

**Gervais School District #1
School Board Regular Session Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 21, 2023**

REGULAR SESSION

Director Bustamante called the School Board of Gervais School District #1, Marion County, into a Regular Session on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Board members present included: Henry Bustamante, Maria Contreras, and Jenny Jones. Others present included Dandy Stevens and Sandra Segura. (Director Angie Toran was absent) *Ang Contreras was also present.*

Visitor Guest Book:

Lenthal Kaup and Cassie Ross.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

Director Bustamante called the Regular Session to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2.0 INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS
2023 OSBA Convention Nov 9-11**

2.1 Public Forum Sign-Up:

Lenthal Kaup.

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 & Executive Session on August 17, 2023, and the Working Session on August 29, 2023.

There were minor corrections noted.

Motion:

There was a motion made by Director A. Contreras and seconded by Director Jones that the Gervais School District Board of Directors approve the minutes from the Regular & Executive Session on August 17, 2023, and the Working Session on August 29, 2023. The motion passed 4-0. (Director Angie Toran was absent)

4.0 PUBLIC FORUM:

Director Bustamante reminded the public of the guidelines to be followed when speaking during a public forum and that if anyone was joining via ZOOM and would like to speak to raise their hand electronically in the app.

Ashtyn Sattergen said he is here representing the journalism class because there are lots of rumors among the students, and he would like to write something with the facts to end the rumors of why Mr. Wilson-Gabor resigned.

Chief Chase shared that Carlos Camacho has been assigned to be the student success officer. He expressed that when incidents happen, they try to inform the parents as much as possible when situations arise. Officer Camacho is also a high school soccer coach. This will help a lot to start building good relationships with students. He has heard good comments about Officer Camacho being present and visible. He said they have been observing kids getting off and on the bus, where the buses line up, and feel that an extended sidewalk is needed. He said the city can connect to get the Safe Schools grant to help with this. He shared that recently, they have been dealing with difficult situations and challenges with students. He stated that keeping kids safe is their priority. He praised the administrators for their collaboration and professionalism with the police whenever needed.

REPORTS

Student Council:

Ashtyn Sattergen reported the following for the student council report.

- The students will start decorating the hallways soon for Homecoming. Homecoming dance will be held in Mt. Angel this year. The overall theme is "Vegas". Ms. Lader is the new advisor and is working well.
- Students will start to volunteer at Bauman's soon to be able to raise money.
- Leadership provides opportunities for community service hours for students since that is now a requirement. Students can count working in concessions or marking the field to prepare for games as community service.

Administrators Report:**Gervais Elementary School**

Mr. Price (principal) shared the following.

- There were approximately twenty-two new hires for the elementary school this year. All staff are passionate about being first responders to help students through all the challenges they are facing.
- Positive interventions are happening for ELD students, which makes a robust program.
- It has helped tremendously to have a STEM TOSA to immerse students in science. Engaging students in elementary will help them prepare better for middle school.
- The addition of Ms. Helm has brought positivity to the Sped department.
- The elementary offers a variety of after-school clubs for students to attend and it's all possible due to the grant that Dr. Helms applied for and got awarded.

Gervais Middle School

Ms. Williams-Johnson shared the following.

- A sign went up by the middle school fence that said, "GMS proud" to start the year.
- Fifty sixth graders showed up for Moving Up Day and did several fun activities. One of the activities was to learn to open their lockers. They also did a scavenger hunt that they enjoyed.
- A mural was designed in the gym by the same student who designed the wolverine on the front of the school.
- Middle schoolers have several game options that they can play in the gym during PE.
- The front entrance waiting area close to the office was painted green and a "Welcome" sign in several languages went on the wall by the office.
- The middle school now has a staff room. It is a nice large space for staff to have a place to eat and rest and a location for staff meetings and for specialists to meet with students. Ms. Powers was praised for putting this together in the staff room for the middle school staff.
- After the cell phone policy was implemented, there have been no issues with students and it's nice to see kids talk more to each other.
- Sports offered for middle school students are football, volleyball, track, and soccer. There are a total of fifty students that are out for sports.
- A reward field trip to a Blazer game is planned for February 15th. This was prearranged before COVID. There are 149 seats available. The criteria used before was that anyone with A's and B's could go. The Site Council will be working on setting criteria.

The school board members said they are glad the phone policy is working for the middle school students.

Gervais High School

Mr. Aman shared the following things.

- Afterschool activities are starting next week. More clubs and activities are being offered than ever before. Half of the activities offered are academic-based activities. Clubs being offered: Drama/Dungeons, Aguilas de Oro, The Inkling (newspaper), GSA, and Travel Club. In addition to the clubs there is homework help and a PAWS 8th period for those students that might need extra help with homework and credit recovery.
- An update was provided on what students are working on in Geometry, English, PE, Art, Alt Ed (PAWS), AVID, Spanish, and CTE.
- In the process of adding a GED center where students can obtain their GED.
- An update was given for the College and Career Center and listed all the colleges and industries that are lined up to come visit onsite to talk to students.
- Find Your Grind. Teachers will be trained and will roll out by the end of the month. This is not just a career inventory software program, but it also matches careers to personality/interest inventory to what they wish to do in the future.
- The high school uses ALEKS (math) and i-Ready (reading & writing) for formative assessments. Once all that data is gathered it will be reviewed by teachers to inform instruction/interventions.
- Class advisory meetings are starting. They will be focused on ramping up opportunities to raise money, as well as volunteer opportunities to do community service work.
- Parent/Teacher conferences are approaching fast, and students will be held accountable for scheduling their own

conference through advisory. The expectation is that all students have a conference time scheduled. Students will be reviewing transcripts and ALEKS/i-Ready scores, attendance and their Find Your Grind assessment.

- High school students will also have the opportunity to go see the Blazers play. The high school is already advertising this field trip. Student criteria would be no behavioral issues, all grades are C or better, and 95% attendance or better.
- Some challenges that the high school is facing. Trying to roll out many things through advisory. It's been a challenge for students to participate in school spirit and for the principal to make in classrooms. Trying to be cognizant about not burning staff out. There are several staff members who have stepped up to do above and beyond work. Becki Lader and Samantha Palmer were praised for stepping up. New evaluation system for the licensed.
- Some of the successes. The high school is on the right track. Morale has been very good. Moto "Making this house a home."
- The new staff hired to work in the high school building have been amazing. The new staff are Ben Poff, Elizabeth Obendorf, and Madeline Crabtree.

Student Services

Dr. Helms reported the following things.

- **Special Education**
 - o Staff received training due to senate bills that passed recently that are impacting business as usual. The district is in good standing to meet all requirements to comply with the senate bills.
 - o The Functional Learning Center has about 12 students ages K-2 grade, and the staff do a tremendous job working with the kids and serving as advocates for each one of them.
 - o Students from the high school who are in the transition program are now doing district mail to learn new skills. Mr. Brown is helping those kids to do that task.
- **Early Learning (Preschool)**
 - o The district has the largest site to offer slots for preschool promise in Marion County.
 - o Serving ages 3-4. Hired more staff due to the addition of a third room in the preschool program from the funds received from Preschool Promise.
 - o A new fence will be installed making it safer for the preschoolers to play outside. Staff are doing a great job helping students with social/emotional/academic learning.

Dr. Helms thanked Abby Fernandez from the City of Gervais who loaned the district some historical items to hang/display at the student services office walls. Historical items will be showcased in the student services office to make the public aware that we are proud of this community, and we respect this community.

Student Health

- o The district hired a full-time nurse; Courtney Utter. She has already gone to all the buildings in a week to meet staff and including administrators.
- o The nurse has already started updating health management plans for students and meeting with students and calling parents.
- o Health issues will continue to be addressed and will start providing training.

Financial Report

Ms. Stevens said that Ms. Davis could not be here tonight but if anybody had any questions in regards to her report to go ahead and email her.

Superintendent Report

Ms. Stevens stated that Jory Ellis will be spending some time with the administrators and herself to do training/teacher observations in the classroom (prior approval was provided). They will be taught how to use the rubric and working on training modules for teachers. She said that she also wanted to give a quick update on the high school roof. It was found that the roof at the high school is unsalvageable and not able to be restored. It must be replaced. The district is working on getting quotes to see how much it will cost to replace it. This is a prime example of the types of things the district can encounter once you start repairing things. Once you start ripping open things in an aging building, more things come up, such as mold or dry rot.

Director A. Contreras asked when the last quote was done.

Ms. Stevens said the last quote from a year ago was \$2.7M for the entire roof. Ms. Stevens encouraged the board that if they will be going for a bond to include that project. Still awaiting the possible installation of air conditioning in the gym and shop at the high school to have more ventilation. Final ESSER funds will be used for this work. You will have a report next month on how much money is left of ESSER funds and a budget plan review to know what is left to be done. There will be other things that she will discuss later in the agenda.

6.0 BOARD FOCUS/MEMBER TOPICS:

Director A. Contreras thanked Ms. Stevens for the draft of the new standards. Ms. Stevens does not know if they will pass and does not know what the next phase would be.

Ms. Stevens said that she knew some revisions were being made to the standards but did not know what those were. Once they adopt the standards, they roll them out. Then, they give school districts an implementation timeline of when they will need to be adopted. Up to now, the district has not received anything on when it's expected to be implemented. She recommends that the board goes through the standards. If there is anything they see that is questionable or have concerns about, she encouraged them to write a letter to Representative Cramer and ODE. Whatever the standards are, parents can look through if there are portions of the standard that they would like their student to opt out of. The staff been directed that if any lessons could be a concern to parents, to make sure they let them know ahead of time. Alternatives are available for those parents who opt students out of specific lessons. Standards are posted on the website so parents can review them ahead of time.

There was a brief discussion when teachers do a lesson on a delicate topic is on how it's communicated to parents. Ms. Stevens said that she would find out what each building does.

Director A. Contreras said that she wanted to bring this topic up so parents know the standards that are being adopted for their child's education and know their rights.

7.0 CONSENT ITEMS:

7.1 Approve

New Hire / Temporary/Rehire:

Kaw-Lija Elizondo, FLC Instructional Assistant

Maricela Huapeo Gamez, Cook

Annalee Martinez, Instructional Assistant

Melissa Nastasiuk, Instructional Assistant

Francisca Ramirez, FLC Instructional Assistant

Denise Sandoval, Part-Time Cook

Kayla Winter, Instructional Assistant

Extra Duty:

Ricardo Ferreira, GMS Football Coach

Alex King, Boys Head Basketball Coach

Eric Stedman Falls, Middle School Soccer Coach

7.2 Approve

Contract Change / Renewal:

Noradeli Soto from Cook to FLC Instructional Assistant

Recall:

7.3 Approve

Resignation/Retirements/Termination/Non-Renewal:

Steven Buchheit, Temporary Part-Time Maintenance II Worker

Hailey Warren, FLC Instructional Assistant

Justin Wison Gabor, Assistant Principal & 9-12 Athletic Director

Decline:

Reduction in Force:

Other:

Transfers:

7.4 Approve

Graduation Date for 2024

Gervais School District #1 Board of Directors approves the Graduation Date for the 2023-2024 school year as Saturday, June 8, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

7.5 Approve

Co-Op with Kennedy

Gervais School District #1 Board of Directors approves Soccer Co-Op with Kennedy.

7.6 Approve

Authorize Superintendent to Resolve Lawsuit with Altria Group Inc.

Gervais School District #1 Board of Directors approves the superintendent to resolve a lawsuit with Altria Group Inc.

7.7 Approve

2023-2024 Increase of Adult Meal Cost

Gervais School District #1 Board of Directors approves increasing the adult meals cost for lunch to \$4.75 and breakfast to \$3.10 for the 2023-2024 school year as shown on the agenda item 09-23-7.5.

Ms. Stevens said that she wanted to point out that there was an increase in meals based on guidance from national standards food services. There is also a co-op soccer agreement with Kennedy because they needed more athletes for a team. Also, the board approved the superintendent's authority for the vaping lawsuit. This did not cost the district anything, and we will be getting 40+ thousand, which will be used for new cameras and environmental sensors.

Motion:

There was a motion made by Director A. Contreras and seconded by Director M. Contreras that the Gervais School District #1 approve the consent items listed en masse. The motion passed 4-0. (Director Toran was absent)

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

8.1 School Board & Superintendent Goals

Discussion:

Ms. Stevens said that in the working session with Ms. Kristen Miles from OSBA, the board had asked her to draft some goals for the board and herself. Based on the feedback provided by Ms. Miles going over the board's evaluation and the district Strategic Plan, she crafted the goals.

Ms. Stevens went over the board's & superintendent's goals.

Motion:

There was a motion made by Director A. Contreras and seconded by Director Jones that the Gervais School District #1 Board of Directors approve the School Board and Superintendent's Goals as presented by Ms. Stevens. The motion passed 4-0. (Director Toran was absent)

8.2 OSBA Board of Directors Positions Dominations

No nominations.

8.3 OSBA Legislative Policy Committee (LPC)

No nominations.

9.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 Presentation by Ben Patinkin

Ben Patinkin from Patinkin Research Strategies (polling company) presented the data from the community survey done on July 10-12 via telephone about whether the community will consider passing a potential

bond. The entire presentation is available on the district's website on the board tab under the September 21, 2023, Regular Session recording https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpKksjtzX_k.

The group discussed how important it will be to have listening sessions to provide information to our community on what we are faced with and guided, specific questions regarding the bond. A tour of the buildings will also take place in the future. Parents need to be involved because, in the last town election, people did not vote.

There was a brief discussion about all the prior efforts made to communicate with parents through meetings, tours, and mailings. They also discussed ways to get the community to engage and support the bond. It is getting to the point that the district cannot just repair things anymore.

Ms. Stevens stated that it's important that the board continues this conversation to decide whether the district will be going for another bond. There is still time because the district does not have to file until February.

9.2 Bond Update

Discussed earlier.

9.3 Update on Ask City Council on Street Improvement

Ms. Stevens said she went to the City Council to discuss drainage issues by the loading zone at the elementary school. They also talked about the sidewalks built with the Safe Routes to School grant. Because so much water gets accumulated in front of the elementary, they are not very useful as they are unable to drain. The city had not been aware because it had not been raining. Ms. Stevens said that the city interim and she will be meeting to apply for another grant Safe Routes to School grant and to talk about supporting the district regarding the bon. Both entities understand that if there are no schools, then you cannot get future Safe Routes to School and other grants.

9.4 HB 2753 Stipends for Board Members.

Ms. Stevens said that there was a bill that passed that would allow a stipend for board members serving on the board, but then she heard as soon as the board packet went out that the Oregon Ethics Law Commission said something about it not being ethical and needing to wait.

The group discussed that even if there were a stipend for board members, they would not take it.

10.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Bustamante adjourned the Regular Session at 8:02 p.m.

11.0 ADJOURN

11.1 Adjourn Regular Session

Director Bustamante adjourned the Regular Session at 8:02 p.m.

APPROVED

Board Chairperson



Board Secretary