



Board of Directors Meeting March 13, 2024

Board Members Present: Jennifer Monies, Ellen Buettner, Teresa Truong, Megan Oftedal, Cristina McQuiston, and Mick Cornett

Staff Present: Patrick Duffy, Lana Ingram, and Shelly Hickman

By Invitation: Bill Hickman, general counsel, and Pam Campbell, PTA President

Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m. by Chair Jennifer Monies.

A quorum of voting members was present and it was comprised of Jennifer Monies, Ellen Buettner, Teresa Truong, Megan Oftedal, Cristina McQuiston, and Mick Cornett.

2. The Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda.

Mick Cornett moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Ellen Buettner seconded. All members of the Board in attendance at the meeting voted to approve.

3. The Board voted to approve the district utilizing up to \$39,000 in revenue for all certified staff to receive Great Expectations training this summer.

Superintendent Duffy indicated that John Rex had applied and received an additional \$39,000 in its Counseling Corps grant funds from the Oklahoma State Department of Education. The district applied for those funds for Great Expectations training for certified staff. He explained that Great Expectations improves climate and culture for both students and staff and that he had received the training himself prior to being at John Rex. He indicated the new elementary principal that would be joining the district in July also had received the training and was an advocate for Great Expectations himself. Ellen Buettner moved to approve and Teresa Truong seconded. All members of the Board in attendance of the meeting voted to approve.

4. The Board voted to allow the Superintendent to use the Gift Fund to pay for meals related to staff recruitment and community building.

Superintendent Duffy indicated the request was not for any specific endeavor but for clarity from the board for future auditors that use of the district credit card and/or reimbursement from the Gift Fund to pay for meals related to staff recruitment, community building in and out of the school, and inclusive of refreshments for community events like Board of Director meetings or coffee with parents at the school was allowed. Mick Cornett made the motion to approve and Ellen Buettner seconded. All members of the Board in attendance of the meeting voted to approve.

5. Strategic Planning Committee Chair Teresa Truong gave an update.

Truong reported that the committee had completed 99 percent of its key performance indicators, which identify what success looks like in each category of the strategic plan. This work includes identifying how each category will be measured and how often. She indicated a draft of the plan with the key performance indicators and framework would be complete by May and she anticipated the Board could vote on it at its June meeting. General Counsel Bill Hickman reminded the Board that whatever is presented to it as a draft in May needs to be included in the



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Board packet for May and that the minutes reflect any discussion of the plan and any requested changes.

6. Superintendent Duffy gave a Leadership Update.

Superintendent Duffy indicated the Elementary Principal search had gone very well. After numerous candidates applied and were interviewed, Aaron Kellert, the current principal of Nichols Hills Elementary, was offered the position and he accepted. He indicated that Mr. Kellert had attended Fuel Up and met some Board members and staff and that he knew him well from earlier in the careers when they worked at Jackson Elementary together. He then shared that the district would need to put out a Request for Proposals for food service management as the district was in its fifth year with Keystone Foods and the state and federal government requires the district to have contracted food service management go out to bid no less than every five years. He then indicated the footing for the greenhouse was to occur the following week and that the ribbon cutting was planned for May 14 and that Mayor Holt had agreed to be there for it. Prior to the ribbon cutting, students would be visiting Myriad Gardens on April 22 and being educated on greenhouse practices as each class of 24 classes would be responsible for a raised bed within the greenhouse. He then shared that, unfortunately, the new playground equipment was on back order and the district was unsure of when it would be delivered as no delivery date had yet been provided. He then indicated that Operations Director Shelly Hickman had given notice that she would be leaving the district as of July 1 to work for the new state Charter Schools Board. He indicated that he was sad to see her leave but that he was happy for the opportunity she was being provided. He said Shayla Lovett had been identified to be promoted to the position when Hickman left. He finished by reminding the Board that they had required training that they had not yet begun and that some Board members had not gotten their criminal background checks done. Hickman said directly following the meeting all Board members would receive emails reminding them of how to connect to online training at the Oklahoma Public School Resource Center and she would send the Board members who had not yet done their criminal background checks reminders of how to do so.

During the update and discussion of Hickman leaving the district as of July 1, Board member Cristina McQuiston indicated she would not be serving a new term and that she would retire from the Board when her term ended on June 30. Chair Jennifer Monies praised McQuiston for her long service and as a founding Board member and said that she and Ellen Buettner as Governance Committee members were working to identify candidates for Board vacancies.

7. PTA President Pam Campbell gave a PTA Update.

Pam Campbell indicated that preliminary results of Fuel Up was that the event had met its fundraising goal. She indicated that revenue was still coming in and she was very pleased with the turnout and how the event was planned this year. She shared that the PTA would be providing lunch the following day to district staff for parent teacher conference day and hoping to do much for the teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week. The PTA was also providing all students and staff with eclipse safety glasses so the school could all safely watch the lunar eclipse on Monday, April 8.



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8. There were no comments by board members, school staff, and/or public comments.

9. The meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm

Mick Cornett made the motion to approve and Ellen Buettner seconded. All members of the Board in attendance at the meeting voted to approve.