

## SWEET HOME SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 55

Sweet Home, Oregon

Virtual meeting as per ORS 192-670 - Zoom Meeting  
Live board meeting was posted on the Sweet Home District website

*Board Vice-Chairman Mike Renolds called the **regular meeting** of the board of Directors of Sweet Home School District No. 55 to order at 6:30 p.m. on February 8, 2021.*

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

### **Staff Members in Attendance**

Superintendent: Tom Yahraes; Administrators: Rachel Stucky, Colleen Henry, Barbi Riggs, Thad Holub, Kevin Strong, Nate Tyler, Ralph Brown, Chris Hiaasen, Terry Martin Certified: Patty O'Day, Josh O'Gorman, Steve Thorpe, Elizabeth Hunt; Classified: Velma Canfield Board Recording Secretary: Julie Emmert

### **Other Attendance**

Kelly Kenoyer, representing *the New Era*

### **2. Agenda Approval/Changes**

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

**Motion No. 21-1: Board Member Jason Van Eck moved to approve the agenda as presented. Board Member Jenny Daniels seconded the motion.** Debra Brown- yes, - Dale Keene- yes, Joseph Kennedy- yes, Mike Reynolds- yes, Jenny Daniels- yes, Chanz Keeney- yes, Jason Van Eck yes  
***The motion passed unanimously.*** Jim Gourley AB, Jason Redick AB

### **3. Public Comments: NONE**

### **4. Personnel Reports/Comments**

A. **Certified & Classified Representatives – Velma Canfield – Happy to see kids in the building.**

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

1. **Enrollment:** Our enrollment increased by 30 students. We attribute this to our re-opening to in-person learning.
2. **January 19 RSSL and RE-opening Updates:** There has been no major impact to us given the new ODE guidance release Jan. 19

Beginning January 1, 2021, the Health Metrics for Returning to In-Person Instruction shifted from a mandatory requirement to advisory recommendations. This allows local schools to collaborate with staff, local public health authorities, and community to consider a number of factors to make local determinations on when it is appropriate to shift to in-person instruction through an On-Site or Hybrid Instructional Model. These factors include, but are not limited to:

- County COVID-19 conditions as well as more localized health conditions,
- Readiness to meet the public health and safety requirements in sections 1-3 of this guidance,
- Staff capacity across instructional models,
- Impacts on student academic growth and success,
- Impacts on student physical and mental health, and

- Disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 and education under various models.

**Our decision to return to in person (Hybrid) instruction remains the same since earlier this month:**

- We are grounded in the studies that show schools when following health and safety protocols are not the source of the spread of COVID. (ODE/OHA/ CDC reports; see latest article in OREd News)
- Schools are often a mitigating factor of the spread of COVID.
- Students are less likely to get COVID, have fewer severe symptoms, and are less likely to spread COVID. **Students and staff can remain safe.**
- The social, emotional, physical, and academic detrimental effects of our students not being in school have taken an enormous toll on our students and families whom we serve.
- Beyond the severe instructional regression, we know from studies and our own knowledge of our students, students are experiencing isolation, in some cases, depression, trauma, abuse, and neglect, not to mention dreams dashed and or canceled.
- We will use all safety protocols of quarantining, contact tracing up to temporary school closures to keep us safe. (Many states have been operating K-12 under much higher metrics)
- It helps that vaccines will be in arms soon and for now local and county data are on a sharp downward trend.

3. **Elementary Opening Report:** Principal Riggs and the PE teacher Josh O’Gorman presented a video sharing the first week back to school February 1, 2021.
4. **Jr. High Re-opening to In-person:** Principal Martin gave have a PowerPoint report about school expectations for students return, arrival procedures, hallway procedures, classroom procedures, dismissal procedures
5. **High School Re-opening Preparations:** High School Admin Team (Nate Tyler) gave a PowerPoint report. COVID protocols: Arrival, class time, passing time, and departure.
6. **Teach/Coach Report:** Teacher/Coach Thorpe gave us a perspective of re-opening from the teaching staff. So proud of Sweet Home for getting the job done. We have found a way to make this work.
7. **First Week Back Video:** Ramil Malabogo put together a short video about opening week for grades K-3.
8. **Graduation Rates:** We made another large step in increasing our graduation rate: 17% increase in two years.

**CARE Team:** composed of counselors, administrators, student advocates, student success coordinator. The team meets monthly and keeps track of every student’s progress. For students who are off track, the team builds strategies to assist students. We have a deliberate process with accountability built-in for students and staff.

**Home Work Hub:** Established twice a week. Staffed by teachers in the evening. All students welcome. Curriculum rate paid to staff hub **using M-98 funds.**

**Winter and Summer School:** For students who fell short of passing a class. Instead of students failing and having to make up an entire class, we work with students and their

teachers to target particular standards or curriculum the student needed to re-do.

Curriculum rate paid to staff short session school **using M-98 funds.**

**Used M-98 funds for boots on the ground staffing who directly impact students:**

- **Re-engagement specialist.** The specialist meets with students who are severely credit-deficient or on the verge of dropping out. He builds re-engagement plans per student so they may get back on track. Adding online courses, blended course work, GED pathways, alternative education pathways, etc. (former counselor . 5)
- **Two student advocate positions.** The student advocate staff meet directly with struggling students to assess what their barriers may be. They review homework, help organize the student's studies, meet with teachers to gain clarity on missing work (2 classified employees).

**Used M-98 funding to increase our CTE course work.** We know historically these courses are more highly attended. i.e. Forestry and Manufacturing

**Used M-98 Funds for DuFour PLC and RTI professional development.** I am very proud of our entire K-12 staff, who believe in "all means all." We don't give up on students. We have the resources before us that can help every student achieve success.

**We are doing a better job Scrutinizing Student Data:** High School is tracking for "ins and outs" throughout all students' high school experience. We find accounting errors with the state. Even finding two or four errors is a big deal in adjusting for accuracy.

#### **The Other Variables:**

A look at the metrics

PACE Insurance (HB limited liability)

Vaccines update

COVID testing

Elementary Opening Strong!

We will continue to watch our operations and all the variables and adapt as needed

### **5. Consent Agenda**

- A. Approved minutes from the from January 11, 2021 School Board Meeting
- B. Accepted resignation from James Williams, Special Education Teacher at Foster Elementary effective February 5, 2021
- C. Accepted Leave of Absence from Kristy McPeak, Counselor at Foster Elementary effective February 1, 2021
- D. Approved hire of Braden Zyra, Temporary Grade 3 CDL Teacher for the 2020-2021 school year
- E. Approved hire of Nataylee Hoffman, Temporary Grade 1 CDL Teacher for the 2020-2021 school year
- F. Approved hire of Kristen Morrison, Temporary .50 Grade 2 and .50 Kinder teacher for the 2020-2021 school year

**Motion No. 21-2: Board Member Dale Keene moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.**

**Board Member Debra Brown seconded the motion.** Debra Brown- yes, - Dale Keene- yes, Joseph Kennedy- yes, Mike Reynolds- yes, Jenny Daniels- yes, Chanz Keeney- yes, Jason Van Eck yes

**The motion passed unanimously.** Jim Gourley AB, Jason Redick AB

### **6. Information/Discussion**

- A. Budget Update/Safety Information:

Fiscal Year-To-Date General Fund spending has declined by \$297,855 from \$12,043,701 at this time last year to \$11,745,846 at this time this year.

- We have not yet paid coaching stipends this year
- We have spent less on substitutes
- We have delayed filling some classified job openings
- We have spent less on bus fuel

Safety: No recordable incidents during the month of January  
Our district was notified from our insurance company that our workers compensation experience rating decreased. The Districts workers compensation experience rating is dropping from a 1.10 to 0.79 per attached tentative rating analysis.

- B. Facilities Update: Kevin Strong shared a quick review of facilities. Showed before and after pictures.

**7. Action Items:**

**A. Policy Updates – Rescinding Policies**

**COVID-19 Related Leave – NOT renewed in 2021 – no longer needed**

CBDAA/GDBDAA -

G CBDAA/GDBDAA-AR(1)

G CBDAA/GDBDAA-AR(2)

***Motion No. 21-3: Board Member Dale Keene moved to approve rescinding of Policies related to COVID 19. Board Member Debra Brown seconded the motion. . Debra Brown- yes, - Dale Keene- yes, Joseph Kennedy- yes, Mike Reynolds- yes, Jenny Daniels- yes, Chanz Keeney- yes, Jason Van Eck yes **The motion passed unanimously.** Jim Gourley AB, Jason Redick AB***

**8. Board Comments: NONE**

**9. Moved to executive Session – 192.660 (2) (d) – Licensed Bargaining at 7:44 pm**

**10. Returned to regular Session at 7:53 pm**

**11. Late Items – No late items**

**12. Future Agenda Items**

- A. First day candidates can file for the May 18, 2021 Special District Election is February 6, 2021
- B. Next Board Officers Meeting March 1, 2021 at 3:30 in the Superintendent's Office
- C. Next Board Meeting March 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in DO Board Room
- D. Last day a candidate can file for the May 18, 2021 Elections is no later than 5:00 pm on March 18, 2021

**13. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

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*Signature, Board Chairman Julie Emmert, Board Recording Secretary*

(This meeting was also recorded and saved supt/board/audio)