

SWEET HOME SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 55

Sweet Home, Oregon

*Board Chairman Jason Redick called the **regular meeting** of the board of Directors of Sweet Home School District No. 55 to order at 6:30 p.m. on November 9, 2020.*

Board Members in Attendance Jason Redick, Debra Brown, Jim Gourley, Dale Keene, Joseph Kennedy, Mike Reynolds Absent: Jason Van Eck, Chanz Keeney, Jenny Daniels

Staff Members in Attendance

Superintendent: Tom Yahraes; Administrators: Rachel Stucky, Colleen Henry, Thad Holub, Kevin Strong, Luke Augsburg, Barbi Riggs, Todd Barrett, Josh Dargis, Chris Hiaasen, Mark Looney, Terry Martin, Certified; Hailey Schilling, Patty O'Day Classified: Lisa Gourley; Board Recording Secretary: Julie Emmert

Other Attendance

Kelly Kenoyer, representing *the New Era*, Jenna Northern, parent

2. Agenda Approval/Changes

Chairman Redick called for changes and/or approval of the agenda.

Motion No. 20-47: Board Member Mike Reynolds moved to approve the agenda as presented. Board Member Jim Gourley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comments: Jenna Northern, frustrated that her students are unable to get on the internet because they live out in the country. Here to find out what the next step for the district will be.

4. Personnel Reports/Comments

A. **Certified & Classified Representatives** – Lisa Gourley, OSEA, classified free books for our school district, This Saturday (11/14/2020) at the High School they will be handing them out. There are other items like bookmarks and things that kids can get for free.

B. **Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Tom Yahraes shared the following:

1. Enrollment: Enrollment is down and is across the State.

2. Instructional Model Updates Presentations:

- Elementary – Canvas Learning - Hailey Schilling gave a presentation on Canvas. Mrs. Schilling shared what her daily lessons look like; Quiz's, special assignments, student responses etc.

In limited learning, we are serving over 200 students in 60 cohorts.

- Jr. High – Canvas Learning – Terry Martin – Limited in-person learning

Jr. High Students started at the High School due to construction but are now serving 28 students at the Jr. High.

- High School - Limited In-person Learning (LII) – Chris Hiaasen gave a presentation on Ready Schools, Safe Learners. Through November 13: Total of 175 students with 17 teachers. Beginning next week they will be starting a homework hub. One teacher each period will monitor and help students. This is available to all students. 12 sessions weekly; 1—3 sessions per day for 75 minutes, 20 spots available for each session; must be scheduled. One teacher and one IA per session. Biggest struggle is get students involved that are having problems. Anyone who asks for help receives it no matter what.

3. New Metrics and Standards for In-person Hybrid Learning-T. Yahraes/R. Stucky shared a Powerpoint with all of this information:

Why update metrics

Improve support systems for children. *Returning to in-person instruction is one of Oregon's highest priorities.*

COVID-19 spread can be mitigated in schools. *Oregon's Ready Schools, Safe Learners guidance can help reduce, but not eliminate this risk.*

In Person Learning Offers Better Learning and Support Services

- Students receive breakfasts, lunches, vital for our highest poverty schools
- Access to school nurses, counselors, school psychologists, mental health specialists, and social workers
- Oregon health agencies have been receiving a spike in reports of mental health strains from students, families, and staff. It is harder to connect with individual students and build a relationships
- Educators are key to meeting student's needs, whether they are related to physical health, mental health, social-emotional wellness, nutrition, physical needs like shelter and clothing, or educational needs
- Overall Education is delivered better in-person for most students
- Parents, educators, mental health authorities are worried about screen time and lack of physical activity in distance learning

Schools can't stop the spread of COVID-19, but we can mitigate it through key practices:

- physical distancing, face coverings, hand hygiene, cohorting, cleaning and disinfecting, airflow and ventilation, and, effective screening, and responses to cases with quick access to testing and implementing isolation and quarantining

ODE/OHA recognizes: strong public health protocols in structured settings like schools, can greatly reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

Updated Metrics are effective Friday, October 30, 2020

1. Advances a new metrics framework with a move to a two week "Look Back" at the metrics data and removal of state positivity rate
2. Incrementally increases access for in-person instruction beginning at the elementary level to high school
3. Maintains use of some exceptions, including a hold harmless clause
4. Limited In-Person Instruction: Changes cohort size from 10 to 20, removes 250 absolute student limit

New OHA ODE Safety Regulations- Patty O'Day shared updated information regarding face covering and distance rules, exclusion summary guidance for K-12.

- All students and staff are required to wear a face covering
- Use of a face shield alone should only be done on a very limited basis, because wearing a face shield alone without a mask or face covering increases the potential for transmission of viruses to those in the same room as the individual without the mask or face covering
- Face coverings should be worn indoors except in private office spaces
- Face coverings need to be worn outdoors when unable to social distance
- Students need to wear masks during recess
- Students can remove masks for individual supervised mask breaks. Wear face covering correctly

4. Next Steps in K-12 In-person Program Planning and Timeline -T. Yahraes

Superintendent's thoughts on the metrics Revision:

Last week's ODE's Metric revisions to allow students to return to school made returning more achievable-- for instance, by reducing the three-week 30 cases per 100,000 requirement to under 100 cases every two weeks' standard. I have been fiercely advocating for more realistic, equitable, and fair metrics to get our kids back in school. The State listened. While the new standards may not be perfect, they are much better. I believe in person learning is superior to distance learning for the majority of K-12 students. Schools supply the needed social, emotional support our kids need right now. We provide better access to health and social services. And we can, when following all safety protocols, help our community identify and mitigate the spread of COVID.

This revision and reduction in standards by the state health and education authorities now places greater obligations and responsibilities to local and regional communities to stop and mitigate the spread of COVID. I support the new metrics. There is a resolution of support for the Board to consider tonight.

Advisement: Even with easing the new standards, our Linn County case counts have exceeded the allowable limits.

Now more than ever, to get our students back in school, we need to work together to reduce case counts by following the OHA health and safety guidance of wearing masks, social distancing, and washing hands with fidelity.

In the next week, data will be reviewed to determine how to most effectively optimize the following:

- In-person robust instruction
- Grade level and school level priorities
- CDL robust instruction for families who opt for this model
- Custodial staffing resources available for cleaning classrooms in between sessions
- Number of buses and bus drivers available
- Bus cleaning schedules in between student drop off and pick up

As data is reviewed, the following requirements will be followed:

- 6 feet of social distancing for each student in each classroom
- Buses only holding 21 students
- daily cleaning of learning spaces
- controlled contact tracing

Together, the combination of local data analysis and adherence to state requirements will be used to determine the instructional model/models and timeline for implementation of a return to on-site instruction at each level.

Return to On-Site, Priorities by School Level – Ensure on-site sustainability: use space in classrooms, bathrooms, hallways and on buses with discernment 'half or less', follow required health practices.

Elementary:

- Focus on core instruction: Math and Reading
- Ensure youngest learners, K-3, receive instruction daily for shorter amounts of time rather than longer days with less frequency
- Ensure students understand health and safety protocols
- Meet emotional needs of students
- Help each school level to best meet student needs

Junior High:

- Focus on core subject areas

- Continue with Canvas
- Ensure students understand health and safety protocols
- Meet emotional needs of students
- Help each school level to best-meet student needs

High School:

- Ensure students earn sufficient credits to graduate
- Continue with Canvas
- Ensure students understand health and safety protocols
- Meet emotional needs of students
- Help each school level to best-meet student needs

Timeline for Return to Onsite Instruction:

- ✓ As soon as there are two consecutive weeks with acceptable county metrics, as determined by the state
- ✓ A minimum of two weeks after the successful start up of K-3, dependent upon: Continued acceptable metrics, as determined by the local public health authority
- ✓ A minimum of two weeks after the successful start up of 4-6, dependent upon: Continued acceptable metrics, as determined by the local public health authority

5. Consent Agenda

- A. Approved minutes from the from October 12, 2020 School Board Meeting

Motion No. 20-48: Board Member Jim Gourley moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Board Member Mike Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Information/Discussion

- A. Budget Update/Safety Information/Bond Update:

Budget: Year to date general fund spending compared to adopted budget & year to date spending last year by object code. Total decrease of \$80,998 for the month of October.

Safety: There were two recordable incidents for the month of October. Staff member dropped heavy item they were carrying on their foot resulting in light duty work. Staff member experiencing shoulder pain attributed to repetitive use.

Bond Update: Continuing with the construction, but should be completed soon.

- B. Property Tax Information: Kevin Strong shared information that proved answers to frequently asked questions about the Sweet Home School district's tax rate as compared to past years and as compared to other taxing districts:

- The school district's bond rate, local option rate and permanent rate comparisons going back to the 2013-2014 fiscal year. The district's bond rate has decreased by \$0.13 per \$1,000 of assessed value and the district's local option rate has decreased by \$0.02 per \$1,000 of assessed value during this time period.

The Sweet Home school district's initial bond was passed in 2001. The tax rate during the 2001-2002 property tax year was \$1.91 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The rate has declined since then due to refinancing outstanding bonds at lower interest rates and growth in assessed valuations.

- Compared changes in property tax rates impacting Sweet Home over the past eight years. The largest increase is for the City of Sweet Home due to increases for the police department and library local option levies.
- Bond rate comparison for the Albany, Santiam Canyon, Lebanon and Sweet Home School Districts. Albany has the highest bond tax rate and Sweet Home has the lowest bond tax rate. Sweet Home's debt will also be paid off the soonest among the four school districts.
- Information shared prior to the May 16, 2017 bond vote was that the district would be structured to maintain the current tax rate. That promise has been kept.

- C. Facilities Update: Josh Darwood reported on the Jr. High progress. Our maintenance employees participated in a training for COVID. Supplies are stocked and ready to go.
- D. Board Policy Updates – 2nd reading
 - GBEB – Communicable Diseases - Staff
 - GBEB-AR – Communicable Diseases - Staff
 - GBN/JBA – Sexual Harassment
 - GBN/JBA-AR(1) – Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure
 - GBN/JBA-AR(2) – Federal Law (Title IX) Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure
 - JBA/GBN – Sexual Harassment
 - JBA/GBN-AR(1) – Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure
 - JBA/GBN-AR(2) – Federal Law (Title IX) Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure
 - JHCC – Communicable Diseases - Students
 - JHCC-AR – Communicable Diseases – Students

Motion No. 20-49: Board Member Mike Reynolds moved to place board policies as an action item. Board Member Debra Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

8. Action Items:

- A. OSBA Resolution to adopt the OSBA 2021-2022 Legislative Priorities and Principles as recommended by the Legislative Policy Committee.

Motion No. 20-50: Board Member Mike Reynolds moved to approve the OSBA resolution to adopt the OSBA 2021-2022 Legislative Priorities and Principles. Board Member Dale Keene seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

- B. **RESOLUTION 03-2021** - Approval of K-3 & 4-12 Distance and Onsite Learning

Motion No. 20-51: Board Member Mike Reynolds moved to approve the K-3 & 4-12 Distance and Onsite Learning. Board Member Jim Gourley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

- C. Approve Board Policy Updates

Motion No. 20-52: Board Member Mike Reynolds moved to approve board policies. Board Member Jim Gourley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

9. Board Comments: NONE

10. Late Items – No late items

11. Future Agenda Items

- A. Next Board Officers Meeting December 7, 2020 at 3:30 in the Superintendent's Office
- B. Next Board Meeting December 14, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in DO Board Room

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Signature, Board Chairman Julie Emmert, Board Recording Secretary
(This meeting was also recorded and saved supt/board/audio)