



Welcome to this Public Meeting of the
NWRESD Board of Directors
September 12, 2023 – Columbia Service Center
800 Port Avenue, St. Helens, OR 97051
Executive Session & General Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION

CALL TO ORDER - Chair Dougherty called the Executive Session to order at 4:31 pm.

Board: In Person: Becky Tymchuk, Chris Riley, Doug Dougherty, Tony Erickson. Virtual: Ernest Stephens, Maureen Wolf, Ross Tomlin. Absent: Miriam Meneses-Rios, Yadira Martinez.

Staff: Dan Goldman, Debbie Simons, Jordan Ely, Stuart Long, Valerie White.

Guests: Brett Mersereau, Beth Plass - legal counsel

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

[192.660\(2\)\(h\)](#) To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

ADJOURN - Chair Dougherty adjourned the Executive Session at 5:04 pm.

GENERAL SESSION

CALL TO ORDER - Chair Dougherty called the general session to order at 5:07 pm

Board: In Person: Becky Tymchuk, Chris Riley, Doug Dougherty, Tony Erickson. Virtual: Ernest Stephens, Maureen Wolf, Ross Tomlin, Miriam Meneses-Rios, Yadira Martinez.

Staff: Dan Goldman, Debbie Simons, Stuart Long, Valerie White, Jordan Ely, John Peplinski, Ryan Blasquez, Todd Hendrickson, Matt Doyle, Eva Manderson, Jennifer Vanderschuere, Stacy Rager

Guests: Dale Kuykendall

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Director Tymchuk led the board in the pledge of allegiance and Director Wolf provided the land acknowledgement.

AGENDA REVIEW/REVISION

None

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Goldman reported to the board about the beginning of the 2023-24 service year, including our inservice in late August as well as regional superintendent's meetings in early September. Reports were also made on the legislative session which has impacted our EI/ECSE program significantly, licensed bargaining status as well as existing and new facility information. Superintendent Goldman noted that our Clatsop Service Center has moved back to Gray Elementary in the Astoria School District and looks forward to the support from the district which they share a building with. Lastly, photos of Megan McCarter and Kelsey Soltysiak's newest family members were shared and Superintendent Goldman thanked all the staff who have been supporting their departments in their absence.

RECOGNITION AND GOOD NEWS

Tracey Goldner-Franco, Communications Manager introduced Sabi Velasco, Yesenia Flores & Saray Flores of Amazing Minds Preschools and brought a success story about a child who started with their program and struggled to be successful and the change this child demonstrated after only a short time in their program. Tracy Zell spoke about our staff member, Jennifer Youngblood, as well as Sabi, Yesenia & Saray and their dedication to inclusion in their programs. Jennifer Youngblood offered her thanks to Sabi, Yesenia & Saray for their commitment to their students. Sabi Velasco addressed the board discussing the philosophy behind their service to children. Board Chair Doug Dougherty asked about their partnership with NWRESD. Sabi Velasco noted that they have been working with NWRESD since 2008, when her preschool opened. Doug Dougherty thanked Sabi, Yesenia and Saray for their service to children.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathryn Vsetecka introduced herself and reported her home address. Ms. Vsetecka addressed the board for approximately 3 minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Dougherty entertained a motion by Director Riley to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Erickson and approved unanimously.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Regional Early Literacy Initiative

Ryan Blasquez, Director of Instructional Services, presented the Regional Early Literacy Initiative for NWRESD. Chair Dougherty connected with the peer coaching process as his dissertation, 30+ years prior had been on exactly those processes. Director Tymchuk discussed the state's requirement to apply for this funding and asked if there were any resources for smaller districts to gain grant funding. Ryan Blasquez discussed partner groups which have created grant application packets which has caught the attention of ODE. Superintendent Goldman discussed the ESDs implementation of a grant writing program for smaller and/or rural districts which do not have the staffing to complete the application paperwork. NWRESD has created a group of grant writers who will assist smaller and/or rural districts to apply and maintain reporting for grant funding. Director Tymchuk reiterated her concern with regard to the ESD spending SSA funds on this - acknowledging that legislators need to hear from districts about the hardship this process creates.

Hillsboro Early Learning Facility Project

Dale Kuykendal with the Wenaha Group. Dale presented an update on the Hillsboro Early Learning Facility project currently in the works on Aloclek Drive, including co-design workshops. Jordan Ely, NWRESD CFO, discussed the cost breakdown for the project - although, prior to cost estimation and design decisions, they are crude costs - and how those costs will likely change. Jennifer Vanderschuere, Director of Early Learning, introduced herself and discussed plans for the Hillsboro Early Learning Facility and the stakeholders involved in the co-design and planning for wants and needs for this new space.

First Read Policies: DD: Funding Proposals and Applications & DJ: ESD Purchasing - Jordan Ely, NWRESD CFO, presented Policy DD and DJ with regard to grants and contracts which exceed \$150,000. The intention of this presentation is to request an increase of the threshold for board approval of contracts from \$150,000 to \$250,000. Director Erickson asked a clarifying question regarding dollar thresholds as well as where all contracts/grants would be accessible. Superintendent Goldman stated that all information is public. Director Tymchuk noted the fiduciary responsibility of board members and the necessity of all board members to be aware of where district dollars are going. She also wondered if a \$200,000 threshold would be possible. Director Wolf noted Directors Tymchuk's and Erickson's concerns with having all contract information and wondered if there might be a way to notify board members of contract information which is under the recommended threshold. Superintendent Goldman agreed to take that feedback and find a bridging mechanism to inform the board as well as a possible compromise to a \$200,000 threshold. Director Stephens agreed with Director Wolf that a bridging process to bring form contracts to the board during RFQ/RFP processes to eliminate delays due to the NWRESD monthly Board meeting schedule. Superintendent Goldman recommended these policies have a second read at the next board meeting.

Annual Insurance Coverage - CHRO Debbie Simons introduced Geoff Sinclair with Brown & Brown Insurance. Geoff discussed the annual insurance coverage of NWRESD. Additionally, the insurance marketplace is volatile in that costs are going up and insurers are pulling back coverage. Fortunately, NWRESD is in an insurance pool called PACE, which is the insurer of most K-12 districts, ESDs and Community Colleges in the State of Oregon - putting us in a large group with comprehensive coverage. Our insurance pay out for this year will be 25% more than the previous year - due mostly to payroll increases, cost of services increases, etc. Even weather events around the country have an impact on insurance costs. Director Tymchuk brought a question on behalf of Director Wolf about D&O coverage as they did not see it in the provided documentation. D&O (directors & officers) coverage does not cover board members outside the scope of their board duties. Superintendent Goldman mentioned comments in our audits related to our budgets. Geoff Sinclair noted that most of the school districts, ESDs and community colleges he manages coverage for have received these notes in the audits. Geoff also noted that NWRESD has the maximum amount of coverage that PACE offers and the amount that he, as our agent, recommends the ESD carry. Chair Dougherty noted that he had seen this practice from auditors for many years and that board members should be aware that this is the case during audit season.

Administrative Reports - Superintendent Goldman noted all the good things which these reports offer the board each month. The report from Instructional Services regarding the Migrant Education Programs Summer School

was particularly noteworthy for Superintendent Goldman. Chief Dougherty noted how helpful these reports are.

ACTION ITEMS

Approve Resolution 23-014 - National Hispanic Heritage Month - Sharif Liwaru, Director of Equity and Family Partnerships, presented Resolution 23-014, National Hispanic Heritage Month to the board for the dates of Sept 15 through Oct 15, 2023. Chair Dougherty entertained a motion by Director Riley to approve Resolution 23-014 as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Erickson and approved unanimously.

Approve September 2023 Financial Report - CFO Ely reviewed the September 2023 Financial Report, discussing how financial projections at this time of the year are not fully accurate - and fund balances from the previous year help deal with cash flow issues from the state or tax refunds. Director Riley noted it was a very interesting report. Director Tymchuk asked how our budget from June 30 will change due to the legislative uncertainty at that time. CFO Ely noted that the state school fund was more than NWRESD had budgeted for and that those additional resources will flow through to districts. If districts want to use them, we will need to bring a supplemental budget to the board. Director Tomlin asked Jordan to clarify the annual forecast and annual budget numbers. CEO Ely noted that the budget is what the board has already approved and projections are based on a calculation of revenue behavior from previous years. Director Stephens wondered about fund balances in future years. CFO Ely explained how fund balances are managed. Chair Dougherty entertained a motion by Director Erickson to approve the September 2023 financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Riley and approved unanimously.

OSBA Board and Legislative Policy Committee Nominations - Board Secretary, Valerie White, presented nominations for OSBA Board and Legislative Policy Committee to the board. Superintendent Goldman invited the board to let other directors know if they are interested in serving on the OSBA Board and/or LPC. Director Riley asked some clarifying questions about which positions are up for election. Director Tymchuk explained the process and the positions in each county. She also noted that Director Wolf will be stepping down from her board position. Director Tymchuk asked the board to nominate her for the Washington County position on the LPC, noting that she served on this committee for 8 years during her tenure on the Beaverton School District board. No other nominations were fielded. Chair Dougherty entertained a motion by Director Riley to nominate Director Tymchuk to the OSBA Legislative Policy Committee for Washington County. The motion was seconded by Director Erickson and approved unanimously.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS - None

ADJOURN Chair Dougherty adjourned the meeting at 7:02 pm.