



WILLAMINA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Session Minutes April 12th, 2021

7:00 p.m. Willamina School District Library

The Willamina School District Board of Directors met in a regular session on April 12th, 2021. Minutes are as follows:

Attendants:

Board Members

Clinton Coblentz, Ken Onstot, Lincoln Watson, Ginger Whitman, and Brenda Shenk.

WSD Staff

Superintendent Carrie Zimbrick, April Johnson.

Meeting Begins

7:00 pm Regular session called to order by Chairman Watson followed by the flag salute.

Board of Education

Board chairman Lincoln Watson reported that there was another resignation on the budget committee, leaving two open positions. He encouraged anyone interested to please consider serving on this committee. He also stated that there were three candidates that applied for each vacant school board position and encouraged everyone to vote.

Consent Agenda

Clinton Coblentz moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ken Onstot seconded.

Vote: 5 Yes - Motion Carried

Correspondence

Superintendent Zimbrick reviewed the summary of the proposed budget she included in her report. She stated that the budget is based on the 9.1-billion-dollar budget proposed by the governor. She informed the board that the Oregon School Board Association (OSBA) and Coalition of Oregon School Administrators (COSA) continue fighting for a 9.6-billion-dollar education budget that would allow districts to maintain current staffing and programs. Superintendent Zimbrick reported that she met with WESD to review our Local Service Plan. WESD provides services in areas of school psychologists, autism specialists, Willamette Promise, student and special education software as well as tech support. There was a significant savings this past year mainly due to decrease in Sub costs.

Clinton Coblentz clarified if the amount was 9.6 billion or million (indicated in her report) and Superintendent Zimbrick stated that was a typo and the amount was 9.6 billion.

Superintendent Zimbrick reviewed the RSSL (Ready School Safe Learner) and stated many safety practices will still be in place. She indicated that reducing social distancing made a difference in the classroom setting, but there are still limitations in other areas of the school like the cafeteria. Staff are being trained as changes happen to stay in compliance.

Superintendent Zimbrick indicated that the Leadership team and staff were working on the 2021-2022 School Calendar and reviewing three different options. She hoped to have that completed for the board to review and adopt at the next meeting. She also informed the board that the district would receive \$250,000 additional funds for summer school options. The focus this year specifically for K-8 would be enrichment and social interactions as well as hands-on learning. Superintendent Zimbrick stated that they were also revisiting the Student Investment Account and reprioritizing the funds. Originally based highly on curriculum, also looking at library and after school programs with transportation.

Clinton Coblentz inquired about distance learning and what that would look like going into next year. Superintendent Zimbrick stated that they were not really happy with the online curriculum purchased for Distance Learning (Edgenuity). Overall online education/curriculum was not best suited for kids K-5 as they need more in person instruction. She indicated that the MS/HS online program (Acellus) has shown success with students.

Clinton Coblentz inquired about graduation and how that would look this year, and Supt. Zimbrick indicated that Principal Fluke would report on that in her report.

Board Chair Lincoln Watson inquired about the school calendar and if the one provided in the packet was the one they were working with. Supt. Zimbrick stated that was a rough draft that met all the criteria such as student contact days, but they were still working on it.

Ken Onstot inquired about the OSA Waiver and Supt. Zimbrick reported she would provide more in depth information during Reports & Discussions.

Principal Sarah Norwood reported that the WES staff had a dream session for professional development and focused on what worked well and what did not the past year. Some highlights were students were more focused with shortened days and there were less behavior issues. The SLP kids were moving into general education classes having shortened class time and that has been successful as well. She reported that there had been very few issues with re-opening and the kids were doing amazing with social distancing and wearing their masks. Principal Norwood also reported that they held parent teacher conferences that were well attended virtually.

Principal Jami Fluke congratulated Shawn Draper on his recent addition to his family. She reported that reopening had been going well and students were scheduled into am/pm sessions at 3 hour intervals. Staff was maintaining sanitization. She also stated that during professional development they also reviewed what was and was not working this past year. A survey was sent out to parents/students/staff and the results indicated that shorter academic sessions students were able to focus more. There was also a decrease in behavior issues. She indicated that staff had gradebook training as scheduling and grading were changed with am/pm sessions. Principal Fluke also reported a successful fall sports and having the county move to low risk meant more fan attendance. She also gave a shout out to the leadership class for all their efforts in welcoming students back on campus. She further reported that the survey they sent out revealed that students missed face to face interaction with peers and staff. Teachers and students found the flexibility of online learning beneficial and for teachers especially for grading days, parent teacher conferences, etc. She reported that a survey also had gone out to Senior parents on how they would like to proceed with graduation. Principal Fluke indicated that enrollment was up.

There was no tribal report at this time.

Spyre Nelson, student representative, reported that volleyball just finished their last four games in one week and had four players receive all-league nominations. Cross-country took 1st in district and 5th at state. Football won their last two games. He reported that baseball and softball had upcoming games and there was also a track meet scheduled. Leadership held an assembly outside that the students enjoyed and plan to work on more assemblies meeting the guidelines.

Drama was working on a new script and band was able to play at the football game. A new chess club has been added to extra-curricular clubs.

Audience Time

There were no comments from audience members.

Reports & Discussion

Superintendent Zimbrick informed the board that the Oregon Department of Education requested a waiver for state testing which was denied. Colt Gill submitted an amended waiver which had passed that required limited testing. Staff felt that it was not the best of use of time given the limited time they have students for in-person learning. She indicated that she would like the board to consider a resolution of not participating, with

the understanding that it would be a Division 22 violation. The resolution would indicate that the district would be in compliance next year.

Ken Onstot inquired that it was okay to not be in compliance with this issue but other issues it was not okay? Supt. Zimbrick stated she felt this was in the best interest of the students and therefore supported being in non-compliance this year knowing that next year having more student in-person instruction would help to meet the requirements. She felt it was not the best use for instructional time right now for students with the limitations.

Ken Onstot also inquired about the academic level and students being tested at their level. Supt. Zimbrick indicated that staff had the ability to do that with curriculum-based assessments.

Clinton Coblentz inquired about the students that were struggling. Supt. Zimbrick indicated the students struggling would need to be met with individually, be assessed, and address their needs. In addition, that might be why the school year calendar looks a little different next year to address those needs.

Ken Onstot inquired if half the kids need to go to summer school. Supt. Zimbrick stated that students could not be required but encouraged to attend.

Ginger Whitman stated the supportiveness to families as well as it was difficult at times with online learning frustrations.

Brenda Shenk inquired if it would still be a six-week program. Supt. Zimbrick stated that it would be, but was hoping staff would take two week intervals so teachers did not get burned out. Overall just getting kids back on campus around their peers and having some hands-on instruction would be beneficial. In addition, WESD was looking into reaching out to local colleges/universities to student teachers that did not get the opportunity this year to do hands-on instruction to see if there might be an interest for that. Also a local art conspiracy program may be able to support some art activities.

Supt. Zimbrick informed the board that parents can currently opt their students out of state testing and in this case they could opt in to state testing if they requested.

Board Chairman Lincoln Watson inquired what the board needed to do to keep the students from going through useless stuff. Supt. Zimbrick explained she would need to craft a resolution similar to Ashland School District that was given out in their packet.

Brenda Shenk inquired if the testing was for all grades. Supt. Zimbrick indicated testing starts at 3rd grade and 4th-6th grade has one shortened test, 7th, 8th and 11th grade have 2 tests (120 minutes). She did indicate that essential skills testing was waived for this year.

Lincoln Watson indicated that he would entertain a resolution and asked Supt. Zimbrick to prepare a resolution and have it presented at the next regular session board meeting.

Decision Items

Adopt Board Meeting Calendar

Clinton Coblentz moved to adopt the 2021/2022 board meeting calendar. Brenda Shenk seconded.

Vote: 5 Yes - Motion Carried

Future Agenda Items

Adopt School Year Calendar 2021-2022
Confidential @ Administrative Contracts
Resolution OSA Waiver
Summer School Opportunities

Meeting Ends

Duly adjourned at 8:06 pm.