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## Board of Directors Board Minutes June 15, 2021

- Board Members** Board Chair Scott Reynolds, Vice Chair Peggy Kinkade, Directors Seana Barry, Gwen Carr, Betsy Julian, John Lang and Bob Moore
- HDES D Staff** Paul Andrews, Superintendent; Sara Ausman, Special Programs Administrator; Rochelle Friend, Chief Financial Officer; Jayel Hayden, Chief Human Resources Officer; Anna Higgins, Chief Strategy & Innovation Officer; Amy Joynt, Executive Director of Special Education; Jimmy Keegan, Facilities Manager; Angella LaFontaine, Sr. Business Analyst; Shay Mikalson, Chief Student Success Officer; Rachel Wentte-Chaney, Chief Information Officer and Shelley Knutz, Executive Assistant
- Guests** Carlos Perez, Board Member Elect
- Call to Order** Board Chair Scott Reynolds called the June 15, 2021 meeting to order at 5:30pm
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### BUDGET HEARING

#### Open High Desert ESD Budget Hearing

The 2021-22 budget hearing opened at 5:35 pm.

#### Audience Participation Regarding Budget

There was no audience participation or questions regarding the proposed budget.

#### Close High Desert ESD Budget Hearing

The 2021-22 budget hearing closed at 5:40 pm.

### PRESENTATIONS and REPORTS

#### Restraint and Seclusion Report

Superintendent Andrews explained we are statutorily required to share Restraint and Seclusion information with the Board and with the State every year. He introduced Amy Joynt and Sara Ausman. Sara is administrator of the three programs we are required to report on. She was happy to report that 2 of the reports have no restraints or seclusions to report this year.

- The Bridges program serves students K-3 highly impacted by autism. They reported zero incidents.
- The Sagebrush program serves students experiencing intensive social/emotional and behavioral issues. There were no incidents to report.
- The Nest (Nurturing Empathy Safety and Trust) program serves Bend-La Pine students K-5 with intense behavioral and social skills challenges. There were 3 seclusion incidents to report from 3 separate students.

Sara shared a three year summary of restraints and seclusions by program. The EI/ECSE programs had no incidents to report.

Sara asked her team for their explanation of these excellent reports. In addition to the number of children/days impacted by COVID, the team said they have relationships with the students and know what to do to distract or deescalate the situation. They also mention staff expertise and the lower teacher to student ratio. Another comment was that staff members know when to step away and let someone else take over the situation

### **Fiscal Report**

Rochelle reported revenues are down year to date as compared to last year. She contributes this partly to the lack of substitute use by local districts. She also noted that expenditures are down accordingly. They have been busy spending down grants. There may be some grant funds that will have to be returned but they are hoping to avoid that.

The PERS board is in the process of reviewing the assumed rate of return that is used to determine many things including, employer contributions, benefit payout and length of PERS debt payments. The latest actuarial reports indicate (as they have for the past couple years) that the 7.2% assumed rate of return that's being used is unrealistically high, and they are proposing this be lowered to somewhere between 6.27% and 6.8%. If the Board decides to lower the rate to 6.6%, employers will experience approximately a 3% increase in their PERS rates over the 2023-25 biennium. The PERS Board is also reviewing the average payroll growth and inflation rates, and will vote on the proposal at the July meeting.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Alyce Hatch Acquisition**

Superintendent Andrews acknowledged how much time Lauren and Rochelle have put into this acquisition. We are using Western Title to handle the documents and filings for the transfer. Western Title is requesting board action to designate Scott Reynolds as the signer for this transfer.

- **Bob Moore moved and Gwen Carr seconded a motion to authorize Scott Reynolds to sign the closing documents for the acquisition of the Alyce Hatch Center building located at 1406 Juniper Street in Bend, OR as presented. Motion carried 7-0**

#### **Insurance Committee Recommendation**

The ESD Insurance Committee met and reviewed plan options for the 2021-22 year. The Committee was in agreement to offer all plans for the 2021-22 benefit year. Bob Moore asked if we are still experiencing issues with Oregon Employees Benefit Board (OEBB). Jayel said they will not share our experience which is frustrating. They also use a statewide rate which has increased every year.

- **Peggy Kinkade moved and Seana Barry seconded a motion to approve the 2021-22 insurance plan selections as presented. Motion carried 7-0**

#### **Resolution 73-21 – Adopting the 2021-22 Budget**

Rochelle highlighted the changes since the proposed budget was approved by the Budget Committee. She noted that ADMw is being based on the Local Social Plan which was calculated using a 3 year historical average. The budget has been increased by \$2.2M due to anticipated Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSSR Fund) and two grants for over a million dollars. Rochelle is happy to report that EI/ECSE will be able to roll over their unused federal funds. Peggy had asked about the 79% increase in supplies and materials. Many supplies are being purchased through grant funding to be given to students or to be used in programs.

- **Bob Moore moved and Gwen Carr seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 73-21 as presented. The Board of Directors of the High Desert Education Service District hereby impose the taxes provided for in the adopted budget at the rate of \$0.0964 per \$1,000 of assessed value for operations, and that these taxes are hereby imposed and categorized for tax year 2021-22 upon the assessed value of all taxable property within the district. Motion carried 7-0**

## Consent Agenda

- **Gwen Carr moved and Peggy Kinkade seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried 7-0**
  - Personnel Report for June 2021
  - Policy JGA – Corporal Punishment
  - Budget/Board Minutes for May 18, 2021

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### Superintendent Report

- Introduced and welcomed Jimmy Keegan as our new facilities manager.
- Recognized John Lang for his 8 years on the HDESD Board. Prior to that he had served as a member on the Crook County Board. John brought the corporate and business perspective to the work which was very helpful.
- Recognized Scott Reynolds for 12 years of service on the HDESD Board. Prior to that he had served on the Bend-La Pine Board. His time, leadership and attention to the details of our work has been greatly appreciated.
- For summer opening, we have a memorandum of understanding with HDEA that we will provide additional summer pay for some of our staff. Recognizing that if they are willing to step up and work extra days after a very tiring year.
- Fall Ready Schools Safe Learners guidelines. We will receive a good sense of what the guidance will be on June 25. The official guidance will be released on July 22. At that time we will be sharing this with all staff.
- Reopen Hub has been in place all year for crisis response. They will remain together over the summer to face any larger issues that come up.
- Legislators have 12 days left. The State School Fund was approved at \$9.3B. We are still holding out for a little higher. We budgeted at \$9.3B so we are in a good place. Regional Inclusive Services is pushing for \$10M more. We do not know if this increase will pass.
- We have asked for an additional \$4M to use for Safe School Alliance (SSA) for ESDs. We do not know whether it will pass.
- Legislation has been passed to require class size has to be bargained in Title 1 schools. This will not impact ESDs
- We are in bargaining as well. Thanks to Peggy for representing the board so well. They have agreed to traditional bargaining and IBB bargaining. Yesterday they shared each side's interest and data that we need to come up solutions. We will not be addressing the financial issues until the IBB is finished. Carlos asked about IBB issues that were presented. Superintendent gave an update on what they are asking for.
- The ESD-wide equity gathering with each work group presenting what they have worked on this year went very well. Some of those work groups will be presenting to the board next year.
- RIF – Healthy Beginnings is a program of the ESD and 501c3 – They plan to leave the ESD and will just be under the 501c3. Their moving away from the ESD, created a Reduction in Force (RIF). There was 1 employee in that situation and she had another job waiting for her. She chose not to bump anyone.

### Important Dates

- ✓ Fireside chats will continue in July and August as a means of communication with staff.
  - ✓ Executive Team retreat 8/3
  - ✓ Administrative Leadership Team retreat 8/26
  - ✓ New employee orientation 8/30
  - ✓ All employee gathering on 9/2
  - ✓ Superintendent Andrews will be on vacation the week of June 28.
- Please refer to the attached Facilities Report from Bob Martin.

### Board Chair Report

- Discussed the open board positions. If there are several applicants it might be helpful to have a small group of board members review any applicants.
- OAESD – Planning on the staffing and transition planning. They have been talking with Gary about succession planning.

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 6:40 pm

### Executive Session

The regular session adjourned to executive session at 6:45 pm under ORS 192.660(2) (i) – To review and evaluate the performance of the superintendent. Executive Session adjourned to Regular Session at 7:18 pm.

The June 15, 2021 Board of Director's meeting reconvened and then adjourned at 7:18 pm.



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Scott Reynolds, Board Chair



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Shelley Knutz, Executive Assistant