

**MINUTES**  
**SKAMANIA SCHOOL DISTRICT #2**  
**School Board Meeting**  
**November 15, 2021**  
**6:30 - 8:30 PM**  
**Via online/virtual webinar/Zoom**

**PRESENT:** Board members: Angus Anderson, Beth DeSimone, Brenda Bush, Donald Collins

Superintendent/Board Secretary: Dr. Ralph Pruitt

Visitor via virtual webinar/zoom: Keith Bloom

**1. REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD**

Angus Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:31pm

- a. Flag salute
- b. Reading and approval of minutes

Minutes from the regular meeting on **October 18, 2021** board meeting were presented.

Donald Collins moved to accept the minutes, Beth DeSimone seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**2. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Removed from agenda)**

**3. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**  
**Executive session was removed from the agenda**

Beth De Simone brought up three concerns. Math curriculum, staff complaint policies and student problems that should be brought to board members. These items have been discussed and have been moved to speak about at the November 29th workshop meeting.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

37-41 people attended the zoom webinar. Reason for flex in numbers is due to duplicate names on devices.

Comments were provided by:

Maria Woodall- Spoke regarding the way a board member has responded to the COVID protocols and teacher leave of absence.

Sheila McFarlane- Mother of a daughter at Skamania school spoke about how the situation involving another student was handled.

Pete McFarlane- Feels as if his child has been seen as a number rather than a student.

Amy- Expressed concern in how the board has handled the prior situations and feels that the board isn't working for the parents/tax payers.

Judi- Very happy with how parent teacher conferences were conducted. Judi also stated that she was very happy with the teachers that she met with.

Martin LaFevers-Feels as if communication isn't being met by not having the minutes uploaded in an appropriate manner.

Adam Schaeffer- Feels as if these mandates that have been put in place are unreasonable and that he too feels that communication was not a priority.

Jody Just- Great conference however, feels that there has been a miscommunication regarding teachers.

#### **4. REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, STANDING COMMITTEES**

##### **a. Budget status**

Angus gave a brief update on the status of our budget which included information about revenue and ending fund balance, transportation, etc. The budget status is looking good for this time.

In regards to the year end report. General Fund expenditures came in slightly lower than anticipated which allowed the district to transfer \$65,000 to the Capital Projects fund to support additional costs associated or anticipated for the completion of the modernization.

Negative equity amount in GL 863 in the Capital Projects Fund represents a timing difference for construction costs paid by the end of the Fiscal Year and a claim to receive these funds at the beginning of the new year.

##### **b. Bills and Payroll**

“The following vouchers as audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those expense reimbursement claims certified, as required by RCW 42.24.090, are approved for payment.”

Payroll and A/P: Accounts payable voids/cancellations of \$163.65:

A motion was made by Brenda Bush to approve voids/cancellations to Nampa Auto parts totaling \$163.65, seconded by Donald Collins and the motion passed unanimously.

Capital Project Fund (CPF): Accounts payable warrant number 188 through 188 totaling \$80,156.80

A motion was made by Brenda Bush to approve the Capital Projects checks, was seconded by Beth De Simone and the motion passed unanimously.

General Fund: Accounts payable warrant numbers 29006 through 29038 totaling \$25,040.79.

A motion was made by Brenda Bush to approve all accounts payable checks, was seconded by Donald Collins and the motion passed unanimously.

Payroll and benefits (Payroll A/P): Accounts payable warrant numbers 28997 through 29005 totaling \$77,305.45.

A motion was made by Brenda Bush to approve payroll and benefits, was seconded by Donald Collins and the motion passed unanimously.

- c. **Superintendent's report** included the following topics:

Parent teacher conferences were at 87%, Enrollment is at 71 full time students, Math curriculum being examined by Vickei Herdina from the ESD, Dr. Pruitt will be out for a scheduled medical leave starting 11/17/21-1/3/22. Jerry Lewis a retired superintendent from White Salmon will be subbing in for Dr. Pruitt while he is out.

## **5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. Timber harvest update - Travis Anderberg, HFI Consultants supplied the following statement.

A total of \$173, 140.89 (HFI) was received which are the proceeds from the harvest. It seemed like everything went in the School District's favor on this harvest. We had great log prices, a reasonable logging price, and the harvest cut out higher than the DNR crews that we were basing the estimate on.

The next required step is that HFI will get the property planted with Douglas-fir seedlings January-April. A couple hundred trees for the kids to plant will be set aside and leave an area open that is easily accessible. After planting, HFI will inspect the seedlings for a couple years and advise if any issues arise. Depending on how the School Districts budgeting works, it may be beneficial to set aside \$300-\$500 per acre that was harvested for treating competing vegetation or planting additional seedlings if needed.

The science class would like to study the pros and cons of either burning the slash piles or herbicide treatment and follow-up with a report to the board in the future. Both would be an expense to the School District. If you choose to do either, it would be best to complete them prior to planting to reduce the risk of damage to the seedlings. HFI highly recommends spraying to prevent competing vegetation for the first couple years, but they understand herbicides can be a sensitive subject, especially around kids. Pile burning is mainly aesthetic but does also create a little more planting space by removing the majority of each pile. There is some wildlife habitat benefit to leaving the piles and the additional trees that can be planted is fairly negligible. HFI will work with us on these projects if needed.

- b. Modernization grant update from Construction Service Group, Keith Bloom

Keith Bloom gave an update to the project including timelines. HVAC connections should arrive in December due to a delay in shipping. Payments would be delayed.

- c. Health and safety Information

Very high' COVID numbers were reported in Skamania County. The school have not had new cases, unlike other schools in the region.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Board Resignation: The Board Chair acknowledged and announced Leslie Robb's resignation of position # 4. Due date for interested candidates applications for position #4 is December 8, 2021 at 4:00 PM.

b. Personnel

i. Resignations

1. Para, office, health support - Crystal Holland
2. Teacher - Tami Gilbert

ii. Recommended to hire:

1. Para, office, health and COVID support - Heather Gray/Whitman
2. Long term teacher substitute - Stephanie Ober
3. Para, office, health - sub for office manager - Nicole Olsen-Yott
4. Long term teacher substitute - Jessica Shumway

A motion was made by Donald Collins to approve the resignations and recommended new hires listed above were seconded by Brenda Bush and the motion passed unanimously.

**8. BOARD MEMBERS - OTHER TOPICS**

- a. Community outreach update and discussion
- b. We agreed to download approved minutes on the website in the future.
- c. Leslie commented that she is happy to see parents involved in the board meetings. However, feels that due to recent events Leslie doesn't feel that she can continue on as a board member.

**9. ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING**

- a. The regular board meeting was adjourned by Angus at 7:48 P.M.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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Board Chair, \_\_\_\_\_

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Board Secretary, \_\_\_\_\_