

**THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SPECIAL SESSION  
January 17, 2024**

Three Rivers School District Board of Directors met for a special session Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at the District Office Administration Office, 8550 New Hope Road, Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon. The meeting was streamed online for the public and is currently available for viewing at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZXEpGY--GQ&t=8008s>

**PRESENT**

Rich Halsted, Board Chair  
Jennifer Johnstun, Board Vice-Chair  
Nancy Reese, Board Member  
Pat Kelly, Board Member  
Dave Valenzuela, Superintendent

Casey Alderson, Deputy Superintendent  
Stephanie Allen-Hart, Director  
Jessica Durrant, Director  
Rob Saunders, Director  
Shelly Quick, Recording Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER/SPECIAL SESSION**

Board Chair Halsted called the Special Session to order at 4:35 p.m. and announced that the purpose of the meeting is to interview the two Zone I board member candidates, Stacy Yanase and Neigel Hruska. The process is to interview each of the candidates individually for about thirty minutes. When that is complete, they will both come back to the Board Room while the Board Members deliberate and discuss their decision making and then one will be nominated to take the position as the Zone I Director.

**INTERVIEW ZONE I BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES**

The Board Members conducted individual interviews of the two candidates, Stacy Yanase was first, followed by Neigel Hruska. They were each asked the same eight predetermined interview questions by the board. There were some additional follow-up questions asked by some board members and each of the candidates was also asked why they should be chosen.

After the individual interviews Board Chair Halsted called for a recess at 5:15 p.m.  
The meeting reconvened at 5:25 p.m.

**SELECTION OF ZONE 1 BOARD MEMBER (ACTION)**

Member Kelly made a motion to appoint Neigel Hruska as the Zone I Board Member. Member Reese seconded the motion. There was lengthy discussion. Board Chair Halsted shared that personally, he felt the process was rushed and we also currently have two first board members that have not yet been through the budget process. From a wisdom standpoint, he would prefer they go through the complete budget process before they select a board member. He feels that we have four cohesive board members right now, and going into the budgeting process, he is focused on Members Kelly and Reese education as board members and is comfortable where the board is at. He would not affirm either of the candidates. Member Kelly asked to clarify if it was the Board Chair's recommendation to delay the appointment until after they go through the budget season? Board Chair Halsted stated that is correct and also have further discussion on how they move forward with the replacement process.

Member Kelly rescinded his motion to appoint Neigel Hruska. Board Chair Halsted made a motion to postpone the board member replacement until after the budget process is complete. They can revisit the topic at the board retreat in July. Member Kelly seconded the motion. There was some further discussion.

Board Chair Halsted called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Board Chair Halsted thanked both candidates for applying and their time to attend the interviews. He stated this board decision was not a reflection on them. They are both invited to apply again in the future.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chair Halsted adjourned the Special Session at 5:40 p.m.

DRAFT