

Meeting Minutes of the NWRESD Board of Directors

January 9, 2024 | 4:30 pm | Virtual



EXECUTIVE SESSION

CALL TO ORDER - Chair Dougherty called the Executive Session to order at 4:32 pm

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

Staff in Attendance: Dan Goldman, Debbie Simons, Stuart Long, Valerie White

ORS 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 5:01 pm

GENERAL SESSION

CALL TO ORDER - Chair Dougherty called the general session to order at 5:04 pm

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

Staff: Dan Goldman, Debbie Simons, Stuart Long, Valerie White

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Vice Chair Wolf led the board in the pledge of allegiance and Director Tomlin provided the land acknowledgement.

AGENDA REVIEW/REVISION

None

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Goldman began by wishing the board and all attendees a Happy New Year and acknowledged the contributions made by NWRESD staff, component districts, community and post-secondary partners as well as our board, to our agency and the children & families in our communities.

Board Recognition Month - As January is School Board Recognition Month, Dan made special mention of our board members' individual contributions to the board and our agency as a whole.

Local Service Plan - Dan briefly noted that the 2024-25 Local Service Plan has been shared with our component districts and only a handful of presentations have been requested. Superintendent Goldman stated that the

EI/ECSE Funding & Cash Flow - NWRESD has finally received the EI/ECSE state contract funding and, although it was 15% lower than expected, receiving this takes the weight off of the agency's reserves to fund these programs. Additionally, Dan spoke proudly about the visit by a few of our local state representatives, alongside NWRESD staff and board members, to our Beaverton Early Childhood Center earlier that same day and the request he made for a funding correction request of \$22 million, as well as further funding needed to meet the ODE's \$377 original funding estimate to prevent cuts to programs and services for our states most vulnerable student populations. Director Tymchuk was invited to comment and she noted how compelling the family testimonials and presentation of the financial situation that most ESDs in the state are in, had been.

Artificial Intelligence - Superintendent Goldman went on to discuss the impact AI (artificial intelligence) will have on education and a new partnership our tech team has begun with other metro area ESD technology staff to ensure we are at the forefront of managing AI within our districts.

Cascade Alliance for Equity (CAFE) - Dan also noted the NWRESD's renewed partnership with those same metro area ESDs in revisiting our CAFE equity event model in late May of 2024 with a student voice focused, student led training.

Licensed Negotiations Update - Finally, Superintendent Goldman discussed licensed contract negotiations, where we are in the mediation process and where we stand in the negotiation process. Chair Dougherty called for comments from the board, however, there were none.

RECOGNITION AND GOOD NEWS

Kelsey Soltysiak, Communications Director, highlighted the contributions of our volunteer board members to our agency, our component districts and the families and students served in our region. Board members have been sent a 'care package' of NWRESD swag and thank you cards from our administrators. Chair Dougherty also acknowledged the time and efforts made by each board member on behalf of students in Oregon.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Dougherty read the Public Participation in Board Meetings guidelines. Joann Stillman introduced themselves, reported their home address and addressed the board for approximately 3.5 minutes. Vanessa Hernandez introduced themselves, reported their home address and addressed the board for nearly 4 minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Equity Learning Teams Update - Katie Jones, EFP Equity Coach, gave an update of the NWRESD department ELT programs and the equity challenges these teams are working through. As the school year has progressed, some teams have shifted focus and/or restructured to better meet the needs of their members and the work of their department. Katie highlighted some of the work ELT teams are doing. Chair Dougherty asked if there are ways in which ESDs and districts are being communicated this information. Katie responded, letting the board know that our ELTs are largely internal to NWRESD, but that co-design with districts is being considered. Internally, the EFP team is making use of our new intranet to get messaging to our internal staff.

Diverse Educator Pathways & Grow Your Own Updates - Debbie Simons, CHRO updated the board with a high level overview of current DEP & GYO vision and initiatives. Yolanda Coleman, Talent Acquisition & Retention Administrator, continued with more details about where these programs are now, where they are growing and the new staff which have come on board (or will be coming on board soon) to increase support to our rural districts as well as to liaise with our higher education partners. Yolanda went on to discuss training opportunities coming up in the spring where DEP connectors will learn about professional problem solving, supervisor communications and how to support students. Collaborations with additional community colleges and universities are also in the works. The team is currently recruiting for our third cohort in our collaboration with Western Oregon University. Debbie Simons, CHRO, discussed the workforce challenges which education is currently facing and the partnerships being made by our agency as well as the barriers our GYO program is attempting to mitigate for staff identified as students for this pathway. Chair Dougherty thanked Debbie & Yolanda for their work and discussed his history of advocating for this initiative in assisting future teachers in the beginnings of their journey. Director Tymchuk asked a number of questions around how NWRESD is working with districts in our region and throughout the state on the DEP/GYO initiatives to which CHRO Simons responded that we have, and continue to, work to support districts with their own GYO work. Superintendent Goldman noted that many of the programs in local districts have been started and supported by NWRESD staff for several years. Many districts had been attempting to work this program individually and have had a difficult time to get traction and are now being supported by NWRESD staff work.

Administrative Reports - Superintendent Goldman noted that the instructional services department has been active in supporting districts with the state's new early literacy initiative grant work. Our staff assisted many of our districts in ensuring that they were able to complete grant applications and district superintendents are grateful for the help as they would not be able to complete them on their own.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution #24-001 - Black History Month - Director of Equity and Family Partnerships, SZ Liwaru, read Resolution #24-001 - Black History Month. Afterward, he noted the resources included at the end of this resolution and invited all board meeting attendees to learn more from those links. Further, Liwaru noted the links included for educators to share with their students. Finally, he mentioned additional community partnerships which have been included in this year's resolution. Chair Dougherty entertained a motion by Director Stephens to adopt Resolution #24-001 - Black History Month as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Erickson and approved unanimously.

January 2024 Financial Report - CFO, Jordan Ely, reviewed the January 2024 Financial Report, noting a correction to general fund other uses variance. His plan is to bring the issue to the budget committee in the spring, however, will discuss and decide with Superintendent Goldman if this should be brought to the board and/or budget committee prior to that scheduled budget committee meeting. Director Tymchuk thanked CFO Ely and Superintendent Goldman for their advocacy with the state of Oregon to ensure funding was secured. 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.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS - Director Tymchuk again shared her observations of what a dedicated and hard working staff NWRESD has and how grateful families are for NWRESD services. She encouraged board members to visit BECC and other sites if they need a reminder of why they are a board member. Speaking directly to any NWRESD staff listening that they have been heard and the board is working toward appropriate funding from government entities.

Superintendent Goldman made an announcement, on behalf of Ross Tomlin, that he will be stepping down from the NWRESD board effective February 12, one day prior to our February board meeting, in the case that we would need him for a special session. Chair Dougherty acknowledged Becky's observation that NWRESD services change the lives of children and families in our region.

ADJOURN Chair Dougherty adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.