

**Gervais School District #1
School Board Working Session Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 29, 2023**

WORKING SESSION

Director A. Contreras called the School Board of Gervais School District #1, Marion County, into a Working Session on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Board members present included: ~~Henry Bustamante, Maria Caballero, Ana Contreras, Maria Contreras, and Angie Toran.~~ Others present included Dandy Stevens, Sandra Segura, and Kristen Miles (OSBA Representative). *Jenny Jones*

Visitor Guest Book:

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

Ms. Stevens asked to move Ms. Kristen Miles (OSBA Representative) on the agenda to the present now.

Ms. Miles (OSBA Representative) reviewed each of the standards of the board self-evaluation and compared the data to last year's board self-evaluation. Ms. Miles stated that, overall, this evaluation is very good because the board put thought into the responses, and it reflected how well the superintendent and board work together to align resources for student achievement. Growth by the school board compared to last year was noticeable.

The group discussed strengths and areas of development/improvement.

The group shared the following things about the self-evaluation:

- The most significant strength was in Standard Eleven. The board knows its role and the superintendent's role. The standard is grounded on the impact on student outcomes.
- Standard eight shows a strength as well. It indicates that the board invests in professional development and recognizes the value of it.
- Specific strengths that were noticeable were that the board and the superintendent respect each other. There is no personal gain in decisions made and the board uses diligence for better student outcomes.
- Areas of improvement were in standard 10. It indicated that there is continuous work on how to solve problems differently. Learn ways to reach the community to get them more involved to continue to build. Find ways to establish external partnerships. Learn what the board's role is in partnering with the community.
- Other areas of development were in budgeting. Adopting a budget that aligns with sources to meet strategic goals.
- Standards 7,8, 9 were highly aligned. The question was how the board uses data moving forward since this is a new practice for the board to analyze.
- In Standards 2 & 10, those were areas of strength. The board had some developing questions. The theme was aligning data to funding—a theme to discuss and consider for the future.

There was a brief discussion among the group that it's good to see growth compared to last year. It was mentioned that the board was relatively young and had many things to learn, but has now it has gotten the rhythm of things to make better decisions. *but have learned a lot since then.*

Ms. Miles made the following recommendation to the board based on the self-evaluation data. She recommends that the board sets one or two goals specific to the evaluation data. It's essential to do that for the board's development.

The group discussed that it's essential to address how to improve the community engagement piece to get people to help. Ms. Miles stated that when it comes to setting goals, it's essential that the board sets goals that are relevant to the board's role. One example could be setting a goal to increase volunteerism.

The group had a brief discussion about how the district could be more welcoming and find innovative ways to communicate, such as the idea of putting a reader board on 99 to announce events/activities.

Ms. Miles said that other ways that the school board could get involved are showing up at school assemblies and doing listening sessions relevant to the board or being part of celebrations.

Other ideas that the groups mentioned were making connections with the city council and community progress team to see if

there is such a thing as a master calendar to know what is happening in the community.

Director Jones said that she feels that the superintendent and the team have done an excellent job at communicating but that we are dealing with a community unwilling to receive the information.

Ms. Stevens said that she would start drafting the goals if the board is okay with that and share a draft at the next meeting.

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

4.0 PUBLIC FORUM:

None.

5.0 REPORTS

Student Data Presentation

Gervais High School

Mr. Aman presented the following things.

- The high school is putting a new tardy policy in place. Tardies have become a big issue at the high school.
- The school is bringing back the DONUT be late to school incentive.
- The goal is to build a culture with high expectations.
- Will be meeting individually with students with poor attendance.
- I-Ready data in Math and Reading shows that the highest needs are in Math. The high school will use a better assessment for Math called ALEKS, which gives students more accountability for testing.
- Currently reviewing student credits that are short on credits. The advisory teachers will help to work in groups for those students who lack credits. Mr. Poff will be working on building a program that is more rigorous for students who need to recover credits.

Ms. Stevens said that later in the year, more data will be presented related to this information.

Gervais Middle School

Ms. Williams-Johnson presented the following things.

- i-Ready is a test that students take three times a year.
- Elementary is now using i-Ready as well, which should help to analyze data as students move up to middle school.
- Math has become a struggle for middle schoolers.
- Need to find ways to help push students to improve on these assessments. The data does not look good.

Ms. Stevens said that scores are low statewide. It's not an excuse, but it would be interesting to see what the reports look like for next year. She said that she believes there is a path forward.

Gervais Elementary School

Ms. Stevens stated that Ms. Smith was moved into a Reading intervention TOSA and Ms. So, into a Math intervention TOSA seems that it will make a difference in student learning.

Ms. Smith, Ms. So, Dr. Helms presented the following data on reading and math interventions.

- Last year, the district purchased supplemental reading materials to help student growth.
- A Reading intervention TOSA was created, which also helped greatly.
- Regular meetings are held with PLC groups.
- Synchronized lessons were offered during summer school through online tutoring. Two dozen students attended these sessions.
- Phonics is the most challenging piece to show growth.
- Goal is 80%
- three domains are looked at.
- Two different student examples were shared to show how having resources available to students is a game changer in students' education.
- of improvements with students having the right resources available to them.
- It's crucial that students read at grade level within the first two grades in elementary.

ELD

Mr. Gomez and Dr. Helms presented the following information about ELD.

- The objective is always to have growth with ELD students.
- Tested 166 students and had only 15 students pass all areas. That is only 9% of the elementary. That average is compared to state averages.
- Percentages were shared on data of students that dropped or increased on the different categories that they get tested on.
- It takes about 5.3 years for a student to be able to exit out of ELD. After reviewing the data, a new rigorous goal will be set to pass students in 4.2 years. A good percentage of students passed a few areas of the test, and it's realistic to say that they will pass the other two areas with a strategic focus on those students.
- Changes took place due to the ELD program not having a curriculum focus. That was put into practice last year. Everything now is intentional. Those students know that all teachers are teaching language now.
- If you look at Speaking and Writing data, you will be able to see that work is being done intentionally to improve student growth.
- ELD students have now dedicated time to practicing Speaking and Reading during their ELD class.
- Will be looking at 34 students closely who are one step away from passing. Those students are most likely to pass. Those students have been identified and will work hard towards passing.
- The district is on the right track, and It's all about giving students a voice. If students pass ELD, it will impact reading and other subject areas.

District Curriculum

Ms. Atwood shared the following things addressing academic data.

- Shared historical data. Solid assessment mechanics were not in place before moving from one grade level to another.
- Now changes have been made under Ms. Stevens' leadership.
- A new curriculum has been adopted that is aligned with state standards district wide.
- Using solid assessments to better approach academic achievement. The high school was not using any assessment before and now are using i-Ready and ALEKS. Both assessments are standards based.
- A factor that hurts data is that the state allows parents to opt out students out of state testing that prevents them from having the whole picture with SBAC testing.
- Other components that have helped the systems are adding a GES Reading TOSA that meets on regular basis with PLC groups to work on data and best practices. Having everyone responsible really helps students' growth.
- Have professional development offered in connection to student's growth.

Ms. Stevens said that as we progress in the fall things will not look pretty. She said that there is long term re precautions on the adoption of curriculum that clearly impacts kids learning and will not be a conversation that will have in the next years. She stated that there is urgency regarding this. Accountability is a mindset changer to growth in student achievement. Having a systemic process really makes a difference.

6.0 BOARD FOCUS/MEMBER TOPICS:

None.

7.0 CONSENT ITEMS:

None.

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

None.

9.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 Board Self-Evaluation by Kristen Miles OSBA

Agenda item was moved to be discussed earlier on the agenda.

9.2 Discussion of 2022-23 Board & Superintendent Goals and Possible Goals for 2023-24

Ms. Stevens said that she would draft some board goals connected to the bond and share them at the next regular session.

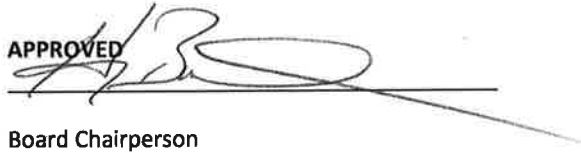
10.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

11.0 ADJOURN

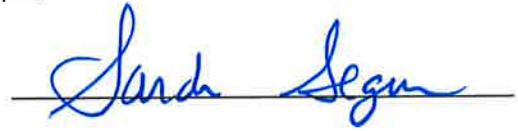
11.1 Adjourn Working Session

Director A. Contreras adjourned the Working Session at 8:03 p.m.

APPROVED

A black ink signature, appearing to be "A. Contreras", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "A" and "C".

Board Chairperson

A blue ink signature, appearing to be "Sarah Segun", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is in a cursive, flowing style.

Board Secretary