

**SHERMAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Special Board Meeting Minutes**

**June 27, 2013
Moro, OR**

The Board of Directors of the Sherman County School District met at the Sherman County Jr/Sr High School in Moro, OR on June 27, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. The following were present: Ken Melzer, chair, Verna Simantel, vice-chair, Bill Martin, Ted von Borstel, Elizabeth Mills, directors; Wes Owens, Superintendent/Principal; Kim McKinney, deputy clerk; Gerald Casper, Todd Swan, Brandon Hammond, Mike Somnis, Janet Pinkerton, Cindie King, Patti Ketchum, staff; Angie Thompson, Teresa Olsen, Kyle Blagg, Kara Lanthorn, Molly Belshe, visitors.

CALL SPECIAL BOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Melzer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. beginning with the salute to the American Flag.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

No visitors signed in to speak.

2012-13 ADMINISTRATIVE CONFIGURATION

Supt. Owens first apologized to everyone for the need to have this special meeting. He went through a very difficult decision making process before deciding to leave the Sherman County School District. He praised the school district for an outstanding staff, fantastic students and a wonderful board to work with. He has loved living in the county and will miss it. He is leaving due to family scenarios and that is the only reason.

Last year the district changed the administrative configuration to save money. We saved approximately \$80,000 this year. He thanked Brandon Hammond and Mike Somnis for doing a wonderful job of making it all work. Brandon was at the elementary school and served as Principal, Title I teacher and ELL Director for district. Mike was at the Jr/Sr High School and served as Principal, Athletic Director and Coach. Wes served in both buildings as superintendent.

Director Martin inquired about Mike and Brandon's schedules for the 2012-13 year. Brandon taught Title I for about 2/3 of the day and was principal the rest. Mike was principal/AD for the entire day. The plan for next year is to have a teacher take on some of the Title I duties to allow more time in the principal position.

CURRENT POSTINGS OF CERTIFIED/CLASSIFIED STAFF

We have hired a PE/Health teacher for K-12 and an elementary secretary. Our current openings include 6th grade, Special Education Teacher at Jr/Sr High, ELL assistant. 6th grade interviews will be on Monday, Special Education teacher on Tuesday, and the ELL will be open until filled.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION (ORS 192.660) 7:14 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION 7:56 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Director von Borstel, second by Director Mills to accept the resignations of Wes Owens, Superintendent, Effective July 31, 2013 and of Brandon Hammond, Elementary Principal, Title I Teacher and ELL Director, Effective July 1, 2013. Vote: 4 yes, 1 abstain (Martin). Motion carried.

Chair Melzer sad that he is sad and disappointed to see them go and would like to have had another 10 years with them. He appreciates everything that Wes has done for the school district in his 7 years here. Director Martin stated that no one is a bigger Wes Owens fan than himself.

2013 ADMINISTRATIVE CONFIGURATION DISCUSSION

The board discussed various options for which positions to post. Chair Melzer pointed out that we have a K-12 campus project that is in progress and we need to keep the momentum going. At the last board meeting it was decided to hire a project manager. Some of the issues that need addressing include full or part-time superintendent, interim or permanent, principal or TOSA for the elementary school. Chair Melzer felt that a Superintendent/Principal position might be a stretch for an interim person.

Angie Thompson likes the current configuration. An interim supt. might be a plan for 1 year but we need to plan for the long-term. The District office should stay in Moro because that is where we are heading. Kyle Blagg feels that for the long-term we will eventually be a 2 administrator district. What we decide to do for this year might depend on the applicants we get. The work load for this year will be significant with the consolidation plan moving ahead.

The board discussed Title I and ELL. Brandon explained that this money can be spent on teachers or instructional assistants or some combination of both. A Lead Teacher or Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) were also discussed as options for the elementary school. Wes feels that the superintendent needs to be in both buildings. Gerald Casper and Cindie King felt that the configuration we had this year worked very well because there was always administrative support.

Director Martin like how it worked this year and would like to see if someone in the district is interested in being a TOSA in Grass Valley and post for a superintendent. He is worried about the timeline and applicant pool at this point in the summer.

Superintendent Owens noted that a lead teacher or TOSA cannot do evaluations. The superintendent would need to do those at the elementary school and with the new evaluation system set by the legislature there will be significant time dedicated to those.

Director Martin doesn't want to reduce administration at all. He feels we're stretched about as thin as we can be. If we fill a position with someone in district we need to back fill those openings. He feels we should post two positions because that is what we have leaving.

REVIEW QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Owens distributed the Qualities and Qualifications of Superintendent that the board adopted in the Spring of 2012. The board felt those same things are relevant to this search.

SUPERINTENDENT AND PRINCIPAL SELECTION PROCESS, POSSIBLE POSTINGS & HIRING TIMELINES

The positions were defined as: Superintendent, full-time and TOSA full-time with other duties (teaching, etc.). Superintendent Owens will post these positions tomorrow.

The interview committees, screening committees will be set up at the next board meeting (July 8, 2013).

Superintendent Owens distributed a Proposed Superintendent Search Timeline for the board to review. It was agreed that the closing date for both positions would be July 8. Fine-tuning of the remainder of the calendar will take place at the next board meeting. At this time the contact person will also change with a new board chair.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Melzer declared the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Chair, Ken Melzer

Deputy Clerk, Kim McKinney