

**SHERMAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
March 9, 2020**

The Board of Directors of Sherman County School District met in the Sherman County Public/School Library Meeting Room in Moro, Oregon on March 9, 2020. The following were present: Chair, Kristie Coelsch; Vice Chair, Jesse Stutzman; Directors: Paul Bish, Jeremy Lanthorn, and Scott Susi; Superintendent, Wes Owens, Principal, Mike Somnis; Business Manager, Kim McKinney; Board Secretary, Jen Berry; Staff: Gerald Casper, Amy Huffman, Tionie Kock, Ashley Macnab, Jessianne Miller, Samantha R-Smith, Kevin Stuart, Nels Swenson; Students: Aurora Baker, Darian Davis, Jed Harrison, Cali Johnson, Joseph Ramos, and Patrick Ramos; Visitors: Anna Alley, Sarah Goodenough, Thyra Lepak, Drew Messenger, Chuck Moore, Miranda Owens, Carrie Somnis, and Chelsey Woods.

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN**

**Motion** by Vice Chair Stutzman with second from Director Susi to approve the agenda for this March 9, 2020 meeting as presented. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Bish, Coelsch, Lanthorn, Stutzman, Susi) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion** by Director Bish 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 Lanthorn with second from Director Bish to approve the presented Sherman County School District Student Success Act Plan and Student Investment Account Fund Allocation. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Bish, Coelsch, Lanthorn, Stutzman, Susi) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion** by Vice Chair Stutzman with second from Director Bish to approve the purchase and install of a 6 foot black fence around the perimeter of the play area with a gate near the highway and fencing for the ditch on the south end. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Bish, Coelsch, Lanthorn, Stutzman, Susi) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion** by Director Susi with second from Director Lanthorn to approve the interdistrict transfer request. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Bish, Coelsch, Lanthorn, Stutzman, Susi) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair, Kristie Coelsch opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag at 5:01 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 March 9, 2020 meeting. No changes were made.

**Motion** by Vice Chair Stutzman with second from Director Susi to approve the agenda for this March 9, 2020 meeting as presented. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Bish, Coelsch, Lanthorn, Stutzman, Susi)  
**Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **JOINT DISCUSSION WITH THE SHERMAN COUNTY PRESCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS RELATED TO THE PRESCHOOL PROMISE**

Superintendent Owens gave a review and timeline of the Preschool Promise. The Sherman County School Preschool Board of Directors expressed their concerns to the board noting the longer school hours, student inclusion/exclusion due to qualifying factors, transportation and classroom space as their major concerns. They do recognize that district oversight and staff benefits would be beneficial. After discussions with preschool families and staff, the majority would rather continue as is and not implement Preschool Promise.

Preschool Director Carrie Somnis noted pros of the Preschool Promise including staff benefits, and school district oversight for consistency and administrative duties. She is looking at building the best program for the future.

Superintendent Owens and the Board agreed that the Preschool Board should not let space stop them from making a decision to move forward with Preschool Promise, explaining that the District is willing to get creative and provide additional space.

The Board is in support of the decision that the Sherman County Preschool decides is best for their program and would like to keep communicating on the topic should they decide to implement Preschool Promise in the future. The Preschool Board members present would like to continue on without the Preschool Promise.

### **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.

- Classified employees week was last week. Special thanks to all classified employees and support staff for their dedicated efforts to the students and staff of the Sherman County School District.
- Garak Casper, Dean Dark, and Craig Wood for the additional time they have spent sanitizing the school.
- Coaches Steve Bird and Laurie Perisho for coaching the girls' basketball team and coaches Gary Lewis, Bill Martin, and Ethan Moore for coaching the boys' basketball team.
- Sherman Preschool for taking tickets at the basketball games.
- Bert Perisho for running the clock for boys and girls varsity basketball games.
- Jill Harrison, Joe Justesen, and Doug Martin for keeping score during basketball games.

- Special thanks to all the parents and boosters who have supported our basketball teams this past season.
- Sherman County Sheriff's Office for their continued support and cooperative work on our safety plan.
- Cindie King and the Elementary Student Council for putting together a fun Dr. Seuss week which included dress-up days, Wacky Wednesday Games, and Stop, Drop, Read.
- Jen Berry and Tionie Kock for organizing the PTO Carnival and the many volunteers who made it all happen.
- Deanna Christiansen for organizing the annual book fair.
- Nels Swenson for coordinating FFA Week.
- Thank you and congratulations to all the FFA Parliamentary Procedure students for all their efforts to prepare for the regional competition.
- Jacob Hillman from the United States Department of Agriculture, DelRae Ferguson from National Resource Conservation Service, and Gerald Casper for coordinating a generous donation of computers through the Computers for Learning Program.
- Thank you to the Education Foundation and Athletic Foundation for all their continued support.

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.

### **Student Body Report**

Cali Johnson presented the student body report and discussed the recent Dr. Seuss week. She also announced dates for Mr. Husky and the Blood Drive.

### **FFA Presentation**

Superintendent Owens thanked Nels Swenson for the work he has done with FFA and the students involved. FFA Officers gave a presentation on events they have participated in this year, upcoming events, and their goals.

## **ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA**

### **Business**

- ✓ Approved Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting, February 10, 2020 as presented.
- ✓ Approved Minutes from the Special Board Meeting, February 24, 2020 as presented.
- ✓ Approved Bill Listing, Financial Statement as presented.

### **Personnel**

- ✓ Approved Recommendation for Certified Contract Renewals
- ✓ Approved K-12 Principal Contract

**Motion** by Director Bish 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.

## **REPORT AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Owens noted that the district celebrated classified appreciation week last week and expressed his appreciation for the classified staff and the work they do to support the students, fellow staff, and patrons of the district. He gave an update on student enrollment numbers. He thanked the Scholarship Association, Athletic Foundation, and the Education Foundation for their continued support. In addition, he thanked the staff for their work on the Student Success Act Plan and the custodial staff for their extra efforts cleaning and disinfecting the school. Superintendent Owens explained that he is participating in Oregon Health Authority and Public Health Partners weekly call and meetings with the North Central Public Health District in regards to Coronavirus. The north playing field development of rules is in process for future recess activities. He discussed a recent ORTli K-12 presentation, an upcoming ORTli Spring Conference, QMHP posting, Student Investment Account application process, a North Central ESD SSA Work Session, and the Budget Process.

### **Sherman County School K-12 Administrator Report**

Principal Somnis thanked Tionie Kock, the PTO, and parent volunteers for coordinating the Dr. Seuss carnival for the students and announced that Missoula Children's Theatre takes place next week.

### **Athletic Director Report**

Athletic Director Somnis reported on the startup of junior high and high school spring sports.

### **Mid-Columbia Bus Company Contract Negotiations – Chuck Moore**

Superintendent Owens thanked Thyra Lepak and Chuck Moore for presenting at the meeting. Each board member received a copy of the one year and five year proposed contracts from Mid-Columbia Bus Company. Mr. Moore reviewed the proposals and updated the board on recent improvements to the service including: filling of the full time Sherman County manager's position, replacement of the type 20 bus, and the addition of a new driver. He encouraged the board to review the proposals and renew for five years, stating that if they do, fleet replacement can start next year rather than waiting another year.

Superintendent Owens acknowledged that communication through this process has been good. He reminded the board that at the next meeting they will be deciding whether or not to enter into another contract, and if so will it be for one year or five years. An opportunity was given to board members to ask questions.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **School Calendar Drafts 2020-2021**

Superintendent Owens presented 2020-2021 school calendar drafts 4-6, noting a correction in May. Gerald Casper explained draft 6. The staff recently voted for draft 4 but has not seen draft 6. The board would like additional time to review the calendars.

### **Approval of Student Success Act Plan Application**

Superintendent Owens presented Draft 2 of the Student Success Act Plan and stated that the change on the plan was to fund SKORE rather than fully fund SKORE. He further explained that a decision needs to be made whether parents will pay for their students to participate in SKORE or

if the district will fund it. SKORE will still be expanded to four days with additional enrichment activities. The entire plan was reviewed and Superintendent Owens stated that this plan takes into consideration the input received from staff, students, and parents.

**Motion** by Director Lanthorn with second from Director Bish to approve the presented Sherman County School District Student Success Act Plan and Student Investment Account Fund Allocation.

**Vote:** 5 in Favor (Bish, Coelsch, Lanthorn, Stutzman, Susi) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Preschool Promise**

Superintendent Owens explained to the audience that a joint work session took place just previous to the regular board meeting regarding the Sherman County Preschool possibly implementing the Preschool Promise. The preschool shared that they like their current program, without Preschool Promise funds, and the board supports their decision.

### **District Student Transportation**

Chair Coelsch asked if there has been another regional superintendent meeting to discuss transportation and Superintendent Owens stated that it has not been rescheduled. He also noted that with the recent resignation of the Arlington School District superintendent it may be harder to privatize transportation as he would have been a huge support. Discussion took place about addendum items in the Mid-Columbia Bus Company proposal. The board would like to have the drivers wage removed from the addendum.

### **Mid-Columbia Bus Company Contract Negotiations**

The Board received the one year and five year proposals from Mid-Columbia Bus Company and they would like time to review them further. Mr. Moore requested they notify him ahead of time if any changes need to be made so he can make accurate addendums.

### **North Playing Field Fencing Project**

Superintendent Owens noted that after surveying the north playing field further, he recommends a few areas that fencing may be needed for safety and explained those specifically. He reviewed the cost of the project and the board discussed the options. He also shared that the Athletic Foundation would like to plant trees in the area.

**Motion** by Vice Chair Stutzman with second from Director Bish to approve the purchase and install of a 6 foot black fence around the perimeter of the play area with a gate near the highway and fencing for the ditch on the south end. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Bish, Coelsch, Lanthorn, Stutzman, Susi) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Interdistrict Transfer Request**

Superintendent Owens explained the interdistrict transfer request process. The board reviewed a request for a current student to attend in another district.

**Motion** by Director Susi with second from Director Lanthorn to approve the interdistrict transfer request. **Vote:** 5 in Favor (Bish, Coelsch, Lanthorn, Stutzman, Susi) **Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

**North Central Public Health District Coronavirus (COVID-19) Superintendent Meeting Updates**  
Superintendent Owens updated the board on meetings he has attended in regards to COVID-19. The district is following the suggestions of the health authorities. The service of the salad bar is one area that may be changed to further protect students and staff.

#### **Regional/District Planning and Preparation**

Superintendent Owens noted that he is working with regional districts to create a regional pandemic plan. A communication has been sent out to the community regarding COVID-19.

#### **Digital-Based and Remote Learning Planning Steps**

Superintendent Owens explained that discussions took place with staff on Friday to develop a remote learning program in case of school closures. He stated that any decision to close school would be made in conjunction with the Public Health Department and the Oregon Health Authority.

#### **COMMENTS FROM VISITORS**

Jessianne Miller suggested adding a running path along the fence line of the north playing field and adding a Crossfit box at the old tennis courts. Options for the old tennis courts were discussed and it was noted that after further research this is no longer a viable placement for the greenhouse. The greenhouse project is a priority and is still in process. Superintendent Owens thanked the James Weir Memorial District for their support of the greenhouse project. Chair Coelsch congratulated Mr. Swenson for the grant he received for shop equipment.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chair Coelsch called for an Executive Session at 7:16 p.m. pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(i) for the Annual Evaluation of the Superintendent.

Board Secretary Berry, Business Manager McKinney, Superintendent Owens and Principal Somnis were invited to attend the executive session.

Chair Coelsch adjourned the Executive Session at 7:33 p.m. and called the meeting back to Open Session at 7:04 p.m.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS, CLOSING COMMENTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Student District Transportation
- School Calendar Drafts
- Superintendent Evaluation

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be Monday, April 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. with a 5:00 executive session.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Coelsch declared the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

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Chair, Kristie Coelsch

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Board Secretary, Jen Berry