

Gervais School District #1
School Board Regular & Executive Session
Meeting Minutes Tuesday, May 17, 2023

Wednesday

REGULAR SESSION

Director A. Contreras called the School Board of Gervais School District #1, Marion County, into a Regular Session on Tuesday, May 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Board members present included: Ana Contreras, Maria Contreras and Angie Toran (Director Caballero and Director Bustamante were absent). Others present included Dandy Stevens and Sandra Segura.

Visitor Guest Book:

Caryn Davis, Creighton Helms, Lenthal Kaup

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

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

2.0 INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Retirees

Ms. Stevens said there would be retiree celebrations soon and she would provide details to the board members if they wish to attend them. She also mentioned that there would be an end-of-the-year all-staff celebration and extended an invitation to the board members.

She stated that previously it had been discussed that licensing would be on May's agenda for approval, but they are waiting to be done with the classified negotiations to approve both simultaneously.

2.1 Public Forum Sign-Up:

No one signed up to speak.

Public Forum Sign-Up included:

Director A. Contreras 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 A. Contreras asked the board members if they had any corrections to the board minutes from the Regular & Executive Session on April 18, 2023, and the Working & Executive Session on April 4, 2023.

Director M. Contreras said that the Working & Executive Session Minutes date is wrong. It reads, "Thursday, March 16, 2023," and it should read as "Tuesday, April 4, 2023".

Motion:

There was a motion made by Director M. Contreras and seconded by Director Toran that the Gervais School District Board of Directors approve the minutes from the Regular & Executive Session on April 18, 2023, and the Working & Executive Session on April 4, 2023, with the corrections noted. The motion passed 3-0. (Director Bustamante and Director Caballero were absent)

4.0 PUBLIC FORUM:

None.

REPORTS

Student Council:

No student was present to report.

Administrators Report:

Dr. Helms reported the following.

Special Education

- Case managers are busy trying to meet timelines to complete the paperwork and deadlines for eligibility, especially for students transitioning from one school to another. Ensure that questions are asked early, and student files are reviewed before transitioning to the new building.
- Jill Woodard is currently testing and doing more than expected.
- Showed a picture of FLC high school students who took a field trip to Chemeketa and a picture of an FLC student inviting himself to a classroom that he was not assigned to and engaging in a music lesson that was going on in the classroom. Everything kept going as usual with all the kids in the room.

Early Learning

- Preschoolers worked in the greenhouse, planting and hatching butterflies, and took a field trip to the Gilbert House Museum.
- Preschool staff have received a lot of professional development. Hiring the program coordinator to arrange that for staff has benefited the program.
- Had a staff morale mobile escape room event that the staff enjoyed.

Migrant Newcomer

- Nine migrant students will travel to Washington, DC, with all costs paid by the WESD. Two chaperones will be traveling with them. The students will have a full agenda, and getting out of Gervais will be an excellent experience.
- The process for selecting the students to attend the Washington DC trip was explained in detail to the group.

Summer School

- Summer school will be covered by multiple grants and will only be offered to kindergarten jumpstart, 1st to 8th-grade migrant students, and 9-12th credit recovery students this year. The state didn't provide funding to run an entire summer school program. The district was awarded a grant to offer amplified computer science and STEAM in a small learning setting program.

Nurses

- Have been working with Oregon Health to sign the sponsor letter for the school-based health center.
- An architect worked on plans for converting the old Samuel Brown Academy building into a health center. Details are being reviewed thoroughly.
- The plan is to open the health center in September 2024 due to the need to transform the building, looking at details carefully, wanting to be sensitive to what the community would like, and being transparent so things run as smoothly as possible. A survey will be carried out in the next couple of weeks to get input from the community on the needed services.
- Reached out to a pediatrician, and he is willing to donate his time to do sports physicals for students if the health center is not up and running.

Counseling

- The counseling team has been working very hard to work through challenges. Due to being a small district, counselors can see trends in advance to better support students. Counselors will meet during the summer to review end-of-the-year data to set goals for the coming year that are strategic.

ELD

- There are four domains that students focus on for ELPA testing. Two of the domains are listening and reading which students can get during their entire day. Speaking and writing are something that the ELD classes focus on.
- Data was presented for elementary. The data indicates that 6% of elementary EL students reduced their scores, but 94% either maintained or increased by one ELD level. This is a three-year plan, and things reflected well for the first year. Another factor is that things slowed down due to COVID but are starting to pick up again. The same trend is seen for middle school scores.
- It was discussed that different variables play out in students' scores, but many things were done as incentives to boost the students' morale to do their best on the ELPA test.
- Data was shared on ELPA scores compared from spring 2022 to spring 2023 and to state ELPA scores. Students were below state scores in 2022, and this year, students scored above state scores. The increase in test scores reflects the hard work staff put into it, and the reading curriculum that the students used has helped a great deal.
- The data also indicates that GES is on track with improving ELPA scores, especially when looking at writing and speaking data. The data shows growth, indicating that more students will exit ELD in fewer years.
- For GMS/GHS newcomers, the supports that are helping with growth are word walls with words that they are learning in the classroom or are connected to their curriculum and working on the language after school. Another idea mentioned to support the students is pairing them up with leadership students or other student so they have a language partner.
- The data will be analyzed on students constantly using the strategies recommended versus students that did not use them to be able to show that the supports recommended are helping improve language acquisition.
- The three-year ELD program is aggressive in getting ELD students excited. Still, the goal is also to be a predominant district,

so when other school districts ask ODE about references for a good ELD program model, they can be referred to Gervais.

Student Council Report

Ashtyn Sattergen (Student Council President) reported the following things.

- Prom went well, and the students had lots of fun. The students like the theme "The Great Gatsby." Everyone fit well with it.
- The seniors earned the most spirit points and won a trip to Bullwinkle's.
- All the students have been talking about the bond. The students have been buzzing about how nice it would be to have some areas updated if the bond passes.

Financial Report

Ms. Davis reported the following things on the financials for the district.

- General Fund: Year to date, local sources exceeded the budget compared to last year. The main factor is primarily due to taxes.
- She will discuss improvement projects in the June report after the bond results.
- A resolution will be presented in June related to using both modified accrual and modified cash accounting. This is due to GASB 87 and 96. These two new governmental accounting regulations relate to leases and subscription-based information technology arrangements. The auditors are suggesting this change. Modified Cash accounting complies with GASB 87 requirements accounting principles. Information was provided to the district on who uses Modified Cash, and more information will be gathered to ensure that it is the best route for the district to take. Names of different organizations currently using Modified Cash accounting were mentioned, but these organizations do not have to sell bonds.
- More information will be shared at June's board meeting about this resolution.

There was a brief discussion by the group on the types of leases the district is responsible for. The energy grant lease will not be included.

Superintendent Report

Ms. Stevens said that she wanted to give an update on state school funding. The revenue forecast came out today, and things are looking good, with a recommendation of 10.1M for school funding. She indicated that it was recommended by COSA that superintendents contact their state representative, which she did right away to state that \$9.9M was insufficient funding for the district. She said that when she heard back from Tracy Kramer's handler, it was said that representatives are allowed to present five bills. She was also told that Tracy Kramer presented a bill for more funding for Willamette Career Academy and is advocating for \$10.4M. It was defeated the first time it was presented, but now we feel more hopeful it will go through. Ms. Stevens said that she would share more of what it would be like for the district to forecast a \$10.1M school funding. The rest of her report will be discussed during the discussion items.

6.0 BOARD FOCUS/MEMBER TOPICS:

Director A. Contreras shared that she wanted to talk about a parent who called and was wondering if their child could walk at graduation if they did not receive a diploma from Gervais High School. She expressed that she would like to review the policy to see if that is something that can be under the discretion of the superintendent or the school board to approve.

Ms. Stevens said that she would like this to be discussed at the next board meeting, and she will have the policy available to review it.

7.0 CONSENT ITEMS:

Ms. Stevens said that there is a revised consent agenda list for the board's review, and she highlighted for approval that there is an item for one of our science teachers to attend the SSEP National Conference on June -29-30 in Rockville, MD. The students won the ability to send a project to space, and they were invited to the conference.

7.1 Approve

New Hire / Temporary/Rehire:

Jesse Geddes, GES Teacher
Madelyn Mattar, GES Teacher
Kaitlynn Ritoch, GES Teacher
Nicole Vaughn, GES Teacher
Rachel Wilson, GES Teacher

Extra Duty:

7.2 Approve

Contract Change / Renewal:

Kalynn Dees, from GES Teacher to GES TOSA Dean of Students (2023-2024)

Stacey Helm, from GES Teacher to GES Special Education Teacher

Gerardo Jimenez, from GES 1 FTE Counselor to GES .5 FTE Counselor

Sarah Steel, from Temporary FLC Instructional Assistant to Permanent FLC Instructional Assistant

Cassie Miller, from GMS Teacher to GES Physical Education Teacher

Recall:

7.3 Approve

Resignation/Retire/Termination/Non-Renewal:

Crystal Camacho, GMS Secretary

Angelica Cisneros, FLC Instructional Assistant

Megan Dilson, GHS Teacher

Ryan Figura, GHS Teacher

Felipe Gonzalez, Custodian

Lindsay McCargar, Senior Advisor

Vicente Morfin, Custodian

Charmayne Robinson, GES Instructional Assistant, Assistant Girls Basketball Coach

Decline:

Reduction in Force:

Other:

Transfers:

7.4 Approve

Classified and Managers Renewals 2023-2024

Gervais District#1 Board of Directors approves the Classified & Manager Renewal List for 2023-2024 as shown on agenda item 05-23-7.4.1.

7.5 Approve

SSEP National Conference

Gervais District#1 Board of Directors approves travel for Kristen Shirley to the 2023 SSEP National Conference on June 29-30 in Rockville, MD.

7.6 Approve

Annual School Nutrition Conference

Gervais District#1 Board of Directors approves travel for Melinda Fitz-Henry to attend the Annual Nutrition Conference on July 9-11th in Denver.

7.4 Approve

Motion:

There was a motion made by Director M. Contreras and seconded by Director Toran that the Gervais School District #1 approve the consent items listed in masse. The motion passed 3-0. (Director Bustamante and Director Toran were absent)

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Policy Second Reading

EHB: Cybersecurity

IGBHD: Program Exemptions

JGE: Expulsion
JEC: Admissions
KL: Public Complaints

Motion:

There was a motion made by Director A. Contreras and seconded by Director Toran that the Gervais School District #1 approve the policies EHB, IGBHD, JGE, JEC, and KL shown on agenda item 05-23-8.1 with corrections mentioned previously for policy KL. The motion passed 3-0. (Director Bustamante and Director Caballero were absent)

8.2 Textbook Adoption for Math & English Language Learners

Dr. Atwood presented the following on the proposed textbook adoption. The presentation is available online for further details.

- Details on previous/future textbook adoption were shared in regards to the timeline required by the State.
- The state has certain requirements that districts must meet when adopting curriculum.
 - o Must be free and age appropriate to the student.
 - o Must meet State standards.
 - o Meet provisions for students with disabilities to ensure that materials are available and there's a sufficient number available to the students.
 - o Adopt district programs that meet State standards.
 - o Know trends and technology to ensure that the right curriculum is selected.
 - o Must include parents in the process.
 - o Instructional material that aligns with district goals.
 - o Textbook authors are reviewed thoroughly.
 - o Ensure that textbooks support language growth, mirror the student population, and that it supports student's culture.
 - o Programs in place to apply and gain skills.
 - o District policy requires that curriculum be available digitally and in hard copies to provide options for students.

Director A. Contreras asked during the process how it narrowed down the choices when making textbook recommendations.

Dr. Atwood replied that every program the committee looked at had been reviewed, and comments were read. Communication with other districts can also be done to serve as a reference and look at the program to see if it meets the state requirements. Dr. Atwood said that following that process narrows down the list of choices. Dr. Atwood said that in the case of the previous Math adoptions, the list was narrowed to eleven choices, and in the case of the current recommendation for English Language Learners, there were only two choices. Much time is invested in giving teachers an adequate selection for a good fit. Dr. Atwood indicated that involving community members is always challenging due to their jobs or childcare needs. The committees have also tried to get administrators involved in the process. When going through adoption, materials are always available for the public to view in an announced location.

Dr. Atwood provided thorough details regarding each program adopted in Mathematics and English Language Learners.

There was a brief discussion by the group regarding comments/complaints made by parents or the community, if any.

Ms. Stevens shared that there was only one time that a person had more questions about the Health curriculum, and one person reviewed the Language Arts curriculum last year.

Director M. Contreras said she appreciates that the district has been very transparent about having this material posted and available to the public.

Dr. Atwood said that all materials had been reviewed by the state and added that teachers are fully aware of what will be considered problematic for this community.

Ms. Stevens said that the district has SIA funds reserved that will be used to pay for the adoption.

Motion:

There was a motion made by Director M. Contreras and seconded by Director Toran that the Gervais School District #1 approves the textbook adoption for Math and English Language Learners as presented by Dr. Atwood. The motion passed 3-0. (Director Bustamante and Director Caballero were absent)

9.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 OSBA Scholarship

Ms. Stevens said that the deadline window for the PSP scholarship would be extended to another week due to the low pool of applicants. She said that if the board is okay, she and Director Bustamante will review the applications and award them by next week to recognize the seniors at the senior awards night.

The group did not oppose the proposed process.

9.3 Bond Update

Ms. Stevens said that analyzing the data compared to last year. We gained six points. Data shows that we are losing based on the in-town votes. The individuals that will not change their vote from "no" will be the first ones to submit their ballots. There were 392 votes cast last year, and we could see that this year's numbers increased. It's the people that are not voting. She expressed that several new things were attempted, and she does not know what else to do. She said she would keep the board posted as new numbers are posted.

10.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director A. Contreras called an Executive Session at 7:44 p.m. under ORS 192.660 (2) (d) "Labor Negotiator Consultation."

Director A. Contreras adjourned the Executive Session at 8:03 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Session.

11.0 ADJOURN

11.1 Adjourn Regular Session

Director A. Contreras adjourned the Regular Session at 8:04 p.m.

APPROVED


Board Chairperson


Board Secretary