

Board of Director's Meeting

Minutes- September 23, 2024

OPENING OF PUBLIC SESSION

The meeting was called to order by Board Vice Chair Nelson at 6:00 pm. Mr. Nelson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance:

- X - Joseph Boyd-Board Chair- Not Present
- X - Wally Nelson-Vice Chair- Present
- X - Diane Boisa-Present
- X - Irene Barajas-Present
- X - Marty Wisehart-Present
- X - Misty Wharton, Superintendent-Present
- X - Ken Richwine, Administrator of Alt Ed and Career Tech – Present
- X - Megan Kellow, Special Programs Administrator- Present
- X - Kristina Albin, K8 Principal-Present
- X – Emily Chadwick, High School Principal – Present
- X – Heidi Schultz, Assistant K8 Principal and Early Learning Director - Present

Patrons, Students and Staff: Sherry Hartford, Lynda McClintock, Dwaine McClintock, Brooke Hieserich, Danielle Maillard, Peter Deam, Rachel Iertora Freeman, Miyles Dodson, Christal Winesburgh, Nat Macias

Zoom: Epiphany, Jenni Green, Christine Smith, Dia Norris, Robin Richwine, Sydney, Rachael, Alex Croke, Meesha Filosi

Approval of Agenda – September 23, 2024

MOTION: Diane Boisa 2nd: Marty Wisehart AYES: 4 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

COMMUNITY/SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

Nestucca K8 CTE – A year’s review with community partners.

Presenting this evening are community representatives of the Tillamook County STEAM Partnership (STEAM = Science, Tech, Engineering, Art and Math). Rachel Freeman, with Friends of Netarts Bay-Watershed Estuary Beach and Sea (WEBS), along with Danielle Maillard, with Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, and Brooke Hieserich with Food Roots. Nat Macias was also in attendance to answer any questions about the Juntos Afuera program.

Handouts were given out to the Board, showcasing activities that students participated in over the last year with community partners.

Rachel Freeman shared that the STEAM partnership began in 2005 with WEBS and Tillamook School District. By 2019 they saw the larger need to lean on other community partners. Rachel said earlier this year WEBS got a webpage on the TC STEAM site, where you can see all the other participating partners.

Nestucca K8 participated in many field trips last year, one being the Cape to Cape first grade field trip. This started off at Netarts Bay where students journaled about the tide height. They then traveled to Cape Meares to have lunch and learn about how light is used for communication and patterns in nature, like tides and seasons. The group returned to Netarts Bay to record how the tide had changed. Other field trips included another first grade field trip, the Fish and Habitats Program at the US Coast Guard Boathouse in Garibaldi. Students were able to learn about things like animal traits and marine debris. They also went fishing and crabbing!

Rachel said the second graders were able to participate in the Day at the Bay field trip. This is a long-standing field trip and one of Rachel’s favorites. WEBS starts by bringing animals into the school for students to learn about and record observations in their journals. Student would then go and explore the tide pools, investigate crab populations, learn how to build storm resistant sand castles, beach safety as so much more. Rachel said there was also a spring program for the kindergarteners with a hermit crab program.

Danielle Maillard, with the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, shared the artwork that Nestucca K8 students created for the 2024 Children’s Clean Water Festival poster. There were 41 third and fourth grade students from Nestucca that attended the festival, with 246 students in total!

Brooke Hieserich with Food Roots said they are happy to continue partnering with Nestucca Valley School District. Last year, Brooke was able to design and bring three school tastings during lunch time that also included the ELC. Last year they served cucumbers, radishes and a wasabi sorbet. The wasabi sorbet was especially intriguing to the middle schoolers! Brooke said there were field trips available connecting teachers and schools to local farmers and food producers. Food Roots is pursuing a new

program where they are co teaching with students. They will teach a garden-based farm to school program that aligns with the Farm to School curriculum standards.

Nat Macias, with the Juntos program, is also part of the TC STEAM group. A lot of her students have helped with WEBS, Food Roots and the Clean Water Festival. Nat shared that she now sits on the board of WEBS, so she is hoping there will be a lot more crossover there.

Rachel Freeman asked if there were any questions?

Ms. Boisa said this all sounds wonderful! Mr. Nelson asked if the last year was successful with students from Nestucca? Rachel said it has been great working with the students from Nestucca! They have been able to do a lot of comparing and contrasting because there are so many estuaries within Tillamook County. The students get to collect data from these different estuaries, and see their differences and similarities.

Mrs. Wharton added that the district worked on a new strategic plan last spring and one of the major bullets of the mission is to make our students stewards of the natural environments, so all of this aligns perfectly with that.

Mrs. Wharton and the Board thanked them for coming and presenting this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sherry Hartford thanked Marty Wisehart for tabling the excise tax last month. Mrs. Hartford said she has 14 rentals and hopes to add more. Her rentals are low income and if the tax gets increased, she does not want that to affect her tenants rent going up. Mrs. Hartford asked that the board consider holding off on raising the excise tax for a couple of years.

Duane McClintock also wished to also address the Board on excise tax. Mr. McClintock said it is difficult with the cost of living right now, to find housing or to build a house. There are not many high paying jobs in the area and he is afraid that people will not be able to afford to work and live here. Mr. McClintock said everywhere you turn, taxes are going up and it is making it hard for people to live. He is not in favor of the excise tax increase.

CONSENT AGENDA—consolidated motion

- Board Minutes from August 19, 2024
- August 2024 Financial Report
- Ratification of Employment
- Second Reading of School District Policy-Adoption

Policy: AC- Nondiscrimination

Policy: BBF – Board Members Standards of Conduct (Version 2)

Policy: BBFC – Reporting of Suspected Abuse of a Child

Policy: CB – Superintendent

Policy: CBC – Superintendent’s Contract

Policy: CBG – Evaluation of the Superintendent

Policy: CCG – Evaluation of Administrator’s

Policy: EBBB – Injury or Illness Reports

Policy: GCAB – Personal Electronic Devices and Social Media – Staff

Second Reading of School District Policy Reading-Deletion

Policy: BBF – Board Members Standards of Conduct (Version 1)

MOTION: Marty Wisehart 2nd: Irene Barajas AYES: 4 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

ACTION DISCUSSION

Recommendation: Approve – The Election of the Nestucca Valley School District Board Chair.

Diane Boisa made a motion to nominate Joe Boyd for Board Chair. Mr. Nelson asked if there were any other nominations? There were no other nominations. Marty Wisehart said he would second the motion to appoint Joe Boyd for Board Chair.

MOTION: Diane Boisa 2nd: Marty Wisehart AYES: 4 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

Recommendation: Approve – The Election of the Nestucca Valley School District Board Vice Chair.

Diane Boisa made a motion to nominate Wally Nelson as Vice Chair. Irene Barajas said Wally Nelson has done a wonderful job as Vice Chair, but that it might be nice to mix it up a bit. Ms. Barajas would like to make a motion to elect herself as Vice Chair. There were no other nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. Wisehart said he would second the motion to nominate Irene Barajas as Vice Chair.

MOTION: Irene Barajas 2nd: Marty Wisehart AYES: 4 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

Mr. Nelson passed the gavel to Ms. Barajas.

Recommendation: Approve –Set the rate for construction excise tax during the 2024/2025 school year to \$1.63.

Explanation: The district currently collects, \$1.23 per square foot on new residential construction buildings. This rate has fallen well behind the proposed 2024-2025 \$1.63. It was a conscious decision, of the school board in 2022, to maintain the lower rate as the county exited COVID 19. Raising the rate will bring the district into alignment with a majority of the school districts throughout the state.

Mrs. Wharton said in last month's Board meeting, they discussed how the tax increase for a 2000 square foot home would equal a \$800 dollar difference. This money is prescribed in the way that the district can only spend it on things like building maintenance and capital improvement projects. Mrs. Wharton said they have a lot of those types of improvements in the que so it is her recommendation to approve the increase.

Mr. Wisehart said that he tabled this last month, for two reasons. One, because he had not done enough homework on it in the beginning. Two, he agrees that housing is a huge problem in our area and one of the ways to alleviate that is to build more homes. Having said that, Mr. Wisehart said the more people we add to our district, the more money we are going to need for our schools. Mr. Wisehart wanted to add that we just did this wonderful new remodel and expansion to the facilities, and it is imperative that we maintain them.

Ms. Boisa said she agrees that housing is a huge issue, however, she does not believe that children should have to subsidize it. Ms. Boisa said people should go to businesses, service clubs, churches, and get subsidized by adults-not the children.

Ms. Barajas said that her concerns are with the questionable timber revenue. We need to have something more viable to count on so that we can maintain the standards that we have. Ms. Barajas said if the timber revenue comes in way lower than expected, her concern is that the district would not have anything to bolster it back up.

MOTION: Wally Nelson 2nd: Diane Boisa AYES: 4 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

INFORMATION/DIRECTOR QUESTIONS

Superintendent Wharton said she invited all of the administrator's here tonight. As mentioned in a previous meeting, we will begin to do what a lot of other districts do and have administrators attend Board meetings on a rotational basis. Mrs. Wharton wanted to introduce and welcome Emily Chadwick, the new principal at Nestucca High School. All the administrator's went around the room and introduced themselves.

Mrs. Wharton shared that tomorrow night is the Bobcat Bash at the high school. This open house style event will have different student groups and community partners, food and more. WE ARE NOT HAVING HOT DOGS!! There are also volleyball games going on during this time and the event starts at 5:00 pm.

Mrs. Wharton shared that staff were welcomed back on August 26th, with engagement as a larger focus for the year. All staff worked on the concept of developing trust, understanding and appreciation. As a staff, we worked on developing our working definitions of these words.

Trust – Having confidence in someone or something.

Understanding – Showing respect for another’s point of view.

Appreciation – Expressing or demonstrating gratitude for a place, action or attitude.

Mrs. Wharton said they plan to engage students in conversations around what we can do as educators, to increase engagement among today’s students. During the first few weeks with students, they have been developing systems to make the district run.

Mrs. Wharton wanted to share about the ParentSquare app. If you are a parent, you have already received communication regarding this. Beginning October 1st, the district will be using ParentSquare as the main form of communication to students and parents. Our webpage will receive a complete redesign because of this platform. Mrs. Wharton said they have just updated policy GCAB (Personal Electronic Devices for Staff) which states that district staff will only be using ParentSquare to communicate to students. This will also take the place of the Black Board communication calls that go out because ParentSquare has that capability. Mrs. Wharton gave a thank you to Robin Richwine, Gene Martin, Keith Serven and Matthew Kottre for all their work getting this up and running.

Mrs. Wharton said that as a staff, they are really trying to focus heavily on student attendance. There have already been some notable improvements at the high school level. Attendance is one of the greatest predictors of student success and shared these key points:

- Elementary: Students who attend regularly, in grades K-3, are more likely to read on grade level.
- Middle School: By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of the three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- High School: By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.

Mrs. Wharton wanted to thank Robin Richwine for all her work on the new district brand!

This summer, Neal Lemery and Sally Rissel approached Mrs. Wharton regarding organizing the creation of a Nestucca Foundation. Neah-Kah-Nie and Tillamook School Districts already have a foundation in place and their sole purpose is to go out and seek grants and donations for things like scholarships and enrichment opportunities for students. They have already started a 501 C 3 and are currently going out for a grant.

Mrs. Wharton said she is happy to announce they recently hired a counselor for the K8.

Ms. Boisa said it would be great to invite all the new staff to the next Board meeting so they could introduce themselves. Mrs. Wharton said we will invite them to the October meeting.

Ms. Barajas wanted to share that she was able to play music with the Temptations last weekend at the casino. Ms. Barajas wanted to express her appreciation to Kathleen Serven, who was the music director when she was in high school and still is. The skill set she learned in high school from Mrs. Serven, has allowed her to be the musician she is today.

Mrs. Wharton said the OSBA conference is November 7-9. Out of the two annual conferences, this one is the larger of the two and there will be national presenters. It is a chance to interact with other Board members in the state. Mr. Nelson said he really enjoyed all of the student performances last year, as well as the student involvement in the different work sessions. Mrs. Wharton said it is a great learning opportunity as a group and individually. The district will cover the cost of the conference.

Mrs. Wharton said they would like to offer a town hall in October. There are two possible dates that she is looking at and that is October 24th or October 30th. The group collectively said that October 24th would work best for them. Mrs. Wharton said they will push information out about it.

Mrs. Wharton said there is a first reading of policies around bidding requirements and special procurements. The Board was reminded that if there is a policy they want pulled from the consent agenda to discuss in more detail, to let her or Sarah know.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Records Exempt from Public Inspections (ORS 192.660(2)(f))

To consider information or records that are exempt from public inspection, including letters from attorney, student records and personnel files.

Legal Records Examination

Superintendent Wharton, Vice Chair Irene Barajas, Wally Nelson, Diane Boisa, Marty Wisehart and Board Secretary, Sarah Lewis, moved to Executive Session at 6:50 pm.

Return to Public Session at 7:21 pm.

FURTHER BUSINESS

No further business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Vice Chair Barajas at 7:21 pm.

