

1.0 CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

On September 21, 2020 Chairman Duringer called the meeting to order at approximately 6:32 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Central Linn High School.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jennifer Duringer, Tony Isom, Brian Tenbusch, Parker Leigh

Members Absent: Randy Smith, Rebekah Schneiter, David Karo

Others Present: Brian Gardner, Celeste Van Cleave, Dena Crowell, Heidi Hermansen, Robyn Bailey, Jamie Derrickson, Sue Frasier, Tia Parrish, Candace Pelt

3.0 GOOD OF THE ORDER/COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 Agenda Adjustments: None

3.2 OSBA Annual Convention: Chairman Duringer informed the Board that this year's OSBA Annual Convention will be held virtually on November 14th. She asked the group if the Board would like to participate individually or meet together as a group and to please contact Dena Crowell for their intent to register. The Board's method of attendance is still open to discussion.

3.3 Building Reports: Principal Bailey reported the elementary will be opening up to in-person kindergarten through third grade instruction and comprehensive distance learning for fourth through sixth grade tomorrow, September 22nd. Deanna Thoma will be teaching kindergarten and first grade distance learning while Alichelen Kjosness will be teaching second and third grade distance learning. At this time, the elementary will be utilizing only one fourth grade and fifth grade teacher. 75 students are registered through distance learning and of that number, 55 are in grades K-3. Teachers spent time with families and/or caregivers during On-Boarding sessions, logging into devices and answering questions, hoping to have a smooth first week of on-line school. Hot spots have been issued to families who are in need of additional internet support. Please let the schools know if additional need is discovered. Within the coming weeks, the elementary will be looking at where students are academically and working with cohorts of ten students for group instruction. Group instruction is open to all students but in particular to those who are most in need of additional academic assistance.

Principal Hermansen mentioned that at the August Board Meeting the District was looking forward to in-person instruction but had since changed to junior high and high school entirely distance learning. Unfortunately, we have too many transfer students and staff from outside the District, thus creating the mandate to switch to comprehensive distance learning. Junior high and high school enrollment numbers are up. This year we have 310 enrolled compared to 300 at last year's start. During Clarity Week, students were given Chromebooks, schedules, were able to ask questions and work on log in issues. Junior high students were again issued school supplies by the District. The self-contained cohort will be meeting this Wednesday and the Cloud cohort will be meeting in person the first week of October.

3.4 Facilities/Maintenance Report: Superintendent Gardner gave a brief summary of summer facilities activities. During a rainy period, flashings were not in place and vents were left open on the elementary seismic rehabilitation project. The construction company is currently repairing damage by the oversite. The elementary library carpet was removed and replaced by carpet tiles which were donated by Lorentz Broun Construction. As the elementary seismic rehabilitation project is wrapping up, we will soon be at the final check-off walk through. Progress of the new junior high is held up due to an easement that was not identified during the locate process. Pacific Power determined the new building was two feet over the easement and asked that the building be moved. A meeting between Modern Building Systems, Pacific Power, Norm's Electric and District staff proved beneficial. An agreement was made that the easement will be rewritten to indicate that if a dig up is ever necessary, within that easement, the District will be liable and will not be Pacific Power's responsibility. Much thanks to Rob Wingren with Norm's Electric for his efforts in the process. Still waiting for a drain field permit for the new building. A change order took place to go from a three phase to a single phase electrical system. For energy efficiency, minisplits versus electric air conditioners and heaters will be installed. Eleven OWLS cameras have been set up which moves with a teacher through instruction. Looking to do an experiment on a section of the high school roof to see if we can help eliminate the damage from a leaking dome.

3.5 ODE Communications: Candace Pelt, ODE Assistant Superintendent, attended to answer questions from the community and Board regarding COVID-19 guidelines and closures. Ms. Pelt is a COVID reopening advisor, offering training, technical assistance and support to districts on their reopening Blueprint. First question from the Board was whether there were additional testing capabilities that would help alter the reopening metrics? Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has a plan for piloting an increase of testing where schools are opening but they do not yet know how that pilot will look like. From ODE, nothing else has been determined.

If a vaccine was released, OHA will determine its availability, watch the rates and then make a decision on whether to adjust the metrics. At this time, OHA has not made any standing decision to change the metrics if a vaccine was released.

CDC released a statement that COVID was spread through air-borne contact. A staff member asked if there would now be an increase in restrictions. Ms. Pelt stated that OHA's measures are already precautionary with the standard six feet distancing and masks, whereas the World Health Organization (WHO) required a minimum of three feet. If additional safeguards are needed, there are a number of ways to mitigate changes and evaluate its effectiveness.

When asked if rural schools will be looked at differently from larger districts when it comes to restrictions, Ms. Pelt explained that urban districts don't drive all the decisions made by ODE. She stated that Central Linn would normally fall under a rural definition and be exempt from some restrictions of preventing 4th-12th grade from in person learning. However, because over 10% of the school population comes from outside district boundaries we do not qualify under rural schools exemption. There are

questions being asked and further discussion that if an adjacent county does not have community spread if OHA will adjust and further define their restrictions.

Staff asked about Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium testing, whether there will be a change in state testing requirements. Ms. Pelt stated that the Federal Government and the U.S. Department of Education oversee state testing and had issued a statement that they intend to maintain state testing requirements, there is no waiver availability at this time. Prior to spring testing, ODE will issue guidance or changed rules for state testing under comprehensive distant learning.

4.0 ACTION/BUSINESS

- 4.1 **Approve Minutes of the Regular September Board Meeting:** Director Tenbusch made a motion to approve the regular September board minutes, as submitted. Director Isom second the motion. Motion passed 4-0. Zone 1, 6 and 7 absent for vote.
- 4.2 **Approve August Work Session Minutes:** Chairman Duringer made a motion to approve the August work session minutes, as submitted. Director Tenbusch second the motion. Motion passed 4-0. Zone 1, 6 and 7 absent for vote.
- 4.3 **Acknowledge Staff Changes:** The Board acknowledged hire of Wendi Farris, Girls' Varsity Basketball Coach; Richard Hernandez, moved from Assistant High School Wrestling Coach to Junior High Wrestling Coach; Hunter Thornton as Assistant High School Wrestling Coach and the resignation of Catherine Ordway, High School Math Teacher.
- 4.4 **Approve Hire of Licensed Staff:** Chairman Duringer made a motion to approve the hire of Rachel McKee, Student Services Director, on a 0.51 FTE administrator's contract; Miranda Leatherman, High School Math Teacher, on a first year probationary contract and AJ Rise, High School Math Teacher, on a temporary teaching contract. Director Isom second the motion. Motion passed 4-0. Zone 1, 6 and 7 absent for vote.
- 4.5 **Approve Online Institution ID:** Chairman Duringer made a motion to approve the request for a new K-12 Online Institution ID with ODE. Director Tenbusch second the motion. Motion passed 4-0. Zone 1, 6 and 7 absent for vote.
- 4.6 **Ratify Employee Contract:** Chairman Duringer moved to ratify a one-year Memorandum of Agreement extension to the Central Linn Education Association contract as submitted. Director Leigh second the motion. Motion passed 4-0. Zone 1, 6 and 7 absent for vote.
- 4.7 **Approve Work Session Topics:** The Board discussed topics for open work sessions. Consensus was to have October's topic remain to be on TAP Grant long-range facilities planning led by Cooperative Strategies, November to be on hate symbols and anti-discrimination and January to be on finances led by Business Manager, Celeste Van Cleave. District vision and mission is a continual topic of discussion to be added. Superintendent Gardner asked the Board if they would like to take an area that they

would like to focus on, become more knowledgeable about and become a Board resource on.

- 4.8 **Appoint Negotiations Team:** Director Karo and Vice-Chairman Schneiter will serve on the CLEA negotiations team. Director Isom and Director Tenbusch will serve on the OSEA negotiations team.

5.0 REPORTS

- 5.1 **Financial:** Celeste Van Cleave reported working on payroll, health insurance enrollment and having to recalculate employee information when switching to distant learning all through a very difficult time of having to evacuate when fires encroached. For financials, Ms. Van Cleave reported the revenue page shows actuals while expenditures does not include hourly adjustments or recently ratified contract numbers but will be updated next month. Currently, State School Fund estimates still have not been updated from February. There are more state grants now than a few years ago and each comes with additional restrictions and narratives, requiring additional time. The Comprehensive Distance Learning Grant was submitted. Currently, the CDL grant is not allocated in the budget but will be by close of fiscal year through a supplemental budget at some point.

- 5.2 **Superintendent:** Superintendent Gardner reported that the District is just now figuring out staffing needs; if we have too many staff or not enough. Staffing is still questionable based on student enrollment numbers. The Early Literacy Program, in an effort to get below the number of 250 maximum per buildings, moved back to the Central Linn Rec Center. We are currently down 64 students over last year's enrollment, an estimate of loss being approximately \$640,000 to the District. Currently, Superintendent Gardner is needing to rewrite the High School Success and Student Investment Account narratives this fall. We do not know what will be allocated into the State School Fund for next biennium, February is the legislative session. With a state budget of approximately \$2.5 billion to \$3 billion, education is roughly 41% of the state's budget. It is expected to be a difficult year.

On a positive note, Superintendent Gardner is proud of the staff for persevering through all the difficult uncertainties. When the state removed our plan to reopen, it was a blow to our staff who put in so much time, planning and hope into reopening. Tomorrow, K-3 will meet in-person for the first day of school and the rest will be distant learning. When the children are in school, staff energy levels seem to elevate. Even in a remote setting, staff are looking forward to seeing their students.

Asked by the Board was why enrollment numbers dropped more at the elementary level versus high school levels? Though in the spring, 88% of families surveyed were comfortable returning, many stated being scared or did not want their children to wear a mask at school. When it came to enroll, despite the effort of the District to educate and prepare the community on differences of homeschool versus CDL, approximately forty students were lost to home schooling or to local private Christian schools.

6.0 RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Duringer moved to table the executive session to October due to three Board members being absent. Director Tenbusch second the motion. Motion passed 4-0. Zone 1, 6 and 7 absent for vote.

7.0 ADJOURN

With no further business before the Board, Chairman Duringer adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:21 p.m.

Dena Crowell, Board Secretary

Jennifer Duringer, Board Chairman

Date Approved

**Board meeting minutes approved on December 14, 2020.
Original minutes with signatures on file at the District Office.**