

**Gervais School District #1
School Board Regular Session Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 18, 2021**

REGULAR SESSION

Director Martin called the School Board of Gervais School District #1, Marion County, into a Regular Session on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 6:02 p.m. via ZOOM online. Board members present included: Henry Bustamante, Maria Caballero, Ana Contreras, Lorraine Martin and Debbie Sullivan. Others present included Caryn Davis, Dandy Stevens and Sandra Segura.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

Director Martin called the School Board Meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:02 p.m.

Director Martin reminded all that if they wished to speak during public forum they should indicate that by using the "chat" feature. She added that the School Board will not hear complaints about staff during this time.

2.0 INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Motion:

2.1 Public Forum Sign-Up:

None.

Public Forum Sign-Up included:

Danae Martin, Nikki Schultz, Rebecca Zharkoff.

2.2 Visitor Guest Book

Those present included: Uriel Aguilar, Andrew Aman, Tim Bowman, Michele Chase, Caryn Davis, Kay Gage, Dora Guerrero, Creighton Helms, Lucas Hill, Jenny Jones, Bob Martin, Renee Willer, Arturo Oropeza, Esther Oropeza, Julie Powers, Nikki Schultz, Ken Stott, Sylvia Valentine-Garcia, and Melissa Wolfer.

2.3 Announcements

Ms. Stevens informed everyone that she plans to have two parent meetings after spring break and held via zoom. One will be held in Spanish on Tuesday March 30th and the other on Monday, March 29th (no translation will be available). In addition to those two meeting she reported that she met with the Russian community and had about eighteen Russian community members attend. She said that one of the items that they discussed was the tracing devices. She stated that a Q & A document was shared with the families assuring them that they are not GPS devices, data is kept confidential, and it does not disrupt the classroom environment in terms of things flashing and beeping. Our classified and licensed staff support this method of maintaining health and safety and providing access to tracing data in a very quick way so we keep everyone in school. The device does not provide live data, but data once individuals scan their device at the end of the day, the data is available in a dashboard. In the event of an exposure or illness, badge contact data can be pulled up immediately and let us know who has been in contact (within a 6 foot distance for fifteen minutes or more to determine who needs to quarantine. She said that this method is much better for determining who needs to quarantine versus a pencil and paper method.

2.4 GSD Strategic Planning Committee Report

Ms. Stevens shared the strategic plan background data report briefly that was included in the February board packet. It included information that has been gathered from all stakeholders over the last several months. Also included data that was provided on the application for the Student Investment Account (SIA). She pointed out that

Mr. Colonna did a great job in capturing our background story and pointed out that this will be a living document. Things can be added as we progress through the process.

Ms. Stevens said that Mr. Colonna had the committee work on one question to be asked of every stakeholder in the group. Jerry put in order the most frequently used word or phrase and came up with the top list. He also gathered words & phrases that were mentioned at least once but not multiple times like the core values and lead the committee into an exercise to create a document that will be presented tonight.

What are some core values (fundamental beliefs that guide the district) you believe should be represented in the district's new Strategic Plan?

Ms. Stevens asked the committee to introduce themselves. She added that the committee is made up of a variety of individuals that hold different positions including parents, staff, students and community members.

Mr. Lucas (Gervais Middle School Teacher), Ms. Oropeza (Elementary Instructional Assistant and Classified Association President), and Ms. Willer (Gervais Telephone General Manager) shared a document that included the values that the committee came up with.

Mr. Lucas said that the committee is very committed to designating the list as the district core values that everyone follows and pointed out that the committee is still adjusting language on the descriptor of the values listed on the document. Mr. Lucas said that the committee would love to hear input from the board in regards to the values.

Ms. Willer said that she wanted to share that it was a rewarding experience for her to be part of this committee and to be able to hear different ideas from different individuals in regards to what is important to them.

Equity, Integrity, Excellence, Relationship, and Community.

Ms. Stevens asked the board if they had any input in regards to what was presented.

Board members indicated that great work was done with coming up with the short concise values because it captures what our community is about.

Mr. Lucas said that the next task that they will be working on is the vision and mission of what we want to become as a district. He said that the core values are a descriptor of what the district and community stand for and provide a clear vision for the future.

Director Contreras asked if any parts of the current mission statement will be embedded into the new mission.

Mr. Lucas said that is something that the committee can consider. He said that the committee wishes to come up with a clear vision and mission for the future.

Ms. Stevens said that Mr. Colonna is working towards presenting the core values, vision and mission to the board by June.

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was a motion made by Director Bustamante and seconded by Director Contreras that the Gervais School District Board of Directors approves the minutes from the Regular Session on February 25, 2021. The motion passed 5-0.

Ms. Segura said that the date needs to be changed from Thursday, January 21, 2021 to Thursday, February 25, 2021 on the very beginning of the minutes.

4.0 PUBLIC FORUM:

Director Martin read policy BDDH-AR in regards to speaking during public forum.

Ms. Stevens asked people wishing to speak during public forum to identify themselves by stating their name and address so Dr. Helms can admit them to the meeting.

Ms. Schultz said that she is here today to talk about the liability concerns that the district has in regards to the animal barn. She said that they have not had any previous issues with the system that they were using and is against having the district spend money on cameras when there are already cameras installed. She expressed that her daughter has flourished being part of this program and did really well, but is not sure if she will join the program now with the changes taking place. She said that she feels as a parent that more than ever it's important that kids have options to be part of to help with mental health to be able to feel some sense of normality.

Ms. Zharkoff stated that she is concerned that the tracing devices that students will be wearing could affect brain development, about the accuracy of the data, whether the devices reprogrammable, and how the devices will be paid for. She also said that it's important that the district seeks the parent's voice when this type of decisions is made.

Multiple individuals interrupted public comment without identifying themselves and used profane language. Individuals were muted immediately.

Ms. Stevens stated that the board is not required to take public comment if they choose not to do so and said that public comment is a courtesy to the public. She recommended that if this type inappropriate behavior continues during future meetings the public submit their concerns ahead of time in writing or set up a time to talk to her directly to address the concern.

Ms. Martin said that she has lived in the district for several years and has a daughter that is school age. She stated that she feels that by having students wear the tracing devices you are violating an individual's privacy. She expressed that she hopes that the board takes a step back and does not proceed with distributing the devices. She pointed to the presentation earlier that talked about respect and communication being important with the decision of having kids wear the tracing devices, she feels that individuals are not being respected, especially during these times that we have been through. She stated that this will impact kids for their whole lives, especially some of the ones that do not have good mental health. She said that the district should have gotten expert advice on how this could impact children's brains before a decision was made.

Director Martin asked for the district to communicate more in regards to important facts about the devices. That way parents/community are well informed that it's a tracing device and not a tracking device.

Ms. Stevens said that all documents reference that it's a contact tracing device and that she will communicate more to the parents.

5.0 REPORTS

Student Council

Uriel Aguilar (vice president) reported on current and future student projects:

- Halls and lobby were decorated when students returned to school.
- Plan on welcoming freshmen.
- Working on a covid protocol video so students know what to expect when they return to school.
- Planning to have another drive in movie night and will get the license that accommodates more people.
- Reported that the FFA State Convention was this week. The convention offered a various workshops and sessions.
- Shared that a student received third place in one of the competitions.

Administrators Reports

Ms. Stevens said that he asked administrators to give an overview on how things are going now that we have kids back.

Gervais Elementary School

Dr. Helms reported that K-3 students have already started and feels that staff were well prepared for every situation. He praised the staff for working and adapting well to the constant rapid changes and is looking forward to another group after spring break. The only issues that arose were kids showing up on the wrong cohort day. He added that classes are kept small at seven to ten students in each class. Staff have adapted well to sanitation processes.

There was a brief conversation that there are about 80-100 students attending every day in person at the elementary following the hybrid model.

There was a brief conversation that kids have recess in cohort zones indoors or outdoors and food is delivered to the classrooms.

Director Bustamante asked if the elementary students wear the tracing devices.

Dr. Helms said that the elementary students do not wear the tracking devices and paper logs are done to keep track of where individuals have been, which takes a lot of staff time. He said that the reason they are not having elementary kids wear the tracing devices is because they do not have as much movement as the upper grades. He said that only staff wear the devices at the elementary. He said the data that comes from the tracing devices is very effective, whereas with manual logs you run into the possibility that some kids will need to quarantine unnecessarily.

Gervais Middle School

Mr. Martin reported that a mailing was sent out to middle school families this week informing them about the logistics returning to in-person school. He said that 6th graders will be the first group to attend on March 30th and shared that he has been meeting with staff to discuss details about lunch routine, how students will transit the halls, reminders about hand sanitizing, and keeping a safe distance from each other in the classrooms. Middle School students will be using the middle school gym for lunches to have enough space in between. He shared that the middle school will have pods of 100- 105 students a day between the three grades when they return. He stated that it has taken a lot of preplanning on behalf of the staff to get kids back in school and does realize that there will still be things that need to be worked out. He said that he is glad that they will only bring the six graders first to test things out before the rest of the students attend.

There was a brief discussion that the 6th & 8th grade classes will have 35 to 36 students per grouping and that eight graders will be in their own location but will have lunch at the same time. Due to the high number of 7th grade students they will be their own group to take lunch. 6th and 7th graders will be in their own wings in the main building so they are not mixing with each other during class.

Gervais High School

Mr. Aman shared the logistics of how the day would look for high school students. He said that all the information will be mailed to parents.

There was a brief discussion about the use of bottle refill fountains, fully online students being able to come back if they choose, the plan for seniors who are not on track to graduate, temperature checks being no longer required and protocols in place if a student refuses to wear a mask.

Early Learning Program

Ms. Valentine-Garcia reported the following highlights on the program.

- Have met the cap of number of students attending
- Total of 26 kids are registered in Preschool
- Daycare has 12 kids registered
- Courtyard has been ordered and will be installed sometime in April
- Staff are doing professional development about assessing preschool students

Ms. Valentine-Garcia asked if there were any questions about what she reported.

The board did not have any questions.

Ms. Stevens pointed out that she put two individuals in the waiting room because she could not identify who they were just in case there is any feedback in regards to not letting them into the meeting.

Dr. Helms said that he provided his email address to those individuals if they would like to reach out to him with any concerns.

Financial Report

Ms. Davis reported that last she had the Budget 101 meeting and will be sending out the PowerPoint to all budget committee members and board members because not everyone was able to attend this meeting. She said that next month she will be coming to the board to approve a supplemental budget. This is a formal process that is required. It is connected to food services expenditures that are high due to all the food purchases and deliveries. She plans to add \$778K for spending authority. She said that she will review the CARES and ESSER funding to make sure those numbers still look good or if she needs to go higher on the amount that she is requesting. A posting will go out in newspaper regarding the adjustment for approval for next month.

Ms. Davis said that the next topic that she would like to discuss is the audit proposals. She said that the district received a total of three proposals for audit services. Two firms were interviewed today and both were very close in what they offer but one of them charged 20K less. Umpqua Valley Financial is what the committee decided to go with. She said that the committee decided to go with this firm due to the price, familiarity with Infinite Visions, small business and flexibility. She said that this is listed as an action item to be get approved today and it would be for a three year agreement.

Ms. Davis asked if there were any questions in regards to financials or what she shared today.

Director Martin said that she would like more information in regards to purchased services or the last three years. She said that she has noticed that number has increased over the last three years and would like further details.

Ms. Davis said that it is due to Frontier Charter School but will create a graph to share for next month.

Superintendent Report

Ms. Stevens shared the data points that she shared with the community in regards to the YouthTruth data that was gathered. She said that she will highlight throughout the course of the year how that can be embedded into the Strategic Plan, or vision and mission.

Ms. Stevens gave an update/summary of the federal grants that the district has received and shared how the money has been spent on things that were COVID related and the purpose behind it. She added that the district will be receiving a third grant but will have to spend it by September 2023. Prior grants would have to be spent.

Ms. Stevens said that it typically around this time of the year she would report any program changes, if there were any for the following year. She said that she is reporting that there will not be any changes for the coming year.

6.0 BOARD FOCUS/MEMBER TOPICS:

There was a brief discussion about the technical process that individuals go through to join the board meetings and that a password is not needed to join the meeting. Individuals wait in the waiting room to get admitted into the meeting.

There was a brief discussion about future board trainings or scheduling a working session for board members to discuss matters that arise and for board member development.

Director Martin praised Ms. Stevens for handling the situation that happened earlier in a very professional manner.

7.0 CONSENT ITEMS:

7.1 Approve

New Hire / Temporary/Rehire:

Madeline Crabtree, Temporary GES Instructional Assistant
Alejandra Martinez, Temporary Food Service Assistant
Traci Riches, School & Community-Based Nurse
Esperanza Rivera, Childcare Worker
Hailey Warren, Temporary GES Instructional Assistant

Extra Duty:

Fernandez, Claxton, Assistant Football Coach .5 FTE
Navarrete, Eric, Assistant Football Coach .5 FTE

7.2 Approve

Contract Change / Renewal:

Aman, Andrew, GHS Assistant Principal
Davis, Caryn, Business Manager
Colon, Eloisa, from GES Instructional Assistant to GMS ELL Instructional Assistant

Recall:

7.3 Approve

Resignation/Retire/Termination/Non-Renewal:

Decline:

Reduction in Force:

Comments:

Ms. Segura said that she would like to make a correction for Esperanza Rivera. It should state that it's a temporary position.

Motion:

There was a motion made by Director Bustamante and seconded by Director Contreras that the Gervais School District Board of Directors approves the consent items as listed en masse on the agenda. The motion passed 5-0.

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Frontier Charter Academy Budget for 2021-2022

Comments:

Ms. Wolfer said that the budget for Frontier Charter Academy is kept conservative and it's very simple. She shared salary increases for staff and some new things for FCA. She asked the board members to contact her if there are any further questions.

Motion:

There was a motion made by Director Bustamante and seconded by Director Martin that the Gervais School District Board of Directors approve the Frontier Charter Academy Budget for 2021-2022 as shown on agenda item 03-21-8.1.1. The motion passed 5-0.

Ms. Stevens asked to move agenda item 03-8.5 to discuss/approve now so that Mr. Bowman can get back to the first home football game.

The board members consented to move the agenda item.

8 . 2 OSAA Cooperative Sponsorship Application

Mr. Bowman said the district has the opportunity to join the Woodburn School District baseball team and that is why he is here today to ask for approval to join with them. He said that there are six students that have shown interest. He said that this agreement would only be for this school year and it would not cost the district any money to be part of this.

There was a brief discussion regarding how students will be transported.

Mr. Bowman said that he would like to praise Ben Schultz for doing a great job at streaming games and making it available for the parents/community to watch.

Motion:

There was a motion made by Director Contreras and seconded by Director Caballero that the Gervais School District Board of Directors approves to submit the OSSA Cooperative Sponsorship Application. The motion passed 5-0.

8.2 Policy Second Reading

IKFB: Graduation Exercises

GBN/JBA: Sexual Harassment-Staff

GBN/JBA-AR (1): Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure-Staff

GBN/JBA-AR (2): Federal Law (Title IX) Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure-Staff

JBA/GBN: Sexual Harassment-Students

JBA/GBN-AR (1): Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure-Students

JBA/GBN-AR (2): Federal Law (Title IX) Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure-Students

LBE: Public Charter Schools

LBE-AR: Public Charter School

LBEA: Resident Student Denial for Virtual Public Charter School Attendance

Comments:

Ms. Stevens said that the time windows were tailored on the complaint procedures polices and that the great thing is that the notification times can be adjusted if more time is needed.

Motion:

There was a motion made by Director Bustamante and seconded by Director Contreras that the Gervais School District Board of Directors approve/adopt policies changes to IKFB, GBN/JBA, GBN/JBA-AR (1), GBN/JBA-AR (2), JBA/GBN, JBA/GBN-AR (1), JBA/GBN-AR (2), LBE, LBE-AR, and LBEA. The motion passed 5-0.

8.3 Policies to Delete

GBN/JBA: Sexual Harassment

GBN/JBA-AR: Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure

JBA/GBN-Sexual Harassment-Students

JBA/GBN-AR (1): Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure-Students

LBE-AR: Public Charter School

Motion:

There was a motion made by Director Bustamante and seconded by Director Contreras that the Gervais School District Board of Directors approve to delete policies GBN/JBA, GBN/JBA-AR, JBA/GBN, JBA/GBN-AR (1), and LBE-AR . The motion passed 5-0.

8.4 Approval of Audit Firm

There was a brief discussion that all organizations brought in different strengths when they presented their proposals, but one stood out in the price.

Motion:

There was a motion made by Director Martin and seconded by Director Caballero that the Gervais School District Board of Directors approve the audit firm presented by Caryn Davis, Business Manager. The motion passed 5-0.

9.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 Update from Gervais Long-Range Facility Planning

Comments:

Ms. Stevens reported that the Long-Range Facilities Committee and the Strategic Committee ideas are blending well together. She said that the LRF committee talked about what type of spaces would need to be filled. The committee presented all brainstorming of past meetings. All information/discussions are posted on the website under the long-range facilities plan tab. Ms. Stevens shared all the needs that the buildings have according to the committee. The committee shared ideas and marked on the charts all possibilities, then went into breakout rooms and started prioritizing items as high, medium, and low priority. Rebecca Stuecker (IBI Group) will be putting a document together to present at the next meeting and can answer any further questions you might have. Ms. Stevens said that the information that will be presented will help guide the board to consider if the district should go for a bond, determine a price, and get an idea of what direction to take for the future. There are many possibilities that the district can go for with a bond such as matching funds or thhe Biden Administration has some funds that will be coming out.

There was a brief discussion about the decompression room at the elementary and the hiring/location of an additional nurse funded out of COVID money.

9.2 Marketing/Branding of Gervais School District.

Comments:

Ms. Stevens expressed that it's time to get stakeholders together and revisit the district's logo and branding. She shared that she has already started a conversation about this with two individuals about creating the district's identity. It would be perfect timing since the district is working on a new strategic plan.

There was a brief discussion on how this would be paid for and approval was given by the board for the superintendent to proceed on gathering information to bring back.

Tracing Devices

There was further discussion about the following in regards to the devices:

- Making sure someone follows through with the questions that were brought up by the public.
- Number of districts that are using the device for tracing purposes.

- Devices are reprogrammable to adjust the distance.
- Suggested to communicate to parents before purchases are made to get input from them when it is connected to students.

Ms. Stevens said that she understands that some people are upset about the tracing devices but once again the district is ahead of the game, so when the state reduces the distance that will not be a problem for the district. She indicated that the district was the first district to deliver meals to families at home and first to provide child care when the pandemic started. She said that she understands that this is different and new but if you look at the whole pandemic period every step of the way the district has risen.

Director Martin again praised Ms. Stevens for handling the situation very professionally earlier with the comments made by the public.


10.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

11.0 ADJOURN

11.1 Adjourn Regular Session

Director Martin adjourned the Regular Session at 8:31 p.m.

APPROVED


Board Chairperson


Board Secretary

