



North Wasco County School District 21

School Board Meeting

November 21st, 2024

The Dalles Middle School – Commons

Mission Statement

“Educating each student to the highest standards while motivating them to reach their fullest potential and graduating them to be college, career and life ready.”

Minutes

(These minutes have not been approved by the Board)

Board Members Present: John Nelson, David Jones, Jose Aparicio, Adrian Lopez, Judy Richardson, Dayna Wynn-Elledge

Board Members Excused: Joel Vaught

District Staff Present: Dr. Carolyn Bernal, Cindy Miller, Jason Corey, Randy Anderson

1. Call the Regular Meeting to order & pledge of allegiance.

Vice Chair Richardson called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. District Mission & Vision Statement

Director Aparicio read the District Mission and Vision Statement.

3. Review / Revision of the Agenda

No revisions at this time.

4. Public Comments on Agenda Items Only

Vice Chair Richardson read the following statement before opening public comments on Agenda Items Only:

“A person speaking during the designated portion of the agenda for public comment may offer objective criticism of district operations and programs. The Board will not hear comments regarding any individual district staff member. The Board chair will direct the visitor to the procedures in Board Policy KL - Complaints for consideration of a legitimate complaint involving a staff member. A commendation involving a staff member should be sent to the superintendent, who will forward it to the employee, a supervisor and the Board.”

The Board requests that a public comment add information or a perspective that has not already been mentioned previously, and that the patron refrains from repeating a similar point.

There were no public comments for Agenda items only.

5. Consent Agenda

Motion by Director Nelson, seconded by Director Lopez, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion Passed Unanimously.

6. Board Action Calendar – Review

No revisions were made.

7. Staff Recognition:

Dr. Bernal recognized Vice Chair Judy Richardson for her successful presentation / session she hosted at the Oregon School Boards Association during their Annual Convention in early November. Dr. Richardson’s session was “Aligning Goals for Student Success”, which is about how School Boards and Superintendents work together to align their goals in order to support our students success in schools. Dr. Richardson’s presentation was very well attended by School Board Members across Oregon and received very positive feedback. Dr. Richardson was also invited by OSBA to become a consultant to do board development with other school boards across the state. Congratulations Vice Chair Richardson!

8. Student Representatives to the Board – Report:

Kylee Rose spoke to the school board – please see the report included in these minutes.

9. Building Student Representative Reports:

- **Colonel Wright Elementary: Madelyn Swanson & Silas Vaught**

No report this evening.

- **Chenowith Elementary: Elijah Kuehnl, Alexa Ortiz Moreno & Yoselin Reyes**

Elijah Kuehnl and Sofia Dominguez reported some highlights from recent and upcoming events at Chenowith Elementary School:

Burgerville Fundraiser: Our fundraiser is in full swing! Chenowith Elementary School will receive 20% of all sales, so be sure to stop by and support our school. Coin Challenge: The coin challenge is underway, and we’re excited to see contributions steadily increasing in each bucket. Every little bit counts! Spirit Week: We recently

held Spirit Week, and it was a fantastic time filled with fun and school pride. Thank you to everyone who participated! Choir Concert: Our talented 3rd-5th grade students delivered a wonderful choir concert. Kudos to all the performers and everyone who helped make it a success.

- **Dry Hollow Elementary**

Noah Anslinger & Everett Vodehnal-Gibson reported the Word of the Month is responsibility, which means being accountable for your actions. Dry Hollow students had the opportunity to watch the BYU Dance Group in a special performance for our 3rd-5th graders. It was a wonderful experience that everyone thoroughly enjoyed! Last Friday, students celebrated PJ and Stuffy Day after earning 1,500 PRIDE tickets for demonstrating respect, kindness, and responsibility. Our annual Veterans Day Assembly was a meaningful event with many veteran family members and eight special guests from the Oregon Veterans Home. Thank you to everyone who joined us to honor and celebrate our veterans. This week, students are celebrating our amazing ESP (Educational Support Professional) staff! We kicked off the week with cinnamon rolls and coffee and held an appreciation assembly to thank them for their hard work and dedication. Some upcoming events include parent/teacher conferences the week of December 3rd; the Book Fair will be available to attend all week during conference week and a Family Christmas Caroling festive evening of caroling in the gym on December 12th! This event is open to all Dry Hollow families.

- **The Dalles Middle School**

Rozlyn Elliott reported it's time for Winter Sports with Boys' basketball in full swing, and more sports, including wrestling and girls' basketball, will start closer to January. Our boys' basketball team played at Henkel last night, securing two wins and one hard-fought loss. Way to represent, Wildcats! Students at TDMS had the opportunity to attend a Shrek Swamp-Themed Dance which is our first dance of the year and was a hit! Students enjoyed glow sticks, a DJ, a photo booth, cornhole, Connect 4, and even a game of "Pin the Tail on the Donkey." Both TDMS and Innovation students joined in on the fun. TDMS is having a Canned Food Drive starting in December to benefit the Salvation Army. It's also a homeroom competition! The winning 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade homerooms will receive donuts as a prize. Students will be selling Candy Cane Grams from December 10th–16th for \$1 each. Each gram includes a personalized note and a candy cane, which will be delivered during first period. Send one to a friend or anyone in the school! Our holiday assembly is on December 13th, and we're gearing up for a day of fun and games! Students will compete against each other and teachers for spirit points. Last time, the 8th graders won and got cookies—will they keep their streak alive? This week, we celebrated our Educational Support Professionals (ESPs) with shout-outs in the announcements and goodie bags. We're so grateful for their hard work and dedication to making our school an amazing place. We're officially one-third of the way through the school year. We'll be holding a Spirit Week December 16th – 20th to get everyone in the holiday mood. Stay tuned for more details!

- **The Dalles High School**

Riley Elliott reported on several upcoming events. Last Friday, students who wore their PJs were treated to a cinnamon roll before school started. From November 4th–8th, ASB hosted a fundraiser benefiting the YES House. We raised \$700 and collected a significant amount of canned food. In the Penny War, students added pennies to their class stash while sabotaging others with silver coins and dollars. ASB hosted the annual Reverse River-Hawk Walk, giving out \$600 worth of candy, which was completely gone by the end of the night! It was great to see elementary students visiting TDHS and interacting with our high schoolers. The Graphics Club hosted their haunted house the weekend before Halloween. The scary actors were amazing, and the community turnout was fantastic,

with a line outside the door. The Drama Department premiered their latest play, *Deadline*, last weekend. The upcoming showtimes are Friday and Saturday at 7:00 PM. Fall Sports highlights are - Football: Finished 4th in the league, just one spot from playoffs, with 10 players earning All-League honors; Boys Soccer: Finished 2nd in the Tri-Valley Conference, won their home playoff game, and reached the quarterfinals; Girls Soccer: Tri-Valley Champions! They won their first playoff game but narrowly lost in the quarterfinals. Natalia Elias earned Player of the Year; Volleyball: Finished 2nd in the Tri-Valley Conference, advanced in playoffs, and placed 4th in the state tournament; Cross Country: Girls Team: Tri-Valley Conference Champions and placed 3rd in State. Elena Cassidy finished 2nd individually at State; Boys Team: 2nd in both Districts and State. Trey Hodges defied expectations by finishing 9th at State; Cheer - Our young cheer team performed well in a sideline competition in Sherwood on November 9th. We're excited to see their growth as they prepare for their competition season starting after winter break.

Winter sports are underway, including girls' and boys' basketball, wrestling, swimming, skiing, and cheer. Stay tuned for more updates! We'd like to thank the board members for their ongoing support. Be on the lookout for an email soon inviting you to one of our home games in January. We recently showed our gratitude for ESP staff with a soup potluck. Tomorrow, we'll recognize our substitute teachers with a celebration. Tomorrow after school, we'll host a Hawkful Party in the library. Students will share a potluck, enjoy tea, and write letters of gratitude to friends and family. We're planning our upcoming Trimester 1 Recap Assembly to celebrate the end of the trimester. Additionally, we'll hold a Winter Spirit Week before the holiday break to spread festive cheer. Stay updated with TDHS by checking out our weekly talk show, Hawk Talk! On behalf of ASB, thank you for your continued support of our teachers, school, and student body.

- **Innovations Academy: Adrian Miramontes**

No report this evening.

10. Staff Reports:

- D21 Education Association
- NW Education Support Professionals

Jodi Ketchum and Sonia Schatz reported the following in a joint report:

Recognized the Education Support Professionals (ESPs) for their hard work and dedication. We deeply appreciate each and every one of them for the time, care, and effort they give to our students every day. Our third annual food drive is currently underway, with donation tubs placed at all schools and the district office. The tubs will be picked up and organized tomorrow, and delivery is planned for Monday. Our goal is to provide food for six to 12 families, depending on the amount of donations received. A special thank-you to Ryan Allinger for making a personal donation to help with gift cards for perishable items. Each family typically receives a \$50 gift card to purchase essential perishables. We hope this effort helps ease the burden for these families as they head into the holiday season, allowing them to focus on quality time with their loved ones. As we wrap up the first trimester of the school year, teachers have been reflecting and would like to share some of their gratitude's with you:

- We are grateful for the successes we've seen with our students and look forward to new achievements in the upcoming trimesters.
- The opportunity to rest and rejuvenate during the break is much appreciated after an extremely busy trimester.
- We value our contract language, which allows teachers the flexibility to complete their grades off-campus if they choose.

Jodi & Sonia also extended their heartfelt thanks to ESPs - despite the challenges of this trimester, they continue to show up with smiles, making a meaningful difference in the lives of students every day. The district established a district-wide committee, as outlined in contract language, to review discipline data, student behaviors, and related policies and procedures. This committee includes Building administrators, District representatives and two members of the association. The committee will meet once every trimester. Our first meeting, held yesterday, went very well. We appreciated hearing perspectives from each building administrator and CJ Toole, who participated as the district representative.

11. Appoint School Board Members to standing committees:

- **Scholarship Committee: Director Wynn-Elledge** – no report this evening.
- **Community Outreach Team: Director Nelson** – no report this evening.
- **Wellness Committee: Director Richardson** – no report this evening.
- **Equity Committee: Director Wynn-Elledge** – Reported the Equity Committee will hold their first meeting on Monday, December 9th and they are continuing to recruit more members.
- **Wasco County Forest Collaborative: Director Nelson** – no report this evening.
- **D21 Education Foundation Committee: Director Aparicio** - no report this evening.
- **OSBA Legislative Policy Committee (Director Richardson):** Director Richardson reported the OSBA Legislative Policy Committee met briefly as the legislature will be going into their long session this next year, with advocates working to increase school funding. Will keep the board updated as we move through this session. The Governor's budget is due December 2nd, so we'll be watching that closely.

12. New Business

a. Presentations / Reports:

1. Superintendent's Report:

a. Report: AVID Program

Nick Nelson (AVID District Coordinator), Jim Taylor (AVID Site Coordinator), Gabe Judah (AVID Elective Teacher) and Kurt Evans (TDHS Principal) gave an update on the AVID program.

AVID is a dual-stream program aimed at enhancing academic achievement and preparing students for college and career readiness. The two main streams are: **AVID Elective** – A targeted class focusing on academic skills development and **AVID Schoolwide** – Strategies and supports integrated across the entire school. Key Components of the AVID Elective are the following:

- **Academic Rigor:** Focus on developing critical skills such as note-taking, time management, organization, and study strategies.

- **Tutorials:** Students participate in peer or cross-grade level tutoring sessions, emphasizing inquiry-based learning to solve problems through guided questioning rather than direct answers. Tutors, including college students when available, undergo rigorous training.
- **WICOR Framework:** Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading are central strategies embedded in AVID lessons.
- **Support System:** Students receive targeted support through study groups, collaborative learning, and mentorship.

Some Outcomes and Proven Strengths of AVID include Increased academic achievement and higher college enrollment rates; Enhanced study and organizational skills; Improved confidence and self-efficacy; Development of a supportive community and equitable access to opportunities.

The Schoolwide AVID Impact is the incorporation of high-effect-size instructional strategies for all students, with professional development for staff through summer institutes, regional training, and collaborative PLCs. Encouragement for students to enroll in rigorous coursework such as AP, IB, and honors classes. Use of digital strategies like Fast Friday videos to share AVID techniques.

AVID focuses on College and Career Readiness by exposure to higher education through guest speakers, college visits, financial aid workshops, and career exploration activities. Support for underrepresented students, including those from low-income families, first-generation college students, and minority groups.

Jim Taylor and Gabe Judah shared personal experiences that highlighted the AVID program's impact on students. They emphasized the most important strategy within the program: fostering peer support to collaborate problem-solve. Instead of simply providing answers, students engage in **critical thinking** and employ diverse strategies to arrive at solutions together. This approach not only builds problem-solving skills but also strengthens their ability to work effectively in teams, a critical skill for both academic and professional success.

A student from The Dalles Middle School, Payton, shared with the school board her experiences with the AVID Program. She was very grateful for the opportunity to participate in this program and is looking forward to continuing at the high school next year.

Mr. Nelson suggested that he return to a future board meeting and present additional information about the AVID program, especially the broader schoolwide strategies and integration of high-effect-size instructional methods.

- b. **Action Item:** Approve the request for Out of State Travel for Principal Sherri Kilegore to attend the AVID Conference in December 2024.

Motion by Director Aparicio, seconded by Director Nelson to approve the Out of State Travel request for Principal Kilegore to attend the AVID NATCON December 12th – 14th, 2024, as presented. Motion Passed Unanimously.

- c. **Report:** 2023-2024 Integrated Program Annual Report

Director Shannon Brennan reported that the Integrated Program Annual Report presentation is a requirement to show the school board the district's progress and allowing board members to ask questions. No formal action is required.

Director Brennan noted the Performance Targets were set for improving four-year graduation rates, five-year completion rates, third-grade reading achievement, and more. Data for these metrics, which were finalized recently, will be shared next month.

The results of the data for Instruction reports that teachers are increasingly utilizing diagnostic tools like i-Ready for math and reading (K-8) to inform their instruction. Also noted at the Elementary schools, is the implementation of a structured intervention system, which provides 30-45 minutes daily for support in areas such as academics, social-emotional learning, and language development.

Our District's Diversity Initiatives continue to include efforts to reduce the gaps between staff demographics and our student population, which is supported by the district's "Grow Your Own" initiative and related grants.

Director Brennan reported student attendance milestones for regular attendance exceeded both baseline and gap-closing targets. The overall attendance target was 60%; with 62% achieved. The focal groups target is 52.9%; with 64% achieved.

Director Brennan reported on Community Engagement, that the district is reassessing its engagement strategies through a consulting group's community engagement assessment to align better with the preferences of families and the community.

Director Brennan included in the board agenda the Early Literacy Success Grant Report for school board members to review. She noted the data on the Summer Learning Grant's long-term impact is still pending.

Director Brennan noted that some key challenges found with Community and Family Engagement are that current methods may not resonate with community needs, and so the district will continue with their efforts to explore new strategies for meaningful engagement.

Director Brennan reported that the next steps for the Integrated Guidance Program will be to present to the school board at a future meeting the updated data on key metrics and focal areas. She noted that the district will continue to focus on improving student outcomes through actionable data and engagement strategies, and report those outcomes to the school board.

d. Report: JumpStart Kindergarten

Courtney Middleton, Site Director for the JumpStart Kindergarten Program, gave an overview of the program. She noted that the Jump Start Kindergarten program has been a cornerstone of our district's summer initiatives for several years. In the summer of 2024, the program was significantly expanded to serve 58 incoming kindergarteners, a notable increase from the previous average of 12 to 18 students per summer. Key enhancements included transitioning to full-day sessions of five hours, providing breakfast and lunch, and increasing staff support to include five teachers, seven instructional assistants, and four social-emotional learning assistants (SELAs). Transportation services continued, and daily professional development sessions were introduced for staff.

This year's program utilized the "Handwriting Without Tears" curriculum, tailored for pre-kindergarten to kindergarten transitions. The curriculum emphasized foundational skills in letter formation and numbers 1 through 5, employing hands-on and multisensory activities to accommodate varying skill levels. This approach ensured all students, regardless of prior experience, could engage and progress effectively.

Ms. Middleton reported the program's attendance were encouraging: 58 students attended regularly (at least three days); 43 students attended nine days, and 22 students achieved perfect attendance, attending all 12 days.

She reported enrollment by neighborhood school zone with 12 students from the Chenoweth zone; 18 students from the Dry Hollow zone (including three who enrolled in St. Mary's School) and 28 students from the Colonel Wright zone.

The teaching team included educators from across the district, supported by instructional assistants with diverse backgrounds, including some community hires. Each afternoon, staff participated in professional development sessions totaling eight hours. Topics included:

- Inclusive kindergarten practices led by Alyssa Jones, a learning specialist.
- Family engagement strategies presented by Vice Principal Mairead Beane-Kelly.
- Hands-on math training with Carolyn Felderman from the STEM Hub.
- The science of reading, presented by the site supervisor.
- Restorative practices for young learners, facilitated by Jeremiah Paulsen and Assistant Principal Kim Kiser.
- Playground and physical education strategies, culminating in interactive outdoor activities.

Ms. Middleton provided some positive feedback she received from parents:

- "Jump Start gave my child a sense of structure and prepared them for a typical classroom."
- "Regular communication from the teacher eased my anxiety and helped my child feel safe."
- "The bus service was excellent, and my child enjoyed every day of school."

Ms. Middleton reported the criteria of how students were selected to attend JumpStart Kindergarten was based on age eligibility (five years old by September 1st) and residence within the district. The program prioritized inclusivity, featuring diverse classrooms with students who had Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) and dual-language learners.

She reported that preliminary data collection is underway to assess the long-term impact of the JumpStart Program on student performance during the school year. Additional updates will be shared as data becomes available. Ms. Middleton noted that by expanding the Jump Start Kindergarten program it exemplifies the district's commitment to early childhood education. By providing a structured, inclusive, and supportive learning environment, we are preparing our youngest learners for a successful transition into kindergarten and beyond.

2. Chief Financial Officer's Report

Randy Anderson, CFO, reported in the financial reports under State Grants that it shows a significant overdrawn balance, which is by design. Most of this funding relates to the Student Investment Account. The district has submitted payment claims and recently drew down 25% of the total allocation, approximately \$800,000. This correction will reflect in the November financial report, mitigating the overdrawn appearance.

Mr. Anderson reported the enrollment trend remains consistent with historical patterns. Typically, there is an initial increase at the start of the year, a decline during winter months, and a slight rise after students return from the holiday break. While the district adjusted enrollment estimates downward earlier this year, the state's payment in November was still based on the original estimate. We anticipate a recalculation before the December payment cycle.

Mr. Anderson announced the district finalized a contract with Sodexo for food service management. The new Food Service Director, Tamara Taylor, begins on December 2nd. The interim director will remain briefly to ensure a smooth transition.

The annual audit is underway. While auditors primarily express an opinion on financial statements, discussions are ongoing about how best to present certain elements. The process remains on track. Mr. Anderson noted that once the audit is completed, he will present the results at a school board meeting.

Mr. Anderson reported the preliminary budget planning for the upcoming year has begun. Early considerations include potential impacts from PERS (Public Employees Retirement System) obligations and the undetermined State School Fund allocation. While recent state revenue forecasts are optimistic, signaling a possible \$2 billion increase over the next biennium, long-term trends are still unclear. He noted the legislature allocated \$9 million statewide for special education stipends. Eligible recipients include licensed staff, classified employees, and administrators who spend at least 75% of their day supporting students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). Data collection for this allocation is ongoing, and payments are expected in May or June. He noted that the stipend does not cover payroll taxes, which leaves the district absorbing this cost.

Mr. Anderson reported that due to recent rainfall, three to four roof leaks were exposed, which were promptly addressed by the roofing company under our five-year warranty. The issues were resolved on the same day they were reported, ensuring minimal disruption.

3. Board Attorney's Report

Nothing to report this evening.

13. Discussion / Action Item:

- a. **Action Item: OSBA Resolution – Amend OSBA's Bylaws Relating to the PRIDE Caucus of the Oregon School Boards Association.**

Motion by Director Nelson, seconded by Director Wynn-Elledge to approve the OSBA Resolution & Amend OSBA's Bylaws Relating to the PRIDE Caucus of the Oregon School Boards Association, as presented. Motion Passed Unanimously.

- b. **Action Item: OSBA Resolution – Amend the OSBA Dues Schedule**

Motion by Director Nelson, seconded by Director Aparicio to approve to amend the OSBA Dues Schedule, as presented. Yes/Nelson, Aparicio, Lopez ... Abstained / Wynne-Elledge, Richardson ... Motion Failed.

- c. **Action Item: OSBA Resolution – Amend OSBA's 2023 Bylaws**

Motion by Director Nelson, seconded by Director Aparicio to approve to amend the OSBA 2023 Bylaws, as presented. Motion Passed Unanimously.

- d. **Action Item: Cooperative Sports Agreement with Dufur School District (Boys and Girls Wrestling)**

Motion by Director Nelson, seconded by Director Lopez to approve the Cooperative Sports Agreement with Dufur School District for both Boys and Girls Wrestling, as presented. Motion Passed Unanimously.

14. 1st Reading (no action requested):

- a. **Policy GCBDA/GDBDA: Family Medical Leave**
- b. **Policy JEC: Admissions**
- c. **Policy GCBDF/GDBDF: Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance**
- d. **Policy AC: Nondiscrimination**

15. Information Only:

- a. **Policy AC-AR(1): Discrimination or Civil Rights Complaint Procedure**

16. Comments from the Audience about Non-Agenda Items Only

Chair Jones read the following statement before opening public comments on Non-Agenda Items only:

"A person speaking during the designated portion of the agenda for public comment may offer objective criticism of district operations and programs. The Board will not hear comments regarding any individual district staff member. The Board chair will direct the visitor to the procedures in Board Policy KL - Complaints for consideration of a legitimate complaint involving a staff member. A commendation involving a staff member should be sent to the superintendent, who will forward it to the employee, a supervisor and the Board."

The Board requests that a public comment add information or a perspective that has not already been mentioned previously, and that the patron refrains from repeating a similar point.

Public Comments:

No public comments this evening.

17. Adjourn the School Board

Vice Chair Richardson adjourned the school board meeting at 7:45 PM.

Judy Richardson, Vice Chair

Dr. Carolyn Bernal, Superintendent

Cindy Miller, Recorder