

OSBORN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
Governing Board Regular Meeting
February 20, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Osborn School District Governing Board was called to order at 5:31 PM by Board President Ed Hermes.

Edward Hermes, Board President
Luis Peralta, Board Clerk
Violeta Ramos, Board Member
Leanne Greenberg, Board Member
Rhiannon Ford, Board Member
Dr. Michael Robert, Superintendent

Pledge of Allegiance/School Presentation/Land Acknowledgement

Clarendon student Jade led the pledge. President Hermes read the tribal acknowledgement.

Principal Martin shared that the presentation would show opportunities for student growth both inside and outside of the classroom. Clarendon teacher Mr. Perez who is part of the Teach For America IGNITE Program explained that the program utilizes college students to provide reading tutoring for students virtually. Sharing the success of the program Principal Martin shared that 10 of 12 students in the program exceeded their growth according to Fastbridge auto reading.

Principal Martin then provided an overview of the myriad opportunities for students participating in the 21st Century Afterschool Program.

Clarendon School Clerk Carolina Villacorta who instructs students in Dance Team, explained that she would like the program, which began in August, to be implemented all year. The team performed and students Reina and Kyleah shared what they like about being in the club.

District Celebrations and Announcements

Principal Martin recognized Spread L.O.V.E. award recipients:

Integrity

Anna Saucedo

Equity

Lindsay Butier

Joy

Carolina Villacorta

Growth

Alyscia Etsitty

Relationships

Jose Perez

Dr. Robert thanked Mr. Stacey for taking the lead on opportunities for Osborn to be present in the community at both the Willo Home Tour and upcoming Melrose Street Fair.

Recognizing the work of the Osborn School District Educational Foundation, Dr. Robert reminded staff of the deadline to submit mini grant proposals, recent awards that provided

opportunities for both staff and students and the opportunity to thank staff who were treated to a hand delivered drink of their choice from the Traveling Cup coffee truck.

Dr. Robert then congratulated Encanto for receiving an A+ label from the AEF (Arizona Educational Foundation).

A break was called at 6:03 PM.

Mrs. Greenberg arrived at 6:08 PM.

Meeting resumed at 6:11 PM.

Consent Agenda – Approval of Items Since October Meeting

- A. Ratification of Accounts Payable Vouchers
- B. Ratification of Payroll Vouchers
- C. Board Minutes
 - 1. January 16, 2024 Regular/Organizational 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. Donations
- F. Expenditure and Revenue Report
- G. Student Activities Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
- H. Disposal of Equipment
- I. Approval of the Clarendon 6th Grade Field Trip to the Grand Canyon May 3, 2024
- J. Annual Appointment of Student Activities Treasurer
- K. Adoption of Revised DOA Travel Policy
- L. Update of FY23 Annual Financial Report (Page 4)
- M. Approval of Professional Services Agreement with the American Institute for Research
- N. Approval of Lease Extension with Phoenix Union High School District

President Hermes requested item N in the consent agenda be pulled for further discussion.

President Hermes then thanked Kim Baldwin for the donation and the Foundation for their support of the Clarendon 6th grade field trip.

Mr. Peralta motioned to approve the consent agenda with the exception of item N which was pulled for further discussion. Mrs. Ford seconded. Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Peralta aye
Mrs. Greenberg aye
Mrs. Ramos aye
Mr. Hermes aye
Mrs. Ford aye

Approval of Lease Extension with Phoenix Union High School District

Mrs. Toscano explained that due to delays in construction of Phoenix Union's new offices this item is an extension of the original lease agreement with them. Moving will be completed by April 1st and approval of this item is retroactive from July 1st. Dr. Robert reiterated that approval allows the district to collect on what has already taken place. President Hermes expressed concern at the length of time Phoenix Union occupied the space noting that they received a very good price on their lease. Mrs. Toscano stated that due to improvements scheduled to take place at Montecito she did not foresee another extension of the lease.

Mrs. Ford motioned to approve. Mrs. Ramos seconded. Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Peralta aye
Mrs. Greenberg aye
Mrs. Ramos aye
Mr. Hermes aye
Mrs. Ford aye

Call to the Public

Ms. Maitlyn Reynolds asked members to consider granting additional annual leave days as incentive for early contract return. Referring to discussion involving an increased use of annual leave, she said that RIFs will mean less staff and increased stress for those in the classrooms. Ms. Reynolds then stated she was recently informed that requests to use more than 5 annual leave days would require superintendent approval. She said that her request to use annual leave for her honeymoon resulted in her losing 5 days of pay and that policy requiring superintendent approval should be clarified. Ms. Reynolds added that employees should be able to use leave as they wish.

Board Presentation

Superintendent Report on District Attestations

Dr. Robert shared that the Arizona Department of Education is responsible for putting out school report cards and attestation is not a mandatory requirement. He said the attestation consists of five questions and that both Arizona School Administrators (ASA) and Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) have been working with districts to provide answers and give clarification of the attestations.

Discussion took place about the questions and answers that will be provided with general agreement that the district will attest to using the hours in the school day to do what is right for students. Dr. Robert agreed to get clarification for question 3 as further explanation around discipline were asked.

Admin Reports

Mrs. Greenberg questioned the enrollment report for one of the schools with agreement to confirm the reports provided.

Action Items

Reduction in Force

Dr. Robert said that eliminating the Director of Curriculum position, funded with ESSER funds, is necessary due to the sunset of those funds. Dr. Robert confirmed that this is being brought to the Board now as it is the only position being eliminated that is part of the group of contracts that if approved, will be issued at this time.

Mrs. Greenberg motioned to approve. Mrs. Ford seconded. Motion carried. 5-0.

Mr. Hermes aye
Mr. Peralta aye
Mrs. Greenberg aye
Mrs. Ramos aye
Mrs. Ford aye

Recommendation to Issue 2024-25 Certified Teacher Contracts

Dr. Woodland requested approval to issue the 24-25 certified teacher contracts. She said that if approved, contracts will be issued at the current rate of pay February 21 and will be due March 30.

Mrs. Greenberg stated that she would like to have the budget go through Meet and Confer rather than Budget Committee. Dr. Robert clarified that the Budget Committee is aligned with policy.

Mrs. Ramos motioned to approve. Mr. Peralta seconded. Motion carried. 5-0.

Mr. Hermes aye
Mr. Peralta aye
Mrs. Greenberg aye
Mrs. Ramos aye
Mrs. Ford aye

Recommendation to Issue 2024-25 Support Professionals and Administrator Contracts

Dr. Woodland noted that this item impacts social workers and other professional contracts to be issued February 21 at their current rate of pay.

Mrs. Greenberg moved to approve. Mrs. Ramos seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Hermes aye
Mr. Peralta aye
Mrs. Greenberg aye
Mrs. Madison Ramos aye
Mrs. Ford aye

Recommendation of RFP 2024.01 Award Capital Project Management

Mrs. Toscano shared that this is the first action item resulting from the passage of the capital override. The evaluation committee recommends the award of project management to H2 Group. Mrs. Toscano stated that this a 5 year award with the first authorization for 12 months. She said that the group will help with compliance and managing timelines with a goal to find savings throughout the life of the bond.

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

Mr. Hermes aye
Mr. Peralta aye
Mrs. Greenberg aye

Mrs. Ramos aye
Mrs. Ford aye

Board Development

Discussion of Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain, Chapters 6 and 7.

Discussion took place about negative bias and the importance of positivity, lifting students up and the Board modeling positive communication even in difficult conversations and keeping students at the forefront of decisions.

Next chapters 8 and 9

Reflections

Mrs. Ford thanked those who will be returning their contracts and will be serving another year. She then offered a special thanks to Dr. Woodland for bringing the best to Osborn. Referring to Prop 123, Mrs. Ford stated that the ask at the capitol is to consider both teachers and classified staff recognizing the importance of the roles classified staff fill.

Mrs. Ramos thanked Clarendon and the hard work of Ms. Villacorta and the dance team.

Mrs. Greenberg shared her excitement to read the next 2 chapters of their book. She said she would like to work with the Board and superintendent on ways to get feedback assuring decisions are made based upon what is best for kids.

Echoing sentiments shared by others, Mr. Peralta expressed appreciation to Dr. Robert for his handling of the questions on the district's attestations.

President Hermes enjoyed the presentations by Clarendon on their after school programs. He was also glad to see that contracts were going to be issued adding that the district tries hard to treat teachers and staff as professionals. He said it is that he would like Osborn to have the reputation of being the place to go because of the value and respect shown to staff.

Dr. Robert is glad to be issuing contracts, wishing well and congratulating those returning. He said a lot of time was spent working with the community to pass the bond and override election and with a 75% approval, the community is ready for the work to begin. He expressed joy received from the celebrations adding that it is evident Principal Martin enjoys those he works with every day.

Mrs. Greenberg shared that she had just spoken with a parent who said Principal Martin is the nicest principal they had ever met.

Future

Mrs. Ramos

- In the near future discuss building a salary schedule allowing teachers to move to a higher level

Mrs. Greenberg

- Discuss building a salary schedule and have it go thru meet and confer
- Feedback on concerns with Encanto pick up and drop off

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A short break was called at 7:24 PM to allow all except the Board and Dr. Robert to leave.

Meeting reconvened at 7:44 PM.

President Hermes called to move to Executive Session. Mrs. Ramos seconded.

Member reconvened back into the Regular Meeting at 8:52 PM.

Adjournment

President Hermes declared the meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM.

Minutes submitted by:

Lisa Nye, Executive Assistant
to the Superintendent and Governing Board

Luis Peralta, Board Clerk