



2804 SW Sixth Street, Redmond, OR 97756 / P 541.693.5600 / F 541.638.9646 / www.hdesd.org

Board of Directors Board Minutes May 16, 2023

- Board Members** Peggy Kinkade, Board Chair; Matt McGowan, Vice-Chair; Directors Seana Barry, Anthony Georger, Edie Jones, Betsy Julian, Carlos Perez and Elizabeth Sanchez
- HDES D Staff** Paul Andrews, Superintendent; Rochelle Friend, Chief Financial Officer; Rutila Galvan-Rodriguez, Executive Director Better Together; Anna Higgins, Assistant Superintendent; Angella La Fontaine, Assistant Director of Fiscal Services; Amy McCormick, Executive Director of EI/ECSE, Rachel Wentte-Chaney, Chief Information Officer and Shelley Knutz, Executive Assistant
- Guest** Kira Fee, Director of Student Services, Jefferson County School District 509j
- Call to Order** Peggy Kinkade called the May 16, 2023 board meeting to order at 5:35 pm.
-

BUDGET HEARING

Open High Desert ESD 2023-24 Budget Hearing

Peggy declared the 2023-24 budget hearing open at 5:36 pm.

Audience Participation Regarding Budget

There was no audience participation or questions regarding the budget.

Close High Desert ESD 2023-24 Budget Hearing

Peggy declared the 2023-24 budget hearing closed at 5:40 pm

PRESENTATIONS

Alternative Learning Options and Grant Writing Update

Superintendent Andrews introduced Kathy McCollum. Kathy is a retired educator and administrator who came to work with us in 2016 evaluating the alternative and charter schools for the districts. Kathy thanked the board members for dedicating their time. She knows it takes a lot to do the job of a board member well.

Kathy shared a list of the 13 alternative and charter schools in Central Oregon. She visits each school quarterly, attending their staff meetings when she can and at least one board meeting every year. Kathy highlighted some accomplishments of the charter schools noting they serve 2,307 students throughout Central Oregon. Elizabeth asked about the higher numbers of students with IEPs and the increased support they require. Kathy noted that the IEPs are not all academic. Many of them are behavioral and the districts are required to provide the support the student needs. If a student earns a complete GED they receive 9 credits toward their graduation. That encourages students to continue their education once they receive their GED and work toward their graduation.

Superintendent Andrews noted Kathy is being modest about her many accomplishments during her time with High Desert ESD. She has built strong relationships with the directors and brings them together on a monthly basis, as well as providing professional development opportunities for the alternative and charter schools. Kathy is also a gifted grant writer. She started finding and writing grants for many of the programs at High Desert ESD. She has submitted 46 applications for a total of \$14,939,147. Kathy reported that 26 of those grants were successful for a total of \$7,378,560. That is an incredible accomplishment for the district, the programs and for Kathy.

Financial Report

Rochelle reported the auditors were on site last week and that everything went very well. They expressed no concerns or red flags. We are quickly approaching the end of the biennium. Rochelle acknowledges it has been a challenge to help the programs spend down their funds while honoring the integrity of those funds. Rochelle mentioned the plan to refinance the HDREC building over the summer looks like it will be closer to fall.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Bend's Multiple Unit Property Tax Exemption (MUPTE) Program

A couple of months ago, Superintendent Andrews mentioned the MUPTE Program. At that time the board members did not choose to be active participants in the program because we are less than 1% of the taxing authority vote for these projects. Bend-La Pine (BLP) Schools hold a greater than 50% taxing authority vote, however, they do not want to do this on their own and have asked us to be included on the resolution with them. Deschutes County has reservations about this plan. Betsy said it turned out to be a minor concern for COCC. They always chose to defer to the experts anyhow. Once Paul receives a resolution, he will send it to the board members for their review.

Superintendent Report

- ✓ Superintendent Andrews was excited to introduce Kira Fee who will be joining the High Desert ESD as Executive Director of Special Programs on July 1.
- ✓ Anna introduced the Innovation Highlight, Educational Assistant Training: Incentivized! This program will provide additional training for those working with students with disabilities. Understanding the cause and learning differences to help explain unexpected aggressive/inappropriate student behavior. There is an Educational Assistant Training Event on June 3rd. This will be a time to learn about what motivates, resonates and incentivizes our educational assistants
- ✓ We are closely following bills around Special Ed, abbreviated days, summer learning, workforce and Special Education. We are pushing hard for more funding for Regional Inclusive Services (RIS). That was our greatest concern until Amy heard they are predicting a \$17M statewide cut to EI/ECSE. Superintendent Andrews is hopeful the state forecast will bring better news tomorrow.
- ✓ Preparing for our Bargaining Reopener. The first meeting is scheduled for next Monday, May 22. This Reopener is for financials, COLA and insurance cap, and 2 language topics each. Superintendent Andrews thanked Peggy and Elizabeth for participating in the bargaining process this year.
- ✓ We are in the process of preparing to move staff from the Bend Education Center (BEC) to our new office location at 2500 NE Twin Knolls. We are waiting for additional furniture and other supplies to arrive. We need to be out of the BEC by June 30.
- ✓ Betsy and Peggy will be joining Amy and Superintendent Andrews on May 25th from 10:15-11:45 visiting Alyce Hatch Center and COCC. If any other board members are interested in joining them, just let him know.
- ✓ Gordon Price has accepted another position and will be leaving the High Desert ESD the end of June. Gordon said he has enjoyed his time with High Desert and believes the ESD has the best EDI program in Central Oregon.

Board Reports

- ✓ Matt mentioned that the Board Outreach committee would like to solicit feedback from the board members regarding their intention when their term is up, and if they have interest in becoming an officer. Do they plan to remain on the board or will we need to be filling their position in the near future?

- ✓ Peggy asked the board members who attended the OAESD Spring Conference to share their highlights.
 - Carlos enjoyed portions of the conference. He was very impressed with the Lane County Migrant ED program.
 - Elizabeth was inspired by Lane County Migrant Ed program as well.
 - Betsy enjoyed Southern Oregon ESD's Grow Your Own presentation. She also found the Harney County information on how to provide an education in a rural schools very interesting.
 - Peggy attended the Oregon Health Authority's presentation on Youth Suicide in Oregon.

Resolution 86-23 – Adopting the 2023-24 Budget

Rochelle highlighted the changes between the approved proposed budget and the budget being presented for approval.

- **Matt McGowan moved to approve Resolution 86-23 Adopting the 2023-24 Budget as presented. Be it resolved that the Board of Directors of the High Desert ESD hereby impose the taxes provided for in the adopted budget at the rate of \$0.0964 per \$1,000 of assessed value for operations and that these taxes are hereby imposed and categorized for the tax year 2023-24 upon the assessed value of all taxable property within the district. Carlos Perez seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0**

Consent Agenda

- **Carlos Perez moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seana Barry seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0.**
 - ✓ Personnel Report – May 2023
 - ✓ Budget and Board Minutes – April 18, 2023

Adjourn

The May 16, 2023, High Desert ESD Board of Directors Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Peggy Kinkade, Board Chair

Shelley Knutz, Executive Assistant