

**Unofficial Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting, October 11, 2021**

These are minutes of the Morrow County School District Board of Directors meeting on Monday, October 11, 2021, 7:00 pm held at Heppner Elementary (gym) in Heppner, Oregon.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jacob Cain (Zoom), Richard Cole, Kalie Davis, Mary Killion (Zoom), Barney Lindsay

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Becky Kindle, Brian Kollman

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Dirk Dirksen (Zoom), Cheryl Costello, Marie Shimer, Erin Stocker, Patrick Kerrigan, Jody Deardorff (Zoom), Beth O’Hanlon (Zoom) Marissa Turner, John Christy, Jill Ledbetter, Jami Carbray, David Norton, Steve Sheller, Kaira Rysdam, Stephanie Ewing, Ryan Keefauver, Rose Palmer, Matt Combe, Dieter Waite

OTHERS PRESENT: as per roster

Call to Order:

Board Vice Chair, Richard Cole called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a quorum was established.

Delegations:

MCEA – Charlene Baker; OSEA – Bart Prouty

Presentations

Dave Fowler and the Heppner TSA Chapter – TSA members Hannah Finch, Cody Fletcher, Cameron Proudfoot, Serena Humphreys and Trevor Nichols presented and discussed the TSA calendar of events for the 2021/22 school year.

Travel Request, Heppner Jr/Sr High School TSA – TSA Advisor, Mr. Fowler requested permission for Heppner TSA to attend the National TSA Conference in Dallas, Texas June 26-30, 2022.

Travel Request – Heppner Jr/Sr High School TSA

Motion: Barney Lindsay made a motion to approve the Heppner Jr/Sr High School TSA travel request to attend the National TSA Conference in Dallas, Texas. Kalie Davis seconded the motion.

Ayes: Cain, Cole, Davis, Killion, Lindsay
Noes: n/a
Motion Passed

Public Comment

Jeff Zimmerman addressed the Board to voice his concern with the mask mandate.

Brian Knowles addressed his concerns related to the possibility of a vaccination mandate for students in the future.

Consent Agenda

Motion: Kalie Davis made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.
Barney Lindsay seconded the motion.

A. Approved minutes of the regular meeting of September 13, 2021 and special meeting of September 21, 2021;
B. Approved Financial Report, Enrollment Report and Employment Action;
C. 1st Reading of Rescinded, New or Revised Policies: ECACB
D. Adoption of Rescinded, New or Revised Policies: None
E. Adoption of New, Revised or Rescinded AR’s: None

Ayes: Cain, Cole, Davis, Killion, Lindsay
Noes: n/a
Motion Passed

Superintendent Report

- **Mandates** – The district will follow the laws placed in front of us related to COVID mandates. We want to keep schools open and not be fined by OSHA and ODE. Mr. Dirksen shared a letter that is proposed to be sent to the governor and other political leaders. We are not just accepting mandates but are working and addressing them with the means we have available.
- **STEAM Friday** – These days are designed to work with students outside of normal activities. They have become a CTE kind of day. Community and state funding allow for these days.
- **Wraparound** – These services have expanded with the addition of 2 nurses and our continued partnership with county health. We have had to quarantine some classes but have been able to keep school doors open, this is credited to their support. It takes a great deal of effort on everyone’s part to accomplish this.
- **OSBA Listening Session** – Mr. Dirksen reviewed the questions that will be discussed at the listening sessions.
What are the biggest leadership challenges you are facing in your district and community?
What is a lesson you have learned that we should share with your fellow board members or superintendents across the state?
How can OSBA support your work? What services should OSBA improve upon or begin providing?
Where do you see achievement gaps among your students, and what can OSBA provide to support your diversity, equity, and inclusion work?
Some points of emphasis and concerns Mr. Dirksen discussed related to our district are:
 - Ⓢ Leadership challenges – worried about fatigue for all involved with our schools. It is early in the year and we have a long way to go. How do we deal with it?
 - Ⓢ Conflict with mandates – We have it. It creates issues in our buildings. We have to pull together for our students.
 - Ⓢ Lack of local control – creates a morale issue and how people work together.
Challenges are easy to come up with but hard to find solutions. We have to be thoughtful as possible when we make decisions, adjust as much as possible. With mandates, we can only adjust so much.
 - Ⓢ Support – We need support with local decisions and advocating for students. We have a learning loss we are aware of, we need more staff to work with students during teachers’ traditional down time.
 - Ⓢ Achievement gaps – Widest in students from poverty households. Students who do not have access to internet for additional supports.
- **Principal Reports** – Mr. Dirksen expressed his appreciation for these reports and hearing about collaborative efforts and partnerships.
- **Additional Funds** – ODE approved ESSER funds (\$2,439,000.00) to improve HVAC across the district.

Director of Educational Services Report

- **Division 22 Assurances** - This annual report was presented to the Board for review and acknowledgement.

Unfinished Business

- **OSBA Fall Regional Events**
 - Ⓢ Fall Regional Listening Sessions will be held in La Grande October 19th and Pendleton October 20th. In the interest of prioritizing the health and safety of the attendees, OSBA is asking that only the superintendent, board chair and vice chair attend in-person (others will attend via Zoom). If they are unable to attend in-person, other board members may attend in their place. Kalie Davis expressed interest in further discussing the questions OSBA has presented. A work session will be scheduled prior to the event for this purpose.
 - Ⓢ New Board Member Training, October 26, 2021, 5:00-7:00pm. This training is offered via zoom for new Board members as of July, 2021.

New Business

- **Resolution #2021-22-05 – Unanticipated Revenue**
 - Ⓢ \$4,750.00 from Supporters of the Heppner FFA to HJSHS towards their tractor program.
 - Ⓢ \$39,000.00 from Boardman Community Development Association to SBE for basketball hoops.

Resolution #2021-22-05 – Unanticipated Revenue

Motion: Barney Lindsay made a motion to approve the resolution for unanticipated revenue. Kalie Davis seconded the motion.

Ayes: Cain, Cole, Davis, Killion, Lindsay

Noes:

Motion Passed

- **Budget Committee** – Positions #1 (Tom Wolff), #3 (Lisa Wedam), #6 (Rita Van Schoiack), #7 (Loren Dieter) have expired. Board members associated with these positions will need to secure replacements (#1 Brian, #3 Richard, #6 Barney, #7 Kalie).
- **Superintendent Search** – It is time to start the recruitment process for a new superintendent, as Mr. Dirksen retires at the end of June. OSBA provided a proposal for their services.

Superintendent Search – OSBA Proposal

Motion: Kalie Davis made a motion for the Board to consider the OSBA proposal of services in a superintendent search. Barney Lindsay seconded the motion.

Ayes: Cain, Cole, Davis, Killion, Lindsay

Noes:

Motion Passed

- **Letter to Governor Brown** – Mr. Dirksen read a letter that is proposed to be sent to Governor Brown regarding local control.

Letter to Governor Brown – Local Control

Motion: Jacob Cain made a motion to move forward with the letter to Governor Brown. Kalie Davis seconded the motion.

Ayes: Cain, Cole, Davis, Killion, Lindsay

Noes:

Motion Passed

- **Representative Greg Smith** – Due to a work conflict, Representative Smith was unable to attend the meeting. He will attend November’s meeting.

Vice Chair Cole read the announcements:

- STEAM Friday – October 15, 2021
- End of 1st Quarter – October 28, 2021
- Next Board Meeting – Monday, November 8, 2021 – North District Office/MEC

At 7:54pm, Vice Chair Cole recessed the regular meeting and moved into executive session under ORS 192.660(2)(f) To consider records exempt from public inspection.

At 8:10pm, Vice Chair Cole adjourned executive session and the regular meeting reconvened.

The Board discussed concerns related to COVID – communication with the governor, vaccine mandates, termination of staff, and communication with staff.

Vice Chair Cole adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Cheryl Costello, Board Secretary

Board Representative

Date Approved: _____