

Gervais School District #1
School Board Regular Session Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 16, 2021

REGULAR SESSION

Director Bustamante called the School Board of Gervais School District #1, Marion County, into a Regular Session on Thursday, September 16, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. via ZOOM online. Board members present included: Henry Bustamante, Maria Caballero, Ana Contreras and Maria Contreras (Director Toran was absent). Others present included Caryn Davis, Dandy Stevens, and Sandra Segura.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

Director Bustamante called the School Board Meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 p.m.

Director Bustamante read the policy BDDH-AR regarding public forum and explained the process of signing up to speak during the public forum.

2.0 INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

2.1 Public Forum Sign-Up:

Lenthal Kaup.

Public Forum Sign-Up included:

None.

2.2 Visitor Guest Book

Andrew Aman, Creighton Helms, Janelle Jackson, Bob Martin, Sylvia Valentine-Garcia

2.3 Announcements

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion:

There was a motion made by Director A. Contreras and seconded by Director Caballero that the Gervais School District Board of Directors approve the minutes from the Regular Session on July 15, 2021. The motion passed 4-0. (Director Toran was absent)

4.0 PUBLIC FORUM:

Mr. Kaup stated that he would like to see more resources available for students to have the skills required to get a job after they graduate.

5.0 REPORTS

Administrators Reports

Ms. Stevens said that tonight all administrators were asked to give a brief report on highlights for their buildings in addition to their written report.

Gervais Elementary School

Dr. Helms reported the following highlights for the elementary.

- The 2nd-grade teaching team started a program, "Kids in the kitchen." This is a free curriculum and is adaptive to online or in person. The elementary has partnered with OHSU to teach kids about healthy eating and will also be providing supplies.

- We will continue the Oregon Department of Wildlife program that got started before COVID-19 hit, where kids see how a fish develops from an egg to a trout and then gets released at the St. Louis ponds.
- Makers Space is moving right along with STEM opportunities for students. For example, the librarian will be doing training on Ozobot robots that have an optional sensor.

Dr. Helms gave a shout-out to both nurses, counselors, and Ms. Gage for doing a phenomenal job with the start of school.

Director Bustamante commented that it is good to see the student enrollment up.

Dr. Helms said that the elementary is up about twelve students and he is very happy with where enrollment stands.

Gervais Middle School

Mr. Martin shared the following highlights for the middle school:

- Enrollment is at 212 as of August 1st and it keeps increasing.
- Sports are doing well and they won the first match in soccer. There are currently discussions about bringing back wrestling to middle schoolers to build the high school program.
- Middle school has more electives to choose from, including STEAM electives.
- Have hired two bilingual Instructional assistants.

Gervais High School

Mr. Aman and Mr. Stott reported the following highlights for the high school.

- Shared that the high school had a number of new hires this year and are doing great with student enrollment.
- Great to bring back music/choir to the building.
- Counselor came up with a calendar of monthly celebrations that will be shared monthly. This month is Hispanic Heritage Month. Pictures will be shared of celebrations..

Mr. Aman said that Ms. Jackson is here tonight to share Samuel Brown Academy's alternative program changes.

Ms. Jackson shared the following about the alternative program:

- Provided the definition for PAUSE.
- Currently, have thirty-five students enrolled.
- Students have finished sixteen classes as of now.
- Students are coming to an inclusive environment and are getting involved more at the high school to feel part of it.
- Students write down what they need to get done and set goals.
- Follow through is constant, so students are kept engaged.
- Schedules vary for students. Some are in for a half day due to having a job.
- Attendance is great.
- Using Odysseyware.
- Other students can attend to recover credits.

Ms. Jackson invited the school board to stop in and visit to see the great things happening in the alternative center.

Mr. Aman stated that Ms. Jackson came in at a great time and saw students return that they had not seen in a while.

There was further discussion about the opportunities for other students to recover credits in the alternative center and the great opportunities Willamette Career Academy has brought our students.

Ms. Stevens said that despite the pandemic, the district has so much to offer to students and she is very proud of the administrative team for making this happen.

Early Learning Program/Title Programs

Ms. Valentine-Garcia shared the following highlights about the federal programs:

- Shared in detail the supports available through Title I-A, Title II, and Title IV funds and the funding amount that comes from federal funds for these areas, including additional funding from ESSER.
- The shared amount received from Title III funds for limited English Language Learners.

- She shared details on ESSER funds, also known as the District Improvement Fund. This grant supports schools and districts with high percentages of low-income families, similar to Title I-A. These funds have been used for future planning and district goals. Other funds have been used for additional supports in math, additional staffing, professional development, and coaching.
- Shared awarded totals for all the funds for 2020-2021 & 2021-2022, remaining funds, and total to remaining balances.
- Funds are restricted on how they are spent, and districts have to write a narrative, and if things change, the narrative has to be rewritten.
- There is also the potential of sharing the funds with private schools.
- The early learning program has filled up

There was a brief discussion on how it works when sharing a budget with qualifying private schools, and the district has to reach out to them every year.

Financial Report

Ms. Davis reported that the ending fund balance was slightly more than expected at 3.2M, and it will be moved to the general fund. She provided a monthly overview of all expenditures and noted that typically you do not see any unfavorable designations for the summer school program. However, she indicated that staff was funded by grants, which is why there is a difference in the financial report from the prior year, and it's marked as unfavorable. The district will get the funds through the grants. She shared the Budget Preparation Calendar for 2022-23, noted three vacancies available, and encouraged the board members to spread the word to recruit individuals. She said that a notice of the vacancies would be posted in the newspaper. She added that it was said for her to be appointed to be the Budget Officer in the consent items. She noted two dates on the Budget Calendar, the Budget 101 in February and the first Budget Committee Meeting scheduled for May 5, 2022. Ms. Davis asked if there were any questions for her.

The school board did not have any questions.

Director A Contreras thanked Ms. Davis for doing an excellent job of explaining the budget to her and Director M. Contreras.

Superintendent Report

Final Student Investment Account Report

Ms. Stevens said that the state requires that the district report on the final report for the SIA. Ms. Stevens said that the information requires answering the following questions.

What is most important to share with your community about SIA implementation over the last year?

What barriers, impediments, or changes to your SIA implementation have you faced or identified that are helpful for your community and state leaders to be aware of?

What successes and challenges, if any, have you experienced in maintaining engagement?

Share your professional assessment of what guided your choices and prioritization efforts in the first year of SIA implementation?

She reminded the board that she reported on how money was going to be spent compared to last year in June. So, to our advantage, the district had already done a lot of required work for this grant. For example, community engagement feedback came back saying that social and emotional was very important to our parents and staff, and she created the budget with that as the foundation. She said the state was interested primarily in what barriers we might have had. The district was facing the same barriers as other districts around the state in that it's difficult to do distance learning and connect via ZOOM with students. She said that the district had done a good job providing feedback to the state through staff participation. In terms of community engagement, all principals did a fabulous job, and in making sure they reached

the community via ZOOM, setting meetings for special education students and Spanish-speaking parents. In addition, the district offered online tutoring where students and parents could join to get assistance. The district found that some community members appreciated the option of doing meetings via ZOOM and planned to continue this, but understand that others might still like the face-to-face option. The district was very busy collecting data through a survey to get feedback on what the community had to say. The finances portion is no different from what she had shared before. She feels that the district laid out the foundation to the movement that the district is trying to accomplish.

Ms. Stevens said that if there were any further questions, please make sure that she gets contacted, and she added that the budget was attached to her report.

6.0 BOARD FOCUS/MEMBER TOPICS:

7.0 CONSENT ITEMS:

Ms. Stevens said that there was a revised consent item list.

7.1 Approve

New Hire / Temporary/Rehire:

Crystal Camacho, Temporary GHS Instructional Assistant

Tami Dettwyler, Daycare Worker

Felipe Gonzalez Lopez, Custodian

Mary Ludwikoski, GES Childcare Worker

Todd O'Connor, GHS Teacher

Andrea Ramirez, Accounting Clerk

Benita Solano, Cook

Noradeli Soto, Cook

Gilberto Tarula, Custodian

Veronica Ventura, GES Childcare Worker

Robert Wallace, GES Special Education Teacher

Extra Duty:

Megan Gomez, Middle School Volleyball Coach

Josh Lee, Middle School Football Coach

Richard Luna, Middle School Football Coach

Adelita Ruiz, Middle School Volleyball Coach

Jorge Vera, Middle School Soccer Coach

7.2 Approve

Contract Change / Renewal:

Fenya Aman, from FLC Assistant to Student Advocate & Behavior Management Coordinator

Erica Ramon, from Cook to Lead Cook

Recall:

7.3 Approve

Resignation/Retire/Termination/Non-Renewal:

Todd O'Connor, GHS Teacher (effective October 1st)

Fenya Aman, GMS Student Council Advisor

Decline:

Reduction in Force:

7.4 Approve

2022 Graduation Date

Gervais School District#1 Board of Directors approves the Graduation Date for the 2021-2022 school year as, Saturday, June 4, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

7.5 Approve

2021-2022

Gervais School District #1 Board of Directors approves out-state travel for Megan Dilson to the National Association of Agriculture Teachers Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, from November 29 to December 3, 2021.

7.6 Approve

Appoint Budget Officer for 2022-23

Gervais District#1 Board of Directors appoints business manager Caryn Davis, as budget officer for 2022-23 budget.

Motion:

There was a motion made by Director A. Contreras and seconded by Director Caballero that the Gervais School District Board of Directors approves the consent items as listed en masse on the agenda. The motion passed 4-0. (Director Toran absent)

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

Oregon School Board Association (OSBA) Elections

8.1 OSBA Legislative Policy Committee Position 11

8.2 OSBA Legislative Policy Committee Position 12

Ms. Stevens said that two positions are currently open on a regional level if any board member is interested in serving in a regional capacity.

The board members did not show interest.

9.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 Board & Superintendent's Working Agreement

Director Contreras said that she and Director Bustamante shared important things to keep but would like input from others.

Ms. Stevens said that this would be an item that will be discussed at the Working Session on October 7th.

9.2 Strategic Plan

Ms. Stevens said that the Strategic Plan will be translated and that it has been presented to all the staff. She shared the number of committee members that got involved for the past year and the background process used for the Strategic Planning. Ms. Stevens proceeded to share the purpose of the vision, mission, and representation of the logo. She said that administrators would be in charge of specific goals and will share quarterly with the school board, and everyone will be held accountable for what we say that will do. She added that next Spring would reconvene to move forward for the next 2-3 years and bring Mr. Colona in again to help the district move the committee forward.

Director M. Contreras said that this encompasses all that Gervais is about, listening to all administrator's reports. She noted that this encompasses K-12 grades and is glad to see the district's direction.

Ms. Stevens said that this community is going through a lot of shifting of things that are going on surrounding the district and she feels that for a small district, there are numerous opportunities that bigger districts offer.

9.3 Board Goals

This agenda item was deferred to the working session scheduled for October 7th.

9.4 Superintendent Goals

This agenda item was deferred to the working session scheduled for October 7th.

9.5 Letter

Director A. Contreras said that the board had discussed before making a resolution and determined that it was best to do a letter in regards to local control. Director A. Contreras said that the point of this letter is to make the community aware that as a board, they support local choice. She shared all the things the district has done to follow healthy protocols and gone beyond expectations. She said that she understands that there have been many concerns going on in the community and that they may feel that they do not have a voice. This letter is to indicate that the Gervais board has taken measures.

Ms. Stevens said that the next step would be for the school board to make a motion to proceed to send this letter on letterhead and include the Governor.

There was a brief discussion about the difference between a resolution and a letter. The superintendent represents the staff, and the board represents voters/community when writing this letter to officials.

Motion:

There was a motion made by Director A. Contreras and seconded by Director Caballero that the Gervais School District Board of Directors approve to date the letter as of September 14, add Governor Brown, and put it on letterhead. The motion passed 4-0. (Director Toran was absent)

9.6 Pre-Bond Planning Committee

Ms. Stevens shared the following update regarding the Pre-Bond Planning Committee

- The committee has met twice. The first meeting was about dreaming big and the last meeting held was more a reality check on how to represent the community to pass a bond.
- The committee will visit two districts that have passed a bond; North Marion and Santiam Canyon.
- Dr. Taylor and her department will create a survey ready to launch for parent/teacher conferences.
- The rest of the community will get a paper copy of the survey.

- We will be holding community engagement meetings and relying on different individuals/stakeholders to connect to the community.

There was further discussion about looking at a remodeling option for the Gervais community since building a brand new school is very expensive. There was also discussion about urban growth in Gervais due to the city sewer and water capacity, and there are not very many big properties that Gervais has to grow.

9.7 Vaccination Status Update

Ms. Stevens said she would be sending a letter to the community that she is currently working on the vaccine mandate. She said that the district has 179 employees, and only about 8% asked for an exception, and she will be able to meet with those employees individually. The district has had some situations but nothing extreme. The district is currently facing the problem of no subs to cover, and it's an alarming situation. Another disruptive problem is food not being available from suppliers or suppliers canceling our orders. She said that Ms. Fitz-Henry does an excellent job of piecing meals together when there is a shortage, but she feels it's important that the community knows what is going on. She said that in her letter, she would also remind people that when we visit another district to watch games that we are guests at their homes and be respectful of their protocols.

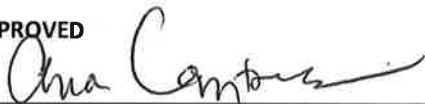
10.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

11.0 ADJOURN

11.1 Adjourn Regular Session

Director Bustamante adjourned the Regular Session at 8:03 p.m.

APPROVED



Board Chairperson



Board Secretary

