

**Gervais School District #1
School Board Regular & Executive Session
Meeting Minutes Thursday, February 16, 2023**

REGULAR SESSION

Director Bustamante called the School Board of Gervais School District #1, Marion County, into a Regular Session on Thursday, February 16, 2023, at 6:04 p.m. Board members present included: Henry Bustamante, Maria Caballero, Ana Contreras, Maria Contreras, and Angie Toran. Others present included Dandy Stevens and Sandra Segura.

Visitor Guest Book:

Andrew Aman, Lenthal Kaup, Mark Chase, Creighton Helms, Esther Oropeza, Dusty Price, and Charlene Weidemann.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

Director Bustamante called the School Board Meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2.0 INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Stevens reminded the board members that the window to run for board members to submit an application to run for office opens the first week of March.

Ms. Stevens announced that the district received a GEAR UP grant of \$100K per year for seven years. She stated that these funds would bring more opportunities for 6-12th students to explore options on what they would like to do after they graduate.

Classified Appreciation Month March 6-10, 2023

Ms. Stevens thanked the classified group for their commitment to our students and asked the board chair to proclaim a resolution to celebrate the classified employees. Esther Oropeza and Charlene Weidemann were present to represent the classified union group.

Director Bustamante read the classified resolution to the group.

The board members thanked the classified group for their commitment to our students.

2.1 Public Forum Sign-Up:

No one signed up to speak.

Public Forum Sign-Up included:

Director Bustamante reminded the public that if they signed up to speak, to make sure that comments were kept brief and concise and within the time limit of three minutes.

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Director Bustamante asked the board members if they had any corrections to the board minutes from the Regular Session on December 16, 2022, and the Working Session on January 3, 2023.

Director A. Contreras said that she found minor grammatical errors that have already been shared with the board secretary to fix.

Motion:

There was a motion made by Director A. Contreras and seconded by Director M. Caballero that the Gervais School District Board of Directors approve the minutes from the Regular & Executive Session on January 19, 2023. The motion passed 5-0.

4.0 PUBLIC FORUM:

Lenthal Kaup and Mark Chase.

Director Bustamante read the public forum process written on the agenda when the public speaks.

Mr. Kaup stated that he noticed that the district would be going for another bond at the May 2023 elections. He suggested that the district prioritize and complete projects one at a time, so they are not as expensive to complete. He said that he realizes that many things need to get done, such as replacements and repairs to fix leak problems, but he does not like that the district is borrowing money to complete the projects. He said he would prefer the district use its money and not get into debt.

Mr. Chase (Gervais Police Chief) recognized Lieutenant West, Officer Carlos Camacho, and Officer Rice for their work with kids. A badge with kids' statements was read by Chief Chase. Chief Chase asked Officer Camacho to introduce himself to the board.

Officer Camacho shared his background with the group.

Chief Chase said that DARE's graduation was this week. He said it was a great event that included several guests, such as superintendent Dandy Stevens, City Manager Susie Marston, and City Mayor Annie Gilland. Mr. Chase shared details about two incidents that happened in the community. One was a "kidnapping" incident that involved community members. He shared that after gathering information, the police department came to the conclusion that the incident did not hold a public threat, which for some people in a small community, could be alarming. He said that Lieutenant West is taking on the investigation and can not discuss more details regarding that matter due to confidential reasons. The other incident was the gentleman walking along Douglas AVE caused the Gervais Police to notify the district to do a "lockdown" to be safe since it was so close to the schools. Chief Chase commended Ms. Stevens and the staff for handling the situation well and making quick decisions to keep students safe.

REPORTS

Student Council:

Ashtyn Sattergen (Student Council President) reported the following highlights for student activities at the high school.

- Had a game at the spirit assembly on February 9th for Unified basketball, had one away game, one home game, and one tournament. The team includes FLC students in Ms. Bustamante's class and student volunteers. The student participation was great.
- ASB has been running concessions at basketball games and partners with other clubs to raise money.
- Boys and girls basketball played a game at the MODA center against Kennedy. The game was well attended.
- Prom will be at Vanderbeck Valley Farm on April 29, and the theme is The Great Gatsby.
- Currently working on spirit week for Prom. Shared details on dress-up days and possibly a volleyball match.
- The Inkling released the last issue focused on the FLC students and their basketball team and game at the MODA Center.
- Unified games were a success.
- Seniors are planning a basketball fundraiser.

Administrators Report:

Federal Programs

Dr. Helms reported the following highlights.

Special Education

- The district is going through an ODE Cohort A Validation Process. Dr. Helms shared details of how the process works and added that they select a certain number of sped files to review. No huge concerns/flags have been brought to the attention of the district, only minor things that can be fixed. There is much work involved to be in compliance with the State. It was reported that currently, case managers are loaded with their workload. Student behaviors have escalated and been challenging as case managers ensure students are serviced and compliant with the state.
- Unified game was a great success and had an incredible season. The students and staff worked very hard to make this happen. It was shared that there are unified teams that go national. A video was shared with the audience.

ELD Program

- Started the ELPA testing season.
- Trying a strategic approach this year. The district is not starting with the linear strategy that was used in the past. This year testing started with the newcomers because they are the least likely to pass the test on their first try. That way, they have more weeks to be given instruction on what they learn to pass the test while testing is going on with other students. A gift was given to ELD students before taking the test to motivate them to do well and to thank them for working hard during the year. A picture was shared of an ELD student teaching a newcomer how to count up to twenty, which captures why staff does what they do to see student success.

Early Learning Program

- Daycare/Preschool Program-Currently, numbers are at capacity with 54 students. Consistent staffing is hard to sustain due to the nature of the job. It has been beneficial the hiring Early Learning Coordinator, Elizabeth Flores, who has brought us some of her headstart knowledge. A list of the significant changes was shared regarding facilities improvements, lots of supplies, new curriculum, professional development, consistent coaching, additional support staff, a garden area, an updated student handbook, and a new communication app called "Brightwheel."

Federal Programs Audit

- District is going through an audit that collects artifacts around standards compliance reports, staff positions, Title

IA, private school equitable services, McKinney-Vento, and foster care. 18 artifacts are due by March 17, 2023, but I anticipate submitting them on March 2, 2023.

Counseling Program

- Using DESSA MOY, a tool used for social-emotional learning. Data is used to create small groups. The window closes soon.
- The district has been selected as a case study for BASE. Jill Woodard, Fenya Aman, and Dr. Helms were interviewed, and this will be put out nationwide as part of their PR for BASE to learn how it is used. The video will be available in three weeks.
- WESD is looking at hiring more behavior specialists that will be used in the same way as speech specialists. The WESD will start staffing certain schools. Gervais will be one of the first schools that the WESD will staff.
- Spring Heath Fair-It will be something similar to what was done previously. Nurses continue to be very busy with flu season still going on. Having received a Willamette Health Council grant, Mr. McCargar and his students are building a health booth to roll out to different events. Phase two of the health community center is going great. Although Salem Hospital did back away as a sponsor. That means the district must search for other options to bring the services.

There was a brief discussion about whether funding was a factor in backing away from sponsoring the health center.

Equity Committee Report

Mr. Price and Mr. Aman reported the following update on behalf of the Equity Committee.

- A lot of the work came about from the Strategic Plan and the Resolution that the School Board approved.
- Other staff members have joined the committee, which allows bringing different perspectives. The newest members of the committee are Marci Lister and Aloha Yoshinaga.
- The work done so far by the committee has been very genuine.
- The committee sent out a survey to staff and parents. The participation was low. Questions asked on the survey were about how the district can serve students better or if there are additional resources that are needed.
- Quotes from parents and staff from the input received from the survey.
- The intention of the equity lens is that it's used and that it is not a document that is put away on the shelves.
- This tool will be used with the after-school program and ask questions to make sure that we are being equitable.
- The goal is that equity is being practiced for all students and staff.
- This tool will be used for all events.
- The committee used the lens with attendance practices to ensure we are equitable.
- The committee members will be assigned to other groups to make sure that we are asking the questions and are being equitable.
- The conversations that are taking place are rich discussions and essential for the demographics that we serve.
- Shared data on average graduation rate compared to the state. Data shows our staff does not give up on kids.

Ms. Stevens shared that the administrators met with WESD to learn how to enter discipline in one dashboard, which has not been done before. It will take some time to get it accurate, but it will be beneficial to set the stage for administrators to see who is being disciplined. All this work is grounded in state law. It's not required until 2025, but administrators wanted to start earlier since it's connected to the Strategic Plan.

There was a brief discussion that this tool would be very useful.

Financial Report

No report.

Superintendent Report

Ms. Stevens said that Ms. Davis is out on vacation. Ms. Stevens shared that soon it will be the budget season and said that she wanted to share some financial information for the board to consider when planning to get projects done. Due to the new construction and remodels around the district's boundaries, the district collected \$249K from excise tax, a large sum. She indicated that aside from Ivy Woods's new development, that is no more land in Gervais to grow, unless the City of Gervais extends urban growth boundary. After this large lump from three years of excise tax, the district will see only a small amount coming in. The other source where the district gets money is from renting facilities. The district was able to collect \$39K, which will be used for the grant for renters/homeowners to be able to pay for the extra amount charged on their taxes if the bond passes. There is also the energy grant which is dependent on what the legislative body sets aside. There are no more buildings to sell in the district. The amounts that she has mentioned are not enough to finish all the repairs, and it takes years to save it. Ms. Stevens stated that the district needs to replace the gym in the high school (replacement costs are about \$320-345K). Restoration is not an option due to its conditions. She expressed that she hopes the district will get the funds from the seismic grant to pay for this. Another area is the lack of compliance exits.

Many repairs have been taken care of with grant funds to get the district in a position to apply for other grants. Other things that are still pending are negotiations (both groups), the unknown of what the governor will be proposing budget-wise for schools, and accommodating special education students.

Director Toran left the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

6.0 BOARD FOCUS/MEMBER TOPICS:

Director Ana Contreras stated that she would like the board to go to the City Council to talk about all the positive things happening in the district. She would like a list of what the district has done in the last couple of years and give them another opportunity to support the bond. She would like to present a list of all the grants, Unified Sports, Spanish classes, Moda Center opportunity, walking path, turf grant, set up a grant for property tax, and mention all the apps available to our parents and community, etc. Director Ana Contreras would also like to ask the City Council how the district can partner to set a plan for urban growth. She would like to get on the City Council agenda and continue to work with them until things sink in of how important it is to make changes.

Ms. Stevens will contact the City to get on the agenda.

7.0 CONSENT ITEMS:

7.1 Approve

New Hire / Temporary/Rehire:

Francisco Botello, Part-time Custodian

Extra Duty:

Fenya Aman, Pageant Advisor

Alexander Camacho, Middle School Boys Basketball Coach

Mitchell Kruse, High School Assistant Track Coach

7.2 Approve

Contract Change / Renewal:

Recall:

7.3 Approve

Resignation/Retire/Termination/Non-Renewal:

Tucker Brack, GMS/GHS Athletic Director & TOSA Assistant Principal

Fernando Mendoza, Student Custodian

Michael Mulkerin, GHS Girls Soccer Coach

Decline:

Reduction in Force:

7.4 Approve

Licensed Teachers and Licensed Administrators Renewal Probationary Employee Contracts

Gervais School District#1 Board of Directors approves the Licensed Teachers and Licensed Administrators Renewal Probationary Employee Contracts, as shown in agenda item 02-23.7.4.

7.5 Approve

Licensed Teachers and Licensed Administrators Contract Employee Extensions

Gervais School District#1 Board of Directors approves the Licensed Teachers and Licensed Administrators Contract Employees Extensions, as shown in agenda item 02-23.7.5.

7.6 Approve

Out-of-State Travel

Gervais District#1 Board of Directors approves out-of-state travel for the 4th and 5th grades to attend a field trip to Fort Vancouver on June 9, 2023, as shown on agenda items 01-23-7.4.

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 consent items as listed en masse on the agenda. The motion passed 3-0. (Director M. Contreras and Director Toran were absent)

left the meeting early

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

8.2 Establish a Number for Interdistrict Transfers

Motion:

There was a motion made by Director A. Contreras and seconded by Director Caballero that the Gervais School District #1 approve 100 students to transfer in and 100 students to transfer out of the district. The motion passed 4-0. (Director Toran left the meeting early)

8.3 Bond Resolution

Motion:

There was a motion made by Director A. Contreras and seconded by Director Caballero that the Gervais School District #1 approve the bond resolution for the amount not to exceed \$24,490,000. The motion passed 4-0. (Director Toran left the meeting early)

8.4 Willamette ESD Local Service Plan 2023-2025

Ms. Stevens said that this is a list of the services that the district receives from the WESD but needs yearly approval from the board.

Motion:

There was a motion made by Director A. Contreras and seconded by Director M. Caballero that the Gervais School District #1 approve the local service plan as listed on agenda item 02-23-8.3.1. The motion passed 4-0. (Director Toran left the meeting early)

9.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 School Calendar 2023-2024

Comments:

Ms. Stevens said that the administrators had reviewed three options for the school calendar for 2023-2024 and chose "Option A," as presented in the packet. She asked the board members to review and let her know if they had any questions. She indicated that the school calendar is an action item for next month.

9.2 Bond Update

10.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Bustamante called an Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2)(i) "Evaluating the Top Executive" & under ORS 192.660 (2) (d) "Labor Negotiator Consultation."

Director Bustamante adjourned the Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Session.

Director Bustamante read the Superintendent's Evaluation Public Statement.

11.0 ADJOURN

11.1 Adjourn Regular Session

Director Bustamante adjourned the Regular Session at 8:28 p.m.

APPROVED

Board Chairperson

Board Secretary

