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Board of Directors Board Minutes September 15, 2020

- Board Members** Board Chair Scott Reynolds, Vice Chair Peggy Kinkade, Directors Seana Barry, Gwen Carr, Betsy Julian, John Lang, Matt McGowan, Bob Moore and Carol Moorehead
- HDESD Staff** Paul Andrews, Superintendent; Rochelle Friend, Chief Financial Officer; Anna Higgins, Chief Strategy & Innovation Officer; Jayel Hayden, Chief Human Resources Officer; Shay Mikalson, Chief Student Success Officer; Karina Smith, Director of Migrant Education and High School Equivalency Program; Diane Tipton, EI/ECSE Executive Director; Rachel Wente-Chaney, Chief Information Officer and Jennie Willis, Autism Specialist
- Call to Order** Board Chair Scott Reynolds called the September 15, 2020 meeting to order at 5:30 pm
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Appointment of New Board Members

A sub-committee made up of Board Chair Scott Reynolds and directors Bob Moore and Carol Moorehead met with all of the applicants for the open board positions. They recommended the appointment of Seana Barry for another term as the At Large Representative and Betsy Julian as the Higher Education Representative to the High Desert ESD Board of Directors. The governance model for High Desert ESD allows only the five elected board members from our school districts to vote on these appointments.

- **Gwen Carr moved and Peggy Kinkade seconded the motion to appoint Seana Barry as the At Large Representative on the High Desert ESD Board for a term. Motion carried 5-0**
- **Carol Moorehead moved and Gwen Carr second the motion to appoint Betsy Julian as the Higher Education Representative on the High Desert ESD Board. Motion carried 5-0**

Administering the Oath of Office

Board Chair Scott Reynolds administered the oath of office to newly appointed board members Seana Barry and Betsy Julian.

Superintendent Andrews thanked Seana for dedicating her time to serve another term on the HDESD Board. He also thanked Betsy for her interest in serving on the board. He welcomed them and asked for everyone on the call to introduce themselves.

PRESENTATIONS and REPORTS

High School Equivalence Program Update

Superintendent Andrews introduced Karina Smith, Director of Migrant Education and the High School Equivalence Program (HEP). Migrant Education was created to provide an education for students who were impacted by their families moving frequently because of financial necessity of migrant work. The program serves 768 students in the area. Of the 120 high school students being served there is a 99% graduation rate. The program offers school readiness classes, summer school programs and workshops on how to guide students to obtain scholarships.

Karina noted since 99% of our migrant population are undocumented they do not have access to federal financial aid. The hope is to be able to provide the financial assistance they need to access educational opportunities. This assistance is for students that have dropped out of high school due to financial necessity or for parents who needed to complete their education.

The High School Equivalency (HEP) program was established in 1966. The HEP program provides instruction and financial support for students to complete their education by eliminating barriers that keep them from continuing on their education path. In 2019, in partnership with Better Together, the migrant education program of the ESD was awarded two grants. One grant for \$2.2M and one for \$250,000 over five years. In addition to formal instruction, it can provide funding for childcare, transportation, meals, graduation, college visit, testing fees and supplies. It is intended to remove any barriers for students. Karina noted how grateful she is for their great partnership with Central Oregon Community College.

Peggy asked what their instruction looks like for the students, considering their need for flexibility to meet their work demands. Their instruction takes place 4 days a week and follows the COCC calendar. Karina covered the different ways instruction can take place for the students. They all work with a student coach to help direct them as well as encourage them.

Bob asked how much they focus on housing insecurity and homelessness. Karina explained they provide housing vouchers as well as food boxes. There are some situations where there is an immediate homeless situation so they are connected to a liaison. Both programs work hard to make sure families have what they need.

Superintendent Andrews acknowledged the great work Karina is doing to direct two very important programs.

Fiscal Report

Rochelle reported we are currently in the middle of the audit. The auditors have been working remotely and hope to have their work wrapped up this week. Our business office will be drafting our financial statements for the first time. It will be a cost savings to the district and we hope to have the audit turned around a little faster.

We have received two new grants this week. Oregon Community Foundation awarded \$20,000 to our STEM program to work toward improving instruction during COVID. We also received \$110,000 for a Student Safety Officer from ODE.

We are in line with our spending for September although this year we are spending more for technology purchases and home equipment and less on travel and professional development expenses.

ACTION ITEMS

Urban Renewal Proposal – Letter of Support

At the August board meeting, City of Redmond representatives presented a proposal for the Redmond South Urban Renewal District. We have been asked to send a letter of support for this proposal. Superintendent Andrews has reached out to the Redmond School District and was told their board will be supporting this as well.

- **Carol Moorehead moved Matt McGowan seconded a motion to approved sending a letter of support for the Redmond South Urban Renewal District as presented. Motion carried 9-0**

Local Service Plan/Student Success Act Approval

Superintendent Andrews reviewed the process of approving the Local Service Plan (LSP) in January. After the board approves the LSP he presents it to each of our component school districts for approval. Last year when the Student Success Act (SSA) was passed the statute included the requirement for ESDs to include SSA language in their Local Service Plan. The statute also requires every ESD board to approve the additional language by September 30.

Shay has been working closely with ODE and OAESD to understand exactly what must be added to the LSP. He outlined the four outcomes that we are working hard toward achieving in the region:

1. Increasing academic achievement and specifically reducing disparities for historically underserved students.
2. Providing guidance and personal development specifically in the focus areas of increasing student's mental and behavioral health and safety and well-being.
3. Increasing our capacity across the region with data analysis, especially looking through that work with an equity informed practice and lens.
4. Providing technical support and assistance to our districts.

Shay confirmed the HDESD is working toward these outcomes every day. Superintendent Andrews mentioned what an incredible addition Shay has been to our team. He has been reaching out to the districts and providing support during these uncertain times. He is also a great resource to our districts when it comes to reopening schools.

Bob asked for clarification on the new services of legal investigation and information security. Superintendent Andrews explained we have hired a part time private investigator who will be able to assist the attorneys and our school districts. Rachel confirmed the information security position was not funded for this year. It will stay in the LSP catalog of services until we can commit those funds.

Superintendent Andrews recommended the Board approve the Local Service Plan/Student Success Act as presented.

- **Bob Moore moved and Carol Moorehead seconded the motion to approve the Local Service Plan/Student Success Act as presented. Motion carried 9-0**

Resolution 69-20 OSBA Representative Nomination

- **Peggy Kinkade moved and Carol Moorehead seconded the motion to nominate Patti Norris for the OSBA Board of Directors Central Region, Position 3. Motion carried 9-0**

Resolution 70-20 OAESD Network Support for 2020-23

This network was created to form a relationship between the OAESD, State of Oregon, ODE and other state entities. We have been a partner in this for the past four years and have benefited from these partnerships.

- **Bob Moore moved and Gwen Carr seconded the motion to approve Resolution 70-20, OAESD Network Support for 2020-2023. Motion carried 9-0**

Consent Agenda

Bob asked Rochelle if she had contacted Payne West to discuss our liability coverage. Rochelle did contact them and for a minimal increase in premium, our coverage has been increased to \$500,000.

- **Carol Moorehead moved and Bob Moore seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried 9-0**
 - Personnel Report for August and September
 - Board Minutes for July and August

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Report

- ✓ COVID19 has certainly impacted the school year. Every time we have a plan in place, the sand seems to shift. Crook County has been able to begin instruction K-3 based on the metrics. Superintendent Andrews explained the complexities of the metrics. Deschutes County rates were looking good but the State positivity rates went up this week.
- ✓ We didn't receive EI/ECSE guidance until two weeks ago.
- ✓ We are determining how to operate our services program by program. We have some home visiting programs and other programs who are working in the buildings. Drivers Education is up and running based on guidance we helped write for the state.
- ✓ Shay mentioned one of his favorite quotes by Simon Sinek "Always plan for the plan that no plan ever goes according to plan." This is the reality of our districts and we are providing support to them and to our programs. We are all doing our best and it is hard work.
- ✓ High Desert and Better Together have been working on a huge project called "Parks and Clubs" to provide school age childcare. Securing childcare for families who need it most. Superintendent Andrews noted how much Anna has worked on this project on behalf of Better Together.
- ✓ Another project is getting all of our buildings set up with an effective contract tracing protocol.
- ✓ Superintendent Andrews will be teaching two courses with Lora Norquist again this year, EA601 and EA618/619 for Lewis and Clark College.
- ✓ Superintendent Andrews, Diane Tipton and Bob Martin recently met with the Alyce Hatch Board and Alyce Hatch family. We have had a relationship with them for over 20 years and have been the sole tenant in the building. The lease will be ending this year and the AHC board is looking to dissolve. The family would like to transfer the deed to HDESD with the understanding it would always be called the Alyce Hatch Center and used for early childhood intervention. We will continue to meet with them and will be including our attorneys in this process. Superintendent Andrews says that their interest in moving forward with this speaks to the incredible relationship Diane has fostered with them and the work we have done over the years.
- ✓ Because there is no insurance for communicable diseases, PACE is offering to provide legal defense if we were to be sued for COVID. They will provide \$50,000 per organization and \$1M overall. There will not be a third session to address liability.
- ✓ Listening to the districts who have been impacted by the fires is heartbreaking. Southern Oregon ESD Special Education building burned to the ground. Much of their AT equipment has been lost. We are sending whatever we can afford to send. We will also provide work space for displaced employees.
- ✓ Weeks of Welcome went very well. The We Read book for the year is *Tell Me Who You Are*. We would welcome any board member who are interested in joining us.
- ✓ Superintendent Andrews and Rachel are working with Cheri Helt on more connectivity access across the state. Rachel will be testifying at the House Committee on Education on 9/22/20.
- ✓ At the last OAESD meeting, Clackamas ESD shared an OEBB proposed rule that requires any district that furloughs or lays employees off to continue paying for the employees' insurance. It would be a rule through the Oregon Health Authority. This will not impact substitutes because we don't provide insurance for them.

Board Chair Report

- ✓ Peggy Kinkade brought up board recruitment. In order to cultivate interest among potential board members, it is important to elevate the profile of the ESD. There was discussion about pulling together a working team dedicated to Board Recruitment or Board Outreach. With five terms ending on 6/30/21, they would begin by identifying which of the five board members would like to continue to serve on the board. Peggy said she is grateful to be on the board and proud of all of the good work we are doing. We need to find a way to share that great work with potential board members. Seana, Bob and Matt are interested in working with Peggy on this team.
- ✓ With the cancellation of the ESD Superintendent Retreat and the OAESD Annual Summit, the Officer Council would like to know if their members are interested in professional learning, board development/engagement opportunities in person or online. There was consensus that:
 - Orientation for newer board members would be helpful
 - A catalog of options would allow the board members to select what trainings would interest them.

- Everyone agreed that having the options online for board members to watch when they had time would be best.
- ✓ OAESD has been asked about creating an equity statement at a statewide level that spoke to everyone's need for equity and inclusion. This is based on what has been going on in our country focusing on racial justice. They proposed setting up an Equity Task Force where every ESD in Oregon would name one person to the task force and each ESD would have equal say. The task force will not be considered constituted until it is represented by at least 51% people of color. There isn't a specific outcome other than wanting OAESD to address what is going on in addition to poverty and other issues of equity especially in other parts of the state. The board members agreed it would be best for Superintendent Andrews to appoint someone to the task force from HDES.

Superintendent Andrews welcomed Seana and Betsy to this amazing board. He truly enjoys talking about this board because of their support and involvement. The relationships we have with our districts and our communities is amazing because of our entire board stepping up. He is excited about this year. There is a lot of work to do and we are going to do it.

Scott Reynolds asked Superintendent Andrews to thank all of the ESD staff and exec teams for all of the hard work they are doing. The sand is shifting for everyone in the ESD and throughout the community. The Board appreciates all the staff is doing to strengthen the HDES through these unprecedented times.

Adjourn

The September 15, 2020, High Desert ESD Board of Directors Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Scott Reynolds, Board Chair

Shelley Knutz, Executive Assistant