

**SHERMAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 27, 2017**

The Board of Directors of Sherman County School District met in the Sherman County School/Public Library Meeting Room in Moro, Oregon on June 27, 2017. The following were present: Vice Chair, Kyle Blagg; Directors: Kristie Coelsch, Jim Macnab, Merrie von Borstel; Superintendent, Wes Owens; Business Manager, Kim McKinney; Board Secretary, Jeanie Pehlke; Staff Member: Jen Berry; Visitors: Ryan Nopp, Ellen Nopp, Carol von Borstel, Neil Pattee, Joe Dabulskis, Chris Kaseberg and Jess Stutzman.

Absent: Bill Martin

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN

Motion by Director Coelsch with second from Director Macnab to approve the board meeting agenda as amended. **Vote:** 4 in Favor (Blagg, Coelsch, Macnab, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Director von Borstel with second from Director Coelsch to authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with Aurora Gardens, LLC for the sale of the Grass Valley facility and property for \$356,000 and do all actions necessary to accomplish the sale, including signing the deed and closing papers. **Vote:** 4 in Favor (Blagg, Coelsch, Macnab, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Director Coelsch with second from Director von Borstel that this Memorandum of Agreement be adopted by the Sherman County School Board for the continuation of Superintendent Wes Owens' services, as outlined in his 2015-17 employment contract from July 1st to July 10th, 2017. **Discussion:** Director Macnab stated that the discussion is over because people waited until the last minute. It was clarified that the board has been waiting to execute the Superintendent's contract until after the certified and classified unions have completed their negotiations. **Vote:** 3 in Favor (Blagg, Coelsch, von Borstel) 1 No (Macnab) **Action:** The motion carried.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Blagg opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag at 11:30 a.m.

APPROVE BOARD MEETING AGENDA

An opportunity was given to make changes to the presented Special Board Meeting Agenda for this June 27, 2017 meeting. The following item was added to the agenda:

- 3.2 Memorandum of Agreement with Superintendent Owens to continue his contract from July 1, 2017 until the next regular board meeting on July 10, 2017

Motion by Director Coelsch with second from Director Macnab to approve the board meeting agenda as amended. **Vote:** 4 in Favor (Blagg, Coelsch, Macnab, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

No comments were received.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Grass Valley Facility Continued Discussion

Superintendent Owens stated that on June 13th the District put out an invitation to bid, and then on June 23rd the District received two qualifying minimum bids which prompted the Highest and Best Offer process. He thanked the City of Grass Valley, the bidders and the interested parties who were in attendance and announced that today, Business Manager, Kim McKinney opened the Highest and Best Offer bids. He noted that both qualified bidders have met with the City of Grass Valley regarding use and the Board will now discuss and approve today's highest and best offer bid winner. He respectfully requested that after board approval, the winning bidder should provide contact information for their representative so that the purchase and sale agreement can be finalized. He added that the District's representative will work with the buyer's representative to have the agreement executed, delivered to escrow and earnest money deposited. He noted that the City of Grass Valley will need to submit the Quit Claim Deed to Escrow so that the sale can proceed to closing.

He then stated that today only one of the two qualifying bidders provided a sealed bid for the highest and best offer. The winning bid was with Aurora Gardens LLC with a bid amount of \$356,000. He again thanked everyone involved with this long process. There was no discussion or questions from board members.

Motion by Director von Borstel with second from Director Coelsch to authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with Aurora Gardens, LLC for the sale of the Grass Valley facility and property for \$356,000 and do all actions necessary to accomplish the sale, including signing the deed and closing papers. **Vote:** 4 in Favor (Blagg, Coelsch, Macnab, von Borstel) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

Memorandum of Agreement for Superintendent Contract

Vice Chair Blagg explained that Mr. Owens' contract expires at the end of June leaving the district without a superintendent until the July 10, 2017 regular board meeting. He stated that he discussed this situation with the district's legal counsel who recommended a Memorandum of Agreement that would cover the district and extend Mr. Owens current contract from July 1st through July 10th. At the July meeting, the board will need to have a contract ready to approve or have another Memorandum of Agreement to continue Superintendent services. There was no discussion or questions from board members.

Motion by Director Coelsch with second from Director von Borstel that this Memorandum of Agreement be adopted by the Sherman County School Board for the continuation of Superintendent Wes Owens' services, as outlined in his 2015-17 employment contract from July 1st to July 10th, 2017. **Discussion:** Director Macnab stated that the discussion is over because people waited until the last minute. It was clarified that the board has been waiting to execute

the Superintendent's contract until after the certified and classified unions have completed their negotiations. **Vote:** 3 in Favor (Blagg, Coelsch, von Borstel) 1 No (Macnab) **Action:** The motion carried.

Vice Chair Blagg asked Director Macnab if the district should go without a superintendent for ten days. Director Macnab suggested the ESD. Superintendent Owens respectfully declined signing the Memorandum of Agreement. It was suggested that the board should schedule another meeting to determine what will be done between July 1st and July 10th. An audience member asked the board for clarification of what just happened. Vice Chair Blagg explained that the board approved the Memorandum of Agreement on a three to one vote and Mr. Owens has made a decision to not sign the document.

It was determined that the Superintendent will be handling the sale of Grass Valley through the end of the month and if additional paperwork is needed then someone else will be appointed to handle it. Director Macnab reiterated that the ESD is a solution. Chris Kaseberg expressed praise for the incredible job Superintendent Owens has done. Mr. Kaseberg said that he would be extremely disappointed if Superintendent Owens wasn't here next year and beyond. He added that the district couldn't find a better person that is more thorough, who does everything right, and always does what is best for kids. Vice Chair Blagg agreed with Mr. Kaseberg.

Director Coelsch asked Director Macnab to share his reasoning. Director Macnab said, "I disagree with what is going on and that's all I can say. I voted, I did my duty. I believe it is not a way to run a school district, that's it." Superintendent Owens stated that he has never been given this feedback and it is hard to improve without constructive feedback. Director Coelsch asked Superintendent Owens to reconsider. She praised his organizational skills, experience, and transparency. Superintendent Owens expressed his appreciation to Director Coelsch. It was pointed out that Superintendent Owens has already worked 39 days over his contract this school year.

A discussion related to next steps and a next meeting took place.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS, CLOSING COMMENTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- Memorandum of Agreement for Superintendent Contract

NEXT MEETING

The next special board meeting will be Thursday, June 29, 2017 and the next regular board meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice Chair Blagg declared the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Chair, Bill Martin

Board Secretary, Jeanie Pehlke