

OREGON-DAVIS SCHOOL CORPORATION

**Monday, October 25, 2021
Regular School Board Meeting, 6:00 PM**

Humanities Room, Jr/Sr High School, 5990 North 750 East, Hamlet, IN 46532

The Board of School Trustees of the Oregon-Davis School Corporation met in Regular Session on Monday evening, at 6:00 PM in the Humanities Room of the Jr/Sr High School.

1. Meeting Opening

1.01 Call to Order – Kyle Hinds

1.02 Pledge of Allegiance – Kyle Hinds

1.02 Roll Call – Kyle Hinds, Christopher Lawrence, Brandie Ecker, Ben Lady, Absent: Lee Nagai

Mr. Hinds read a statement before opening up public comment. The statement follows:

“Before we begin this evening, I want to just touch on our current public comment policy and common practice. In reviewing our policy, I noticed that we have often been much more lenient on what the public comments are in regards to. Current policy states we will accept comments only on agenda items. As many of you know this board has always been willing to allow comment on items not on our agenda and allowing folks plenty of time to get their message across.

On this specifically we have pride in ourselves for allowing flexibility so that we can hear from the public, both the good and the bad. We think this is important in moving our school corporation in a positive direction.

With that being said I want to remind those in attendance. This is a private meeting, that is held in public, so that you all can be of witness to our actions. We gladly invite your participation and comment, but where our policy must draw the line is on individual personnel matters. We simply cannot allow for discussions of individual employee’s actions. These personnel issues are prohibited from being discussed in an open meeting by board policy and state law.

With that being said, we would like to continue to see parents in our meeting room. Your concern and commitment to the students of this school is admired by this board, and we are excited to see you here.

This board will be reviewing our public comment policy in the coming months. It is my personal hope that we can make modifications as to not limit a persons comment to only the agenda items. I also would like the times during which the public comment is allowed to be evaluated so that we might hear appropriate comments at times when parents are able to give more meaningful feedback. But these are just my personal thoughts.

With all that being said, thank you for being here tonight.”

1.03 Public Comment: Two individuals signed up for public comment. Mr. Kurt Hayes signed up to speak on Administrative Handbook. He asked if that included school board policies. The Administrative Handbook is guidelines. He asked if the school board members have a book have them on hand and if they have read them. He wanted to be sure they

understood that they are bound by their policies and should not deviate from following them.

The second person that signed up to speak was Mr. Justin Risner. He came to talk about his daughter's eighth grade english assignment. He has met with the teacher since his daughter is opting out of any SEL assignments. He provided copies of the articles to the school board. He wants to know how to keep these kinds of assignments out of the classroom. He wants to work with the school board on curriculum. Mr. Hinds thanked him from his comments and asked him to continue to bring items to the principal and superintendent.

Mr. Nagai joined the meeting at approximately 6:08 pm.

2. Consent Agenda

2.01 Approval of the Minutes

- 9-27-21 CTA Public Hearing
- 9-27-21 Budget Public Hearing
- 9-27-21 Regular Meeting Minutes

2.02 Approval of Financial Reports

- 9-30-21 Fund Transfer Posting
- 10-1-21, 10-15-21 Deduction Checks Posting Report
- 9-30-21, 10-25-21 Vendor Claims
- 10-1-21, 10-15-21 Payroll Claims

2.03 Approval of Travel, Facility Requests, Fundraisers, and Donations

Professional Leave

- 10-19-21, David Pinkham, Porter Trust Meeting, Wheeler High School
- 10-27-21, K. Roberts, K. Bradway, K. Bachert, L. Glennon, Rm 202, Bargaining
- 11-10 & 11-11-21, Jesiah Clemons, HECC Conference, Indianapolis

Fieldtrips

- 11-9-21, Industrial Tech to Open House of the IKORCC Training Ctr, Merrillville
- 11-9-21, Food Science Class, in house, work on canning and food processing
- 11-18-21, Culinary Principles & Advanced Nutrition & Wellness class, in house, to
Create a Thanksgiving Meal for the staff and themselves
- 1-25-22, Fashion Technology, JoAnn Fabrics, Fabric purchase for pattern project

Facility Use

- 10-19 – 5-31-22, Cub Scout Pack 235, cafeteria 1.5 hour weekly meeting coordinated
With Ms. Quinn

Fundraisers

- 11-11-21, Cross Country, ticket sales at basketball games to Tie Blanket Raffle
- 11-29-21, Freshman/Art Dept., Cookies & Canvas JrSr High Cafeteria
- Basketball Season, ODCTA Giving Tree, K. Roberts, K. Bachert
- 11-23-21, Give It Back Day, Elem Student Council to purchase food baskets

Donations

Knox Fertilizer – Turf Care Products
Charles & Margaret Moore, \$200 in memory of Hobie Martin
R. Adams, \$150.00, Boys Basketball
Tazco, Inc., \$500, Boys Basketball
Co-Alliance, \$200, Boys Basketball
C. Binkley Farms, LLC, \$250, Boys Basketball
Becks Hybrids, \$500, Boys Basketball
L & D Farms & Trucking, \$250.00, Boys Basketball

2.04 Approval of Personnel Recommendations

Resignations

Yesenia Godoy
Scott Taylor
Teresa Holdread

New Hires/Assignments

Danielle Henigsmith, Elementary Yearbook Sponsor
Jeff Messer, Jr. High Boys Basketball Coach (7th & 8th Grades)

Comments from Mr. Bennett was that once again he is always amazed at the individuals and businesses that donate money to the organizations to help them purchase items that they may not be able to get otherwise, and he is very grateful for their support. Also, a big shout out to our teachers for the effort they put into fundraisers for their clubs and organizations to make sure the students have what they need. Scott Taylor did resign. He has been with the school corporation many years and he wanted to thank him and wish him the best of luck.

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Nagai, second by Ms. Ecker. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Discussion/Action Items

3.01 Recommendation to Adopt 2022 Budget

Motion was made by Mr. Nagai, second by Mr. Lady. Motion passed 5-0.

3.02 Recommendation to Approve Resolution 04-21

Motion to approve was made by Ms. Ecker, second by Mr. Nagai. Motion passed 5-0.

3.03 Recommendation to Approve Non-Certified Handbook

For the most part the changes are in red. Last year the switch was made to PTO days from sick and personal so a few of the changes were language. Another tier for paraprofessionals was added. This tier is for paras that go up and above to almost teacher duties. In addition to this he is recommending that employees be allowed to sell back vacation days if they desire.

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Nagai and second was by Mr. Lady. Motion passed 5-0.

3.04 Recommendation to Approve Administrative Handbook

Typos and items that were incorrect were updated. The same clause for selling back vacation days. Mr. Hinds asked for a motion and further discussion ensued about terms of contract with initial contracts for administrators. Mr. Nagai put a motion to table this item to the next meeting. Second was by Mr. Lady. Motion passed 3-2, with Mr. Lawrence and Ms. Ecker voting no. This items will be on the next meeting agenda.

3.05 Recommendation to Approve 2021-2022 School Improvement Plans

Brief explanations were offered by Mrs Awald and Ms. Quinn on their respective plans.

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Nagai, second by Mr. Lady. Motion passed 5-0.

3.06 Recommendation to Declare Miscellaneous Items as Junk

An inventory of the shop area revealed duplicates, items no longer needed. Items can be repurposed or used by another organization and free up some room in the shop area. Mr. Nagai made the motion and Mr. Lawrence seconded the motion. Mr. Nagai would like more specific information before items are disposed of. Motion passed 3 – 2 with Mr. Lady and Mr. Nagai voting no.

4. Other Business

5. Curriculum

5.01 Vocational Plan – Ms. Hensley and Mrs. Awald Ms. Hensley address questions as follows: What is being done to make sure all available scholarships are being applied for? Scholarships are communicated through emails, Bobcat Blast, announcements, forwarding on to students, and administrators talking to students. Are we still doing convocations for the student body? Yes. What all are we doing to help our students get jobs upon graduation? Information is communicated to students about job fairs, information is passed on to students when companies call to inform about job openings. Do we have a program to help students with job interviews? All eighth grade students are enrolled in a program that works with job interviews and resume building. She as also talked with an individual to come in and work with our seniors on resume building and job interviewing. Is there any follow-up with students post-graduation? Students complete an exit form on the day the graduate. Mrs. Awald offered that the Alumni Association may be the place for follow up with graduates.

6. Reports

6.01 Superintendent Reports - Currently at 488 ADM. We have received Title II (14,000) and Title IV (11,400) allocations from the Dept. of Education. We also have \$28,000 available from ARP funds for special education. Our vocational funding is up 35,000 from last year. Collective Bargaining will resume on Wednesday. He passed to the board the job description for maintenance director. Next week we will be jumping into Neola policies to bring to the board next month and calendars for the next two years.

6.02 Principal's Reports – Mrs. Awald- open positions include math, spanish and special education. National Junior Honor Society will be posted after bargaining process. Enrollment changes, 216 in 7-12 grades, 29 withdraw and 27 new students. Field Trips – Mr. Veger's trip was approved tonight. Yearbook will be working through phone sale ads. FFA convention is coming up with 7 students attending Wednesday – Friday. They did receive donations to help cover expenses. Band had no more marching competitions at this time with the pep band will have a competition on January 15th. Lessons are taking place after school and several students were selected for honor band including Stella Awald, Chris Bottorff, Kairah Ohime, Lee Ann Stambaugh, Matthew Wringer. They will perform in the All-Region Honor Band on November 14th. Spencer Berg and Berrek Ohime will participate in the All-District Honor Band on November 21st. They will also be participating in the upcoming Talent Show. They will also be participating in music in the parks at Six Flags on May 14. High School Academic teams just kicked off their first practice tonight. Ten students have signed up. English 8 honors is going very well and English 9 honors starts up in the fall. Mr. Ash uses Darby Fitness Tests. He will look at the President Physical Fitness for next year. He encourages students to participate in team sports by introducing them in PE class and encouraging them to try it.

Ms. Quinn – K-6 skill based report cards went home on Friday, and they have had positive feedback from parents and teachers on this method of reporting. December 14 will be the Elementary Christmas Program in the high school gym. Heart Healthy month will be throughout the month of February in PE classes. PTO meeting will be Wednesday. Current ADM is 235 in K-6 plus 39 in Pre-K. There is one para position open at the elementary.

7. Board Comments

Mr. Lady wants to look at the spending limits policy in the near future. The Lions club fountain is here and will be brought to the school and put in the bus barn pending the necessary hook ups being put in place on the playground. As far as Covid policy, the school is following the guidelines that have been given to schools. SCYC conducted a survey on the interest in a before school program and there was very little interest. Mr. Nagai would like to adjust our policy regarding Homeschool students participating in ECA activities. Also Mr. Nagai would like to see the public speaking policy changed.

8. Future Meetings

8.01 Board Meeting: Regular Board Meeting November 22, 2021

9. Adjournment

Mr. Hinds asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Lawrence made that motion, second was by Ms. Ecker. Motion passed 4 – 1 with Mr. Lawrence voting no. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:28 pm.