



# Northwest Regional Education Service District

## Welcome to this Public Meeting of the NWRESD Board of Directors

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**March 14, 2023 - 4:00-6:30 PM; Virtual  
Executive & General Session**

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### Executive Session

CALL TO ORDER [Executive Session Statement](#) Chair Tomlin called the Executive Session to order at 4:00 pm.

**Board:** Karen Cunningham, Doug Dougherty, Tony Erickson, Yadira Martinez, Christine Riley, Ross Tomlin, Diane Wilkinson, Maureen Wolf, Ernest Stephens

**Staff:** Dan Goldman, Valerie White, David Williams, Debbie Simons, Sherry Ely

[ORS 192.660\(2\)\(d\)](#): To conduct deliberations with persons you have designated to carry on labor negotiations.

ADJOURN Chair Tomlin adjourned the Executive Session at 4:26 pm

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### General Session

[General Session Registration Link](#)

1. CALL TO ORDER - Chair Tomlin called the General Session to order at 4:30 pm

**Board:** Karen Cunningham, Doug Dougherty, Tony Erickson, Yadira Martinez, Christine Riley, Ernest Stephens, Ross Tomlin, Diane Wilkinson, Maureen Wolf.

**Staff:** Dan Goldman, Valerie White, David Williams, Sherry Ely, Stephanie Karpouzes, Ryan Blasquez, Elena Barreto, Debbie Simons, Karen Shepherd, Sarah Davis, Sarah Andrews, Dorothy Spence, Kendra Hughes, Olson Miller, Kristen Miyasaki, Lana Mann, S. Liwaru, Stuart Long, Kelsey Cardwell, Stacy Rager, Cathy Jensen, Megan McCarter, Elsa Young, Wendy Walsh.

**Guests:** John Lowery, Nicole Mandarano, Andra Brown.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - Chair Tomlin led the board in the pledge of allegiance and Director Cunningham provided the land acknowledgement.

3. AGENDA REVIEW/REVISION - Superintendent Goldman recommended that item 7C be moved to the Action Agenda for revision explanation. Chair Tomlin took a motion from Director Erickson to move item 7C. from the Consent Agenda to the Action Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Wilkinson and approved unanimously.

4. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT - Expressing his gratitude for all of our region's Classified Staff, Superintendent Goldman discussed the Resolution the board will hear tonight, in celebration of Classified Appreciation Week. Next, he thanked the board and NWRESD staff for their support in presenting the LSP to districts around the region and celebrated the approval of the 2023-24 LSP by 95% of districts. Discussing Oregon's current legislative session, Superintendent Goldman discussed the most recent revenue forecast and the Governor's top 3 priorities. He then went on to discuss NWRESD's priorities of early learning funding, securing Student Success Act current service levels, improving the Regional Inclusive Services funding and to secure \$10.3 B in the State School Fund. In particular, SB-819 is a controversial and impactful measure which would require dramatic changes for our SEL staff and students. He reported on our budgeting process and what he requested from his administrative staff in order to tie our budgets to our Strategic Plan with an equity lens. Finally, Superintendent Goldman invited the board to the Junior Achievement/BizTown groundbreaking in downtown Hillsboro on April 4, 2023. This site will provide students, in all our rural and coastal districts, an opportunity to enjoy a BizTown field trip along with their more urban peers.

5. RECOGNITION AND GOOD NEWS - Communications Director, Kelsey Cardwell introduced Dr. Lowery and his staff at the Lions Low Vision Clinic. Executive Director of K-12 Special Education, Cathleen Jensen, discussed NWRESD's long partnership with the Lions Foundation which includes Dr. Lowery's traveling vision assessments. Vision Coordinator Stephanie Karpouzes shared her long history with Dr. Lowery's team and the community impact his work has had. Dr. Lowery thanked his clinic team, the Lions Foundation staff and all the teachers who work with students with severe vision difficulties, noting that he is only one part of a large team. Director Wolf asked Dr. Lowery about tools and specialized tests for students with low vision along with other disabilities. Dr. Lowery also discussed serving students with severe vision issues who do not have co-occurring disabilities and that most optometrists don't feel comfortable evaluating these students. Director Stephens thanked Dr. Lowery for his amazing work and asked about how often students have low vision co-occurring with other disabilities to which Dr. Lowery responded that roughly 75% of students he sees have comorbidities such as hearing impairment, etc. Chair Tomlin asked about Dr. Lowery's traveling assessments throughout the state of Oregon. Dr. Lowery stated he works with the 8 regional programs in the state. Oregon has a unique and fortunate vision support system, partially supported by the BVIS fund and hub, managed by the NWRESD.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT - Public comment was given by Resident Cassandra 'Andra' Brown.

7. CONSENT AGENDA - Chair Tomlin entertained a motion from Director Wilkinson to approve the revised Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Cunningham and approved unanimously.

#### 8. REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

NW Parenting Hub Progress Updates - Regional Coordinator of NW Parenting and NW Early Learning Hub, Elena Barreto presented where these programs serve students and when they launched, when Preschool Promise, NW Regional CCR&R, NW Parenting and coordinated enrollment were added to the program and when all of these were integrated into NWRESD Early Learning Department. Ms. Barreto continued her discussion about the services which the NW Parenting Hub provides throughout the region to parents, caregivers and educators. Next, Elena showed how their department's work aligns with the NWRESD Strategic Plan and the EL Department Action Plan. Finally, she gave a preview of the Hub's upcoming programming for families. Director Wilkinson thanked Elena and the NW Parenting Hub team for their work, particularly in rural communities. Superintendent Goldman recognized the complexity of work and growth, along with the challenges, which this team has overcome to serve our community.

MtSS and Early Literacy Regional Priority - Chief Academic Officer, Megan McCarter presented the NWRESD plan to impact early literacy in our region along with data supporting the need for this instruction as well as teacher preparedness. CAO McCarter noted that Oregon does not require evidence-based reading curriculum for schools and hopes that reading initiatives being presented to the Oregon State Legislature this session will support NWRESD's efforts to shift the science of reading in our districts. Director of Instructional Services, Ryan Blasquez, presented a plan to pair these reading initiatives with MtSS to support positive outcomes as a team. Director Blasquez also showed how MtSS-type tiers are used in public health models, how the right core instruction is crucial to improving reading, as well as the expected wave of unnecessary SpEd referrals expected in the coming months due to disrupted learning or trauma-related behaviors. CAO McCarter presented data about regional district priorities and the formation of our Regional Planning Team. This team is working to analyze the data, facilitate learning with job-alike meetings for Curriculum & Instruction and SpEd directors, restructuring our services in response to feedback, data and learning as well as up-coming legislation. Director Blasquez and his team are also revising our ORTiI program to target Early Reading and relaunching the Early Literacy Network with additional coaches, possible contractors and covering sub costs for district staff to participate. Director Wolf thanked Megan and Ryan for their work and asked how districts who do not revise their curriculum can participate. CAO McCarter explained that best practices will be the same throughout various curriculums and that MtSS can be used with any curriculum a district may use. Chair Tomlin commented on the graphic representing unnecessary SpEd referrals and asked if this team will have strategies to address these referrals. Director Blasquez noted that grade level benchmarks will be a starting point and then they will target gaps a student may have prior to students being referred for Special Education. Superintendent Goldman noted that the factors which we want to assist districts with are supported in the MtSS, screening all students and supporting when and where needed and assisting with curriculum adoption if desired by districts.

First Read Policies: GCBDB-GDBDB, GCBDC-GBDBC - Chief Human Resource Officer Debbie Simons presented the minimal changes made to the above-named policies.

Administrative Reports - Director Wolf noted that she was able to attend a recent CTE workshop at EPSON and wanted to acknowledge the positive impact of that work.

## 9. ACTION ITEMS

[Approve Resolution 23-004: Classified Appreciation Week](#) - CHRO Simons repeated the appreciation the NWRES D has for our Classified staff and read Resolution 23-004. Chair Tomlin entertained a motion from Director Wilkinson to approve Resolution 23-004: Classified Appreciation Week as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Riley and approved unanimously.

[Approve Resolution 23-005: Neurodiversity Celebration Week](#) - Superintendent Goldman recognized our students and staff who identify as neurodiverse and read Resolution 23-005. Chair Tomlin entertained a motion from Director Riley to approve Resolution 23-005: Neurodiversity Celebration Week as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Stephens and approved unanimously.

[Approve February 2023 Financial Report](#) - CFO Sherry Ely reviewed the February 2023 financial report. Superintendent Goldman asked CFO Ely to update the board on the NWRES D's rating call and process of funding our building projects. Chair Tomlin entertained a motion from Director Cunningham to approve the February 2023 financial report as presented.. The motion was seconded by Vice-chair Dougherty and approved unanimously.

[Approve Board Equity Policy Advisory Committee Members](#) - Director of Equity and Family Partnerships, S. Liwaru, presented two community member applicants who are recommended as new members of the BEPAC board. Chair Tomlin entertained a motion from Director Martinez to appoint Rosario Echeverria and Carina Solis as BEPAC members. The motion was seconded by Director Stephens and approved unanimously.

[Declare Board Vacancy](#) - Superintendent Goldman presented Director Wilkinson's letter of resignation and the board vacancy process. Chair Tomlin entertained a motion from Director Cunningham to accept Director Wilkinson's resignation and declare a vacancy on the board. The motion was seconded by Director Erickson and approved unanimously.

[Approve licensed & Administrator contract renewals/extensions and non-extensions](#) - CHRO Simons explained the revisions in this report. Chair Tomlin entertained a motion from Director Stephens to approve the revised Licensed & Administrator contract renewals/extensions and non-extensions as revised. The motion was seconded by Director Wolf and approved unanimously.

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS - None.

11. ADJOURN - Chair Tomlin adjourned the general session at 6:08 pm.