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Board of Directors Board Minutes January 20, 2015

Board Members Scott Reynolds, Chair, Doug Nelson, Vice-Chair (attended via conference call), Directors John Lang, Mike McGowan, Jenni Newby, Ron Radabaugh and Terry Rahmsdorff

HDES Staff John Rexford, Superintendent, Paul Andrews, Deputy Superintendent, Shawna Bell, Business Analyst, Chris Dorn, Regional School Safety Specialist, Greg Munn, Director of Fiscal Services, Julianne Repman, Regional School Safety Director, and Shelley Knutz, Executive Assistant

Call to Order Scott Reynolds called the January 20, 2015 meeting to order at 5:30 pm

REPORTS

Board Appreciation

Superintendent Rexford noted that January is designated as Board Appreciation month, but we appreciate the board members all year. He appreciates their time and the guidance they provide High Desert ESD. The students created a couple of posters and cards for them. At a meeting earlier today with Representative Gene Whisnant, he noted how much he appreciates the pilot governance model which allows us to have excellent representation from the school districts.

Fiscal Report

General Fund Revenue is up 4%. This is due to an 11% increase in State School Fund revenue and 8% increase in property tax revenue over last year. Actual ending fund balance in December of \$811,732 is tracking very closely with last year's December balance.

There will be a Finance Committee Meeting in two weeks to review the proposed budget calendar and budget committee vacancies. At the February board meeting, we will declare vacancies on the Budget Committee, and adopt the 2015-16 budget calendar. At the March board meeting, we will appoint Budget Committee members.

Facilities Update

Superintendent Rexford reported that plans for tenant improvements have been completed. The plans were created to meet current needs with enough flexibility to meet the future needs of our programs. Demolition has been finished inside the building. We are waiting for final plans from the architect to get them out to bid. Chris Dorn, Regional School Safety Specialist, conducted a safety review of the building. His report is available for review. The target date is July 1. We are still working with the \$1.4M projected budget.

As for program assignments, we are working with staff to get input and answer questions. The fact is, many people will have to be in different places next year under any scenario. We are getting a plan in place going forward, and we have had a couple of listening sessions.

In the first listening session, many staff members said they were willing to move to more flexible work space. However, in the survey 67% of the respondents said they needed their own work space. Greg spoke to the significant cost for each office created instead of open work spaces. He is looking forward to the open space concept with a few smaller office spaces for confidential meetings or calls.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Report

- There are four subcommittees working on initiatives to put some details together for strategic priorities. The subcommittees will be focused on: Develop and expand emergent programs, Expand early childhood services, Facilitators of system growth and cultural change and Career readiness. Superintendent Rexford noted K-12 has a very clear focus to get kids graduated. We are on the sidelines providing support for children, support educators and our partners. It has been an innovative change to make sure we are delivering outcomes that meet our needs across the board. John Lang asked if there was anything that has come to light that we have left out of the strategic planning process. Superintendent Rexford said he hasn't felt there was anything left out.
- Great opportunity to meet with the Governor this morning with the collaborative partners of Better Together. They would like to use Better Together as a model. All of our partners did an excellent job during their presentations and all referenced the importance of collaboration Superintendent Rexford said it was an incredible meeting and he was so proud of Anna Higgins and the presentation she organized. We may have identified additional resources for funding.
- Superintendent Rexford shared a few more details on the co-chairs' budget. It would provide districts only \$1.34 more per child. This really speaks to the need to have the budget come to at least \$7.5B. Advocates will continue to work toward the larger amount. Scott asked how this will be impacted by all-day kindergarten. If the education budget is \$7.5B, it will cover full day kindergarten. If the budget is \$7.2B, the increased cost for all-day kindergarten will need to be absorbed by the general fund. Additional facilities to house all day kindergarten will not be an issue for our districts.
- Superintendent Rexford received a letter of commendation from OAESD thanking Greg Munn for his work on modifying the calculation of the indirect rates for ESDs. This calculation will save districts 2-3 work days. He thanked Greg for his good work.
- We will be rolling out our 2015-16 Local Service Plan at the February Board Meeting and to our districts. Shelley will send out the schedule.
- John Lang asked about Hermiston SD opting out of the Inter-Mountain ESD. The largest school district in the ESD felt it was subsidizing the smaller districts. Hood River has a partial opt out, as does Beaverton and Hillsboro. Eugene SD is partially returning to the Lane ESD effective July 1.

Board Chair Report

- February 23rd OSBA & COSA are having a Legislative Day. This is a day set aside for school boards. He encouraged board members to attend if they are interested.
- The EI/ECSE white letter will be distributed to legislators. Bob will be headed over to champion this. Scott thanked Bob for his hard work and focus on this effort. Doug has also helped get an audience for this topic.
- The Legislative Session will have a bill tracker system so they will be able to follow the progress. They can watch the committee meetings live if interested. Superintendent Rexford will forward out the information he received today. OSBA's system is very user friendly.
- Doug said he would encourage all board members to sign up for the Promise of Oregon if they haven't already. The program is gaining momentum for funding of K-12.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda

- **Ron Radabaugh moved and Mike McGowan seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried 7-0.**
 - Personnel Changes – January 2015
 - Board Minutes – December 16, 2014

School Safety

Scott asked Julianne Repman and Chris Dorn to provide some information on their program.

Chris' background is with a non-profit company that evaluates and advises school districts and other agencies. He provides a physical assessment, a review of safety plans and how well they apply to the building, and determines if staff members know how to implement the plan. Chris can also help develop programs, procedures and recommendations for physical security issues. Beginning tomorrow, he will be working through this process for the Bend-La Pine District. Each district has a different set of procedures, he believes it will be helpful to regionalize the efforts by consolidating efforts. Chris said that they will be developing plans and procedures and this will help build trust with students, staff and parents.

Julianne explained the Safe Schools Alliance group was formed after the Thurston High School shooting. Initially, the focus was how to address mental health issues in the districts. This year the focus is attendance. There is still a team who looks at mental health, the types of services do we offer and how connected are we to the districts.

They are supporting development of emergency operation plans for the entire region for a variety of issues from allergic reactions to a lockdown. They will review the training our substitutes receive to make sure they know how to respond to an emergency in any district. Their goal is to continue to prepare people in advance for a crisis.

Julianne thanked High Desert ESD for helping envision the importance of this position for the region. The partnership may attract funding. Scott asked about the future for communication during a crisis. Julianne said we can only communicate the information that is available. There is also an opportunity to improve communication to the parents.

Doug asked for clarification of how this program is being funded. Superintendent Rexford explained it was a specific request by Bend-La Pine to add this to the Local Service Plan (LSP). Bend-La Pine is using some of their LSP money to purchase a large portion this service. We will look for additional partners next year

Adjourn

The January 20, 2015, High Desert ESD Board of Directors Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Scott Reynolds, Board Chair

Shelley Knutz, Executive Assistant