

Naselle-Grays River Valley School District No.155

Lisa Nelson, Superintendent
Rhiana Jacot, Executive Secretary

Board of Directors:
Aris Campbell, District 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, September 20, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the middle school commons and via zoom.

Present: Amy Hunt, Lonnie Eaton, Amy Chadwick, Tyson Vogeler, Aris Campbell, after swearing in, and Lisa Nelson.

Call to Order

Ms. Hunt, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Hunt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Changes or Additions to the Agenda

Ms. Nelson asked to add agenda item C under personnel to acknowledge the resignation of Dave King, music teacher.

Mr. Vogeler asked to add agenda item E, under new business, regarding school director technology.

Ms. Chadwick moved, seconded by Mr. Eaton to approve the additions to the agenda. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda – Approved as Presented

Mr. Vogeler moved, seconded by Ms. Chadwick to approve the consent agenda consisting of, payroll warrants 192158-192177 in the amount of \$433,042.79 general fund warrants 192088-192157 in the amount of \$152,081.35, ASB warrants 12944-12948 in the amount of \$8,790.39 and amended special board minutes from August 1, 2022 and board minutes from August 23, 2022. Motion carried.

Acknowledge Board Member Resignation

Mr. Eaton moved, seconded by Mr. Vogeler to acknowledge the resignation of Chuck Hendrickson. Motion carried.

Ms. Nelson thanked Mr. Hendrickson for his 8 years on the board. She said she appreciated his leadership and mentorship.

Ms. Chadwick stated Mr. Hendrickson was a great mentor.

Prospective Board Member Interviews

Clarissa Colson, Aris Campbell and Luke Gardner interviewed for the open board position for District 3.

Question 1. Please tell us about yourself, including your work and volunteer experiences that may relate to serving as a member of the school board. Include how your experiences can help the board.

Clarissa Colson stated that she is an alumna of Naselle and has lived here most of her life. She has had a lot of volunteer experience over the years with 4H, Youth Ambassadors and the Know Your Government Delegation. She said as far as the school board level, she does not have experience working with organizations at this level. She said she believes it is important for community members to be involved. She stated she believes she can help make a difference for kids in the school and to get additional programs into the school.

Aris Campbell thanked the board for the interview. He said he and his wife moved here one year ago, but he has been visiting Naselle most of his life. He stated he has family here and recently opened a business. He said his prior work was in the technology field and he has worked with budgeting, procurement and managed a team. He has experience volunteering in the PTA and fundraising in his step-daughter's high school in Portland and his children's preschool in

Dallas. He stated he wants to bring his experience to this position to represent the community and to help provide outstanding education for the kids.

Luke Gardner said he grew up in Salmon Creek and attended the K-12 here. He said he wants his kids to enjoy what he experienced, but it seems a lot has changed. He stated he would like to work with the community on keeping things legit. He believes the school is out over its skis and has been for a while. He stated education isn't just about academics it is also about social responsibility and how we interact with government. He stated he has been an owner and operator of his private business over 25 years which involves managing people, money and time. He stated when you wear all the hats you can see the bigger picture than those who do one job. He said the school needs to operate within the law and respect everyone's rights. He stated that was his first goal; second goal is to create a positive learning environment for the kids; and third, Go Comets.

Question 2. Why do you want to serve and what do you hope to accomplish by being on the board? Do you have any commitments that would prevent you from regularly attending the meetings?

Luke Gardner said June and July are off the table because he has work commitments in Alaska. He said he wants to make sure that things are being run properly. He stated Chuck Hendrickson's resignation is indicative of problems and he took the easy way out. He stated he wants make sure we are playing by the books.

Clarissa Colson said she would like to serve as someone who went to school here in the past and is familiar with issues in the past and sees that some of these issues have not been addressed. She stated she would like to bring a new perspective and to find different solutions to the challenges students face. She said she would like to make school a positive place where students feel empowered and welcomed. She said she does not have prior commitments.

Aris Campbell said he wants to join the school board because it is essential the school board represents the community. He stated cooperation and communication are key among the community and the board members. He believes he has a strong ability to communicate and find solutions. He said with all that is going on within the community and a changing environment within the District, it is important to have the ability to be cooperative and you need to be able to set aside strong personal political views to forge consensus. He stated he has no prior commitments.

Question 3. What do you see as the particular strengths of the Naselle-Grays River Valley School District?

Aris Campbell said Naselle's strengths are the way the community rallies around the school. He said the school is a community bonding point. The administrators and staff are top notch and stay within budget. He said it looked like the school budgeted for more than was brought in, but was still able to make it work.

Luke Gardner said he sees a lot of pride in knowing each other and in personal relationships. He said these are things that are lost in society today from Miami to Seattle.

Clarissa Colson said the biggest strength is the sense of community. She said we may not know each other really well, but we recognize each other and a lot of that is centered around the school. She said even if you don't have a kid here you have nieces or nephews or grandkids or you went here. She said the school has expanded to include new things. She said we do a good job of walking the line of being more traditional, but also being realistic and realizing we need to prepare our students for the rest of the world.

Question 4. Please tell us what you understand the roles of the board and the Superintendent to be, as those roles relate to the overall management of the District.

Clarissa Colson said her understanding is not super in-depth but the board oversees the District level policies, decisions and also budgeting and also oversees elementary, middle and high school and things that affect all three levels. The superintendent helps implement those policies into the school system and works closely with the board to communicate as to how those are implemented.

Aris Campbell said the school board is the governing body of the School District. He said they represent the community's voice and empower the superintendent and other school officials to create an environment most conducive for learning.

He stated the superintendent's goal is to manage the school and make sure policies that are put into action by the school board are followed. He said the school board is also fiscally responsible for budgeting, decisions on spending, and creating policy.

Luke Gardner said the school board is a representative form of government. He said it is parliamentary in nature. He said the school board is supposed to represent the people. He stated that every government is defined by its constituents which are defined by borders. He stated the school board's main purpose is to represent the constituents and present to the board what their constituents are telling them. He stated that is the sole purpose of the board. He said the board is bound by state law and the constitution. He said the board balances the budget and sets policy, but the main goal is to represent the constituents. He stated that the superintendent administers the policies that the board adopts and deals with the small potatoes stuff and makes sure the guidelines that we the people have presented to the board are being followed.

Question 5. Would you be able to stand behind and support a board action approved by the majority, if you had voted against that action?

Luke Gardner said he would not contradict himself. He stated he would stand behind what the majority of the people wanted, but he would not contradict himself in the way he spoke about it in the future.

Clarissa Colson said she could stand behind a board decision even if she voted against it. She said there is time for debate and discussion before voting on it. She said she would respect the opinion of the majority.

Aris Campbell said it is during the discussion process that it is time to make his case. He stated he would absolutely stand behind the decision of the board. He said it is important to present a united front especially on sensitive issues. He said if the majority of the board votes a certain way then he would assume the majority of the community feels the same.

Question 6. How do you foresee the school board balancing the need to provide a quality education with the need to respond to local taxpayer burden?

Aris Campbell said it is important to pursue funds at the federal level and to pursue grants. He said federal monies reduce the tax burden on citizens. He stated it is important to find sensible ways to enact the budget.

Luke Gardner said the board needs to take a hard dive into what the needs of the kids are today and tomorrow. He said a small percent of students attend college, but gears are in motion to churn out college students. He said that does not satisfy the needs of all the children. The board needs to spend money in a way that is useful for the students' futures. He said one size fits all is very irresponsible. He said the tax base can only support so much and the board needs to pay attention to the needs and the rights of the students or they are going to leave the District. He said headcount is money and the school runs on headcount. It is important to keep people here.

Clarissa Colson said she agreed that the board needs to look at all the different possibilities for funding and also keeping students by providing a quality education. She said that the board also needs to look at curriculum and also at what students need for the future. She stated college is not necessarily an end goal for every student. She said that some students may go into trades and we have recently learned the last several years that these trades are things we really depend on. She said we should make sure we are covering all the options to give students a quality education.

Executive Session RCW 42.30.110(1)(h) Discuss qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office

Ms. Hunt adjourned to executive session at 7:15 p.m. Ms. Hunt said they expected the executive session to be about 20 minutes.

Before the board could move to executive session, Luke Gardner requested to the board that everything said about him be done in public and said that upon his request that is the requirement. Mr. Vogeler said statute allows the board to do deliberations behind closed doors for board member appointments. Mr. Vogeler said directors can talk about strengths and potential concerns of candidates and can talk about qualifications. The board cannot do a straw poll or say who they

would vote for, they are only able to talk about qualifications. Luke Gardner said he understands, but said the board is ignoring his request. After further discussion, Mr. Vogeler suggested the board move to executive session and abide by Mr. Gardner's request.

Ms. Hunt again adjourned at 7:20 p.m. with an expected return time of 20 minutes. The board returned at 7:36 pm.

Ms. Hunt stated they were back in regular session and the time was 7:36.

Mr. Vogeler said he would like to make a motion.

Luke Gardner asked if they had discussed him and where was the discussion about him. Mr. Vogeler stated they did not discuss Mr. Gardner. Mr. Gardner said he asked them to do it in public. Mr. Vogeler said there is no requirement that they discuss. Mr. Vogeler yielded the floor to the other board members.

Ms. Chadwick thanked the applicants and said she did not have any questions.

Luke Gardner said he was asking the board if they will have a discussion about him like they did about the other applicants in executive session. Mr. Eaton stated that executive session is for discussing the applicants and upon return they must make a motion. Mr. Gardner said in RCW that upon his request they are required to have a discussion about him in public. Mr. Eaton said they are not required to discuss. Mr. Vogeler said they are not required to go into executive session to have a discussion, though they did. He said they discussed general qualifications they would like board members to have. Mr. Vogeler said he wanted to be careful and not violate executive session in his explanation. He said each director was left to come out of executive session and vote their conscience.

Ms. Nelson said she thinks Mr. Gardner may be referring to a clause that if a person was recommended for termination then that person can choose to have the discussion in public, though the board is not required to have a discussion and this topic was not regarding a staff hearing.

Clarissa Colson asked if the board discussed generalities and not candidates.

Mr. Vogeler said the board did discuss Ms. Colson and Mr. Campbell, not Mr. Gardner. He said they discussed the qualities they seek in a board member that would complement the existing board.

Mr. Vogeler moved to appoint Aris Campbell to the vacant position created by the resignation of Chuck Hendrickson for Board Director, Area 3. Amy Chadwick seconded.

Mr. Vogeler said the three candidates all had strengths that would serve the board well, each has unique skill sets that would help balance the board and fill the vacancy. He said it is always difficult to make a decision between candidates. He said he feels Aris Campbell is the best candidate to represent District 3.

Ms. Chadwick thanked all three candidates for their interests in serving the community. She said each applicant had strengths. She said finding a board member that works with the current board is important.

Ms. Hunt said she appreciates everyone's efforts and encouraged everyone to keep being involved in the school. She said it was not an easy decision.

Mr. Eaton thanked all of the candidates and said they all had strengths that would be helpful, but in the end, one stood out more than the others. He said anyone could have filled the spot, but one stood out more.

Ms. Nelson said the candidates all had impressive answers, though the selection was not up to her, she was still impressed.

Roll Call - Mr. Vogeler, aye. Ms. Chadwick, aye. Mr. Eaton, aye. Ms. Hunt, aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Campbell was sworn in as the new board member.

Public Comment

Daniel Garcia (via Zoom) said the new member swore an oath to the constitution and he said either it means something or it doesn't. He stated he would like the board to think about that.

Personnel

Mr. Eaton moved, seconded by Mr. Vogeler to acknowledge the resignation of Summer Johnson, Knowledge Bowl coach. Motion carried.

Ms. Chadwick moved, seconded by Mr. Eaton to approve the hire of Warren Wirkkala, MS football coach, pending background check. Motion carried.

Mr. Vogeler moved, seconded by Ms. Chadwick to acknowledge the resignation of David King, teacher, as of October 3, 2022. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Ms. Chadwick moved, seconded by Mr. Eaton to adopt Policy 1400, Board Meetings: Meeting Conduct, Order of Business and Quorum. Motion carried.

Mr. Vogeler moved, seconded by Mr. Eaton to adopt Policy 1420, Proposed Agenda and Consent Agenda. Mr. Vogeler commented on the language currently used in the agendas and proposed making the language neutral. He used the example "approve fuel bids" and suggested that the agenda could just say "fuel bids". Ms. Nelson asked how new hires would be worded. Mr. Vogeler said personnel could go under consent agenda. He said he has heard that the current wording on the agendas make it look like they rubber stamp rather than deal with the issues. Ms. Nelson asked if they would really want to put personnel under consent agenda because it feels less transparent on hiring, but she said changing the word "adopt" to "consider" is fine. Mr. Vogeler said it may be something for discussion. Motion carried.

Mr. Eaton moved, seconded by Ms. Chadwick to adopt Policy 3122, Excused an Unexcused Absences. Motion carried.

Ms. Chadwick moved, seconded by Mr. Eaton to adopt a Policy 3432, Emergencies. Motion carried.

Mr. Vogeler moved, seconded by Mr. Eaton to adopt Policy 4218, Language Access. Motion carried.

Mr. Eaton moved, seconded by Mr. Vogeler to adopt Policy 5001, Hiring of Retired School Employees. Motion carried.

Mr. Vogeler moved, seconded by Mr. Eaton to adopt Policy 5011, Sexual Harassment of District Staff Prohibited. Motion carried.

Mr. Eaton moved, seconded by Mr. Vogeler to adopt Policy 6214, Purchasing Cards. Mr. Eaton asked if we needed both the credit cards and the procurement cards. Ms. Nelson said, yes, for now, but we plan to transition away from the credit cards once we are familiar with using the procurement cards. Motion carried.

Mr. Vogeler moved, seconded by Mr. Eaton to approve Resolution No. 2022-9-20, Board Director boundaries to remain unchanged after public input period. Motion carried.

Ms. Chadwick moved, seconded by Mr. Eaton to approve Resolution No. 2022-9-20b, Use of purchase cards and agreement with the Bank of Montréal. Motion carried.

New Business

Mr. Eaton moved, seconded by Mr. Vogeler to approve the Superintendent's Goals for 2022-23. Motion carried.

Mr. Vogeler moved, seconded by Ms. Chadwick to approve the propane bids from Ferrellgas. Motion carried.

Mr. Eaton moved, seconded by Mr. Vogeler to approve the fuel bids from Wilcox & Flegel. Motion carried.

Mr. Vogeler moved, seconded by Mr. Eaton to approve out of area teaching assignments for Updike, See and Olsen (PE); Hoagland (Weights and Leadership); Teubner (Art); Baker (Spanish) and Johnson (Yearbook). Motion carried.

Mr. Vogeler moved, seconded by Ms. Chadwick to procure a laptop for each member of the board. Mr. Vogeler stated that the tablets do not have keyboards and it is difficult to keep the tablets charged. Mr. Vogeler said State employees should not use personal equipment for State business. They should do work on a District device and be able to store documents on a laptop. He said he preferred not to use a Chromebook. Mr. Johnson said he will look into procuring laptops, but he could have Chromebooks available the next day. He said newer Chromebooks have 64 gig hard drives and can store a lot of information. Mr. Vogeler stated that there had been previous problems with zoom on the tablets and requested cameras in the laptops. He also requested Word software. Motion carried.

Principals/Staff Reports

Mr. Laine shared intervention goals and strategies to improve test scores. He updated the board on multiple STEM opportunities within the District.

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Nelson said the District received a grant from the Recreation Conservation Office for \$90,000 for the youth athletic fields. The grant will be for leveling, dirt work and re-seeding the outfields at both Lions' Field ballparks.

Enrollment: September: 300 FTE, June was 289 FTE.

Fund Balance: \$2,341,286

Ms. Nelson asked if there was further direction from the board about the survey.

Mr. Vogeler said they were leaning towards a two to three question initial survey to identify areas of concern. He suggested using Survey Monkey to help identify those areas of concern.

Ms. Nelson said they could do a mail out survey with a self-addressed envelope to determine areas of concern so they knew what to pursue further.

Clarissa Colson suggested a mail out with a QR code or link for an option to do the survey online.

Mr. Vogeler suggested a postcard with a QR code and phone number to call for a paper survey.

There was further discussion on how to make the survey reach the highest level of participation.

Mr. Vogeler suggested that Ms. Nelson come back to next month's board meeting with a proposed survey.

Ms. Nelson said she has some questions already that are open ended so that community members could write what was on their mind.


Mr. Johnson presented his findings on Board Docs. He said the least expensive option is \$3,700 the first year and \$2,700 each year after. Mr. Johnson showed the board members the current menu on the District's website. Mr. Johnson discussed some of the benefits of using Board Docs. He also showed the benefits of continuing to use the District's current website while making some significant changes to the accessibility of school board documents, agendas and minutes.

Board Member Reports and Future Agenda Items

Mr. Vogeler asked about when the board would like to elect officers. He suggested electing officers at the next board meeting in October or possibly waiting until November. The board considered waiting until December. Ms. Hunt was going to think about this and a decision.

Adjournment

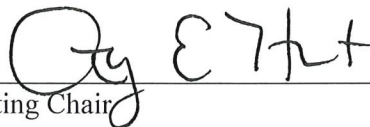
Mr. Eaton moved, seconded by Mr. Vogeler to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 p.m. Motion carried.



Secretary to the Board

10-18-22

Date



Acting Chair

10-18-22

Date

