



Northwest Regional Education Service District

January 9 , 2024

TO: NWRESD Board of Directors

FR: Valerie White, NWRESD Board Secretary

RE: December 2023 Board General Session Minutes

EXPLANATION:

Please find your December 2023 Board Minutes attached below, prepared by Valerie White, Board Secretary.

PRESENTER(S): Valerie White, NWRESD Board Secretary

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: [December 2023 NWRESD General Session Minutes](#)

RECOMMENDATION: To approve the December 2023 NWRESD General Session Minutes as presented in the consent agenda.

PROPOSED MOTION: "I move to approve December 2023 NWRESD General Session Minutes as presented in the consent agenda."

Welcome to this Public Meeting of the NWRESD Board of Directors

December 12, 2023 | 5:00 pm | Virtual



EXECUTIVE SESSION

CALL TO ORDER - Chair Dougherty called the Executive Session to order at 4:33 pm.

Board: Becky Tymchuk, Chris Riley, Doug Dougherty, Ernest Stephens, Maureen Wolf, Miriam Meneses-Rios, Ross Tomlin, Tony Erickson

Staff: Dan Goldman, Stuart Long, Valerie White, Jordan Ely, Catherine Dalbey

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

ADJOURN - Chair Dougherty adjourned the Executive Session at 5:05 pm.

GENERAL SESSION

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

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

Staff: Dan Goldman, Jordan Ely, Catherine Dalbey, Stuart Long, Valerie White, Tracey Goldner, Brian Bain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Director Meneses-Rios led the board in the pledge of allegiance and Director Riley provided the land acknowledgement.

AGENDA REVIEW/REVISION

Chair Dougherty entertained a motion by Director Tymchuk to move the Action Items section up to be prior to the Reports and Discussion section. The motion was seconded by Director Tomlin and approved unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Goldman addressed the board, thanking public educators in general, our board and our NWRESD staff for their incredibly specialized work. He expressed gratitude for the perseverance of board members and staff throughout the past year, acknowledging the challenges as well as the joys of working with students in our communities. He lauded, in particular, the hard work of our early learning staff to move the dial significantly for our most impacted students. Alternatively, he noted that Oregon's spending on public education, to include K12 and early learning funding, trails behind Washington state significantly and expressed his hope that Oregon's legislators will see the need to increase funding for the students throughout the state, including in our region. This funding also impacts staff wages and current negotiations with our union staff members, illustrated by current bargaining with licensed staff. Superintendent Goldman then noted an upcoming visit by local state representatives to one of our Early Learning sites in early January to see the impact our staff have on students in our region and the value in fully funding public education. Finally, Superintendent Goldman acknowledged the untimely loss of Maureen Crawford, a well-loved Cascade & Pacific Academies staff member, noting her contributions to those programs as well as the agency as a whole with her caring approach to all that she did.

RECOGNITION AND GOOD NEWS

Tracey Goldner, Communications Manager introduced Eva Manderson and her Childcare Resource & Referral staff who are being acknowledged for the significant grant funding they have secured in recent months. Eva Manderson, CCR&R director, spoke about the work her department staff do for the students in our region. Next, she discussed the specific grants which they recently have received, which have helped Clatsop county, in particular, rise out of the 'childcare desert' which all of our more rural counties struggle with. Director Manderson noted the growth her department has seen in the past year or so and asked the board if there were any questions. Director Tomlin and Chair Dougherty acknowledged the welcome growth of the department and gave kudos to the CCR&R department for the grants they were able to secure. Eva asked her staff to talk about the best parts of their jobs. Caelish Tarrham, Infant and Toddler Specialist, noted that she is excited to be a support to providers and the camaraderie she feels with her team. Jack Bello, Clatsop County Support Specialist, notes that it has been great to see the benefit of the grant process and the advocacy work within the community to meet the students' needs. Dan Gaffney, Early Learning Hub Governance Committee Member, noted Eva's impact within the region. Superintendent Goldman noted that the growth of Eva's team has necessitated a move to a new building work space and offered his thanks for her and her team's hard work.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Dougherty read the Public Participation in Board Meetings guidelines. Ginger Gamboa introduced themselves, reported their home address and addressed the board for just over 3 minutes. Vanessa Hernandez introduced themselves, reported their home address and addressed the board for approximately 3 minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

AI in Education - NWRES D CIO Stuart Long introduced Sol Joye with ODE who went on to present on the ramifications AI has and will have on education in Oregon. Sol presented resources developed by the ODE with regard to Generative AI guidance. He also noted that Oregon is the first state in the nation which has done so. Guidance documents released cover Generative AI, Policy Development Protocols and Resources for the educational use of AI. These documents follow the guidance of the federal Office of Educational Technology and will likely be updated every 6 months as this technology is changing quickly. ODEs vision for a tech-enhanced future is more like an electric bike than a robot vacuum, always being controlled by a human being. Sol noted that AI is here and it WILL be utilized in education and ODE wants to ensure they are ahead of the curve in ensuring equity-centered policies around the intentional use of AI in education. One way of staying ahead is ensuring educators have professional development in AI. Federal and State Data Privacy Laws & Policies will continue to be enforced with the use of AI. ODE is working on developing what AI policies should look like for districts. Director Stephens asked if he could contact Sol later as he has questions, but Mr. Joye had a hard stop due to a delayed agenda.

Bringing the Strategic Plan to Life - NWRES D Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment Brian Bain presented a framework to move the NWRES D's Strategic Plan forward. The board did not have any questions or comments. Superintendent Goldman complimented our administration, particularly front-line administrative staff, in getting this plan off the ground and getting the work done.

Hillsboro Early Learning Facility Project - NWRES D CFO Jordan Ely introduced Luke Harkness, Wenaha Project Manager, who presented photos of a visit made to other Oregon ESD's early childhood programs and a schedule update which included budgeting and phase date estimates. A site plan was shared with the board, showing where playgrounds and other engaging spaces would be located. Finally, Luke shared a 'flythrough' video with the board, giving a digitally rendered view of what the finished facility might look like. Executive Director of Early Learning Stacy Rager, also gave some explanations for some of the spaces shown. The board did not have any questions or comments.

First Read Policy: GCPC/GDPC Retirement of Staff - HR Director Catherine Dalbey presented policy GCPC/GDPC Retirement of Staff for update with notes included. Director Dalbey reiterated the updates to this policy included in the board packet. Director Erickson had questions about how PERS retirees would be paid if they were hired back after PERS retirement. Superintendent Goldman explained how this policy would affect both the employee and employer. Director Dalbey explained how this would also impact insurance benefits. Chair Dougherty noted that this policy change should make it much more equitable county to county due to the removal of the minimum county population requirement.

Administrative Reports - Superintendent Goldman noted the amazing work each of our departments does each month and encouraged all board meeting attendees to review those department's reports in the board packet.

ACTION ITEMS

December 2023 Financial Report - CFO Ely reviewed the December Financial Report, discussing lags in state funding which requires the NWRESD to cover costs without revenue and that we may have to consider short term borrowing if state revenue procurement issues are not resolved very soon. Director Wolf wondered if the board should consider a special session to ensure funding comes through prior to February. CFO Ely stated that he did not believe this step was necessary. Director Tymchuk asked if other districts were also experiencing this lag in funding and if this had been on our finance team's radar prior to now. CFO Ely noted that they had been watching the issue for the entire school year and that he wanted to ensure the board was aware in the case that the agency would need to come to the board for approval to borrow funds to cover costs. Superintendent Goldman commented on the procurement delay, the late procurement at an unexpected level and his concern that a delay of funding should not happen again. Chair Dougherty entertained a motion by Director Erickson to accept the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Riley and approved unanimously.

OAESD Officer Council Nominations 2023-24 - Superintendent Goldman invited the NWRESD board to nominate a board member to serve as an OAESD Board member. Chair Dougherty asked if any board members are interested in serving or nominating. No nominations were heard.

OSBA Resolution Vote - Board Secretary Valerie White introduced Resolution 1 - Oregon Rural School Board Members Caucus. Chair Dougherty noted that this resolution is an attempt to support rural school board members. Directors Tymchuk and Wolf commented that they felt that rural districts should have representation to support their unique needs. Chair Dougherty entertained a motion by Director Tychuk to accept OSBA Resolution 1 as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Wolf and approved unanimously. Secretary White introduced Resolution 2 - Amendment to OSBA 2018 ByLaws. Chair Dougherty entertained a motion by Director Wolf to accept OSBA Resolution 2 as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Riley and approved unanimously.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Chair Dougherty made the following statement: Having served in education for forty years now, I understand how difficult contract negotiations can be. In the effort to communicate differing perspectives, misunderstandings and challenges can arise. However, the process allows staff members to communicate important issues related to their working conditions and compensation. It gives the board and administration the opportunity to hear these concerns and also share district-wide issues and perspectives. The negotiations teams have the added responsibilities of working through contract issues, hoping the "other side" understands their points of view. Our teachers have chosen a profession that enables them to use their skills and expertise to improve the lives of our students and their families. I truly appreciate the hard work of our dedicated staff. In order to hear your perspective and understand the issues, I read each of the Board packets and emails I receive. I recognize your dedication and I am thankful you have chosen to work with us.

Director Erickson commented on the education component of AI and his hopes that students will be educated on the safe use

Director Tomlin notified the board of his plans to retire from his position at Tillamook Bay Community College at around the end of this school year.

Director Stephens notified the board that the Oregon Secretary of State nominated him to join the fiscal estimate committee and noted that he may need to recuse himself from a vote if faced with a vote on ballot measures or other fiscal issues.

ADJOURN Chair Dougherty adjourned the meeting at 7:06 pm