

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

Minutes

January 22, 2024

6:30pm-8:30pm

Via Zoom

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID

285 593 9657

Passcode: 8t3C2U

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

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

Mr. Dennison shared there will be two changes to the agenda

- Two new hire contracts that will require Board approval
 - Bus Driver Contract for James Winter
 - ParaEducator Contract for Rachel Hastings

Board acceptance of Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund Playground Grant

Lisa Young would like to discuss the January 10th Board workshop minutes.

Public Comment

No public members were in attendance therefore there was no public comment.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of December 18th Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of the January 10th Board Workshop Minutes
- Approval of bills and payroll

Mrs. Young respectfully requests that the January 10th Board workshop minutes be changed in the 1st paragraph on page two the changes are as follows :

Mrs. Young said she didn't see why we were talking about overall staff pay right now. School bus drivers' wages were increased months ago. Subsequently, the issue was raised that historically, the bus drivers were paid less than the office staff, and the bus driver increase altered that situation. The question was asked about the "historical" justification for the pay difference. That question has not been answered. According to Mrs. Young, the Board approved pay increase was needed to attract drivers, to acknowledge their responsibilities, and provide the training required for their jobs.

The additional changes requested are in the Fourth Paragraph on Page 5: the requested changes are: - Mrs. Young agreed with what the previous 3 Board members said and does not support a change in compensation at this time. She looks forward to addressing this issue as early as possible during the budgeting process for the 2024-25 school year.

Angus Anderson moved to amend the January 10th Board workshop minutes to what Mrs. Young has requested and stated. Rowdy LaFevers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

General Fund: Accounts payable check numbers 29969 through 29987 totaling \$16,516.20

Payroll and benefits (Payroll A/P) check numbers 29988 through 29997 totaling \$111,697.10

Lisa Young moved to accept the consent agenda. Cynthia Dominik Medlin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- Transportation Updates

Mr. Dennison shared with board members that Skamania school will need another driver. He plans on getting a memo to parents. Hoping that there could be an interested parent that may want to drive for the school. If there isn't a hopeful candidate there is a chance we could be back to one bus route and driver in April.

- HVAC Systems

The HVAC system has been burdened by a persistent problem. On Monday, the 23rd, a technician for the HVAC system visited Skamania School. But there was no secure method to

access the system because of ice accumulation on the roof. They intend to return later this week. The board questioned Mr. Dennison about his continued communication with an ESD representative. In response, Mr. Dennison said that he is in communication with both our local contact Steve at ESD-112 in Vancouver and the department head in Tri-Cities. The HVAC system will undergo a third-party assessment to determine the exact location of the breakdown and whether a warranty claim is necessary. The HVAC business that either designed or installed the system will be invoiced back for any significant warranty claims not an outsider. If a system failure leading to a warranty claim is the cause of these ongoing problems, then JB or Lennox would probably be held accountable for the failure.

PTO Game Night has been canceled due to the weather conditions and due to be rescheduled for March.

How did the pipes perform through the freezing cold, Mr. LaFevers asked. Mr. Dennison said that there had been a little incident involving a leaky sink in the girls' restroom. A plumber is scheduled to visit the area on January 23 to investigate the problem and maybe provide a solution. As of right now, the only other issue that has been identified and fixed is a leak in the hose leading to the washer. The septic system hasn't caused any problems at this point.

New Business

- 2024-2025 School Calendar

On Wednesday, Mr. Dennison will talk about the planned 24–25 schedule with staff members during a staff meeting. Whether or not staff members desire to reinstate the statewide inservice day in conjunction with conference week schedule will be one of the topics to be explored. After that, Mr. Dennison announced that he would bring up this calendar once again at the board meeting in February, when adoption may be discussed.

- Budget Development Timelines

Mr. Dennison has been attempting to contact Charles Hole at ESD 112 in order to start the dialogue and inquire about the appropriate time to start the budgetary discussions. But Mr. Hole hasn't replied to Mr. Dennison yet as he's been away on vacation.

Mrs. Chavarria stated that when she last spoke with Mr. Hole and Mitch that they were still “roughing things up” and “going back and forth” .

- Acceptance of Donation

- Musical Instruments

Mrs. Chavarria discussed Karen Ditzler's amazing and gracious gesture. The trust established in the name of Karen Ditzler's son is the source of her donation. Following the resolution of the legal matter, Skamania School should have the money to buy the band equipment that Mrs. Caccavo requested through a list she gave to Ms. Ditzler. To ensure that there would be a thorough musical program, Ms. Ditzler went over the list of instruments requested by Mrs. Caccavo. Mrs. Chavarria shared with the board members that Ms. Ditzler was in attendance at the Skamania School Christmas performance and that there is no previous connection with the

school. Angus Anderson revealed that Friends of the Library is how he got to know Ms. Ditzler. According to Mrs. Dominik-Medlin, Ms. Ditzler had a significant role in the musical instrument installation at Tao Park in Stevenson, Washington. Together, the board members expressed their desire to find a means to express their gratitude to Ms. Ditzler, perhaps through a newspaper article, once they have made sure that she is comfortable with the acknowledgement.

Cynthia Dominik Medlin moved to accept the donation from Ms. Karen Ditzler. Lisa Young seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

In September of 2023 a grant request was made to the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund to support Skamania School for a playground grant. In December of 2023 Skamania School was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund to support the effort of Skamania Schools Playground improvement project. The grant stipulations state that the grant must be used with one (1) 12 month calendar year of receipt of the check.

Angus Anderson moved to accept the \$5,000 grant to support the Skamania Schools Playground improvement project. Rowdy Lafevers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Personnel Contracts

- Bus Driver Contract for James Winters

Rowdy LaFevers moved to approve the contract for James Winters as Bus Driver. Angus Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- ParaEducator Contract for Rachel Hastings

Lisa Young moved to approve the contract for Rachel Hastings as ParaEducator. Angus Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports

- Superintendent's Report- Milt Dennison

Mr. Dennison shared that there have been quite a few snow days. The snowy days were due to the ice storm. The snow and ice storm impacted a family to the point that it has caused them to be without water. Due to this situation, Mr. Dennison has delivered water to the family.

- Instructional Program Report - Katie Chavarria

The scheduled diagnostic testing has been postponed a little because of the snow days. Mrs. Chavarria announced that in February, Anne Gallagher from OSPI will visit Skamania School to review the math curriculum with the teachers. Although Ms. Gallagher was supposed to visit this month, it was decided that maybe next month would be a better time because of the weather. Additionally, Mrs. Chavarria gave the board information to her spreadsheet containing the timeline for the curriculum review. The goal of this evaluation is to ensure that

kids are receiving the education they need and deserve, not to eliminate the curriculum. Board members asked if it was necessary for parents and community members to have input on these reviews. Policies will be discussed and reviewed by Mr. Dennison.

- Budget status report- Chairman- Donald Collins

Chairman Collins shared the budget status report: Skamania School is still on target for this time of year. The budget is still looking in the right direction.

Comments from Skamania Board of Directors

Mrs. Young has requested finances to attend the legislative conference virtually January 28th–29th. The board sees no issue with why Mrs. Young cannot attend. The reason Mrs. Young prefers to attend virtually is due to a prior obligation on the 28th.

Mrs. Young has also asked about the timeline for when job descriptions will be available for review. Having these descriptions available will help when determining compensation for the 24–25 school year.

Rowdy LaFevers stated as well that information regarding budgeting from WSSDA at the end of January was virtually available.

Executive Session (RCW42.30.110)

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

Chairman Donald Collins stated that the board of directors will need 20 minutes in executive session.

Executive session began: 7:49pm

Executive Session ended: 8:09pm

There was no action taken after the executive session.

Upcoming Dates

Snow Make-up day- February 16th

Presidents Day (No School)- February 19th

February Regular Board Meeting- February 26th

Angus Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:11pm. Rowdy LaFevers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The board meeting adjourned at 8:11pm

Board Chair, _____

Board Secretary, _____