

**SHERMAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2019**

The Board of Directors of Sherman County School District met in the Sherman County Public/School Library Meeting Room in Moro, Oregon on September 9, 2019. The following were present: Chair, Kristie Coelsch; Vice Chair, Jesse Stutzman; Directors: Paul Bish, Jeremy Lanthorn, Scott Susi; Superintendent, Wes Owens; Principal, Mike Somnis; Business Manager, Kim McKinney; Board Secretary, Jen Berry; Staff, Gerald Casper, Samantha R-Smith.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN

Motion by Director Lanthorn with second from Director Bish to approve the agenda for this September 9, 2019 meeting as presented. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Bish, Coelsch, Lanthorn, Stutzman, Susi) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Vice Chair Stutzman with second from Director Lanthorn to adopt the consent agenda as presented. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Bish, Coelsch, Lanthorn, Stutzman, Susi) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Director Bish with second from Vice Chair Stutzman to make an application for \$1.2 million to the PERS Employer Incentive Fund. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Bish, Coelsch, Lanthorn, Stutzman, Susi) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Director Lanthorn with second from Director Bish adopt the recommended policy deletions per OSBA - JHFDA, JHFDA-AR(1), JHFDA-AR(2) **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Bish, Coelsch, Lanthorn, Stutzman, Susi) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair, Kristie Coelsch opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag at 6:00 p.m. and thanked everyone for coming.

Approve Board Meeting Agenda

Board Members were given an opportunity to make changes to the Agenda for this September 9, 2019 meeting. No changes were made.

Motion by Director Lanthorn with second from Director Bish to approve the agenda for this September 9, 2019 meeting as presented. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Bish, Coelsch, Lanthorn, Stutzman, Susi) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

No comments from visitors were received.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

Recognition of Students, Staff and Community

We are extremely fortunate to have gracious staff and community members who support our school and students. While it is possible that we may periodically miss an opportunity to thank someone, we sincerely appreciate the commitment of all of our supporters. We would like to recognize the following people for their devotion to our schools, students, staff and community.

- The entire school district staff for an amazing start to the 2019-20 school year.
- Bank of Eastern Oregon, Terri Bibby, and Jayne Burnett for donating school supplies.
- Mike Somnis for his leadership and work preparing for the 2018-19 school year.
- Advantage Dental, Booster Club, Mid-Columbia Bus Company, PTO, and the Sherman County Education Foundation for hosting an information booth at our Back to School Night.
- Darcy Carlson and Sabrina Norris for their work preparing the meals for our District In-Service and Back to School Night.
- Carrie Somnis and all of the student volunteers for helping at Back to School Night.
- Wasco Electric and Dan Funkhouser for their support installing the state championship signs.
- Thank you to all of our fall coaches, volunteers and supporters for their outstanding work with our students.
- Mid-Columbia Medical Center for providing a certified trainer for our athletic program. We appreciate Joe Lanzetti and his work with our student athletes.
- Thank you to Jeremy Lanthorn for his continued commitment to photograph Sherman athletes for our athletic programs and taking our staff photo.
- Sherman students for their outstanding efforts at the Sherman County Fair.
- Sherman County Fair Board for another great Sherman County Fair in support of Sherman students.
- Sherman Elementary PTO for the welcome back to school treats.
- Preschool for taking tickets at sporting events.

We truly appreciate the amazing support we receive from so many thoughtful people. Thank you to everyone in our great community and school district for your continued support! When you have time please visit our Sherman County School District Web Page for the monthly appreciation comments.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Business

- ✓ Approved Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting, August 12, 2019 as presented.
- ✓ Approved Bill Listing, Financial Statement as presented.

Personnel

- ✓ Approved preliminary hire of Dean Dark, 1.0 FTE Custodial

Motion by Vice Chair Stutzman with second from Director Lanthorn to adopt the consent agenda as presented. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Bish, Coelsch, Lanthorn, Stutzman, Susi) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Owens began his report with an update on the district enrollment and thanked the entire staff for a great start to the school year. He noted that Back to School Night was a success and thanked Mid-Columbia Bus for sponsoring the meal, our food services staff for preparing the meal, the PTO, Booster Club, Education Foundation, Prevention Department, and Advantage Dental for their booths, and the staff for attending and supporting this event. He updated the board on In-service and the Social/Emotional Learning Presentation. Expectation Stations, PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support), Samantha R-Smith's position and ORTI's Leadership Launch were all explained. He noted that the SPED program has had a tremendous start to the year with new staffing. He updated the board on the implementation of Synergy and thanked Jen Berry and Gerald Casper for their efforts during this process. The Title 1 position is the only open position in the district and Superintendent Owens noted that they are currently working through options.

Superintendent Owens discussed the importance of the Student Success Act process and noted a few key points. We are in the process of completing local engagement to inform our application. Districts have flexibility in designing how to best invest the funds but they must address the following priority areas: reducing academic disparities for students, meeting students' mental or behavioral health needs, providing equitable access to academic courses, strengthening partnerships, allowing teachers and staff to have sufficient time to: collaborate with other teachers and staff, review data on students' grades, absences and discipline, based on school and on grade level or course, develop strategies to ensure that at-risk students stay on track to graduate. Through the month of September and October we will continue to engage our students, staff and school community.

He discussed an upcoming Stop the Bleed training and a Safety Committee meeting. He thanked that committee for their continued work. He gave an update on the progress of the North Playing Field and thanked athletic foundation for their work on this project.

Sherman County School K-12 Administrator Report

Principal Somnis gave an update on the early college program and discussed PBIS. He noted that Samantha R-Smith is taking the lead on PBIS this year. He acknowledged that it has been great start to the school year.

Athletic Director Report

AD Somnis discussed a league meeting and the start of fall sports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Board Training Topics/Discussion

Superintendent Owens presented the board with training options from OSBA and the ESD. The board discussed their options and decided to pursue Board Roles and Responsibility Basics training with the ESD.

NEW BUSINESS

Beginning of School Year Update

Superintendent Owens again expressed that it has been a great start to the school year. Chair Coelsch asked for an update on bus transportation. Superintendent Owens noted that there has

been some issues and they are being worked through. He is in constant contact with Mid-Columbia Transportation leadership.

PERS Employer Incentive Fund – 2019 Application Discussion

Superintendent Owens presented the details of the PERS Employer Incentive Fund.

Understanding that there is no penalty to apply for the incentive the board decided to make an application for the full amount of \$1.2 million in order to qualify for matching funds in the amount of \$300,000.

The following are key points from the discussion:

- Sherman County School District Unfunded Actuarial Liability (UAL) is \$3,149,019 at the last estimate. Please see Actuarial Valuation spreadsheet.
- SCSD is in the “priority pool” where our UAL as a percentage of payroll is 249%. (UAL \$3,149,019 / annual payroll \$1,264,718). We can apply for the matching funds in the first 90 days before districts with a lower percentage are eligible to apply.
- The legislature set aside \$100 million for matching funds to incentivize employers to pay down the debt.
- We can apply for matching funds but we are not locked into a set amount. We could decide to send less money than originally applied for or none at all. There is no penalty for changing our mind.
- The money would need to be sent to PERS by 8/31/2020. We can decide through the budget process next spring how much to send.
- PERS has the ability to invest in more options than a school district. We are limited by statute to the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP), Federal treasuries and CDs where our returns are safe but small. LGIP current interest rate is 2.64%. PERS estimates through many years of history to average 7.20% in investment returns.
- We have been prudently allocating funds in previous years in anticipation of paying our PERS UAL. We currently have \$250,000 in the PERS UAL fund. We can budget to put more in next July to make the transfer to PERS for this program.
- Rate offset would begin July 2021 unless we send the money sooner and pay for an actuarial valuation (\$1,000).
- Projections from PERS show a savings of \$2,595,140 over 20 years through lowered PERS rates. If we invested the \$1,200,000 over 20 years instead we would only earn projected \$766,340 based on current interest rates.

Motion by Director Bish with second from Vice Chair Stutzman to make an application for \$1.2 million to the PERS Employer Incentive Fund. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Bish, Coelsch, Lanthorn, Stutzman, Susi) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

Board Policy Deletions Per OSBA Recommendation (JHFDA, JHFDA-AR(1), JHFDA-AR(2))

At the recommendation of OSBA the board reviewed policies JHFDA – Suspension of Driving Privileges, JHFDA-AR(1) – Request for a Suspended Driving Privilege - Conduct, and JHFDA-AR(2) – Notice of Withdrawal. OSBA recommends that the board delete these policies as the ORS governing them has changed and they are no longer applicable.

Motion by Director Lanthorn with second from Director Bish adopt the recommended policy deletions per OSBA - JHFDA, JHFDA-AR(1), JHFDA-AR(2) **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Bish, Coelsch, Lanthorn, Stutzman, Susi) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

OSBA Annual Convention, November 14-17

Superintendent Owens gave the board information on the OSBA Annual Convention in November. Director Jeremy Lanthorn expressed interest in possibly attending.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

No comments from visitors were received.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS, CLOSING COMMENTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- Community Engagement – Student Success Act
- Board Training
- Mid-Columbia Bus Presentation
- Policy Updates
- Preschool Rent

NEXT MEETING

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be Monday, October 14, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Coelsch declared the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Chair, Kristie Coelsch

Board Secretary, Jen Berry