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Rainier School District #13 Regular School Board Meeting Minutes January 25, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

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

I. Preliminary Matters

- A. Call meeting to order: Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m.
- B. Approve agenda for January 25, 2021 meeting: Move Financial Audit Results to the first report item, and add the Pixelott Contract. Noel Hisey moves to approve the agenda with the proposed changes, Elizabeth Richardson seconded. Passed unanimously.

II. Reports, Information, and Discussion Items

- A. Financial Audit Results Presentation: Mr. Conor Delaney presented the financial audit for the year ending 6/30/2020. The official opinion was “unmodified,” which is the highest opinion a district can get.
- B. Superintendent report: Dr. Joseph Hattrick Jan 19 update to RSSL. County metrics continue to be the best tool for determining when cases are down enough to return to in-person instruction. Changes state hybrid cannot be a K-12 implementation until cases are <200 cases per 100,000. The board discussed the risk involved with getting hybrid up and running. Darren Vaughn moved to approve the letter to Oregon Elected Officials, Elizabeth Richardson seconded with typo correction. Passed unanimously. Athletics and activities can restart for training and conditioning 2/1/21. Columbia County case rates have dropped from 299.5 to 218 cases per 100,000.
- C. Business Manager-Financial update: Ms. Scotti Erickson updated the current business focuses are grant reporting, year end processes, and budget preparation.

III. Public Comment

- A. Tonight’s meeting is designed to keep presentations and deliberations efficient and effective. The board will not comment, but will listen only. They may choose to call your name for public testimony at the end of the meeting if your topic is a non-agenda item. The board may choose not to address your request if your topic is outside the scope of the board’s governance. We ask that you remember Oregon law prohibits us from discussing specific employees or their job performance. If you wish to speak, please complete the Public Comment Form and submit to the board secretary prior to the start of the meeting.
 1. Carolyn Townsend: “Good Evening, My name is Carolyn Townsend, and I am a Math Teacher at the Jr/Sr High School. I teach mostly 9th and 10th grade courses, but have taught students in grades 7 - 12 here at Rainier. While hybrid instruction has been taken off the table for February 1st, I still wanted to communicate with you one of my major concerns with this shift. Like students, I can’t wait to have Live, In Person instruction.

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Driving to work to sit alone in a classroom is lonely and monotonous. Watching and hearing students during the learning process brings me so much joy, and these are two nearly impossible tasks during Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL). As an Algebra teacher, I am extremely concerned about the Hybrid model, not only for students' and staff's physical health, but also for students' academic performance. In addition, I have major concerns for students' mental health if their family chooses to stay with CDL. Under our current CDL model, students already have less than half of their regular live instruction time for the whole school year (per course). During the week, they have 4 hours available for live instruction with their teacher (per course). Switching to a hybrid system would reduce this time in half; Hybrid students will go down to 2 hours of Live instruction a week. During Hybrid instruction, students that stay with CDL completely lose all of their social connections. Live class disappears for them, and only if they request office hours will they see their teacher. Unless other students join the office hours, CDL students in a Hybrid School will have NO connection with their peers. Currently teaching Algebra, I often have students in class for the full hour and offer Office Hours by appointment. With all of the moving pieces that everyone is working to wrangle together to make school work right now, I hope we keep in mind how much students need extra support. I acknowledge that there is no perfect system. My fear is that our desire to get back to in person will isolate more students, when our goal is the opposite. Thank you for your time."

2. Robin DuMouchel: "Good Evening, My name is Robin DuMouchel, and I am a History and English Teacher at the Jr/Sr High School. I teach mostly 9th grade courses, but have taught students in grades 7 - 12 here at Rainier. While hybrid instruction has been taken off the table for February 1st, I still wanted to communicate with you one of my major concerns with this shift. Driving to work to sit alone in a classroom is a Twilight Zone type of experience. Students bring so much energy to the classroom, and it has been missed during CDL. I am concerned about the Hybrid model, not only for students' and staff's physical health, but also for students' academic performance. In addition, I have major concerns for students' mental health if their family chooses to stay with CDL. Under our current CDL model, students already have less than half of their regular live instruction time for the whole school year (per course). Switching to a hybrid system would reduce to a quarter of their normal live instruction time; Students that stay with CDL completely lose all of their social connections. Live class disappears for them, and only if they request office hours will they see their teacher. Unless other students join the office hours, CDL students in a Hybrid School will have NO connection with their peers. I often have students in class for the full hour and offer Office Hours by appointment. With all of the moving pieces that everyone is working to wrangle together to make school work

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right now, I hope we keep in mind how much students need extra support. I acknowledge that there is no perfect system. My fear is that our desire to get back to in person will isolate more students, when our goal is the opposite. Thank you for your time.”

3. Matt Hendricks: “We need to stop dangling the carrot in front of our students! We are watching schools open up all across the country and state! Even neighboring, Washington is moving forward! We NEED action from our school board and Superintendent. Kids are suffering mentally, physically, emotionally and academically. We NEED change!”
4. Christina Hendricks: “Rainier School Board Members and Dr. Hatrick, I understand that teachers, board members and school administrators worked very hard in August and September to create a distance learning program, but it is not working, especially for the K-5 students. Here is an example of a 4th grader’s school day. She logs on at 10:00 am, roll call & share time 20-40 minutes depending on how windy some of the children are. The teacher goes over the assignment and she is done by 11:00 am. On occasion, she might log in for PE. That is her normal school day. Is this really the “Best” The School Administration and Teachers can do? What can a child learn in 30-40 minutes of virtual instruction time? My granddaughter receives a maximum of 4-5 hour a week of teacher instruction. Please explain to me how this young lady is suppose to be ready for 5th grade next school year? The things she should be learning is: Understanding verbs, adverbs, nouns, and adjectives. One would think that a 4th grader can spell basic words, write a letter, a simple story or poetry. A 4th grader should have an understanding on how to use punctuation (commas, periods, quotation marks). Math, Science, Music and developing social skill and real life skills. THESE ELEMENTARY KIDS K1 - 5 need in person education with a qualified Teacher. I am going to close by telling you what 2 Rainier Elementary Girls told me today. They stopped by to drop of a sticker chain letter for my granddaughters. I let them know that the girls were at there Uncles house. We chatted a bit and then I ask them “Well are you girls ready to go back to school?” The second grade girl said NO, I hate that school and I am never going back. I asked her why? Her response was I am not learning anything so I am going to attend a Charter School. The 4th grader said her parents gave her the choice of attending a Charter School or attending regular school. She misses seeing her friends, recess and is ready to get back to school. Thanks again for listening, and at this point in time I am over the COVID19 restrictions I am part of a group of Parents who advocate for for children to return to in person learning.”

IV. **Consent Agenda:** Noel Hisey moved to approve the consent agenda, Elaine Placido seconded. Passed unanimously.

- A. Approve December 14, 2020 regular minutes
- B. Accept resignation of Rylee O’Brien (custodial)

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- C. Accept resignation of Kylie Olson (IA)
 - D. Accept hire of Jared Baughman for Head Boys Basketball Coach
- V. **Executive Session:** Entered executive session at 7:52 p.m. and returned to open meeting at 8:06 p.m.
- A. To conduct deliberations with persons designated to carry on labor negotiations (ORS 192.660(2)(d))
- VI. **Items for Board Action**
- A. Board representatives for REA Quarterly Meeting in February: Elizabeth Richardson, Darren Vaughn, and Noel Hisey will attend as representatives.
 - B. OSEA Negotiation Team: Kari Hollander and Jeff Flatt will represent the Board, with Noel Hisey observing.
 - C. REA Negotiation Team: Elaine Placido and Darren Vaughn will represent the Board, with Elizabeth Richardson observing.
 - D. Appropriation Transfer Resolution: This resolution is to increase the transfer appropriation in the general. This will be transferred to the pool fund to eliminate the pool fund debt. Elaine Placido moved to approve the budget appropriation as presented, Noel Hisey seconded. Passed unanimously.
 - E. Pixelott Contract: Mr. Blue spoke briefly about what the Pixelott broadcast system can do for us. The idea behind it is for spectators to be able to view events that are taking place in the high school gym or football field remotely. There would be no cost to the district for two cameras if self-installed. Elaine Placido moved to approve as submitted, Elizabeth Richardson seconded. Elaine Placido withdrew the motion, no action taken. Tabled for February's regular meeting.
- VII. **Future Agenda Items**
- A. Foster Care Enrollment Policy
 - B. Approve January 11, 2021 special meeting minutes
 - C. Employee handbook
 - D. 2018 Audit and Action Plan
 - E. Operational review scope and bid
- VIII. **Board Comments**
- A. Elizabeth Richardson: I would like to address my comments regarding physical education at the last board meeting. I poorly articulated my stance, and want to make sure our PE teachers and the community know that I understand the importance of physical education, especially during a pandemic. Thank you to Mr. Perri and his phys ed team, I appreciate their efforts and support them and their endeavors.
 - B. Elaine Placido: Almost the end of the semester, thanks to the teachers and staff for the hard work. Thinking about graduation, I urge the district to make a solid plan so everyone knows what to expect.

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Noel Hisey moved to adjourn, Rod Harding seconded. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

- IX. Next Meetings:** Regular Board Meeting February 22, 2021
Regular Board Meeting March 29, 2020