



**Regular Board Meeting  
Sisters School District Office  
May 3, 2023 at 7:00pm**

## MEETING MINUTES

### ATTENDEES

<b>Board</b>	<b>Asa Sarver, David Thorsett, Edie Jones, Jeff Smith, Jenica Cogdill</b>
<b>Superintendent</b>	<b>Curt Scholl</b>
<b>Administrators</b>	<b>Joan Warburg, Lorna Van Geem, Steve Stancliff, Tim Roth</b>
<b>Supervisors</b>	<b>Joe Hosang, Sherry Joseph</b>
<b>Board Secretary</b>	<b>Amy Bionda</b>

### CALL TO ORDER / FLAG SALUTE

**Call to Order**                      **David Thorsett** called the Regular Board Meeting to order at **7:01pm**.

### ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA / ADOPTION OF AGENDA

**Addition**                              ELL Curriculum Adoption Vote to be postponed until fall 2023.

**Jeff Smith moved and Jenica Cogdill seconded that the Board adopt the 2023-05-03 Regular Board Meeting Agenda with the above addition. Vote was unanimous in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

### COMMUNITY COMMENTS

**Dana McNeese**  
17530 Mountain View Rd.  
Sisters, OR 97759

**Dana McNeese**, Chair of **Sisters Houseless Routable**, presented the proposed projects and services to assist the homeless in Sisters. She requested from the Board verbal and/or written commitment of support for the prospective plans.

### BUSINESS / FINANCE REPORTS

**Revenue / Expenditures**                      **Sherry Joseph** shared the 2023-05-03 General Fund Report and the 2022-2023 General Fund Projected vs Actual Report. Sherry asked the Board if they had any questions. No questions were asked.

**Audit Presentation**                              **Luke Donaldson** from **Pauley, Rogers and Co.** presented the Audit Results (refer to 2022-12-15 Audit Letter to Board). The result was a modified opinion due to the District not having a current actuarial valuation of post-employment benefit related to the implicit healthcare subsidy. If not for the above-mentioned point, it would have been a clean report. There were no issues of non-compliance and no questioned costs. Seven best practice recommendations were made. Reviewing OSBA policy and procedure language could help with the recommendations. Overall the greatest challenge was GASB, which was highly complicated and time-consuming. The third-party Debt Book Services is a substantial contributor to the success of complying with GASB. In conclusion, the auditors do not foresee major issues in the future, if the team can get a jump start on the process next year.

## ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

### High School

**Steve Stancliff** shared the efforts made towards career and college transition preparation. A team has been put together to create a foundation for advisory services for students on an as needed basis. The counselors will train staff to help guide students in a pathway towards future success. The positive results of the team's efforts can already be observed thanks to the one-on-one meetings between each student and respective counselor, which has led to earlier and more organized forecasting. Steve also mentioned two important upcoming events: **Senior Celebration (May 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm)** and **Senior Graduation (June 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm)**, which will be livestreamed).

### Middle School

**Tim Roth** shared the efforts to inspire students through outdoor learning. In April, 97% of the students traveled to Hoodoo Ski Mountain for various winter activities. In May, it is estimated about 97% of the students will travel to Smith Rock for activities around geology. Tim also made mention of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade retreat / outdoor school, the 6<sup>th</sup> grade collaboration with High Desert for STEAM / robotic activities, as well as other collaborations, such as Seed to Table. Tim presented to the Board the Crazy Creek Chair, which teachers can check out for outdoor classrooms, making for a much more organized classroom environment, along with the two new picnic tables. Finally, Tim mentioned that the promotion would be held outside again, as it was a huge success last year.

### Elementary School

**Joan Warburg** shared the efforts made around science and STEAM. The school collaborates with Sisters Ranger Station to provide different educational opportunities, and Middle School and High School students are also assisting in various activities at the Elementary school. Joan presented the science focus of each grade level, as well as with whom they are collaborating: Kindergarten is insects (scientists / entomologists), 1<sup>st</sup> grade is birds (Think Wild / 7<sup>th</sup> graders building bird boxes), 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is geology (Central Oregon Geology, field trip to Lava Butte), 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is hydrology (Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, field trip to Whychus Creek), 4<sup>th</sup> grade is botany, in particular historical native plants (Sisters Ranger Station, field trip to Beaver Ponds Restoration Project). Joan also mentioned the 4<sup>th</sup> grade overnight field trip to Portland to study the Oregon Trail and Louis and Clark Expedition, as well as the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade visit to the new Elementary School construction site, so the students can actually memorialize their names at the new school.

### Special Programs

**Lorna Van Geem** shared the intensive efforts being made to transfer the Student Information System from Tyler to Synergy for General Education and Special Education. Synergy is used in almost all Central Oregon Schools and also most School Districts across the state. Lorna stated that transitioning to Synergy will bring SSD into the modern world and it will assist with ODE compliance, as well as processing transfer students. Because it is a much more powerful and easy-to-use platform, it will tremendously improve data requisition, record keeping, task automation and notification, etc. The goal is to transfer over on July 1<sup>st</sup> and hold 12-hour training sessions for staff in August. It is a labor-intensive process, but the improvements are expected to be greatly appreciated.

## SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

### Enrollment Report

**Curt Scholl** shared the [2023-05-03 Enrollment Report](#). Curt stated that student enrollment is rather stable. In response to a question, Curt explained the reason for the large decrease in 12<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment from the beginning of the school year till now, is most likely due to early graduates, as well as Heart of Oregon students who are not enrolled during an entire school year.

### Bond Update

**Curt Scholl** shared that the load bearing walls were beginning to go up. The last slabs were delayed being poured due to weather conditions. But otherwise the construction is on track with no issues, and now going vertical and becoming visible. Construction will be stopped, cleared and made safe for the third-grade class visit on the afternoon of May 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Announcements

**Curt School** presented Amy Bionda as new Board Secretary. Curt also announced two important dates: **Special District Election (May 16<sup>th</sup>)** and the release of the [Economic Forecast \(May 17<sup>th</sup>\)](#).

**BOARD BUSINESS**

**Local Option Update** The Board announced several final events for the local option campaign: final Nugget Newspaper full page ad (May 10<sup>th</sup>), **Donut Party Rally (May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:45am)**, and a **Phone Tree Operation (May 15<sup>th</sup>)**.

**ELL Curriculum Adoption** The ELL Curriculum requires a vote from the board to be approved and adopted. It was asked to delay this vote until fall 2023.

**Jeff Smith moved and Dave Thorsett seconded that the Board postpone the ELL Curriculum Adoption Vote until fall 2023. Vote was unanimous in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

**Recess** **Dave Thorsett** declared recess of the Regular Board Meeting at **8:20pm**.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Call to Order** **Dave Thorsett** declared in the Executive Session (Superintendent Evaluation) at **8:27pm**.

**Executive Session** The Board discussed Curt Scholl's job performance as a Superintendent of Sisters School District.

**Adjourn** **Dave Thorsett** declared the Executive Session adjourned at **9:28pm**.

**Reconvene** **Dave Thorsett** declared the Regular Board Meeting reconvened at **9:29pm**.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Meeting Minutes** [2023-04-05 Regular Board Meeting Minutes](#)

**Jeff Smith moved and Jenica Cogdill seconded that the Board adopt the 2023-05-03 Consent Agenda. Vote was unanimous in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Date	Event	Time	Location
June 7, 2023	Regular Board Meeting / Budget Hearing	6:00pm	DO
June 7, 2023	Executive Session (Superintendent Evaluation)	7:00pm	DO

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Adjourn** **David Thorsett** called the Regular Board Meeting adjourned at **9:31pm**.

David Thorsett, Board Chairman

Amy Bionda, Board Secretary