

**Gervais School District #1
School Board Regular Session Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 20, 2022**

REGULAR SESSION

Director Bustamante called the School Board of Gervais School District #1, Marion County, into a Regular Session on Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. via ZOOM online. Board members present included: Henry Bustamante, Maria Caballero, Ana Contreras, (Director Caballero & Director Toran were absent). Others present included Caryn Davis, Dandy Stevens, and Sandra Segura.

Visitor Guest Book:

Uriel Aguilar Torres, Andrew Aman, Caryn Davis, Kay Gage, Creighton Helms, Bob Martin, Kristen Miles, Julie Powers, Ken Stott, Sylvia Valentine-Garcia

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by a group of elementary students via Zoom.

2.0 INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

School Board Recognition

Ms. Stevens announced that January is School Board Member Recognition Month and thanked the board members on behalf of the administrators for the support/collaboration they have provided for the students.

Ms. Stevens read a proclamation in honor of the school board members.

2.1 Public Forum Sign-Up:

Public Forum Sign-Up included:

None.

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No changes to the minutes.

Motion:

There was a motion made by Director A. Contreras and seconded by Director M. Contreras that the Gervais School District Board of Directors approve the minutes from the Working Session on December 9, 2021, and the minutes from the Regular Session on December 16, 2021. The motion passed 3-0. (Director Caballero and Director Toran were absent)

4.0 PUBLIC FORUM:

None.

REPORTS

Student Council Report:

Uriel Aguilar reported that the staff versus student competition has been postponed due to safety reasons. Uriel said the student leadership has started planning for prom. The theme for prom will be "red carpet," and it will be held at the Mt. Angel events center in April. The Gervais FFA has two state officer candidates; Dresen Ferchweisler and Uriel Aguilar. FFA members will be voting at the State convention that will take place in March. Uriel thanked the board on behalf of the high school leadership students for everything that they do.

Administrators Reports:

Ms. Stevens stated that oral reports would be given in addition to the written reports from the high school and federal

preschool/daycare/program.

High School:

Mr. Stott and Mr. Aman reported the following updates for the high school building.

- P.A.W.S room has been at total capacity.
- Secretaries have been quite busy tracking exposure due to increasing COVID cases.
- The Counselor & the office manager have started working on the master schedule for next year. The goal is to do forecasting electronically.
- Youthtruth survey data will be reviewed.
- The Healthy Teens survey will be ready to launch soon and will help guide any what interventions that need to be implemented next semester.
- Examples of equity lenses will be shared with Ms. Stevens to review before presenting to the school board.
- Survey data will be reviewed to see any patterns, and GHS will have a formal plan by the end of the year.
- Attendance has decreased. The average attendance for January is 73%.
- Students and teachers are doing well with wearing masks.
- Tracers have been very handy in tracking students down to prevent sending too many students home.

Federal/Preschool/Daycare Programs Report:

Ms. Valentine-Garcia shared the following regarding the early learning program.

- Serve students from two months old until they are ready to enter kindergarten.
- The learning center is part of the district's meal program.
- Staff receives professional development on a regular basis.
- Staff can move step levels by taking professional development opportunities since they are part of the Oregon registry.
- There is the capacity to serve 53 students, and the district is looking into adding more slots through grants.
- There is an actual curriculum taught at the preschool and daycare program. The preschool curriculum is aligned to what is being taught at the elementary. Students learn three languages in the preschool program; English, Russian, and American sign language. The students learn about other cultures too.
- The only early learning program in the area that provides transportation for the students.
- Daycare program hours accommodate working parents.

There was further discussion by the group regarding the cost of daycare services and the capacity of the daycare and preschool program.

Financial Report:

Ms. Davis shared the following things that stood out from the audit report.

- Individuals who retire from the district can continue their insurance through the district at a discounted price before they qualify for medicare. Due to the greater medical needs of retirees who purchase district insurance, the numbers increase for the district.
- The district came out less negative on the total net position, which is a good thing.
- The ending fund balance is more than expected due to the measures taken by the district to guard the funds.
- Increased costs and decreasing enrollment will have a direct impact on the district's unappropriated ending fund balance at the end of the 2021-22 fiscal year and will impact decisions for the 2022-23 budget.

The school board praised Ms. Davis for her thorough job on the audit.

There was a brief discussion on how often the district switches auditors.

Superintendent Report:

Ms. Stevens said that she will give her report during discussion items later in the agenda.

6.0 BOARD FOCUS/MEMBER TOPICS:

None.

7.0 CONSENT ITEMS:

7.1 Approve

New Hire / Temporary/Rehire:

Marisol Valle, GHS ELL Instructional Assistant

Extra Duty:

Xaden Ramon, GMS Basketball Coach

7.2 Approve

Contract Change / Renewal:

Recall:

7.3 Approve

Resignation/Retire/Termination/Non-Renewal:

Decline:

Reduction in Force:

7.4 Approve

Motion:

There was a motion made by Director A. Contreras and seconded by Director M. Contreras that the Gervais School District Board of Directors approve the consent items as listed en masse on the agenda. The motion passed 3-0 (Director Caballero & Director Toran were absent).

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Audit Approval

Motion:

There was a motion made by Director A. Contreras and seconded by Director M. Contreras that the Gervais School District #1 Board of Directors approve the 2020-21 audited financial statements as presented by Ms. Caryn Davis, Business Manager. The motion passed 3-0 (Director Caballero and Director Toran were absent).

8.2 OSBA Board Member Position 12, Marion Region

Comments:

No nominations.

9.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 Superintendent Evaluation

Ms. Miles (OSBA representative) asked the board members to review and select their top three standards from a list of eight to base the survey questions for evaluating the superintendent.

There was a brief discussion about having a well-balanced survey to get input from staff and parents by including the same number of questions asked from the staff and parents. It was discussed that the survey needs to be broad and not have too many questions to prevent fatigue.

Ms. Miles stated that the board members would not get to see the questions on the survey before it goes to the public to eliminate the temptations of wanting to change the questions. However, she said that board members would get to see the results.

There was a brief discussion on the process and when the survey will go out to staff and parents.

9.2 Work Session with City Council

Director Bustamante reported that he and Ms. Stevens approached the Gervais City Council about coming together to discuss topics that affect both the city and the district. Unfortunately, the City Council was not entirely receptive to the idea, reporting that they did not have the time to invest in one more things but agreed to work on meeting once a year.

There was a brief discussion about the information that was shared in the presentation to the City Council.

Ms. Stevens said that she plans to invite the city council members in to see the bond plans located in the district office because they did not seem to recall all the priorities that were presented to them earlier in the year.

9.3 Bond Update

Ms. Stevens gave the following update about the bond:

- Have ordered education materials; boards to exhibit priorities/plans for each of the buildings.
- The district hired two experienced professionals to assist with submitting the proper paperwork to file to go for a bond. The cost for this expense is only charged if the bond passes.
- The district is also applying for a seismic grant worth 2.5 M. The grant requires that an engineer is hired to sign off on it and file it.
- The district received a turf grant but would need to collect more funds to re-surface the soccer and football field. She has contacted an individual with a very effective strategy to partner with businesses to sponsor the funds and then get a tax write-off. The plan is to invite businesses to gather in an event after hours to ask about partnering. If that strategy does not work, the remaining money needs to come out of the bond to finish the fields.
- Recruiting will begin soon to form a political action committee made up of at least ten core people who can be in charge.

There was a brief discussion about distributing materials early to start the bond work.

9.4 Policy First Reading

ACB: Every Student Belongs

Ms. Stevens said that this policy is going for a first reading and that there is not much of an option other than to acknowledge some specific symbols of hate and that they can be a trigger for students not feeling safe.

9.5 Update on Administrative Positions at GES and GHS

Ms. Stevens announced that she met with the elementary staff to let them know about the principal search that the district will begin in late February. She said that currently, she is working on a job description to prepare for posting on specific job boards. She also shared that she met with the high school staff and announced that Mr. Aman would be serving as interim principal next school year for continuity and to give him a chance to explore whether he would like to stay. Mr. Aman is well-liked by the staff.

Mr. Aman stated that he is very excited about the opportunity and looks forward to maintaining continuity until things go back to normal.

9.6 Safe Routes to Schools Summary

Ms. Stevens said that what was included in the board packet is a preliminary design that lists who is responsible for the goals. Some things from the list are the district's responsibility, and some are the responsibility of ODOT and the city. She indicated that this agenda item would be discussed again at February's board meeting before the resolution moves forward.

10.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

11.0 ADJOURN

11.1 Adjourn Regular Session

Director Bustamante adjourned the Regular Session at 7:39 p.m.

APPROVED



Board Chairperson



Board Secretary