

**Gervais School District #1
School Board Regular & Executive Session
Meeting Minutes Thursday, January 19, 2023**

REGULAR SESSION

Director Bustamante called the School Board of Gervais School District #1, Marion County, into a Regular Session on Thursday, November 17, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. Board members present included: Henry Bustamante, Maria Caballero, and Ana Contreras (Director M. Contreras and Director Toran were absent). Others present included Dandy Stevens and Sandra Segura.

Visitor Guest Book:

Andrew Aman, Tucker Brack, Tim Batiuk, Creighton Helms, Beau Neal, Dusty Price, Ashtyn Sattergen, Katie Schweitzer, Todd Schweitzer, Charlene Weidemann, Toni Williams-Johnson and Melissa Wofer.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

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

Ms. Stevens announced that the elementary students would lead today's pledge of allegiance.

Elementary students proceeded with the pledge of allegiance and gave gifts to the school board in appreciation for their service.

2.0 INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

▪ **School Board Recognition**

Ms. Stevens thanked the board members for their service to the district and informed them about the gifts the different schools brought to honor them.

▪ **Timeline to Apply for Board Member (Feb. 4- March 16)**

Ms. Stevens reminded those board members whose positions will be up on June 30, 2023, to file their application anytime from February 4 to March 16 if they intend to run for the May election.

▪ **OSBA Asking for Nominations for Legislative Policy Committee (LPC)**

Ms. Stevens informed the board members that OSBA is currently seeking nominations for Legislative Policy Committee members, if any wish to apply, Ms. Segura has more details.

▪ **FCA Annual Presentation**

Ms. Stevens announced that Frontier Charter School would be doing its annual presentation and asked them to proceed.

The Frontier Charter School team presented the following (presenters: Tim Batiuk, Beau Neal, Katie Schweitzer, Todd Schweitzer, and Melissa Wolfer:

- Provided a brief history of how Frontier Charter School was founded and how the founders wanted to do things differently than other online schools. Over the years, enrollment has increased rapidly, but since COVID hit, enrollment has decreased some. Enrollment is keeping steady now.
- The school's mission statement was read to the group. It has not changed, and it's very relevant to what they teach.
- Offer intentional art classes that will provide the tools students need in the professional world. An example of an assignment from a digital design class was shown to the group.
- Data was provided on student ethnicity, gender, location of students, and staff information by position. The slides showed that the school has more males, a high number of Caucasians, and a diverse geographic student population that lives all over Oregon.
- The state pays schools based on student membership. FCA received less money because they were paid on enrollment based on the second quarter for the 2019-2020 school year, but afterward, enrollment spiked. Showed a slide that included a statement of activities. Noted that the audit had not been finalized, but the numbers should stay the same. FCA received less money last year and spent a little bit more using savings that had been put aside. It was noted that the salaries listed on the slide included grant funds, which is why it shows an increase in the numbers for wages.

Administrators Report:

Gervais Elementary School

Mr. Price reported the following highlights for elementary school.

- Students' interventions in reading and ELD are intentional.
- Tutoring for ELD students will start soon to prepare them for the ELPA test.
- Monthly educational assemblies are happening with different guest speakers.
- The Latinx grant has brought endless opportunities for kids to join after school clubs. The elementary has several opportunities for students to join clubs like chess, photography, STEAM, violin, lego, etc., and be challenged.
- Family nights have been engaging for the whole family. Activities have been successful. Up to forty families showed up to the last family night and had lots of fun.
- Was awarded \$2500 from the STEAM hub to plan a coding night.

Mr. Price concluded his report by thanking everyone for all the support his building has received to make opportunities happen for students.

There was a brief discussion about the violin club being kept small to ten students to make it more effective. The club has a very low turnover of interest, and almost the same amount of kids have continued being part of the club. Only two kids swapped out of the club. The school makes these kids aware that they are fortunate to have such a club at the elementary level because it's not very common for elementary to have this type of club.

Gervais Middle School

Ms. Johnson reported the following highlights for middle school.

- Mr. Hill and the leadership students led the food drive successfully. Families appreciated the food boxes and presents, and the staff and students enjoyed being part of this good deed.
- The staff at the middle school are focusing on 8th graders because there are only two weeks left of the semester. There is a study hall after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 50-55 minutes to get students the grades up, especially for the eighth graders.
- The middle school has started with i-Ready diagnostics (done three times during the year). Math and Language Arts have started to see how students are progressing. The middle school started a reward system for students who meet their diagnostics goals. Middle schoolers can be part of a small party if they meet their goal halfway in Language Arts and Math. If they meet one goal halfway for Language Arts or Math, students get a pop and chips. There is a second quarter reward, and it happens to be complete on Valentine's Day to go to Langers. All activities are inside. If students have straight A's for the second quarter, they can go for free to Langers. If the students earn A's and B's, they would only pay five dollars. The regular price is about \$35. There are 100 slots available. Students are trying hard to get their grades up. ELLs and students with disabilities will have the opportunity to go as long as they do the best of their ability.
- Students are preparing for next semester and are selecting 2-3 electives of their choice. This is a new concept for GMS kids to choose their electives, including some at the high school. It's very exciting to see them have more options.

Gervais High School

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

- Shared that extra Inklings Newspapers were brought in case anyone was interested in a copy.
- It was reported that several students are failing one or more classes, and conversations are happening with those students. It was discussed that it's more challenging compared to lower levels to come up with rewards for older students to improve their grades.
- Semester two will start with a new start time, and we will see if there is an increase in tardies. Mr. Brack will be handling

Three primary factors drove this:

1. In the 2021-22 fiscal year, there was nothing budgeted for potential charter school transfers into the general fund. This year the district budgeted \$360K. This amount will most likely stay there.
2. In 2021-2022, the district used ESSER funds for capital expenses and spent over \$300K, but in 2022-2023 the district only spent \$8K. Funds were budgeted into that account just in case they were needed, but funds have not been used.
3. The biggest entry was that last year the district did the PERS bond entry, which included \$3.9 million. This was a paper entry that was dated back to August. Even though this was done the previous year, it's still showing in the reports compared to the prior year. Ms. Davis asked if there were any further questions for her.

Superintendent Report

Ms. Stevens reported that the marketing company "Millennial Reach Agency" will start interviewing community members/business owners and ask them about 10-15 questions in relation to what new facilities could do to benefit our kids and community to create an ad. The second ad will be student-focused. Names have already been sent to the agency to start the interviewing process. Ms. Stevens referenced the Willamette Career Academy flyer. She added that the academy had its open house last week, and the Gervais Mayor, City Manager, and high school staff members attended. They provided information in terms of the success that students are having by attending this academy and the different programs they offer. She indicated that the leadership from the academy and the ESD would be lobbying Oregon legislators to provide additional funding for the academy. They will be asking for \$2.85 million to fund the academy. All the superintendents that are part of the academy will be advocating for these funds. Ms. Stevens added that Tracy Cramer, our local representative, will be touring our buildings after they have a debrief to help her understand the importance of the SIA funds generated from the corporate tax. She will help her understand what the corporate tax provides the district. The lobbyist has also tapped Cramer for the Willamette Academy for funding. Ms. Stevens said she would provide more details about the tour with Representative Cramer.

6.0 BOARD FOCUS/MEMBER TOPICS:

None.

7.0 CONSENT ITEMS:

7.1 Approve

New Hire / Temporary/Rehire:

Kay Gage, GES Teacher (re-hire)

Amisadai Hernandez, Daycare Worker

Extra Duty:

Saysha Breitmeyer, Academic Tutor

Michelle Chase, Evening Tutor Coordinator

Jonah Gates, Academic Tutor

Elizabeth Obendorf, Academic Tutor

Lisa Ludwikoski, Evening Tutor Coordinator

Rafael Ruiz, Unified (Special Olympics) Basketball

Emily Schneider, Academic Tutor

Mayra Vazquez, Unified (Special Olympics) Basketball

Charlene Weidemann, Wellness Champion

7.2 Approve

Contract Change / Renewal:

Kay Gage, GES Teacher (retire)

Esperanza Rivera, Preschool Assistant

Recall:

7.3 Approve

Resignation/Retire/Termination/Non-Renewal:

School District #1 Board of Directors approves to delete policy IGBBC-AR. The motion passed 3-0. (Director ^MA. Contreras and Director M. Caballero were absent)
Toran

9.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 Bond Update

Comments:

Ms. Stevens said that she handed out several documents that were not part of the board packet. The first document that she referenced was the combined projects document. She said that at the working session, the board provided input on the important projects they felt were a priority, and these were taken back to the pre-bond committee. Rebecca Stuecker created a revised excel spreadsheet, adding the important things that the board members felt needed to be included.

Ms. Stevens highlighted a few things from the projects list:

- On the elementary school project list, the HVAC upgrades were highlighted, ESSER III funds could be used, or if the district gets the Renew America Grant, it could be funded that way. If the district gets the Renew America Grant, it could pay for HVAC, air quality, windows, air conditioning, and roofing. The total of the grant is \$300 million. It was noted that only eight districts in the state of Oregon have applied for this grant, and it is felt that Gervais has a good opportunity of getting the grant. The concept paper will be submitted on January 26th, and then they will give feedback about whether they would like to consider the district project to move forward. The district should hear back about the grant anytime between June – September. It was noted that the district would list every project that would qualify for this grant. The district could ask for up to \$4 million.
- It was noted that the items highlighted in blue in the project list would be taken care of with grant money or other sources (excise funds, money generated from sponsoring Frontier Charter Academy, etc.)
- Referenced the seismic grant and noted that we will hear back in April if the district gets it that way; it can be used as a selling point for the bond.
- On the middle school project list, the project “outdoor learning & gathering spaces for kids” is included in the draft language for the bond that will come to the board next month for approval. Optionally this could be paid out of the capital improvement funds or excise tax funds. Other items highlighted will be covered by the maintenance budget because the district can afford them.
- On the high school project lists, bond dollars could cover extra lockers for the high school, or the district will cover the costs through other sources. On the outdated technology equipment “Renew America Grant” also pays for technology upgrades. The major HVAC issues at the high school could be paid for with grant or bond funds.
- Football/soccer lighting also could be covered by the “Renew America Grant.” Because it’s energy upgrades.
- The other referenced document was a draft copy listing all major projects the district will cover if the bond passes. The language used is written in broad terms for all the projects that will be done for each building.

Some of the things that were included in the document are as follows:

- \$4 million state grant is available only if the bonds are approved.
- Bonds will mature in 25 years or less from the date of issuance and may be issued in one or more series.
- Bond tax rate estimated at \$1.97 per \$1,000.00 assessed value.
- Included is a list of projects for each building on construction and improvements.

Ms. Stevens said that concept drawings are made of the new additions to give the public a visual of what the building would look like if the bond passes. She indicated that she would also create an informational flyer in English/Spanish to answer questions voters might have had before that made them vote “no” on the last bond attempt. She expressed that if the board is okay with how things are progressing, she will reach out to an attorney to assist and get it filed.