

**Board of Director's Meeting**

**Minutes- November 3, 2023**

**OPENING OF PUBLIC SESSION**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Boyd at 5:03 pm. Vice Chair Boyd led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance:

X - Joseph Boyd-Vice Chair-Present

X - Wally Neson-Present

X - Diane Boisa-Present

X - Zachary Best-Not Present

X - Misty Wharton, Superintendent-Present

X - Ken Richwine, High School Principal-Present

X - Megan Kellow, Special Programs Administrator -Present via Zoom

X - Chad Holloway, District Facilities and Alternative Education Administrator -Present

X – Kristina Albin, K8 Principal-Present via Zoom

**Patrons, Students and Staff:** Sherry Hartford, Justin Hartford, Jason Hagan, Jonathan Whittles, Molly Sears, Mary Hurliman, Chloe Love, Julie Love, Travis Love, Owne Love, Abby Love, Trish Collins, Sawyer Collins, Daisy Camacho, Mia Cervantes, Betsabet Mondragon, Gabriela Gomez, Scott Schiminesky, Lucy Schiminesky, Laurie Bones, Jenifer Schrock, Jim Hill, Shirley Hill, Kurt Sorensen, Diana Sorensen, Hank Slavens, Tori Slavens, Irene Barajas, Kaili Jensen, Bobbie Striling, Peyton Olson, Lauren Olson, Monique Stein, Kayla Cole, Meesha Pena, Jason Hill, April Bailey, Kevin Filosi, Tawnya Dimmitt, Cindy Marshall, Patricia Marshall, Misty Swanson, Taylor Swanson, Miyles Dodson, Peter Deam, Greg Woods, Tina Dean, Annjelika Dean, Sydney Leja, Isabelle Henry-Sullivan, Kristen Laymon, Mark Laymon, Kathleen Serven, Diana Briscoe

**Zoom:** Breanne Kennedy Andescavage, Sharman, Skip and Kathy, Ursula McVittie, Amy Gianella, Kristina Albin, Carolyn Hill, Keith Serven, Raquel Hays, Megan Kellow, Tony Smith, Tazshma, Todd, Adam, DeWanna Zeller, Baylee Bentel, Mike, Annis Leslie, Johanna, Megan Deam, Erick Finnell, Mallary, Garrett, Kenneth Blackburn, Josh Rist, Lisa, Johanna Ortis, Jamie Wilkinson, Katy Wilson, Mike Bradley, Robert, Esther McDonald, Mary, Danny Morgan, Rod Hogevoll

## **Approval of Agenda – November 3, 2023**

**MOTION:** Diane Boisa 2nd: Wally Nelson AYES: 3 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chloe Love spoke on behalf of the student council. Chloe is a senior and is the secretary for student council. Chloe shared about a couple upcoming fundraisers the group will be doing. They will be having a Secret Santa for the kids at the K8 and the High School. There will be a list of suggested items. Anyone who wishes to participate will be able to drop off items of at either the K8 or the High School. There will also be a community cornhole tournament that is being planned to take place possibly in March. The event will have raffles and door prizes, as well as other activities.

Diana Briscoe asked who the principals are and what they teach? Are the students being taught math, algebra, geometry, what all are you teaching? Superintendent Wharton said we teach all the state required curriculum. Mrs. Wharton said she would point her to the Oregon Department of Education for an exact list of required classes, but that they teach all the common core curriculum, such as math, science, language arts, health, social studies, music, PE, etc. Diana asked if they teach about diversity? Mrs. Wharton answered yes, we have the All Students Belong policy. Diana also commented that there is no criteria for students graduating. There are students graduating with out the skills and knowledge to be productive adults. It's a fact that you don't require those things for kids to graduate. Mrs. Wharton said we do, and she would be interested in where she is getting her facts from? Diana said she has been around students who have graduated and can't read, do math, write their name. They can't get a job because they don't know their numbers or the alphabet. Superintendent Wharton said she is going to respectfully disagree.

April Bailey said during the October school board meeting a letter was read that gave her the god like attribute that she could use her words to create school issues. She filed a complaint form with the board regarding this letter. Mrs. Bailey also wished to address the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment violations filed against Superintendent Wharton and Vice Chair Boyd during the August Board meeting. All people have the right to freely express their views in speech and written word. Mrs. Bailey said she did not file these complaints from a malicious place, she has nothing against these people. She concluded that she may be gaveled out but that will not silence her.

Kathleen Serven said she has been an employee of the district for 29 years. She is encouraging people to act with decorum and professionalism. Some of the things that have occurred over the last few years, have made her want to quit her job. She is disturbed by the rumors that are going around about her friend Irene. Mrs. Serven was conducting the band, in which Irene was playing and helping out with. She was not doing the vicious lies that people were spreading, but in the band helping with Nestucca's music program, like she has done so many years before. By the same token, she is not here to speak against Greg Woods, he has been her friend since she was five years old. She is only asking people to determine things by integrity, by truth and by not spreading lies. I may disagree with things, but I disagree with kindness in my own private area. Mrs. Serven said we should be kind to all people and I can tell you, Irene has not gone around telling lies about people.

Greg Woods said he applied for the vacant board seat. He has served three years on Tillamook Soil and Water Conservation board, and was elected in February to serve on the Tillamook County Creamery Association board. Mr. Woods said he knows how a board operates and that no one board member has any more power than another. This board needs to work together to find common ground, make decisions in the best interest of the kids, protect the tax payer's dollars and to provide a good work environment for staff, with fair compensation. Mr. Woods said he believes the school board is the backbone of the school district. It is to give guidance to administration and listen to community concerns. Mrs. Wharton has said there is a split within this community against administration and he agrees with her. He feels he can find a path with our board to bring this district together. Mr. Woods said he believes everyone here tonight wants what is best for our children. He wants each student to reach their full potential. Mr. Woods thanked the board for listening.

Jonathan Whittles thanked the board for allowing public comment. He wanted to come in show of support of Greg Woods. He believes Mr. Woods is a great person and has some board experience. Mr. Whittles said the other topic is there is some dissatisfaction in the community with the school and direction it is going. He thinks a diversity of opinion would eliminate some tension in the community. If the board would have some more deliberation and spent more time before a motion, it would feel there was more concern for what the community is concerned about. Mr. Whittles said he has had his kids homeschooled and for a long time, did not feel like he had a voice. His kids have participated in sports and that went great, he appreciates that. He is now concerned for his grandkids and the future, and that is why he is making himself more public. There have been a few parents that have asked him to homeschool their children, due to the direction they think the district is going. He added, the time of the meetings are too early and hard for working community members to get to.

Sherry Hartford said she ran in the last election to be on the school board. She applied along with Greg to be appointed when there was an opening. Mrs. Hartford said that she and Mr. Woods both ran in the election and got nearly half the community's votes. We spent time and money to run to have their voices heard. The Community that voted for Greg and herself would hope that the board votes for one of them to join the school board. With that, Mrs. Hartford said she is officially taking her application

out of the running in support for Greg. He has the experience and the trust of many students and parents. He has everything this board needs to succeed. Mrs. Hartford said she has a petition with over 400 signatures of people in support of Greg for the school board. The community wants to be heard and the way to do that is by having Mr. Woods on the school board.

Lauren Olson said she wants to show her support for Greg Woods. It is obvious that a lot of people are here to support him and that the board is just not listening. The board is supposed to represent the community and the families and how they feel. She feels like we are fighting an uphill battle and the board is not listening. We have 400 signatures in support of Greg Woods. I don't know Irene, she is probably very nice, but Greg ran for this position and we all support him.

Jason Hagan said there are some things he is unhappy about. He is willing to meet with Mrs. Wharton or the board if he needs some clarification. Here we are again this evening lacking a board member. If he can't be here, he can't be here. If Mr. Boyd could not be here. Its understandable, there was a work or family emergency. Conflicting information, but he was unable to be here. Mr. Hagan said he is here and taking his name out of the running in support of Greg Woods. He believes Greg is the most unbiased applicant out there and has the most experience. He is here for no agenda other than the kids and the families. Mr. Hagan said he has nothing against Irene, she is a beautiful human being. He believes Greg Woods will take all into consideration. Unlike Mr. Hagan, Greg and Sherry ran for the position and that is why he is withdrawing his application.

## **ACTION DISCUSSION**

**Recommendation:** Approve-Nomination for vacant Board Member position. Interviews of the people who applied for the Nestucca Valley School Board occurred on October 9, 2023. The interviews were conducted by the sitting NVSD board members.

Superintendent Wharton explained why we are here again this evening. We held this meeting a couple of weeks ago. We found out a few minutes before the meeting that Mr. Boyd was not able to make it due to a work emergency. In her experience on non profit boards, if you have a quorum and you can get a majority of that quorum to approve it, it passes. She learned that that is not true of school boards. Someone filed a complaint and Greg Woods brought it up at the last town halls. As a district, we have a resource available to us called the Oregon School Board Association, who has a lawyer who specializes is school board policy. Mrs. Wharton posed the question to them and they said no, you have to have a majority of the entire board, so we would need to have another meeting to rectify the vote. We sit here today and if we don't get the majority again-we're done and have to table it. Why the expediency? The board members have a lot of training they go through. There is a training that we have already had to reschedule twice due to board members schedule conflicts. It is scheduled for

Monday and has been for six weeks. This is a training that they desperately need to have in order to understand how to do their jobs effectively as a school board member. The sense of urgency is to get everybody seated so they can all take this very important training together. That may or may not happen tonight because Mr. Best sent a text at 2:00 saying he was sick. We are going to go through this process. Mrs. Wharton apologized for her error. We all make mistakes and she is the first one to own up to it. We learn through it and we move forward. Mrs. Wharton said she really appreciates everyone who has shown up for the town hall meetings. They have been really productive. She does not feel we are divided so much as there is too much misinformation going around as facts. The town hall is a way to squash that misinformation and ask questions. We will schedule more of the town hall meetings going forward. Email me, call me and we can schedule a meeting. Again, sorry we are all here again but this is the legal way to actually do it. We have learned through the process and now we know.

Diane Boisa also wanted to apologize. She said she has been on the board for a very long time and you would think that she would have known better. Nothing like this has ever happened before and she assumed that the majority of the people present would carry the vote. She said she apologizes to Greg, but mostly apologizes to Irene because that put her in a very awkward position and she is very sorry for that.

Diane Boisa made a motion to nominate Irene Barajas for the open board position.

**MOTION:** Diane Boisa AYES: 3 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

Irene Barajas stood before the board and took the oath of office.

**Recommendation:** Approve -Appoint a NVSD Board Chair.

Ms. Boisa nominated Joseph Boyd for Board Chair.

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

**Recommendation:** Approve – Appoint a NVSD Vice Chair

Ms. Boisa nominated Wally Nelson for Vice Chair.

**MOTION:** Diane Boisa 2nd: Joseph Boyd AYES: 4 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION-CONFERENCE ROOM**

Pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(b)

To consider the dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaint of charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent who does not request an open hearing. (ORS 192.660 (2)(b))

Hearing on complaints filed against Superintendent Wharton.

Hearing on complaint filed against Vice Chair Joseph Boyd.

Moved to Executive Session at 5:39 pm.

Returned to Public Session at 6:03 pm.

## **FURTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Nelson wanted to share about something that happened to him during the process of running for the board. He went into the feed store and saw a couple that he had taught and has always been friendly with them. Mr. Nelson said hello to the couple and was met with "Why are you running for the school board?" He said "Why shouldn't I?" The woman said that they heard he is gone six months out of the year. Mr. Nelson said no, we go to Palm Springs one month out of the year every March. He asked where they got their information and they said from a reliable source. He said well tell them they are wrong. Where do I stay for six months he asked? They replied with Phoenix Arizona. He said he has never been there! Rumors went around the community on this and he does not like the back stabbing. Mr. Nelson urged anyone with questions, to come in ask him! He will tell you the truth.

Diane Boisa made a motion that the complaints filed against Superintendent Wharton and Mr. Boyd were unfounded.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Board Chair Boyd at 6:05 pm.