

**Skamania School District #2
Regular Scheduled Board Meeting
Minutes**

October 16, 2023

6:30pm-8:30pm

Mrs. London's Room

Angus Anderson, Lisa Young, Milt Dennison, Donald Collins, Cynthia Dominik Medlin,
Martin (Rowdy) LaFevers

Staff: Katie Chavarria, Amber Warren and Heather Whitman

Visitors; Amanda Nguyen, Via Zoom: Michelle Miller, and Ashley Becker

Call to Order

Angus Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

Flag Salute

Changes to the agenda

Mr. Dennison requested that the Certificated Salary Study be moved under the Budget Status Report to respect Mr. Hole's time.

Public Comment

There were two members of the public that had comments

Ashley Becker-Nunley via Zoom:

Mrs. Becker-Nunley introduced herself as the new counselor for Skamania School District. Mrs. Becker-Nunley is enjoying getting to know the students, teachers and community members on a deeper level. She also shared that she has enjoyed watching the teachers willingness to have conversations with their students. Mrs. Becker-Nunley shared that it has been an overall incredible experience.

Amanda Nguyen

Amanda Nguyen shared her idea of a transportation co-op. Ms. Nguyen's transportation co-op idea would ideally help school districts such as Skamania, Mt. Pleasant, and Mill A. Ms. Nguyen's transportation co-op would potentially reduce the lack of trainers and in turn have more school bus drivers trained. Ms. Nguyen stated that each district would still have their own drivers that drove their own routes with their students.

There is a presentation that Ms. Nguyen would like to show the board at a later time.

Mrs. Young and Mrs. Dominik-Medlin thanked Ms. Nguyen for her shared information about the transportation co-op.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of the September 18th Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of the October 4th Board Workshop Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Young requested that there be an amendment to the meeting minutes for the September 18th Board meeting. In the last sentence under Unfinished Business change the wording from “salaries would be retroactive” to “salaries will be voted on to be retroactive”. The other amended change is under New Business change the wording to “small schools need more representation, because the smaller school districts out number the larger districts in the state”.

- Approval of bills and payroll

General Fund: Accounts payable check numbers 29849 through 29881 totaling \$39,180.30

Greater sums were for ESD annual contracts and White Salmon Valley School District.

Payroll and benefits (Payroll A/P) check numbers 29882 through 29891 totaling \$111,481.45

Lisa Young moved to approve the consent agenda with the amendment to the September 18th Board meeting minutes. Cynthia Dominik Medlin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- Budget Status - Chuck Hole

Mr. Hole gave an overview on Skamania’s budget status and stated that Skamania School District did not need much of the money from the budget extension requested last school year. Mr. Hole stated that the overall budget looks great. Mr. Hole shared that the enrollment has been increased which has helped the budget as well and is staying steady. It was stated that K-3 students bring in more funding than 4-8. However, Skamania has a “Small School Factor” which it benefits from.

Mrs. Young asked how to make up money, when there are fewer K-3 and a higher number of 4-8 students. Mr. Hole shared it comes down to figuring out what drives enrollment and the demographics. There will be times where students will transfer in from other districts and move into the area.

Mr. Dennison asked when there would be a “worry point”. Mr. Hole stated that any time enrollment goes below 70.5 is when it is time to be concerned. However, at this time he does not foresee any major concerns.

Mrs. Dominik-Medlin asked about the calculation of the student count . It was shared that the student count is October through June. However, there is still funding that comes through for students that come in throughout the year.

Adjustment to Agenda:

- Certificated Salary Study

Mr. Dennison ran a certificated salary study and presented it to the Skamania School Board. The Skamania School Board Members stated that raises should be done for all staff rather than piecing them together. The Board has asked Mr. Dennison to compare salaries for both certificated and classified staff with the competing districts of Washougal, Lyle, Mt. Pleasant, Stevenson Carson, and White Salmon Valley SD. Once this new study has been completed a Board Workshop will be scheduled with a focus on salary adjustments.

Board Member Mrs. Dominik-Medlin made a comment that she is struggling with the idea that staff members signed a contract and now want to change them. Mr. Dennison stated that he will keep business manager Chuck Hole in the loop regarding any salary changes or adjustments that come from the Board Workshop.

- 2023-2024 Board Goals - Review and Adopt

Donald Collins moved to adopt the goals developed by the Skamania School Board along with the Superintendent for the 2023-2024 school year. Rowdy LaFevers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Woodard Creek Property

Mr. Dennison shared his feedback from his trip to the property and asked the Board what they would like to see done next. The questions raised where does the school sell the property or use it as outdoor learning space.

Mr. Collins asked if the deed has been checked if there is a reserved interest. Mrs. Warren shared that she will look in her files for the information.

There were questions about all the slash piles on the property from the logging and how they would be cleared. Mrs. Warren shared that she could reach out to the HFI consultant for the information.

The last time the Board voted on the Woodard Creek Property, it was to plant Oak and Fir trees which both species are doing fine.

New Business

- Portables - Proposal to Determine Longevity and Identify Options for Replacement

Mr. Dennison asked the Board if he may visit with ESD 112 Construction management group to receive a cost estimate on the disposal of the current portables. Along with receiving an estimate on construction and permitting of structures to replace the old portables. The Board agreed that Mr. Dennison may pursue this conversation.

Reports

- Superintendent's Report- Milt Dennison

The Superintendent's report included that the HVAC consultant from ESD 112 will be coming back to the district soon to be checking on the heating system to compile a problem list for Johnson Barrow and Lennox. Mr. Dennison also shared that the key fob installation has begun and will continue throughout the week. There will need to be some roof work done to the portable that used to be the Tk/Kindergarten classroom. It looks to be that Skamania Schools maintenance technician can make the repairs.

- Instructional Program Report - Katie Chavarria

Mrs. Chavarria shared that LAP and Title 1 are completed for the 22-23 school year and the funding looks great. Mrs. Chavarria shared that the new curriculum is identifying weaknesses and creating cross grade level groups. She was also excited to share that highly capable screening will begin next week. Mrs. Chavarria shared with the Board that after speaking with teachers and several parents they have moved four 6th graders into the 7th and 8th grade class to provide a calmer environment. Mr. Dennison shared that he would like to bring a revised policy regarding acceleration for students to the Board in the near future as well. Which in turn has evened out the class sizes some. Board members asked if teachers feel supported. Mr. Dennison answered "yes" in his talks with teachers this week that is the feedback he is receiving.

- Budget status report- Chairman Angus Anderson

Chairman Anderson stated that this is the beginning of the year for the budget. Finances are looking fine.

Comments from Skamania Board of Directors

Board members are awaiting the EV bus and are excited to see when it will arrive. Mrs. Young stated that she would like to see an article in the paper when the EV bus does arrive.

Upcoming Dates

Trunk or Treat October 28th 5pm-7pm

Parent Teacher Conferences October 30th-November 3rd

Veterans Day Assembly November 8th 9am

Regular Scheduled Board Meeting November 20th

Thanksgiving Break November 22nd-24th

Adjournment

Donald Collins moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm. Rowdy LaFevers seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Board Chair, _____

Board Secretary, _____