

Minutes

The Board of Education

Molalla River School District

November 20, 2014

Chair Neal Lucht called the board work session meeting to order at 7:02PM on Thursday, November 20, 2014, at Rural Dell Elementary School and established that a quorum was present.

Board members present: Chair Neal Lucht, Vice Chair Calvin Nunn, Mark Lucht, Craig Loughridge, Linda Eskridge, Liz Cruthers and Ralph Gierke.

Present from the administration were Tony Mann/Superintendent and Missy Wesley/Board Secretary

Chair Neal Lucht proceeded with the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Full Day Kindergarten Implementation Plan

Mr. Mann gave the board an overview of how the group has gotten to the place for implementation of full day kindergarten. He commented that it takes a full team to take on this task. He explained that the report will cover the student day, facilities, finances and next steps for this process. He introduced Karen Steers, hostess of the meeting and kindergarten teacher, along with the other kindergarten team in the district. (Judy Kraxberger, Andrea Terry, Maria Imholt, Julie Deardorff, and Wendy Kelly).

Ms. Steers began her report by stating that she feels strongly about students needing full day kindergarten. She explained with the new common core and curriculum needs it is necessary for incoming students. Ms. Imholt referred to a sample schedule of what the day would look like for full day kindergarten. Ms. Steers reviewed the current schedule and explained how there is limited time to fit in all activities and lessons.

The group discussed in great length how full day kindergarten is going in other districts, how implementation took place, and some of the challenges that were faced. Ms. Sanders explained that she has spoken with the teaching staff from Oregon City and said some of the challenges they faced were that students were tired. She recommended that we plan accordingly. Ms. Steers commented that it may be helpful to design a staggered start time, to help ease students into a full day schedule.

The group discussed their current dilemmas including, children not getting to know one another and teachers not getting to know their students as well. If there is a full day, they feel the transition to first grade would be smoother, more time to practice what they are learning (academic learning), can meet emotional needs better, and give students a chance to eat full meals 5-days a week. Mr. Gierke asked about PE and recess at each building. Ms. Steers explained that if full day kindergarten is implemented the group will work together to have the same structure and curriculum in this area.

The group discussed the teacher transition for implementation. Ms. Steers stated that the kindergarten teachers collaborate every Friday and they do not anticipate any difficulty for the transition. She explained each of the kindergarten teachers have taught other grade levels and know there will be twists along the way, but are comfortable with this move. Mr. Lucht asked about other things they would need to make this successful. Ms. Imholt stated that visiting other schools would be beneficial for viewing transition and structure. Also she stated the late starts are very helpful for collaboration. Ms. Sanders stated that they have a scheduled visit set for Gladstone School District and will be coming back to share with the teacher for planning purposes. Mr. Willey commented that smaller class sizes would be very helpful as well. Many kindergarten teachers have attended various professional trainings in this area.

Mr. Mann gave an overview of the effects of full day kindergarten on our facilities. He stated the goal is to keep children in neighborhood schools with equity, long term flexibility, and with minimal personnel cost. He gave a summary of each of the buildings and how they would be modified to serve this program.

Mr. Mann then gave a summary of the budgetary implications and plan for full day kindergarten for funding. Mr. Loughridge commented that it appears we will break even in future years. Mr. Mann stated that the district would, however there is uncertainty what the state funding will look like in this area; however the extra cost would be the startup cost which does include materials and technology. Mr. Mann explained the next steps, if the board approved, would be community communication and planning for facility accommodations as presented.

Vice Chair Nunn moved to approve the full day kindergarten implementation plan as presented. Mr. Gierke seconded the motion. Mr. Mark Lucht explained why he was in support, and stated he was originally skeptical but has been persuaded. Ms. Cruthers agreed, and commented that she has complete faith in the staff. She stated that she would like to make sure that all kindergarten teachers are on the same page; when a student transitions to first grade they are all taught the same curriculum. Chair Neal Lucht stated that teachers have the most influence toward reaching the goal of grade level literacy and believes in our schools. Mr. Gierke called for question.

All members unanimously approved the full day kindergarten implementation plan as presented.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

For the Good of the District

Mr. Loughridge stated that it has been past practice for the board not to approve and post work session minutes; and in light of the action taken tonight he thinks this should take place. Chair Neal Lucht stated that if action is taken during work sessions, they should be board approved and posted, He stated the board can do this from this point forward.

Michael Salitore, Student Services Director, reminded the board that Special Education is a service not a placement. He handed out a flyer to the members and stated that his department is hosting an Exceptional Learner's Fair in January. He explained this is a mini conference for parents of special needs children age 0-21. He asked the board to get the word out of this amazing event.

Adjourn

Mr. Gierke moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Loughridge seconded the motion and all members unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm.

Executive Session

The Molalla River School District board of education held an executive session for the purpose of hearing a complaint against a public officer. The executive session was held pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2) (b).

Chair Neal Lucht called the Executive Session to order at 8:35pm. Board members present: Chair Neal Lucht, Vice Chair Calvin Nunn, Mark Lucht, Craig Loughridge, Linda Eskridge, Liz Cruthers and Ralph Gierke.

Present from the administration were Tony Mann/Superintendent and Missy Wesley/Board Secretary

Chair Neal Lucht adjourned the meeting at 9:15pm.

Chair

Superintendent

Secretary