

OSBORN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
Governing Board Regular Meeting
May 18, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Osborn School District Governing Board was called to order at 5:00 pm by Board President Aguilar.

Present:

Ylenia Aguilar, Board President
Sue Corbin, Board Clerk
Juan Carlos Flamand, Board Member
Edward Hermes, Board Member
Luis Peralta, Board Member
Dr. Michael Robert, Superintendent

Pledge of Allegiance

President Aguilar led the pledge.

Call to the Public

Dr. Robert stated that 4th grade student Alejandro had information to share during the Call to the Public. Alejandro shared information with members about the harmful effects of plastic on the ocean and environment. He presented data collected from a survey showing that 77% of students would not want to use something harmful to the environment and shared an option of using plasticless straws.

Members thanked Alejandro and Mr. Hermes stated that he would like to continue conversation on this topic at a future meeting.

Dr. Robert announced that he would need to leave the meeting to attend his son's graduation apologizing in advance if he was unable to be present for entire awards portion of the meeting.

District Celebrations and Announcements

Dr. Robert announced that Principal Carranza will be receiving Exemplary Principal in Maricopa County award. He also shared that community members will have another opportunity to be vaccinated against COVID. This is the first of 7 events that will be held at OMS. This event sponsored by Native Health will also provide families an opportunity to register for ACCCHS and dental sealants.

Retirees and You Make the Difference recipients were recognized and received awards.

A break was called at 6:05 break and Dr. Robert left the meeting.

Meeting resumed at 6:20

Board Presentation- OEA

Co-President Erica Switalla expressed thanks on behalf of OEA for the support of students and staff throughout the closure and school reopening commending leadership and the Board for their guidance. She said that in looking ahead at advocacy opportunities OEA requests to stay informed of use of ESSER funds. Members requested benefits for all staff and will recommend maintaining full time positions for all custodian staff and stipends for hard to fill positions and breakfast in the classroom.

Members thanked Ms. Switalla for the presentation and expressed thanks for their work and advocacy efforts.

Mr. Flamand asked Ms. Switalla what the group sees as staff challenges and what priorities the association may revisit in looking beyond COVID. Ms. Switalla said that class size remains a concern as well as FMLA and provided clarification regarding custodial staff temporarily moved to full time positions with benefits being a response to COVID and not intended as a permanent change.

Consent Agenda – Approval of Items Since April Meeting

- A. Ratification of Accounts Payable Vouchers
- B. Ratification of Payroll Vouchers
- C. Board Minutes
 - 1. April 20, 2021 Regular Meeting
- D. Approval of Personnel Items
 - 1. New Employees
 - 2. Extra Duty Contracts
 - 3. Employment Changes/Additions
 - 4. Resignations
 - 5. Terminations
 - 6. Retirements
 - 7. Leaves of Absence
- E. Approval of Personnel Items Corrected from March Report (the wrong report was included with March)
 - 1. New Employees
 - 2. Extra Duty Contracts
 - 3. Employment Changes/Additions
 - 4. Resignations
 - 5. Terminations
 - 6. Retirements
 - 7. Leaves of Absence
- F. Donations
- G. Expenditure and Revenue Report
- H. Student Activities Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
- I. Disposal
- J. Renewal of MOU with Valle del Sol 21/22
- K. Renewal of Business Associate Agreement and Addendum with Valle del Sol 21/22
- L. Approval of Renewal of MOU with NAU to Continue the Foster Grandparent Program
- M. Approval of Lease Agreement with Phoenix Union High School District
- N. Approval to exceed 2020/21 M&O Budget Subsections

Mr. Flamand moved to approve. Mr. Hermes seconded. Motion carried. 5-0

Ms. Aguilar aye
Ms. Corbin aye
Mr. Flamand aye
Mr. Hermes aye
Mr. Peralta aye

Administrative Reports

Mr. Flamand said he would like to know more about what is happening at the school sites with a short discussion taking place about school visits being an opportunity to see more.

Action/Approval

Discussion/Approval of Priorities for the ASBA 2021 Political Agenda

Mrs. Toscano said the item is to decide priorities members would like to submit to ASBA.

Discussion took place and members agreed to the following priorities:

- Revise the School Finance formula to:
 - Provide a stable, dedicated revenue source less reliant on the general fund or annual legislative appropriation.
 - Provide dedicated school capital funding consistent with the constitutional requirement of a general and uniform public school system.
 - Ensure the formula addresses the unique financial needs of schools serving students in poverty and in rural & remote schools.
 - Revise the funding formula to add funding for student mental health and well-being initiatives.
- Adequately fund programs under exceptional student services.
- Provide funding for districts to improve student achievement by addressing social-emotional learning needs and create training programs for school staff in cultural proficiency and responsiveness.
- Provide funding for preschool programs.
- Technology modernization and accessibility to ensure students have the technology and equipment to use (not necessarily COVID specific).

And the following to be included as additional items:

- Enact research-based reform of the English Language Learner model of instruction. This has been reduced to a 2 hour model, includes dual language as a model, and will be up for voter changes soon.
- Require comparative classroom spending audits for school districts and define “classroom spending” as both instructional spending and student support spending. This change is present in the Auditor General’s Report. They still separate instruction, student support, and instruction support but then offer a combined “classroom spending” percentage that reflects all three.

Mr. Hermes moved to approve. Mr. Peralta seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Aguilar aye
Ms. Corbin aye
Mr. Flamand aye
Mr. Hermes aye
Mr. Peralta aye

Approval of the Host School Agreement with International TeachAlliance Program

Mrs. Toscano stated that this item is being brought for approval as an option to partner with ESI to fill positions that are hard to fill.

Jason Hammond from International TeachAlliance stated that filling teacher shortages has become even more difficult for districts. He explained that this program helps find teachers that reflect the demographics of the students they are teaching. Teachers can be approved for up to a 5 year J-1 Visa and then use their experiences when they return home. The teachers must be currently working as a teacher and have a minimum 2 years of professional experience. TeachAlliance is the sponsor and the responsibility of the district is only as the employer. Teach Alliance will assist with the J-1 Visa process, fingerprint clearance, and finding housing and

transportation. He suggested that ESI fees can be recouped through savings from retirement and FICA which are not paid by the district for these teachers due to their J-1 Visa status. Discussion followed with Mr. Hammond providing additional details.

Mr. Hermes moved to approve. Mr. Peralta seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Aguilar aye
Ms. Corbin aye
Mr. Flamand aye
Mr. Hermes aye
Mr. Peralta aye

President Aguilar noted that in addition to the priorities, members needed to delegate Ms. Nye to communicate the Board priorities to ASBA.

Mr. Hermes moved to approve. Mr. Peralta seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Aguilar aye
Ms. Corbin aye
Mr. Flamand aye
Mr. Hermes aye
Mr. Peralta aye

Approval of Potential Job Description from ESSER Funds

Mrs. Toscano explained that as with the item brought for approval in April, the Assistant Engineer would be funded through ESSER funds. In response to concerns about funding, Mrs. Toscano stated that the process with the Budget Committee is not complete and committee members will reconvene when decisions from the legislature have been communicated and allocations are out.

Mr. Hermes moved to approve. Ms. Corbin seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Aguilar aye
Ms. Corbin aye
Mr. Flamand aye
Mr. Hermes aye
Mr. Peralta aye

Information/Discussion Items

Calvin Terrell from Social Centric Institute

Mrs. Toscano stated that this item will be moved to the June meeting.

Board Development

NSBA Equity Online Symposium July 13-14, 2021

Members will contact Dr. Robert or Ms. Nye if they would like to be registered for either event.

Reflections/Feedback on Meeting

Mr. Peralta said it was a wonderful meeting adding that purge would be his one word summation.

Mr. Hermes said it was heartwarming to see everyone, was glad to see everyone continue to be vigilant and safe, and congratulated all who were awarded.

Mr. Flamand said he thoroughly enjoyed the meeting and is amazed at the wealth of talent and commitment of those in the district.

Ms. Corbin expressed her appreciation for the positive outlook and appreciation expressed by OEA with the challenges teachers have faced the past year. She also enjoyed sentiments expressed about the You Make the Difference recipients adding that the district has wonderful teachers.

President Aguilar said it is heartwarming to serve on a Board with such caring people adding that it is humbling to be part of this community. She also expressed her joy to be a parent of children who have attended Osborn and to be present to see one of her son's teachers retire.

Mrs. Toscano shared that it was good to see those attending and to share in the honor although felt it is bitter sweet to see educators moving on. She was glad to have so much to celebrate and to be able to celebrate safely.

Future

Mr. Peralta

- Class sizes

Mr. Hermes

- Class sizes
- How does the district support teachers who are parents
 - Paid leave
 - Health insurance with dependents
 - Childcare
- Ways the district can be more environmentally conservative and sustainable

Mr. Flamand

- Update on what the district does to conserve resources, recycling programs, reducing energy consumption, etc.
- Long term planning for FMLA and class sizes

Ms. Corbin

- Classroom visits/visit summer school

President Aguilar

- Future discussion about equipment and technology disposal- possible agreement with Mexico
- Breakfast in the classroom
- Recognizing the effects of COVID on student's mental health, look at ways that online data collected can provide insight into student's lives allowing the district to be proactive in assisting with mental health needs
- Update on the data of students who have been screened under the alert system regarding the flagged words such as depression, suicide, etc.

Adjournment

President Aguilar declared the meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Lisa Nye, Executive Assistant
to the Superintendent and Governing Board

Sue Corbin, Board Clerk