

Skamania School District #2
Regular Scheduled Board Meeting
Minutes
November 20, 2023
6:30pm-8:30pm
Mrs. London's Room

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

LaFevers

Excused: Angus Anderson

Staff: Katie Chavarria, Amber Warren and Heather Whitman

Call to Order

Donald Collins called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

Flag Salute

Changes to the agenda

There were no changes to the agenda

Public Comment

There was no public in attendance therefore no public comment

Consent Agenda

- Approval of the October 16th Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of bills and payroll
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General Fund: Accounts payable check numbers 29892 through 29921 totaling \$30,903.67

Payroll and benefits (Payroll A/P) check numbers 29922 through 29931 totaling \$113,831.85.

Transportation Vehicle Fund check numbers 24 through 26 totaling \$322,698.25

Mr. Collins asked to have the minutes amended to “Mr. Collins asked if the deed has been checked for revered interest”Rather than have it state . “Mr. Collins asked if the deed has been checked if there is a thought about selling the property.”

Lisa Young moved to approve the consent agenda with the amendment to the statement “Mr. Collins asked if the deed has been checked for reserved interest” Rather than have it state . “Mr. Collins asked if the deed has been checked if there is a thought about selling the property”. Rowdy LaFevers seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Program Reports

- Woodard Creek Property

The property was deeded to the Skamania School District in 1961 from Pope and Talbot. The School District paid \$1,000 for the property. The property encompasses 37.34 Acres. There is a spring running through the property that serves as a water source for the adjacent property. In 2014, a contract to sell the property for \$300,000 was signed but never executed.

Property was listed in 2011 for \$595,000. At that time zoning would allow dividing the area into three building sites. No buyer was secured.

The Department of Natural resources visited the property. During the visit, several forest health issues were identified, and recommendations include creating recreational trails and implementing a tree health and invasive species plan. January 18, 2018, a community/parent meeting was held to brainstorm potential use of the property. In February of 2018, there were board conversations held about potential use of the property. One of the proposals was to locate classrooms and labs on the property to support the STEM program. The Board decided to have the timber harvested and the District received \$173,000 as payment. The revenue was used to support the cost associated with the septic system repairs.

Inquiries about water rights, legal easements, whether spring water is surface water or contained in a system, and where it is collected were brought up during the program report.

Has the value of the property increased? This was one of the other questions posed. In addition, how would the proceeds from the property sale be put to use? A new framework for the playground, or what would be the pressing need?

The Board deliberated on the necessity of hiring a property assessor or appraiser and who would be the best person to do so.

There were inquiries about the 173K value of the timber, which was stated in earlier statements to be higher than anticipated based on research on the condition of the trees.

Lisa Young moved to have Superintendent Milt Dennison meet with a broker to obtain a property assessment report. Rowdy LaFevers seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

- Transportation Update

At the moment Skamania School District only has one bus route due to driver challenges. This will hopefully be resolved after the holiday break. There is another parent interested in driving a school bus for Skamania School District. They are on the fast track and will hopefully be ready to drive by the first of the year.

The #3 bus is currently being repaired again. The estimated cost of repairs to fix the bus and hopefully get it running is \$4,000. A bus for sale in the White Salmon Valley School District (WSVSD) is listed at \$2,500, which is less than what bus #3 would need to be repaired for. Mr. Dennison disclosed that he is seeking direction from the Board regarding the next course of action. In order to evaluate the relative quality of the buses, White Salmon SD bus #10 is a 2001 model with approximately 167K miles, and Skamania's current bus #3 is a 2009 model with roughly 167K miles.

Board members did mention that the bus needs to pass WSP inspection in order to be included in White Salmon's fleet and have service records detailing its maintenance history. Board members requested delaying this purchase decision until the following month in order to gather more White Salmon bus-related information.

Mrs. Warren will reach out to White Salmon to see how long they will wait to sell bus #10.

- Transportation CO-OP

Given that they do not currently have the resources for a maintenance shop and because the costs of labor are higher, the districts in the area are not prepared for a CO-OP agreement.

Board members questioned why Skamania maintains its buses in White Salmon rather than a nearby district. The explanation given is that Camas was disinterested and Washougal was not possible for the 2020–21 academic year. The only school district that agreed to take up Skamania's maintenance was White Salmon School District.

Rowdy LaFavers moved to table the discussion on a Transportation CO-OP until more information is made available. Cynthia Dominik seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Board members stated that they appreciated all the time and effort that was put into the presentation of the Transportation CO-OP.

- Status Report on Portables

Mr. Dennison shared his report on the portable walk through with ESD Project Manager Thomas Eller. What was discovered during the walkthrough is that the portables still have the wheels underneath and are not modular. The Skamania School District will have to decide how to proceed with the portables going forward and how much additional funding will be necessary for them. The Board will want to be careful on how much is spent going forward if we plan on replacing the portables. There is a draft coming in through the windows that will need to be addressed.

- November 7th Election Report

There will be a swearing in during the December meeting and this will be when the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Legislative Representative will be elected.

- Goal Action Plan

There are adjustments to be made for the goal action plan.

- The first adjustment will be defining Spring as either March or April.
- Change wording from patrons allowed to patrons availability
- Change wording from Staff will work with ESD 112 to ensure the website is up to date, to Staff will work with ESD 112 to ensure the website is current.

Mr. Dennison shared that one of the first things he does when he visits a school's website is to check how recent the content is.

One of the concerns that was brought up is how fast the banner moves on the home page.

Unfinished Business

Certificated and Classified Salary Study

- Updated Information

Mr. Dennison shared that he has been collecting data and the best way to be able to compare the salaries is to place the staff members in the same role at another district to see where the employee would place on the other district's salary schedule.

Mr. Dennison shared that insurance premiums that will take effect after the first of the year could be higher than the 3.7% salary increase that was given in the spring of the following year.

- Possible Workshop

There was a selected date set for a salary workshop for January 10th at 6pm and a backup date of January 11th in case of schedule conflicts.

New Business

December Board Meeting

Mrs. Dominik Medlin shared that she will be out of town on the 18th but will still try to attend the Board meeting virtually.

Tribal History Basic Education

- Review and Adoption

Mrs. Chavarria shared that she would recommend that the Board adopt the Since Time Immemorial curriculum for Skamania School District. The Since Times Immemorial curriculum was developed with the tribes native to Washington state and also endorsed by the tribe. Mrs. Chavarria stated the curriculum goes through a deep dig into the history of these native Washington tribes.

Lisa Young moved to approve the Tribal basic education curriculum Since Time Immemorial as recommended by Head Teacher Katie Chavarria. Cynthia Dominik seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports

- Superintendent's Report- Milt Dennison

Mr. Dennison mentioned that the Veteran's Day Assembly has received excellent feedback. Some of the students even performed a color guard routine. The Pledge of Allegiance was signed by each and every student. It appeared that the veterans in attendance were enjoying themselves as well. The younger students only attended during their performance period, and they were all outstanding performers.

- Instructional Program Report - Katie Chavarria

Mrs. Chavarria gave an overview of the HI-Cap testing that has finished, along with a brief overview of a camp opportunity called Camp Invention, which is a STEAM-oriented program that is one week of learning and fun for students of all ages. Camp Invention has shown significant short- and long-term improvements in creativity, STEM interest, and problem solving. Students with multiple experiences show even higher gains.

- Budget status report- Office Manager- Amber Warren

According to an update on the budget status report provided by Mrs. Warren, all financial matters are going as planned.

Comments from Skamania Board of Directors

Board members that were able to attend the Veterans Day assembly were impressed by the performance of all the students.

The Board also stated that they enjoyed the Trunk or Treat event and they feel as the community did as well.

Executive Session (RCW42.30.110)

- To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee.

Executive session began at: 7:47 pm

Board Member Donald Collins stated that the Board will need 15 minutes in executive session.

Executive session ended at: 8:03pm

Open session began again at 8:03pm

Upcoming Dates

Thanksgiving Break November 22nd-24th

Skamania Lodge Holiday Performance December 2nd 4:00pm

Skamania School Holiday Concert December 5th 6:30pm

PTO Winter Wonderland Event December 15th 6:00pm

Rowdy LaFavers moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm Cynthia Dominik Medlin Seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Chair, _____

Board Secretary, _____