

ADEL SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2024 6PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Hiatt
Aja O'Keeffe
Peter Osborne, via phone in
Terry Cahill @ 6:36

STAFF PRESENT

Lane Stratton, Superintendent
Tonya Stratton, Adel Clerk via Zoom
Stacey Martin, School Teacher

PUBLIC PRESENT

Will Cahill

OPENING

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by chair Aja O'Keeffe at the Adel School in Adel, Oregon.

AGENDA

Jim Hiatt made a motion to approve the agenda. Peter Osborne seconded and the motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

Jim Hiatt made a motion to approve November 2024 minutes, Peter Osborne seconded and the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REPORTS

Will Cahill OAESD/OSBA Rural Caucus

Will Cahill reported that there will be a legislative session coming up after the first of the year. There are some new politicians that we are unsure what their agendas will be. Will is a part of OAESD & OSBA committees. Will is asking the Adel board members to join the rural caucus and become a member.

TEACHER REPORT - STACEY MARTIN

- The REN student collaboration program has been expanding to foster both academic and social growth among students. Initially, our 6th grade student participated in an email exchange with another REN student, which focused on writing and social skills. The success of this collaboration inspired the idea to extend the approach into math. The first step in this new initiative was to introduce the students and organize breakout rooms by grade level in November. After the introductions, the students met in Fields, where they had a chance to mingle and play together following a play performance. This was a change from the previous year, when students attended the play but didn't feel comfortable interacting with one another.

Moving forward, after the holiday break, the students will reconvene in breakout rooms by grade level, where they will focus on fluency targets, problem-solving, and math discussions. This math collaboration will continue on a monthly basis. Additionally, Mrs. Stacey mentioned that she is still meeting weekly with the REN math team to ensure the program's ongoing success. Mrs. Stacey also reported a recent meeting with the STEM team at Burns, where preparations are underway to launch a STEM challenge. The team is enthusiastic about helping teachers feel more confident in teaching science and encouraging students to think critically and creatively about science topics. Teachers who complete the STEM challenge will receive gadgets as a reward, further motivating them to embrace the initiative.

- The ESD (Educational Service District) staff report highlights a recent collaboration between the psychologist, SLP Kathleen, and staff at the school to address language and communication challenges faced by students. Ryan the school psych tested a student, and the process was described as efficient and positive. A key concern raised during a monthly collaboration meeting between Kathleen and the staff was the students' lack of understanding of figurative language and cultural references. This issue was exemplified when, while working with three students, a reference to *The Wizard of Oz* was made, and the students had no knowledge of it. This also pointed out a shift in how children engage with media. Students often watch short, monotone YouTube clips, lacking storylines or meaningful context. This contrasts with previous generations who grew up watching full-length Disney movies, which provided rich language exposure, including figurative language and idiomatic expressions like "raining cats and dogs." These elements, once picked up naturally, now require explicit teaching. Mr. Stratton added that he had recently discussed this issue with another school leader, confirming that it is not unique to this school. He emphasized that the limited, short-form nature of content children are exposed to today is contributing to gaps in communication skills. To address these concerns, Mrs. Stacey and Kathleen brainstormed a solution: showing classic movies at school to help students develop their language and communication skills, field trips conversing with other adults and people to expand their experiences, followed by discussions to reinforce understanding. Although our teachers aren't movie showing teachers, but will be very selective in their showing to the students. This approach aims to reintroduce students to richer narratives, helping them to understand and use figurative language more effectively.
- A U of O Astronomy professor (Scott) came out and brought a fancy telescope that the kids got to look through to see the sun. The teachers sent home books with the students to get them ready for their guest. After the professor presented a slide show the students quizzed him with all sorts of questions. He will be back in the spring to do a family night in Adel and we are really excited for that.
- We are getting ready for the play and the students are knocking it out of the park with memorizing their lines. Travis and Marty are going to come in and help us get all the heavy lifting done. Jason is going to get the tree for us. The clerk is working on the food and Aja is grabbing the rolls.
- Preschool has been coming over in the afternoons to practice the play. We are having no behavior problems at the preschool. We have Mike from the ESD coming out after the first of the year to help support teaching our preschoolers.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

No report

PRINCIPAL REPORT (LANE STRATTON)

Mr. Stratton reported that again he is just excited what the staff and students do in Adel. Every time we talk about something or brainstorm we end up making it happen. Not only do we do it but it seems like it is always an A+ level. Mr. Stratton also reported that he heard that Plush school district released one of our students.

CLERK REPORT (TONYA STRATTON)

None

BOARD REPORTS

None

FINANCIAL REPORT

Board chair asked if we paid the last payment for the Stem building. Mrs. Stacey said everything is not quite done but overall is super happy with the room. Line item 1100 will be spent between the K-5 and 6-8.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Christmas Program

No further discussion

7.2 Restructure of Classified/Certified Pay Scale

Board would like to see what our current salary line is for certified and classified and what it would look like if we did the extra column for January meeting. Board would like to see a CDL and a non CDL driver column.

7.3 OSSA Membership Dues

The report highlights concerns regarding the Oregon Small Schools Association (OSSA), noting that it hasn't provided much support recently, nor have they sent out newsletters. In open meetings, OSSA has been critical of the work done by ESDs and REN programs. Mr. Stratton shared his frustration, particularly for his three small rural schools, which heavily rely on the services provided by the ESD and REN. He pointed out that OSSA occasionally engages in legislative work and holds two conferences a year, but these are often tied to COSA (the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators), which serves a different demographic. COSA is primarily for administrators, while OSSA focuses on the unique needs of small schools.

Mr. Stratton also noted that some small schools, particularly those without their own administrators, are using ESD services for administrative support. This has led to dissatisfaction among several superintendents, contributing to their decision not to pay OSSA dues. In response to this, a new group called the Oregon Education Collaborative has been formed, which aims to better address the needs of small schools. This group has already developed a constitution, although Mr. Stratton mentioned that the dues for this new organization are still to be determined. He read the constitution to the board but did not have specific details on the dues structure yet.

7.4 OSBA Voting

Mr. Stratton explained the three resolutions they will be voting on.

ACTION ITEMS

8.1 JHCC-Communicable Diseases-Students, Delete

Terry Cahill made a motion to delete JHCC. Peter Osborne seconded and the motion carried.

8.2 JHCC-AR-Communicable Diseases, Students, Delete

Terry Cahill made a motion to delete JHCC-AR. Peter Osborne seconded and the motion carried.

8.3 JHCCA-HIV, HBV, & AIDS, Students, Delete

Peter Osborne made a motion to delete JHCCA. Terry Cahill seconded and the motion carried.

8.4 JHCCF-Pediculosis (Head Lice)

Jim Hiatt made a motion to not adopt JHCCF. Terry Cahill seconded and the motion carried.

8.5 KBA-AR-Public Records Request, Highly Recommended

Terry Cahill made a motion to update KBA-AR as recommended from OSBA. Peter Osborne seconded and the motion carried.

8.6 JH-Student Welfare, Optional Policy, Tabled from November

Peter Osborne made a motion to not adopt JH. Terry Cahill seconded and the motion carried.

8.7 Resolution 1 Dues Schedule

Jim Hiatt made a motion to adopt the OSBA dues Resolution 1. Terry Cahill seconded and the motion carried.

8.8 Resolution 2 Pride Caucus

Jim Hiatt made a motion to take no action on resolution 2 Pride Caucus. Terry Cahill seconded and the motion carried.

8.9 Resolution 3 Amend 2023 Bylaws

Peter Osborne made a motion to adopt Resolution 3 amend bylaws. Terry Cahill seconded and the motion carried.

8.10 OSSA Membership Dues

Jim Hiatt made a motion to not pay the OSSA membership dues. Terry Cahill seconded and the motion carried.

8.11 Approve November Bills

Peter Osborne made a motion to approve the November bills. Terry Cahill seconded and the motion carried.

9.0 Adjournment

Jim Hiatt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 pm. Terry Cahill seconded and the motion carried.

Aja O'Keefe, Board Chair

Lane Stratton, Principal