

Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 20, 2021 5:30 PM

Medford School District Education Center
Board Room
815 S. Oakdale Ave Medford, OR 97501

Lilia Caballero: Present
Jim Horner: Present
Tod Hunt: Absent
Jeff Kinsella: Present
Suzanne Messer: Present
Karen Starchvick: Absent
Cynthia Wright: Present

Staff present: Staff present: Dr. Bret Champion, Mr. Brad Earl, Mr. Rich Sullivan, Mrs. Lynn Cataldo, Mr. Kevin Campbell, Mrs. Natalie Hurd, Ms. Jodi Vizzini
Also present: Mr. Thad Pauck, District Legal Counsel

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance / Roll Call

Chair Jeff Kinsella called the meeting to order at 5:30 and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called.

2. Agenda Adjustments and Approval

Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved as presented.

3. Recognitions

3.a. Valedictorians

Dr. Bret Champion greeted and commended the 2020 valedictorians who were attending the meeting virtually. Principals Mr. Daye Stone, Central Medford High School; Ms. Wendy Ross, Medford Online Academy; Dr. Dan Smith, North Medford High School; and Mr. Donnie Frazier, South Medford High school, spoke regarding the outstanding accomplishments of the valedictorians. The valedictorians were introduced and shared their college/career plans following graduation.

3.b. Presidential Scholar Semi-finalist

Dr. Champion commended South Medford High School senior Yosalin Arenas for her student representation at the state level and acknowledged the accomplishments of receiving the Presidential Scholar Semi-finalist award and receiving the Ford Family Foundation Scholarship. Ms. Arenas provided a summary of her college and career plans following graduation.

4. Public Comments

The meeting was closed to public attendance. The public was provided an opportunity to submit written comments prior to the meeting. Vice Chair Suzanne Messer read the comments into the record.

Amber Longiotti/Citizen/Provided comments in opposition of masks, mandatory vaccine requirements, and critical race theory.

Angela Ricciardi-Payant/Citizen/Encouraged the Board to lift the mask mandate for the 2021-22 school year.

Jessica Seyfer-Scott/Parent/Expressed concern regarding the COVID-19 precautions that will be implemented for the 2021-22 and was in opposition of students wearing masks.

Star Gordon/Parent/Provided comments in opposition of students wearing masks during physical activities and sports.

Courtney Caswell/Parent/Provided comments in opposition of students wearing masks and requiring mandatory COVID vaccination.

Vice Chair Messer read the following statement in response to a letter sent to the Board from the Oregon Education Association (OEA) UniServ Representative Daniel Burdis.

“The Medford School District Board of Directors acknowledges receipt of a letter from Daniel Burdis, OEA UniServ, regarding bargaining and the recent premium holiday, however before commenting or responding, the Board will discuss the communication with the district in a future executive session that has been properly noticed for the purpose of bargaining.”

Following the public comments, Dr. Champion provided the Board with the updated Ready Schools, Safe Learning (RSSL) guidelines from Oregon Department of Education (ODE) regarding mask guidance for indoor and outdoor environments, including sports and graduation ceremonies. He also addressed the comment regarding critical race theory.

Board Directors put forth questions and comments regarding:

- Monitor the guidelines for fall and possibly engage the Board in writing a letter to ODE/Oregon Health Authority
- Optimistic the current masking guidelines will be modified/wait to see fall RSSL
- Stay vigilant with ODE required curriculum

5. Board Action Items / Items for Information and Discussion

5.a. Consent Agenda

A discussion took place regarding teacher recruitment.

Hearing no objections, the consent agenda was approved as revised.

5.b. MEA Successor Re-opener Article Approval

MOTION: I move to approve the 2020 Limited Re-opener Language Tentative Agreements as presented. This motion was made by Suzanne Messer and seconded by Cynthia Wright.

Roll call vote:

Wright: Yea, Messer: Yea, Horner: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Kinsella: Yea, Hunt: Absent, Starchvick: Absent.

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

Motion carried 5-0

5.c. The Valley School of Southern Oregon Charter School Contract Approval

MOTION: I move to approve The Valley School of Southern Oregon charter school contract for 2021-2026, with the revisions presented, to be effective July 1, 2021.

This motion was made by Cynthia Wright and seconded by Jim Horner.

Roll call vote:

Messer: Yea, Horner: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Wright: Yea, Kinsella: Yea, Hunt: Absent, Starchvick: Absent

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

Motion carried 5-0

5.d. Superintendent Evaluation

MOTION: I move to approve the superintendent evaluation as presented. This motion was made by Suzanne Messer and seconded by Jim Horner.

Discussion: Board Directors commented on Dr. Champion's strong leadership during a challenging year, leading the community with simplicity and grace, and expressed excitement for the district's future under his leadership.

Dr. Champion thanked the Board for their kind comments and commended staff for their courage during the difficult and unprecedented year.

Roll call vote:

Wright: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Messer: Yea, Horner: Yea, Kinsella: Yea, Hunt: Absent, Starchvick: Absent

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

Motion carried 5-0

5.e. Potential Superintendent Contract Renewal Discussion

Chair Kinsella opened the floor for discussion regarding the renewal of Dr. Champion's contract. It was determined that Chair Kinsella, Vice Chair Messer, and Director Horner would move forward with the contract renewal and bring the proposed contract to the entire Board for discussion at a future public meeting.

6. Board Comments

Director Jim Horner put forth a request to add Board Comments as an agenda topic on both Regular Board meeting and Work Session agendas. He proposed hosting an end of the year informal gathering for social purposes only.

Director Lilia Caballero shared she visited Sanctuary One in the Applegate and noted that Central Medford High School students built some of the garden beds. She spoke regarding the value of volunteering.

Director Cynthia Wright expressed sympathy for the families affected by the loss of a district student and expressed hope for support and healing by the community.

Vice Chair Messer voiced support of the updated guidance lifting the mask requirement during sports.

Chair Kinsella expressed he was thankful the election was over and that the Board remained intact and continuing to move in a positive direction.

Dr. Champion echoed Chair Kinsella's comment regarding the election and expressed it was a testament to the courageous acts the Board had demonstrated. He commended Board Directors Wright and Horner along with Mrs. Simons, Mr. Earl, Ms. Michele Cleveland and Ms. Riley Yandell, along with Medford Education Association (MEA) for their countless hours on the contract.

7. Announce Executive Session and Recess Public Meeting

Chair Kinsella read a statement regarding ORS 192.660(2)(b) – To consider complaints brought against a public officer who does not request an open hearing, and recessed the public meeting at 6:45 PM. The Board moved to room 165.

8. Executive Session

The executive session consisted of matters as noted in ORS 192.660(2)(b).

9. Return to Public Session

The Board returned to the public session at 7:15 PM.

MOTION: After consideration and discussion of a public complaint submitted to the Board, the Board considered the complaint, reviewed, and determined that no further action is required. This motion was made by Suzanne Messer and seconded by Jim Horner.

Roll call vote:

Horner: Yea, Wright: Yea, Caballero: Yea, Messer: Yea, Kinsella: Yea, Hunt: Absent, Starchvick: Absent

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

Motion carried 5-0.

10. Announcements

Chair Kinsella noted the upcoming Budget Committee meeting and Work Session.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 PM.

Chair of the District School Board
Medford School District 549C
Jackson County, Oregon

ATTEST:

Superintendent-Clerk