

Nestucca Valley School District

Board of Director's Meeting

Minutes - March 9, 2022

OPENING OF PUBLIC SESSION

Public Session was called to order by Board Chair Hagerty at 6:30 pm. Board Chair Hagerty led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance:

- X - Linda Fielder
- X - Bill Hagerty, Board Chair
- X - Annis Leslie, Board Vice Chair - Zoom
- X - Diane Boisa
- X - Shane Stuart
- X - Misty Wharton, Superintendent
- X - Ken Richwine, High School Principal
- X - Chad Holloway, Administrator of Facilities and Alternative Education
- X - Megan Kellow, Special Programs Administrator
- X - Diane Wilkinson, Nestucca Valley Early Learning Center Director

Patrons, Students and Staff: Stacey Hagerty, Autum Marsh, Natasha Durgan, Ashlee Sears, Tracy Whittles, Kristina Albin, Kayla Cole, Andy Cook, Alicia Olson, Kaili Jensen, Jill Manning, Shawn Best, Mike Sears, Colin Stapp, Lauren Olson, Andre Schellhaas, Tevin Gianella, Daniel DiCrispino, Brain Hardebeck, April Bailey, Kael Stuart, Lauren Stuart, Melanie, Ursula McVittie, Kim, Julie, Brooke Boyd, Liz Kellow, Macie, Melanie Merryman, Melissa Woods, Nancy Oleson, TJ Olson, Ahndrea Sousa, The Manning's, Kenneth, Carrie Woods, Travis Daggett, Mary, Ann T.

Approval of Agenda –March 9, 2022

MOTION: Diane Boisa 2nd: Shane Stuart AYES: 5 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

COMMUNITY/SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Richwine read an email to the Board on behalf of High School student, Danny Maddox.

Danny apologized to the Board for his absence, explaining that he is very poor and needs income. Danny stated in his email that the student body is looking forward to optional masking and spirits seem to be high.

Danny commented on how the trimester system seems to be popular and allows students who are behind the ability to catch up easier. Students and teachers are working hard and it appears that all seniors are on track, or at least are getting on track to graduate!

Danny shares that he has been working on bringing more recognition to student council in the form of awards and notoriety, to make it seem more appealing. Danny feels that the participation and drive has been lacking within the student body. He stated that he is hoping to change that and make it a more impactful organization. Student council is a much bigger deal in other schools and he feels it should be that way for Nestucca as well.

In this last term of the school year, Danny shared, the student council is working on setting up the annual Nestucca games, acquiring a new mascot and setting up a peace pole in the front of the building. There will be an upcoming assembly where they will elect next year's officers. He is hoping that this will also serve as a way to educate students about the process of student council.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mike Sears addressed the Board regarding OAR's being referred to as laws. He stated that Oregon Administrative Rules are administered under the Secretary of State's office and they do not write and pass laws. Mr. Sears said that Mr. Hagerty is correct in his stand to follow current OAR mandates to avoid possible liability cases against the district, adding he doubts anyone would actually take such action with civil lawsuits. Mr. Sears said we are caught in a battle between citizens and a State agency, with the school Board stuck in the middle. He asked that the mandates not be identified as laws in the future. Mr. Sears also addressed the mandatory vaccination of full time staff. He feels the district's hiring policy needs to be amended to meet federal decisions, allowing personnel to be hired without a vaccination requirement. Mr. Sears also stated that Oregon has not followed the constitution for quite some time. State officials make decisions and are not being held accountable, he added. We as a people are clashing, he stated.

Mr. Hagerty said that the Board has to abide by the law, but he understands where Mr. Sears is coming from.

- Autumn Marsh apologized to the Board for not speaking up sooner. She said that many people have been very vocal on certain subjects lately, but the silence from others does not mean they agree with them. She thanked the Board for trying to keep every student safe this school year. She added that she knows how controversial the decision was. As a mom of a child at high risk with a serious heart condition, she appreciates the hard decisions that they made.

She shared that they did not find out about her son's condition until after Covid started. Since then, she has had to constantly battle making decisions if he should participate in activities because others have chosen not to wear masks. He has missed out on things he would have otherwise been included in, had people chosen to mask up, she said. Mrs. Marsh said she understands that her son has an underlying condition, but does that mean he should be worrying about dying now instead of when he is seventy? She said that she has heard many reasons why people should not be wearing masks, including they are not effective. She asks if there is anyone who can say with total certainty that they are not at least slightly effective? Even if it is only 20% she said, that's 20% more of a chance that children like her son will be okay. If something as easy as wearing a mask could save one child, wouldn't that be worth it?

Mrs. Marsh said she appreciates all of the Board members. She stated there is not one person in this room who can say they have done more for this community than Mr. Hagerty. He has donated countless hours of his time volunteering for school functions she said. He has taken children into his home when they needed a place to stay. Mr. Hagerty has also donated his own money to make programs succeed, she added. She went on to thank Linda Fielder for all the amazing work she did in the after school program. Mrs. Marsh went on to thank the rest of the Board members for the countless hours they have donated to the community.

Mrs. Marsh wanted to address two particular pieces of misinformation she has been hearing on social media. One, no preschool child has been forced to wear a mask or had one forcibly removed. No children at NVELC are required to wear mask as they are all under five years of age. Two, Anti-bias = Anti-racism = Critical Race Theory. Anti-bias training does not equal anti-racism, which equals critical race theory she said. Critical race theory is just that, a theory she said, and it can't be taught. Anti-biases are in many things she added, not just race. Mrs. Marsh commented that she was just in a training regarding disabilities in the classroom and how staff understands it is an uncomfortable subject for some. After hearing some of the conversation during a previous board meeting when their training was brought up, it was apparent to her that we probably could all benefit from these trainings.

CONSENT AGENDA – consolidated motion

- Board Minutes from February 9, 2022
- February 2022 Financial Report
- Ratification of Employment
- Licensed Contract Renewal

MOTION: Linda Fielder 2nd: Shane Stuart AYES: 5 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

ACTION /DISCUSSION

- **Recommendation:** Approve – Proposed Nestucca Valley Board of Directors Meeting Calendar.

This proposal moves the time of our public session from 6:30 pm to 6:00 pm on the second Wednesday of each month. There will also be no board meeting in July this year as it is not an election year.

MOTION: Diane Boisa 2nd: Linda Fielder AYES: 5 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

- **Recommendation:** Approve – For the 2022-2023 school year, the Nestucca Valley School District will be a closed district, granting ten out-of-district transfer spots.

This has been the past practice for the last seven years and has served the district well. Some of the spots have been grandfathered in Ms. Wharton added. Diane Boisa asked if there is a child accepted, will they grant enrollment to other siblings as well? Ms. Wharton answered yes.

MOTION: Shane Stuart 2nd: Diane Boisa AYES: 5 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

- **Recommendation:** Approve – Resolution # 2022-3

As discussed at our facilities work session, this resolution would adequately fund the completion of our High School CTE shop, football field and track. We have been authorized to talk to banks to finish the CTE program.

MOTION: Bill Hagerty 2nd: Linda Fielder AYES: 5 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

- **Recommendation:** Approve-Appoint Sarah Lewis to the CCTEC Foundation Board of Directors.

We held the first CTE meeting last week and hope to appoint Sarah Lewis to the CCTEC board. Over the next few months we will be bringing forward other board member recommendations. Ms. Wharton added that there has already been a \$10, 000 donation from META.

MOTION: Shane Stuart 2nd: Diane Boisa AYES: 5 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

- **Action:** Superintendent contract – New three year agreement between NVSD and Superintendent Misty Wharton.

Board Chair Hagerty said the NVSD Board members are happy to appoint Superintendent Wharton for another three years. Despite all the challenges she has faced, including a pandemic and construction of a new school, she has done a remarkable job. Mr. Hagerty added that when Superintendent Wharton started, their contingency was very low. Now the contingency is very good he said. Mr. Hagerty said he and the rest of the Board are very happy to have one of the best Superintendents in the state. Mr. Hagerty thanked Superintendent Wharton for all of her hard work.

MOTION: Shane Stuart 2nd: Diane Boisa AYES: 5 NOES: 0 MABSTAIN: 0

- **Recommendation:** Approve-The proposed 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school calendar.

This would be a similar schedule as last year, following the trimester breakdown. Diane Boisa asked if switching to trimesters has worked well for all the teacher's? It was noted to be a little difficult for the music program. Mr. Richwine said that math and U.S. History were a little challenging but they are making it work. There are a lot of benefits too, he added.

MOTION: Shane Stuart 2nd: Linda Fielder AYES: 5 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

- **Recommendation:** Approve – The change order submitted by Field Turf for the completion of the K8 student recreation/sport facilities.

This proposal is a considerable cost savings because Benchmark Construction will already be on site at the High School and can utilize the soil spoils from there on the K8 campus. Ms. Wharton added that they will be putting in another field this summer as well as batting cages. The area will be drained for two fields, but we are only seeding one she said. This is the same company being used for the High School Football field and track. The cost difference she said is 1.2 million versus 2 million, just from moving the dirt from the High School to the K8.

MOTION: LindaFielder 2nd: Shane Stuart AYES:5 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

- **Action/Recommendation:** Resignation letter submitted by Annis Leslie.

Board Chair Hagerty reads Annis Leslie's resignation letter aloud which reads:

Please accept this email as formal notice of my resignation from the NVSD Board of Directors. As I Have shared with each of you, I am resigning for personal reason. The recent protestations from certain community members have absolutely NO bearing on my decision. The timing is just an unfortunate coincidence.

It was my intent to remain on the Board until the completion of the K8 facility. It is my time to step back and let another community member step up. It has been an honor to serve the community and make a positive difference for the children in it. I will remain a solid supporter of the current school board, Superintendent Wharton, and the hardworking staff that wake up every day to support Nestucca's kids.

Respectfully,

Annis Leslie

Diane Boisa comments she doesn't want to accept it, but she understands.

Mr. Hagerty adds, Annis has seen us through times when we were in the hole. Now we have a 12 million contingency. Ms. Wharton corrects-now at a 12% contingency.

Ms. Wharton thanks Annis for all she has done for the school and the community, as well as all the help she provided when Superintendent Wharton was brand new to the role.

MOTION: Diane Boisa 2nd: Shane Stuart AYES: 5 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

- **Recommendation:** Approve – The Intergovernment Agreement (IGA) between the State of Oregon acting by and through its Department of Land Conservation and Development and the Nestucca Valley School District in either updating or developing a new addition to the Tillamook County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP).

This will provide for a formal system and protocol Superintendent Wharton added.

Diane Boisa said she is very thankful that Mr. Holloway is in charge of things.

MOTION: Linda Fielder 2nd: Diane Boisa AYES: 5 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

INFORMATION / DIRECTOR QUESTIONS

Superintendent Wharton asked if anyone had any questions on the administrative reports and no one did.

Mr. Hagerty thanked the staff for all they do, adding that the Board really appreciates them.

Diane Boisa said on the negotiating committee, the teachers were very approving of all that the Board is doing. She also noted that it is Classified staff week and how much they appreciate all the hard work from the staff.

Shane Stuart gave a shout out to John Sousa for putting on the Baseball camps. He was doing all of this on his own time. Mr. Stuart said he is looking forward to Baseball season and that hopefully we will get Softball camps going soon.

Superintendent Wharton spoke about a letter to the community regarding creating a culture of acceptance for those who continue to wear masks. There were zero cases in the county last week. Due to these numbers going down significantly, we are able to take a seasonal approach to exemptions, operating in a three month window. If we jump back into a high metric that could change things. We have had two meetings for exemptions, with another two to be scheduled, Ms. Wharton added. Based on the metric, if it pings high and you have an exemption, that does not mean you will be pulled. There may be more to testing and other things to do, it's kind of a managing nightmare she said.

Mr. Stuart commented that it has been a long two years for everyone. He added that it takes courage to speak at the meetings and the Board values their opinions. Hopefully the community can begin to heal, he said. We have so much to offer our kids here Mr. Stuart added, we have a lot to be excited about!

Mr. Hagerty asked if there was anyone else who wished to speak?

Kaili Jensen inquired about the background process. She said the fingerprinting takes four weeks and practice starts in two weeks. Ms. Wharton said they will make exceptions for regular volunteers if everything else is done and the finger printing is in progress.

Tracy Whittles asked if this process needs to be done each year? Yes it does, Ms. Wharton answered. Tracy added that it may be a good idea for people to start the process in the summer so people are ready to go before the school year starts.

Diane Boisa stated that she appreciates everyone who wore masks to the meeting.

April Bailey expressed surprise at Superintendent Wharton's three-year renewal. However, she still congratulated the board on finding such a great administrator. Perhaps, she said, they should have let her go so she can go on to bigger and better things.

Board Chair Hagerty thanked April for her comments. He added that the Board always enjoys her comments and hopes to hear from her at the next meeting.

FURTHER BUSINESS

With no further business, Board Chair Hagerty adjourned the meeting at 7:17 pm.