

**SHERMAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 10, 2020**

The Board of Directors of Sherman County School District met in an open Hybrid/Virtual Meeting format on August 10, 2020. The following were present and met in the Sherman County School Cafeteria: Chair, Kristie Coelsch; Vice Chair, Jesse Stutzman; Directors: Paul Bish and Jeremy Lanthorn; Superintendent, Wes Owens; Principal, Brittany Waggoner, Business Manager, Kim McKinney; Board Secretary, Jen Berry. All others attended virtually; Staff: Tyler Dearborn, Amy Huffman, Cindie King, Ashley Macnab, Susan Mobley, Kari Peters, Samantha R-Smith, Amber Riley, Kalie Rolfe, and Talese Slay; Visitors: Anna Alley, Larry Hocter, Kristen Labenske, Kara Lanthorn, and Abbey Phelps.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN

Motion by Vice Chair Stutzman with second from Director Bish to approve the agenda for this August 10, 2020 meeting as presented. **Vote:** 4 in Favor (Bish, Coelsch, Lanthorn, Stutzman) 1 Absent (Susi) **Action:** The motion carried.

Motion by Director Lanthorn with second from Vice Chair Stutzman to adopt the consent agenda as presented. **Vote:** 4 in Favor (Bish, Coelsch, Lanthorn, Stutzman) 1 Absent (Susi) **Action:** The motion carried.

Motion by Vice Chair Stutzman with second from Director Bish to approve the 20-21 food service prices as presented. **Vote:** 4 in Favor (Bish, Coelsch, Lanthorn, Stutzman) 1 Absent (Susi) **Action:** The motion carried.

Superintendent Owens thanked everyone for joining the Sherman County School District hybrid virtual board meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair, Kristie Coelsch opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag at 7:00 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 August 10, 2020 meeting. No changes were made.

Motion by Vice Chair Stutzman with second from Director Bish to approve the agenda for this August 10, 2020 meeting as presented. **Vote:** 4 in Favor (Bish, Coelsch, Lanthorn, Stutzman) 1 Absent (Susi) **Action:** The motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

Superintendent Owens explained a few housekeeping items for the virtual meeting and gave guidelines for using the chat box within the Google Meet for commenting during the board meeting.

Talese Slay expressed her thanks to the board and the administration for what they are doing for the community.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

Recognition of Students, Staff, and Community Members

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.

- To our entire school community for answering the personal calls regarding our reopening plans. It was great speaking to everyone.
- To Garak Casper, Dean Dark, Bruce and Synoma Olsen, and Craig Wood for their dedicated service in the custodial/maintenance/grounds keeping department in getting our school ready for the new year.
- Gary Shelton and Brittany Waggoner for their work on the master schedule.
- Gary Lewis and the work he has started with changes in athletic schedules.
- To our Public/School Library staff for supporting our school community this summer.
- Samantha R-Smith for meeting with the elementary staff and developing instructional strategies and non-negotiables.
- The County Court for their efforts to expand internet connectivity to remote areas of Sherman County for students and staff.
- Athletic Foundation for their support and the upcoming work on the North Playing Field perimeter fence.
- Regional Superintendents for supporting all students in our region.

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.

Staff Recognition

Shannon Hansen was recognized with a plaque for her 13 years of dedicated service to the students of Sherman County.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Business

- ✓ Approved Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting, July 13, 2020 as presented.
- ✓ Approved Bill Listing, Financial Statement as presented.

Personnel

- ✓ Approved 2020-21 Contract for Jen Berry, Confidential Employee
- ✓ Approved 2020-21 Contract for Tionie Kock, .5 FTE Confidential Employee
- ✓ Approved 2020-21 Contract for Kim McKinney, Business Manager

- ✓ Approved 2020-21 Contract for Kari Peters, .5 FTE Confidential Employee
- ✓ Approved Karissa Gorham, Head Volleyball Coach
- ✓ Accepted Resignation of Julie Justesen, Assistant Volleyball Coach

Motion by Director Lanthorn with second from Vice Chair Stutzman to adopt the consent agenda as presented. **Vote:** 4 in Favor (Bish, Coelsch, Lanthorn, Stutzman) 1 Absent (Susi) **Action:** The motion carried.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Owens began his report by thanking Principal Waggoner for her work starting the upcoming school year. He noted that the Oregon Legislative Special Session started today and discussions on their agenda include the state budget and COVID-19 school liability insurance. He also thanked Business Manager McKinney for her work on state and federal grants that provide funding to assist with COVID related items. Superintendent Owens concluded his report discussing staff in-service and professional development.

Sherman County School K-12 Administrator Report

Principal Waggoner expressed her appreciation working with the Sherman County School staff, they have been proactive and flexible in planning for the reopening of school.

Athletic Director Report

Superintendent Owens shared and explained the 2020-21 OSAA sports season calendar. The new calendar shows four seasons of sports shifted to start later in the school year. He explained that discussions are taking place amongst regional superintendents and athletic directors to create a unified plan in coordinating modified schedules. AD Lewis will be working on updating the athletic schedules.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Oregon School Employees Association Chapter #120 Negotiations

Superintendent Owens explained that negotiations have been on pause and the union has been very supportive and understanding of the situation. They do not have any concerns about settling negotiations and discussions will begin once the reopening plan has been determined.

Sherman County Education Association Negotiations

Superintendent Owens explained that the Sherman County Education Association may be considering a one year plan rather than the usual multi-year contract. He gave an opportunity for teachers in the audience to give additional information. No further discussion took place.

Ready School, Safe Learners Operational Blueprint

Superintendent Owens started by explaining that there are many unknowns that are not easily understood by even the most respected health and education professionals. This has made making reopening decisions a very difficult process. He reminded the community that with the current guidelines Sherman County School is mandated by the Governor and the Oregon Health Authority to open the 2020-21 school year with Comprehensive Distance Learning as the state and county do not currently meet the metric. Updated guidance may be available tomorrow that specifically addresses small schools and this information could alter reopening plans.

Superintendent Owens addressed five core options to consider for reopening. These options are:

1. Open on-site with all students and staff normally. (If the guidance changes with coming update.) This includes standard transportation support and routes or a modified transportation plan that would include staggered arrival of students.
2. Implement an on-site model for grades K-3 when the metric allows.
3. Implement a hybrid learning plan that would decrease the number of students on-site on a specified day. This plan would also limit numbers of students being transported to school by Mid-Columbia Transportation. It would also allow us the opportunity to give our teachers/students time to work in this environment to practice procedures and protocols with less numbers on campus at one time. (It will also give us an opportunity to explore/learn in this format as we may need to implement it after the start of school if there is an increase in infection rates).
4. Open with Comprehensive Distance Learning as previously communicated to the community on August 4.
5. Open with Comprehensive Distance Learning with a set date for return to Hybrid or On-site Learning. The district may be forced to move in and out of distance/hybrid/on-site learning models throughout the year if infection rates in the county and state rise.

Superintendent Owens shared and explained the 2020-21 Draft Reopening Plan document. This document was also presented by Mr. Dearborn to those attending virtually via Google meet. This document outlines information on each model option; Comprehensive Distance Learning, On-site, and Hybrid.

Larry Hctor asked if the document would be emailed? Superintendent Owens explained that the document is a guide to talk through the reopening plan options and will continuously change as plans and guidelines develop. To avoid confusion with various updates this document will not be posted at this time.

Bus transportation was briefly discussed explaining that routes will be very similar to last year but with less kids on the bus, especially with the hybrid option.

Abbey Phelps asked if sibling groups will be kept together in the hybrid scenario. Superintendent Owens confirmed that yes, families will be assigned to the same attendance group. Director Lanthorn noted that keeping families together also helps with physical distancing on the bus.

Anna Alley asked what the metric is for grades K-3. Superintendent Owens read the guideline stating that under some conditions in person instruction can resume only for K-3 students and remote and rural districts with fewer than 100 students. Sherman County School does not meet the current requirements to open for grades K-3. This could change with tomorrow's guidance.

Talese Slay inquired about childcare for teachers that are required to report to work on-site and the possibility of teachers bringing their own children to their classroom. Superintendent Owens is trying to get guidance from the state on this topic. He noted that it may not be an option for teachers to bring their child unless you are also the child's teacher. He gave reassurance that he is doing his very best to provide staff with child care options for school aged children and *may* be extended to families of emergency service workers. Ms. Slay followed up expressing her concern

with young students having to stay home alone and not being as successful as they could be if a parent was home with them to support them. She explained that everyone's comfort level with the spread of the virus is different. With those concerns in mind, she asked if the same option families have to choose distance learning would be afforded to teachers to teach remotely. Superintendent Owens expressed his opinion that he firmly believes the best way to serve our students and families is for the staff to report to their classroom. The state may change their guidance on this topic but statewide there is a push to have staff report to school.

Vice Chair Stutzman asked about COVID liability protection. Superintendent Owens explained that schools do not have COVID-19 liability protection. The state is working toward a solution for this during the Special Session. This is a major concern and Comprehensive Distance Learning is the safest mode right now.

Principal Waggoner discussed the Google Classroom and supplement learning platforms that will be used throughout the three education model options. These options will support a seamless transition between education models. She discussed teacher facilitated learning requirements for each grade level and the virtual learning model in block schedules.

Director Lanthorn asked about internet connectivity throughout the county. Superintendent Owens advised that the county is working on adding connectivity trailers throughout the county and a repeater. If these additional resources aren't enough, the instructional model for those specific families may need to be adapted.

Superintendent Owens announced that the district will do its very best to have training and informational sessions via media platforms for families. These will be presented by not just teachers but the administration as well.

The board agreed a special meeting may be necessary to discuss the updated guidelines that are expected from the state. The special meeting will be posted with a 48 hour notice.

Superintendent Owens gave an update on website postings and future administration of the website.

NEW BUSINESS

Use of Facility by Pre-School for Emergency Childcare

Superintendent Owens stated that regulations and guidelines for childcare and preschool are different from schools allowing them to open. He recommends the district allow the preschool to open. The preschool leases a stand-alone room from the district which has a separate bathroom and entrance. He further explained that they may be able to assist the district with childcare options under their license. Superintendent Owens is unsure of the level of liability protection that the preschool has within their specified guidelines.

Certified and Classified Staff Duties & Roles During COVID-19

Superintendent Owens explained that staff roles and duties may change during this time to fill the needs of the requirements to reopen.

New OSAA 2020-21 School Activities Calendar

Superintendent Owens discussed this agenda item during the Athletic Director report.

Approval of 2020 Meal Prices

Business Manager Kim McKinney explained the formula for determining the meal prices and presented the updated prices for the 2020-21 school year.

Motion by Vice Chair Stutzman with second from Director Bish to approve the 20-21 food service prices as presented. **Vote:** 4 in Favor (Bish, Coelsch, Lanthorn, Stutzman) 1 Absent (Susi) **Action:** The motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

No comments from visitors.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS, CLOSING COMMENTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- Negotiations
- Reopening Plan
- OSAA & Regional Athletic Update

NEXT MEETING

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be Monday, September 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Coelsch declared the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Chair, Kristie Coelsch

Board Secretary, Jen Berry

COMMENTS

00:02:49.987,00:02:52.987

Cindie King: I believe that is Susan Mobley.

00:05:05.936,00:05:08.936

Talese Slay: Thank you for all you are doing for our community!

00:09:44.428,00:09:47.428

Talese Slay: 0

00:13:59.635,00:14:02.635

Talese Slay: hard to hear

00:16:00.599,00:16:03.599

Tyler Dearborn: Was it the volume Talese or was it garbled/distorted?

00:16:28.249,00:16:31.249

Kristen Labenske: Both

00:17:32.632,00:17:35.632

Tyler Dearborn: Is it consistent with all presenting?

00:18:12.142,00:18:15.142

Kristen Labenske: Wes is easier to hear, a little distorted.

00:18:30.189,00:18:33.189

Kristen Labenske: Kristie and Brittany are much harder to hear

00:18:34.642,00:18:37.642

Kari Peters: Wes cuts out for me too. My volume is all the way up and still struggling to hear.

00:21:33.670,00:21:36.670

Kristen Labenske: Better in the last couple of minutes

00:30:23.035,00:30:26.035

Kristen Labenske: I cannot see it

00:30:23.437,00:30:26.437

Talese Slay: I see it

00:30:40.635,00:30:43.635

Ashley Macnab: I see it

00:31:09.227,00:31:12.227

Kristen Labenske: I can see it now. Clicked Tyler Dearborn and then the pin icon

00:31:57.579,00:32:00.579

Ashley Macnab: There is two Tyler's so check both

00:32:15.466,00:32:18.466

Talese Slay: yes

00:32:19.462,00:32:22.462

Abbey Phelps: Yes

00:32:20.480,00:32:23.480

Ashley Macnab: Yes

00:32:22.181,00:32:25.181

Samantha Roberts-Smith: yes

00:32:22.281,00:32:25.281

Amy Huffman: Yes

00:34:42.144,00:34:45.144

Larry Hctor: Will this be emailed out?

00:35:12.598,00:35:15.598

Larry Hctor: I can see that it is there, but can not see well enough to read it

00:35:19.982,00:35:22.982

Larry Hctor: Ok I understand

00:36:43.459,00:36:46.459

Tyler Dearborn: Is it readable for others?

00:36:50.843,00:36:53.843

Kristen Labenske: Yes

00:37:02.400,00:37:05.400

Ashley Macnab: Yes

00:37:04.784,00:37:07.784

Tyler Dearborn: Okay thank you.

00:37:12.192,00:37:15.192

Abbey Phelps: I have a question.

00:37:15.963,00:37:18.963

Kristen Labenske: Larry, you can zoom in using two fingers if you haven't tried that yet.

00:38:08.693,00:38:11.693

Abbey Phelps: Sorry, i cant unmute

00:38:12.504,00:38:15.504

Abbey Phelps: While I understand the logistical problems, will there be an attempt to keep sibling groups together for the the hybrid scenario?

00:39:02.167,00:39:05.167

Abbey Phelps: Thank you

00:39:11.958,00:39:14.958

Larry Hctor: Thank you for the idea. I tried that is does not work.

00:40:58.067,00:41:01.067

Amber Riley: I have a question

00:41:08.552,00:41:11.552

Talese Slay: question

00:58:39.854,00:58:42.854

Abbey Phelps: In Sherman County, 1 case = 50/100,000