

Naselle-Grays River Valley School District No.155

Lisa Nelson, Superintendent
Rhiana Jacot, Executive Secretary

Board of Directors:
Chuck Hendrickson, Chairman, Dist. 3
Amy Hunt, District 2
Amy Chadwick, District 4
Lonnie Eaton, District 5
Tyson Vogeler, District 1

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Directors held on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via zoom and in the Naselle commons.

Present: Chuck Hendrickson, Amy Chadwick, Amy Hunt, Lonnie Eaton, Tyson Vogeler and Lisa Nelson.

Call to Order

Mr. Hendrickson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Hendrickson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Changes or Additions to the Agenda

None at this point in the agenda

Consent Agenda – Approved as Presented

Ms. Hunt moved, seconded by Ms. Chadwick to approve the consent agenda consisting of, payroll warrants 191314-191338 in the amount of \$450,852.08, general fund warrants 191258-191313 in the amount of \$43,076.74, ASB warrants 12845-12856 in the amount of \$5,964.35 and Board minutes from October 19, 2021 and November 3, 2021. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Ms. Nelson briefed the community members and the Board about four documents that were provided to the public at the meeting. These documents included an official letter from OSPI to the Board of Directors, a letter from the DOH, a letter from ESD 112 and a letter prepared by Ms. Nelson to the Board. The letters provided an overview of legal analysis and indications to follow the DOH and WIAA Covid testing protocols.

Mary Wirkkala shared information about testing and the spread of Covid through vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. She shared concerns that unvaccinated were being singled out for being tested for Covid.

Roger Hodges asked the Board about vaccine mandates for K-12 students. He requested the Board share where they stood on that issue.

Mr. Hendrickson stated he hasn't received information on this yet and can't comment until he see's something.

Ms. Chadwick said she also does not have all the information at this time. She said she is not a fan of vaccine mandates and the division it has created, but she is also concerned with the safety within the district.

Ms. Hunt shared she is opposed to mandating vaccines for school children.

Mr. Eaton said he does not believe in vaccine mandates and feels it may be time to do something else. He said he was encouraged that there had been a temporary halt on President Biden's vaccine mandates.

Ms. Chadwick said she believes in the rule of law, and has personal beliefs also. She stated that it can be very challenging.

Mr. Vogeler said he would be personally against a vaccine mandate for K12. He said there is a lot of case law in support of vaccine mandates. He recommended being proactive before the mandates happen. He stated that he has had to make many decisions in his previous roles as principal and superintendent that the follow the law, but go against his personal beliefs.

Mr. Hendrickson mentioned the Parents Rights in Education Group is currently mounting legal challenges against the mandates.

Mr. Hodges said the Board should join with other school districts across the State in opposing mandates.

Luke Gardner questioned whether the school had Covid testing in place the previous year.

Mr. Hendrickson replied that it was not in place the previous year.

Mr. Gardner asked if the Board voted on the current testing mandate.

Mr. Hendrickson replied that it has been the Board's role to follow DOH guidelines for a very long time.

Mr. Gardner asked about one of the letters Ms. Nelson had shared. Mr. Gardner stated they already know what OSPI and the DOH is saying. He asked why the Board brought a summary from those entities.

Mr. Eaton replied that that was what Mr. Gardner and the community members had asked the Board to do.

Mr. Gardner said he hears talk about discrimination of the unvaccinated vs. the vaccinated and other people congratulating Pe Ell for testing both. He stated that there is still an onion none of us want to eat. He attempted to play a recording of Jim Walsh at another recently held meeting. Mr. Gardner stated that Jim Walsh said the School Board has authority that is equal to the Governor.

Mr. Vogeler said that the Board has discretionary power within the constraints of the law. He said the Governor has emergency power and as a governing body the Board is obliged to follow that order.

Mr. Gardner said the Covid tests are not FDA approved and none of the letters speak to that issue.

Ms. Chadwick asked when Mr. Gardner thought the tests were expected to get FDA approval.

Mr. Gardner replied they expect approval by June 2022.

Neil Wirkkala handed the board some questions and requested they be answered by the District's attorney.

Mr. Hendrickson said he would take the questions, but may not submit them to an attorney as that was agreed on at the previous meeting and questions had already been submitted to the District's attorney.

Mr. Wirkkala said he has done a lot of research. He said the Governor can prohibit or suspend, but not add law. Mr.

Wirkkala said he does not believe the Governor has the power to mandate masks or vaccines.

Brandi Tarabochia asked why the Board didn't attend the Jim Walsh meeting. She said she is irritated that natural immunity is not considered at the same level as vaccination. She said the vaccinated can still get Covid so why is the District only testing unvaccinated. Ms. Tarabochia shared some stories of people she knows who were affected negatively by the Covid vaccine. She said that Eatonville School District was opposing the mandates and that the Board should join with Eatonville.

Mr. Vogeler said he researched what was happening in Eatonville. He said their Board ended up firing five employees after saying they were not going to fire them. OSPI had sent them a letter saying they would withhold funding and Eatonville ended up complying.

Mr. Hendrickson said he spoke with the Eatonville Board Chair the previous evening and confirmed what Mr. Vogeler was saying.

Mr. Vogeler said in his past he has been very vocal against government overreach. He stated that in Washington, 75% of a school's funding comes from the State. In Oregon, and other States, about 75% of funds are from local levies.

Ms. Tarabochia said that a year ago Dr. Fauci said it would be unacceptable to force vaccinations, but that is what is happening and people are losing their jobs. Ms. Tarabochia said the Board has a voice and she was asking them to be a voice for the parents.

Mr. Hendrickson said the Eatonville Superintendent said he is hanging his hopes on the legislative session and hopes there will be restraints against the Governor's emergency powers.

Trina Erickson shared a concern about her child's English class.

Marijane Anderson said one of her main frustrations with the School Board is that they hear the concerns from parents, but don't have answers. She said she appreciated that the Board was talking with the community. Ms. Anderson had concerns about the testing swab. She said she tried calling DOH multiple times, but could not get through. She talked with the County and could not get answers about what was on the swab. She asked the Board if they could get more information on what was on the swab.

Mr. Eaton said a DOH letter stated there was a certain gas, ethylene oxide, used to sterilize the swab, but that the gas evaporated before it was packaged so that there shouldn't be anything on the swab when used.

Ms. Anderson said she was concerned with twice weekly testing and the potential health conditions it could cause her child down the road. Ms. Anderson asked if there had been any grants written in the last six months.

Ms. Nelson said the new position of Covid tester was through a grant.

Ms. Anderson said it would be inappropriate to ask the Board members personal medical questions and why it was okay to expect that of students. She stated that this isn't going to get better, it is going to get worse.

Mr. Wirkkala said he saw literature that said Chris Reykdal is going to petition the Governor to mandate vaccination for K-12 students.

Tim Steenerson said that most of the people at the meeting grew up in Naselle area, but that his family came from out of state. He said the District was glad to see his six girls attend school here. He asked what happens if the school loses 150 students to homeschooling. He questioned whether the school would close.

Mr. Vogeler replied that the school would lose staff. Mr. Vogeler also said that when enrollment goes down, sometimes

funding goes up due to small school funding enhancements. The school would still function, but most likely with reduced programming. He also explained that when a district loses funding and has a low fund balance, that district can end up being fiscally controlled by the ESD. Mr. Vogeler gave an example of the Vader School District being absorbed into the Castle Rock School District.

Cindy Pierce shared her negative experience with the vaccination. She encouraged the Board to join with other school districts around the State.

Daniel Garcia asked the Board to take a stand against the vaccine mandate.

Ms. Erickson asked about religious exemptions for vaccines.

Ms. Anderson asked if the parents got other school districts together then would the Board participate.

Mr. Hendrickson said they would participate.

Ms. Chadwick said she participates in a Board of Directors group that decides on issues to send to the legislature. She stated that she has not heard from any other Board members about wanting to band together.

Mr. Vogeler suggested to the community to get together and hire a lawyer to sue the State.

Ms. Anderson asked about the current testing of basketball players.

Ms. Nelson said that middle school basketball players are already being tested since their season has started. She said high school just started the day before and had not done any testing yet.

Mr. Wirkkala recommend that the Board reread the constitution. He shared his concern that there is a push from Communist China to spread Communism in the US.

Personnel

Mr. Eaton moved, seconded by Ms. Hunt to approve the hire of Marie Green, Covid test administrator, through June 2022. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Vogeler moved, seconded by Ms. Chadwick to adopt Policy 3411, Accommodating Students with Seizures. Motion carried.

Ms. Hunt moved, seconded by Mr. Eaton to adopt Policy 5400, Personnel Leaves. Motion carried.

New Business

Mr. Eaton moved, seconded by Mr. Vogeler to accept the donation from the Booster Club for student enrichment activities – not to exceed \$15,000. Motion carried.

Mr. Vogeler moved to amend the agenda and add item 8B, regarding Covid testing of athletes. All members voted Aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Vogeler said that the Board has had excellent guidance from legal counsel and thanked Ms. Nelson for gathering the information. He said that the Board had previously not taken action on Covid testing and masking. Mr. Vogeler read a statement into the record.

Mr. Vogeler moved, seconded by Ms. Chadwick to adopt the statement in support of following the Governor's proclamation and the DOH mandates. Ms. Chadwick thanked the Board and the parents for coming to the Board meeting to express their concerns. She said she hoped the letter would help to answer their questions. All board members voted Aye. Motion carried.

Principals/Staff Reports

NYCS Principal, Gary Flood, shared the goals and school improvement plans for NYCS. The goals were to improve graduation rates, enhance social emotional learning, expand differentiation of instruction, and continue regular discussion of building goals.

Superintendent's Report

304 FTE – K12, 40 FTE – NYCS

Ms. Nelson shared the list of league honorees for Volleyball. 1st team all-league was Peyton Dalton, Brynn Tarabochia and Kaylin Shrives. Honorable mention went to Echo Cenci and Morgan Reitz. The volleyball team also received the league sportsmanship award and placed 5th at State.

Football will play the State Quarterfinals at Pomeroy on Saturday, November 20th. They plan to spend the Friday night before the game in Dayton, WA.


Board Member Reports and Future Agenda Items

Mr. Vogeler asked Ms. Nelson to look into purchasing some equipment to make Zoom meetings more accessible to the public.

Ms. Chadwick said we are one of a few districts that are having in person meetings. She also mentioned that the School Directors' Group is still getting a list of priorities together to send to the legislature.

Adjournment

Mr. Eaton moved, seconded by Ms. Hunt to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried.



Secretary to the Board

12/21/21

Date



Chairman of the Board

12/21/21

Date