

# DRAFT

## Rainier School District #13 Special School Board Meeting Minutes January 11, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Kari Hollander, Jeff Flatt, Noel Hisey, Rod Harding, Elaine Placido, Darren Vaughn, Elizabeth Richardson, Joseph Hattrick, Scotti Erickson

### **I. Preliminary Matters**

- A. Call meeting to order: Kari Hollander called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.
- B. Approve agenda for 1/11/21 meeting: Elizabeth Richardson moved to approve the agenda with the addition of Public Comment after Presentations and Board Reports added after Action Items, Noel Hisey seconded. Passed 7-0.

### **II. Presentations**

- A. School Board Appreciation Month Thank You: Dr. Joseph Hattrick thanked the members of the Board for their service to the District.
- B. Superintendent update and re-opening updates:
  1. December 23, 2020: Governor Brown changes metrics to advisory and states she would like to see students back in classrooms by 2/15/21. House Bill 4402 passed allowing for liability protection from COVID in schools that follow the OHA and ODE guidelines. Stakeholders (parents, students, and staff) have mixed feelings about bringing students in-person with a prioritization of seniors, transportation, extracurricular activities, and clarification of vaccination administration.
  2. Tentative proposed instructional plans: Comprehensive distance learning will remain an option through the end of the school year. Hybrid instruction would be a shortened daily schedule with two cohorts (Cohort A on campus Mon./Tue., Cohort B on campus Thur./Fri.) All safety guidelines will be in place and enforced. Two tentative timelines presented for staggered starts. All of this is subject to change in current metrics.
- C. Message from Board Chair: Ms. Kari Hollander spoke on the strong leadership, thinking outside of the box, and staff members at Rainier that got us through 2020. The growing community participation has been encouraging to see, and thank you for trusting the Board and sharing their experiences.

### **III. Public Comment**

- A. Mrs. Lori Schimmel: I felt impressed to provide my public comment regarding returning to hybrid in class learning. My view is from being parent of 2 RHS students who are struggling daily with distance learning. We started off last year with distance learning in our household feeling optimistic that this would only be short term. Unfortunately as we all know, this is not the case. The last time my daughters have seen the inside of a classroom was over 300 days ago. I know that there are students who are thriving with distance learning but this is not the case for our girls and my heart hurts for them; this duration of distance learning has paid a toll on them not only academically but seeing them struggle mentally

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has been horrible. This current teaching platform is failing them and I will not stand back any longer watching this struggle. Governor Brown has finally decided to allow students back in class, this is what we have been waiting for and the school board has been planning for! Be BOLD! There will never be the "perfect scenario" regarding COVID numbers and we cannot live in fear of the unknown. We are all here for these kids, from the Superintendent to the school board to the teachers and parents. Keep them in mind as you move forward not the fear of a virus that has done more damage mentally to our kids than physically. MOVE FORWARD with fervor! Do not delay, we cannot allow this return to class process to take another 2 months as that is a disservice to our students. These kids are begging to be back in school and when has that ever happened?! Our family backs our students and will be the first ones to champion you all as you work for our kids! Thank you for all you do and continue to do to focus on our students in the Rainier School District.

- B. Reese Schimmel: As the Student Body President I am very upset at the absence of a student meeting being held in regards to the school reopening prior to this board meeting. On behalf of myself and countless other students whom I have been in touch with and have reached out to, we NEED to be back in the school building. In some way, shape, or form. I acknowledge that we need to do it safely, but I do believe that there are multiple ways to make it happen safely. There will always be the possibility of covid exposures in a school setting, even years from now. But we CANNOT sit back and waste this precious time that just so happens to be 54 Rainier High School students' last few months of their high school career. We cannot just wait until the 4th quarter to get student back into a classroom. We NEED urgency. We as students are struggling so badly. Mentally, physically, academically, and any other way that there possibly is to struggle. Not being given the opportunity to have sports (which for so many of us is an outlet to these struggles) and learning solely off of a computer screen is not benefiting any of us. At all. Yes you are giving us one single pathway to an education, but this feels like the bare minimum. Education will always be the most important thing about high school and will always be the priority, but we can do better than this. And we need to do better than this. If other school districts reopen and decide to let their student athletes play (which already seems to be unveiling) and we do not, I can guarantee that there will be numerous amounts of students (especially athletes) who will unavoidably transfer out of our school district and I do not want to see that happen. I have so much pride in my school and community and have been here since kindergarten and it nauseates me to think about all of the memories and moments that my peers and I have missed out on and WILL miss out on if you choose to wait to even attempt to bring us back until the 4th quarter. On behalf of myself and many other students, 300+ days of not being in a classroom is too long. We are begging you to dig deep and find a sense of urgency to bring us back to some extent. All we want is urgency and the opportunity to maximize the potential of what little is remaining of our school year and of our senior year.

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## IV. Items for Board Review, Discussion, and Action

- A. Operational review scope and bids: Dr. Hattrick updated on the status of a bid from OASBO and COSA, no action taken.
- B. Cintas Contract: Dr. Hattrick met with Cintas regarding the available options for sustainable/reusable PPE and cleaning supplies, no action taken.
- C. Superintendent Contract: Ms. Hollander presented the negotiated Superintendent Contract. Elizabeth Richardson moved to approve the contract with aforementioned corrections, Elaine Placido seconded. The Board discussed the process and contract. Passed 4-3, with Jeff Flatt, Rod Harding, and Darren Vaughn opposed.

## V. Board Comment

- A. Mr. Darren Vaughn: Thank you to Dr. Hattrick for chiming in, and I couldn't be happier with your performance, and look forward to the future.
- B. Dr. Elaine Placido: Please reach out between board meetings to share your thoughts and opinions, and thank you to Dr. Hattrick and for prioritizing getting the seniors back in class.
- C. Noel Hisey: The comradery and professionalism shown tonight tells me that with Dr. Hattrick we can achieve a lot of great things for our students, staff, and faculty.
- D. Liz: A big thank you to our teaching staff. The cards sent out over break meant the world.

## VI. Executive Session: The Board entered into executive session at 8:14 p.m. with no decision to be made during or after.

- A. To consider records exempt by law from public inspection: ORS 192.660(2)(f)

The Board returned to open meeting at 8:23 p.m. Rod Harding moved to adjourn, Jeff Flatt seconded. Passed 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

## VII. Next Meetings: Regular Board Meeting January 25, 2021