

DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #15
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 13, 2023

The Board of Directors of Douglas County School District #15 convened for a regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Monday November 13th, 2023 in Room 215 at Days Creek Charter School.

The following individuals were present:

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

Staff/Patrons: Diane Swingley, JoAnne Gordon, Sheri Ellis, Freyja McCoy, Thor McCoy, Christine McCoy, Analyn McCoy, Chrissy Hoffman, Tim Suhrstedt, Ginger Suhrstedt, Daniel Johnson, Sarah Hooper, Jill Bong, Jonathan Lopez, Brandi Knutzen, Jeremy Suhrstedt, Sarah Swanson, Olivia Suhrstedt, Norah Suhrstedt, Shari Ellis, Kittie Rogers, and Jacob Berlingeri.

Superintendent: Joe La Fountaine

Business Manager: Claire Cotton

Assistant Business Manager: Leah Giles

Board Secretary: Dawna Connor

1) **Call to Order and Welcome** Valerie Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2) **Pledge of Allegiance** The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Valerie changed the meeting order as follows; student of the month awards before public input.

3) **Approval of the Agenda:**

Motion: Rebekah Sawyer moved to approve the agenda.

Second: Laura Stufflebeam seconded the motion.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

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

Charlie Sawyer arrived at 6:02 p.m.

4) **Charter Board Meeting Report:** Diane Swingley, Charter Board President

a) November 8, 2023, Charter Board Report

There was no quorum and Joe La Fountaine was called away for a pressing matter.

5) **Student of the Month Awards:**

a) **Norah Suhrstedt - Grade 3** - Norah was nominated by Sarah Hooper. Mrs. Hooper read her nomination letter.

[Norah nomination letter](#)

b) **Nymara Gideon - Grade 8** - Nymara was nominated by Jonathan Lopez, he read his letter as well. Nymara was not here to receive her award. Mr. Lopez will present her plaque in school tomorrow.

[Nymara nomination letter](#)

- c) **Christine McCoy - Grade 12** - Christine was nominated by Rachel Whetzel and Daniel Johnson. Daniel read Mrs. Whetzel's nomination letter. Daniel also expressed appreciation for her hard work, positivity and dedication.

[Christine nomination letter 1](#)

[Christine nomination letter 2](#)

6) Public Input:

Public comment was requested by Kitty Rogers. Kitty states her son James' teacher has been harassing him about his clothes and emotions. She states his actions are emotionally abusive. Kitty has numerous complaints about the teacher in question. Per Kitty, the teacher does not provide homework or call home when she feels it is needed. She feels her son is unsafe and has reported this teacher to child welfare.

[Kitty Rogers intent to speak](#)

Brandi Knutzen also had public comments. Her son Jack is in the same class as James. Brandi states that plastic jump ropes were used by girls to hit boys in PE under their teacher's instruction. Brandi also claims emotional abuse toward her son and feels he is unsafe in class.

[Brandi Knutzen intent to speak](#)

7) Discussion Items:

- a) Second reading of: [IIABB](#) - Use of Feature Films/Videos

It was decided to add an item 7 that would add the IMDB to the AR and permission slip, and in the first sentence change "seek" to "obtain." The board asked to change the requirement from 5 days in advance to 7 days and eliminate the R rated movies from grades 9 thru 12. The board states they will vote on this topic next month once it is revised accordingly.

- b) [Seismic Project Planning](#)

Joe La Fontaine states we have received 2 bids. After the evaluation committee reviewed and used scoring the guide in the RFP, they have decided to go with WRK out of Vancouver. References were checked. North Douglas, Central Linn, and Cascade Christian all gave good references with high regard for WRK. Joe recommended we offer the contract to WRK.

Motion: Laura Stufflebeam moved to move item b to the consent agenda as item 9b.

Second: Clint Thompson seconded the motion.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

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

- c) [HB 732](#) - District Equity Committees

Joe read the summary aloud, he wants the board to review and think about how we can approach it. He would like to present some strategies he has learned from other schools. He will bring more information forward for discussion. Board will look into it and table the matter until January.

- d) New Oregon Community Foundation Grant Award and Pre-K planning

Joe La Fontaine states we received another Oregon community foundation grant for \$5000.00, this is a grant for pre-k. This is the 3rd grant awarded for a pre-k program. We now have over \$40,000.00 between the 3 grants. Joe notes the board needs to make a decision on pre-k planning. The estimated cost is around \$68,000.00 to begin a pre-k program. The board also needs to make a decision on where to put the pre-k program. It will have room for 10 to 20 students. Todd Vaughn asks if the house is still an option? Yes, says Joe. Todd asked what needs to be done to get the house ready? Joe responded that some stuff can be done by the shop class, plumbing and other things would need

contracting. Clint Thompson asked, is there funding to keep this ongoing? Yes, says Joe, there are ongoing grants and funding available. Todd suggests getting a cost estimate on the conversion to a pre-k facility. Rebekah Sawyer asked how close are we with funding now? Claire Cotton answered that we are about \$28,000.00 short. Joe added, there is a construction cost estimate of \$12,000.00. Diane Swingley expressed concern about not having superintendent housing should it be needed in the future. Valerie Anderson would like cost estimates and research on a potential new building. Joe will reach out to the planning department to find out the options for adding a facility, possibly a mobile or manufactured space. Todd Vaughn reminds the board that there is a high need for this in our community as there is currently no pre-k in the area. The closest one being in Myrtle Creek. Clint Thompson asked if that building could accommodate up to 20 kids? Yes, says Joe, with some renovations. Joe notes that Todd's point is valid, we have a great need for this here. Todd added that this could increase student numbers in the future. Joe will look into the cost estimates for the building in question and mobile building. Todd asked if we can charge for the program? Claire notes it would depend on the program and the funding sources. Joe will look into that as well.

e) Board Policy Packet for the first read

Joe La Fontaine recommends the board review and bring policies to the table that they feel are intact or need adjustment. Valerie Anderson agrees with Joe's suggestions, other than mandatory training of board members, she would like to see what that looks like before adding it to a policy. Page 2 half way down has brackets, Valerie notes that is not in the current policy, brackets mean it is not required. Rebekah notes we don't have resources to provide that. Clint feels that is not necessary. Laura notes that in the past they have added new recommendations to our existing policy vs just adopting the new policy. There was some discussion on reviewing policies and it was decided that everyone will review more in depth and begin voting at the next board meeting. It was suggested to have a work session to discuss policies before the next meeting. Valerie suggests either in 2 weeks on the 27th or an hour before the next meeting. They decided on the 27th at 6:30.

f) Rescheduling of Board training with Rod Cotton

After some discussion, the board decided to move the training to February before the board meeting. Claire will check with Rod Cotton and let Joe know if Rod is available that day.

8) Interim Superintendent Report:

a) E- Sports Presentation - Mr. Daniel Johnson

Daniel talked about esports (electronic sports, video game related.) He was asked to run this program, which would fill in a gap with kids who needed a team but did not play basketball or other sports. He notes they have a set amount of games they play against other schools. After some feedback from the kids on the team, they ended up with a game called Valiant. There were 9 kids that participated in the first year. Daniel notes the biggest challenge is player count, as the team is smaller than traditional sports teams. He is concerned about possible concern for violence in the video game. He says one parent has expressed concern. Daniel says it is a fantasy based war game. There are fire walls, smoke orbs and combat with gun related components. The game is not hyper realistic, and the blood setting is turned off. Esports is designed to promote leadership, communication, teamwork, positive attitude and not giving up. He is hoping kids will learn perseverance that will last a lifetime. Any questions about esports can be emailed to daniel.johnson@dayscreek.k12.or.us.

b) Construction Wish List

Joe mentioned that as we enter into the process, WRK will work with us to hire a contractor. Then we can be more involved with decision making. We have a lot of possibilities for aesthetics and spatial needs. The entire infrastructure needs to be reviewed so the changes we need can be implemented.

c) [Science Curriculum Map](#)

Joe asked everyone to review the map, there is scope and sequence to look at for tracking and reinforcing. Basic scope is done and ready to look at.

d) 1Q attendance comparison

Last year 90.55 first quarter this year 92.5

e) [Four Questions](#) for SIA

The state of Oregon required these 4 questions that were asked to the staff be presented to the board. The staff was asked last week and these are their answers.

f) At-A-Glance Reports [21-22](#) and [22-23](#)

Joe notes the most important thing is to look at the titles, they are separated by grade. Joe wants the board to note how these statistics change over time. The low academic rates shown are the reason why Joe is doing curriculum mapping. Curriculum mapping will drive instruction in a way that creates student success.

Consent Agenda Items

g) Approval of minutes

i) [Regular Board Meeting -October 9, 2023](#)

h) Approval of Contracts

i) Approve the hire of WRK for Seismic grant

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

i)

j) Employment of licensed, classified, or coaching personnel

i) Caroline Bollman - Special Ed. EA

k) District Surplus Designation

i) [2 Cafeteria Tables](#)

Motion: Laura Stufflebeam moved to approve the consent agenda.

Second: Rebekah Thompson seconded the motion.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

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

9) Monthly [Financial Summary Report](#); [Revenue-Expenditure](#); [Voucher Report](#):

a) Claire Cotton, Business Manager

b) Leah Giles, Assistant Business Manager

Leah Giles gave the business update:

Leah mentioned we received a \$5000.00 playground equipment grant for the pre-k program. We also received a small \$250.00 grant for homesteading, called the Chalkboard Grant.

She notes we contracted with Edustaff for hiring substitute teachers and we pay 25% over their wages for this service. Currently we use an in house substitute. Joe La Fontaine mentioned that the quality of the substitute teaching in the classroom will be higher as they have to use sub plans that are in place and easy to follow.

Leah states they have been able to resolve the issue with Paychex that was mentioned last month. It should be more streamlined from now on.

Leah said we got our first draft of the audit today. It will be on the December agenda for review.

Leah notes she went to the OASBO Fall Conference. She learned there will be an unemployment charge increase. Usually employees that are off in the summer cannot receive unemployment. Now, they can apply for unemployment.

There will also be a PERS rate increase. After the school year 24-25 there will be a 2% increase.

She mentioned another grant initiative, for early learning, pre-k thru 3rd grade. This grant requires a 25% match. Those funds can be matched with another grant such as the Preschool Promise grant. The funds from this grant are to be used for literacy only. The grant could be used for an advanced tutor for k -3 reading.

Appropriations - Leah explained the budget appropriations and how much we have spent out of the budgets. We are on track with our spending.

There were no questions on the revenue and expenditure report.

There were no questions on the voucher report.

10) Information Items

- a) Fence Line Project

Joe La Fontaine notes they will start putting the fence up on the 15th of December.

- b) Asbestos removed last Friday

The welding booths in the shop are now asbestos free.

11) Action Items

- a) IIABB Policy

Motion: Clint Thompson moved to table this item.

Second: Laura Stufflebeam seconded the motion.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

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

12) Director Reports

Laura Stufflebeam asked if esports will be discussed. Joe notes he previously expressed concern, Daniel told him other games can be pursued. Laura is concerned that the current game being played is too graphic.

13) Announcements

- a) Thursday November 16, Mock Interviews.
- b) Thursday November 16, Discover University.
- c) Monday, December 4, FFA Guidance Team.
- d) Wednesday, December 6 - 8, COSA Law Conference. Joe La Fontaine and James Ellis will attend.

14) Public Input

Rebekah Sawyer asked if there is action to take on the previous public input or with esports. Clint asked what are the options regarding esports? It was decided to ask Daniel back to the December meeting for more questions regarding the sport.

15) Adjournment

Motion: Todd Vaughn moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Clint Thompson seconded the motion.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Dated this November 13, 2023

Respectfully Submitted by:

Dawna Connor, Board Secretary

The next regular monthly board meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2023