura Stufflebeam motioned to approve the consent agenda items after review.

**Second:** Rebekah Sawyer seconded the motion to approve with corrections.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Voting in Favor:** Laura Stufflebeam, Valerie Anderson, Clint Thompson, Rebekah Sawyer, Todd Vaughn, Charlie Sawyer and Charlie Pritchard.

b) Approval of Contract for new superintendent;

i) Contract - Joseph La Fountaine

**Motion:** Clint Thompson motioned to approve the contract for the new superintendent.

**Second:** Todd Vaughn seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Voting in Favor:** Laura Stufflebeam, Valerie Anderson, Clint Thompson, Rebekah Sawyer, Todd Vaughn, Charlie Sawyer and Charlie Pritchard.

c) Approval of the following designations for the 2023-24 school year;

- i) Appoint Chief Executive Officer: Joe La Fountaine
- ii) Appoint Business Manager: Claire Cotton
- iii) Appoint Custodians of Funds/Signatures: Joe La Fountaine, Claire Cotton, Leah Giles
- iv) Appoint Budget Officer: Joe La Fountaine
- v) Appoint School Legal Council: GHR Lawyers, Salem, Oregon
- vi) Appoint Official Auditor: Umpqua Valley Financial
- vii) Appoint Bank of Record/Depository of School Funds: Umpqua Bank/Local Government Investment Pool
- viii) Appoint Insurance Agent of Record: Craig Zolezzi of Zolezzi Insurance
- ix) Appoint Federal and State Grant Official: Joe La Fountaine
- x) Appoint Newspaper of Record: *The News-Review* of Roseburg, OR
- xi) Confirm Regular Meetings and Work Sessions of the Board of Directors: 6:00 pm on the second Monday of the month at Days Creek Charter School
- xii) Appoint Standing Board Committees
  - (1) Negotiations: (Valerie Anderson and Clint Thompson)
  - (2) Ad hoc committees may be formed as needed

**Motion:** Laura Stufflebeam motioned to approve the consent agenda items.

**Second:** Clint Thompson seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Voting in Favor:** Laura Stufflebeam, Valerie Anderson, Clint Thompson, Rebekah Sawyer, Todd Vaughn, Charlie Sawyer and Charlie Pritchard.

- d) Employment of licensed, classified, or coaching personnel;

**Motion:** Rebekah Sawyer moved to table item d).

**Second:** Laura Stufflebeam seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Voting in Favor:** Laura Stufflebeam, Valerie Anderson, Clint Thompson, Rebekah Sawyer, Todd Vaughn, Charlie Sawyer and Charlie Pritchard.

Valerie noted that voting district reps for charter board was missed on the agenda. After some discussion, Laura Stufflebeam agreed to continue another term to 2026.

**Motion:** Rebekah Motioned to amend to add the charter board board appointee under item c) consent agenda items.

**Second:** Laura Stufflebeam seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Voting in Favor:** Laura Stufflebeam, Valerie Anderson, Clint Thompson, Rebekah Sawyer, Todd Vaughn, Charlie Sawyer and Charlie Pritchard.

- i) Appoint Charter Board;
- ii)

**Motion:** Clint Thompson nominated Laura Stufflebeam as a district board representative on the charter board.

**Second:** Rebekah Sawyer seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Voting in Favor:** Valerie Anderson, Clint Thompson, Rebekah Sawyer, Todd Vaughn, Charlie Sawyer and Charlie Pritchard.

e) Accept the resignation letter: [Sarah Suhrstedt](#);

**Motion:** Rebekah Sawyer moved to accept the resignation of Sarah Suhrstedt.

**Second:** Laura Stufflebeam seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Voting in Favor:** Valerie Anderson, Clint Thompson, Rebekah Sawyer, Todd Vaughn, Charlie Sawyer and Charlie Pritchard.

**10) Monthly Financial Summary Report, Capital Improvement Fund, [Voucher Report](#):** Claire Cotton, Business Manager. Claire Cotton gave this duty to Leah Giles.

Leah Giles reported the Esser money this year is all obligated to salary, and no longer available for other uses. We will need to use the budget or capital improvement fund for any related purchases.

The business office has been busy rolling everything over to the new year, and closing all purchase orders.

Leah Giles noted "Paid leave Oregon" is officially starting September 1st. They are working on budgeting for that. Valerie Anderson asked if the deadline on that was pushed out. Leah Giles answered that September 1st is the pushed out date.

Rebekah Sawyer asked what is Paid Leave Oregon? Leah Giles responded, it is 12 weeks of paid vacation time for employees. Paying 1 percent for classified. That will be in the bargaining agreement this year. This will begin September 1st. Todd Vaughn asked if this is a law, and when law came into effect? Claire Cotton noted yes it is a law and that a third party vendor has paid into our insurance fund to cover some of this for us. Todd Vaughn asked if there is any estimation on cost if a teacher is on leave? Claire Cotton answered; we cannot know until the leave is requested.

The auditor has given us a date of August 10th for a deadline.

Diane Swingley would like to know if the OSBA conference is open to charter board members as well?

Charlie Sawyer asked why we purchased a new brush hog? Leah Giles read aloud an email from our former superintendent, Steve Woods, that stated our current brush hog was no longer functional.

Valerie Anderson asked about the final billing for the warning track on the baseball field, she asked if this was in the original budget? Leah Giles answered, yes it was.

Charlie Sawyer asked what the noted workplace improvements are?

Leah Giles responded that it was extra money from the DC Fit grant. New refrigerators and a coffee pot were purchased for the staff room.

Rebekah Sawyer asked about the gift bags that the employees received.

Leah Giles responded that the grant was also spent on the thank you gift bags for staff. She notes that the grant was only for the staff.

## **11) Information Items**

- a) [Enrollment Update](#).
- b) Adopting the math curriculum;

Math Adoption Proposal -

- K-5 recommended Eureka Math. The program is very similar to EngageNY which some of the classes have been using to supplement the current program. The cost is approximately \$10,000.
- 6th - 8th grade math teachers would like to recommend adopting the EdGem Math Program. The author, Shannon McCaw is from Oregon and has updated a former program. The cost is approximately \$18,000.

Joe La Fountaine mentioned that this needs to be adopted as soon as possible to get it ordered for the school year, he said the elementary teachers met and would like to state that they have all unanimously approved and are asking the board to approve in advance. The amount is roughly \$30,000. Clint Thompson wants to know what is the difference from the current curriculum? Diane Swingley stated that it has to be reviewed and updated every 3 years and this is that time. Joe La Fountaine said, with having a new curriculum come in it will be more aligned with the state standards and create a higher expectation for the teachers. Todd Vaughn asked if there is a movement away from common core? Diane Sawyer answered, yes the state is moving away from common core. The charter board has a contract with the district board to work on curriculum development, and the district board allocates that type of funding. Charlie Pritchard noted that if it was unanimously approved by the teachers he would vote to approve it. Valerie Anderson asked what is in the budget? Leah Giles stated there is a separate fund with about \$50,000 in it, and math is the only change that will be made. Laura Stufflebeam noted that the old curriculum can't be used as well with the digital updates. Claire Cotton noted maybe it should be adopted if the charter board approves at their upcoming meeting. The board agrees.

**Motion:** Laura Stufflebeam moves to approve the adoption of the math curriculum upon the charter board's approval.

**Second:** Charlie Pritchard seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Voting in Favor:** Valerie Anderson, Clint Thompson, Rebekah Sawyer, Todd Vaughn, Charlie Sawyer and Charlie Pritchard.

- c) Changes in [Bank Signature Card](#);

**Motion:** Rebekah Sawyer moved to accept the changes on the bank signature card.

**Second:** Laura Stufflebeam seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Voting in Favor:** Valerie Anderson, Clint Thompson, Rebekah Sawyer, Todd Vaughn, Charlie Sawyer and Charlie Pritchard.

- d) Board Meeting Dates: [2023-2024 SY](#);

**Motion:** Clint Thompson moved to accept the new years board meeting dates.

**Second:** Todd Vaughn seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Voting in Favor:** Valerie Anderson, Clint Thompson, Rebekah Sawyer, Todd Vaughn, Charlie Sawyer and Charlie Pritchard.

## 12)Action Items

- e) Approve Bell Schedule 2023-24 SY see above motions
- f) Approve Bank Signature Card

g) Approve Board Meeting Dates

**13)Announcements**

- a) [2023-24 School Calendar](#)
- b) Summer STEAM Institute: July 11 - 13th, July 18th- 20th
- c) Monday, August 14 - Faculty report
- d) Thursday, August 17, 2-8 pm - Family Conference- Meet and Greet - Open House
- e) Monday, August 21 - Students First Day of School
- f) Monday, September 4 - Labor Day

Rebekah Sawyer asked if the May 24th graduation will conflict with the state track meet? She notes they might need to change the graduation date. She also asked why graduation is so early, stating it seems too early with 2 weeks still left in school? Laura Stufflebeam states it will not conflict with the state track meet. Leah Giles states the calendar was approved in April, it can be added to agenda for the next meeting to change the graduation date if needed.

JoAnne Gordon wants to know what will be going on at the meet and greet? She would like to try some parent connections for volunteering in the pumpkin patch/flower garden. JoAnne asked will there be food? Joe La Fountaine stated he was not sure. Laura Stufflebeam suggested that teachers give tickets to bouncy houses in order to insure parents and students actually visit the classrooms.

Rebekah Sawyer asked how we can increase high schoolers and their parent's participation?

- Laura Stufflebeam suggested we put our new superintendent in a dunk tank.
- Rebekah Sawyer suggested the new superintendent do a meet and greet, and do games and giveaways.
- Todd Vaughn suggested an analog committee with the community set up to increase participation.
- Rebekah Sawyer suggested the teachers give away tickets for open gym.

**14)Public Input**

Charlie Sawyer, at the request of a community member, brought forward an article from The News Review from last spring that notes that we are 40 percent below state average proficiency in English, more than 40 percent below state average proficiency in Science, and 30 percent below state average proficiency in Math. Our district is the lowest scoring district in Douglas County in the subjects of English and Science, and second lowest in Math. Per The News Review, we are trending down, not up in proficiency. Joe La Fountaine requested a copy of that data for review. Clint Thompson noted that we were not aware of that, since the charter board has not reported this information to the District board. Diane Swingley noted that this type of data will be reported in the future. Todd Vaughn asked why is this happening? Charlie Sawyer noted that since Covid, we have struggled with downtrending. Diane Swingley noted that quite a few of our students are opting out of testing and that does impact our scores. Laura Stufflebeam would like to know what is the number of opted out students? Joe La Fountaine states he can find and provide that information to the charter board. Todd Vaughn wonders if we boost reading and comprehension would that help? Diane Swingley mentioned that blended grade classes also impact learning. Joe La Fountaine states that his specialty is helping teachers work smarter and turn the trend around. He will look into the testing data and provide the requested data as soon as he can.

**15) Adjournment**

**Motion:** Clint Thompson motioned to adjourn the meeting.

**Second:** Laura Stufflebeam seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Voting in Favor:** Valerie Anderson, Clint Thompson, Rebekah Sawyer, Todd Vaughn, Charlie Sawyer and Charlie Pritchard.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM

Dated this July 10, 2023

Respectfully Submitted by:

Dawna Connor, Board Secretary

**The next regular monthly board meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2023**