

ADEL SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
APRIL 13, 2023 6PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jim Hiatt
Jason Jaeger
Aja O’Keeffe
Peter Osborne

STAFF PRESENT:

Lane Stratton, Superintendent
Tonya Stratton, Adel Clerk
Stacey Martin, School Teacher
Gail Woolery, Preschool Teacher

PUBLIC PRESENT:

ROSANNA CAHILL
ALAINA BRADBURY
RICHARD BRADBURY

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

Peter Osborne moved to approve the agenda with the following amended, under informational/discussion items add 7.4 School Water Rights. Move increase enrollment under actions items to 7.5 information/discussion. Lastly under actions items add 8.6 IG Grant Approval. Jason Jaeger seconded and the motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

Peter Osborne made a motion to approve March 2023 minutes. Jim Hiatt seconded and the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Richard Bradbury submitted two letters to the board that were attached in the board packet.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairmen Aja O’Keeffe read the procedures for public comment.

Richard Bradbury: I would like to share the importance of emotional learning and how it should reflect the values of the community in which it is being taught. Emotional learning is a critical component of education as it helps to develop essential life skills such as self-awareness, empathy, and problem-solving. Effective emotional learning requires a balanced approach that prioritizes critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and resilience. However, some criticize the current Social Emotional Learning (SEL) approach for prioritizing empathy and emotional safety over critical thinking and resilience. Below are some key criticisms of the current SEL approach in contrast to the above approach to emotional learning: Over-reliance on empathy: The SEL approach relies heavily on empathy as a way to promote positive relationships and responsible decision-making. However, empathy is not always reliable or unbiased and can be influenced by emotions or biases. A sole focus on empathy may also create a culture of victimhood, which hinders the development of critical thinking

and resilience. Emphasis on emotional safety: The SEL approach prioritizes emotional safety and comfort, often at the expense of exposing students to diverse perspectives and challenging ideas. This can limit the development of essential life skills like resilience and responsible decision-making. Limited focus on critical thinking: The SEL approach places less emphasis on developing critical thinking skills and problem-solving abilities, which are essential for long-term positive outcomes. Cultural insensitivity: The SEL approach may not be culturally sensitive and may not reflect the values of the community in which it is being taught. This can lead to a lack of inclusivity and understanding among students. It is important to ensure that emotional learning programs are reflective of the values of the community in which they are being taught. By building upon pre-existing values and expanding to a more global perspective without losing the individual self within the relationship to the community, we can create effective emotional learning programs that promote growth, resilience, and inclusivity. Richard stated that the Character Strong programs relies on CASEL framework and that it is very simple at the preschool level but exponentially grows in sophistication as it goes up. I don't want my preschooler indoctrinated into SEL philosophy. Richard was hoping that being in a small rural school district in Warner Valley that my son would not be exposed to SEL He stated he doesn't feel SEL reflects the values of this community. Richard also pointed out that four religions accounting of 29% of the population believes that there are two genders. 4% of the population believe there are multiple genders. In an SEL led conversation my child as a catholic would be challenged as to what his belief is when it comes to gender identity. As a parent, my values I believe there are two genders. Through SEL my child has a right to challenge that if I have not opted out. What is happening to the SEL data that is collected on the students in Adel and how much of this is connected to the funding and what percentage of the total funding of the school is being funded by programs that have SEL grants tied to them? Is it even worth subjecting our children to this if we don't have to, if it is a minimal amount what it takes to run the school. There is a federal and an Oregon state law that states that if my child's data is going to a third party that the parent should be made aware of and had the option to opt out. Because religious beliefs aren't a protected class how are you are going to stop discriminating against my child to teach SEL in the school? The state has created that you need SEL funding but they have created a system that discriminate based on religion. If I say I don't want to my child's data going to a third party because he has cognitive sovereignty and I believe SEL is a conflict of my religion, how can the school keep teaching SEL without discriminating against my child?

Mr. Stratton responded and reassured Richard that there is no data collected in their Character Strong/Purposeful People curriculum. Any data we collect on students is academic and it is reported to ODE such as test scores for math, writing and reading. No data is collected and given to anyone for funding regarding SEL. Due to Division 22 standards that say Social Emotional Learning curriculum has to be taught in your school, we would be out of compliance and we would have to write a plan on how you plan on being compliant. The state does not tell the district what curriculum you have to use but typically you choose a researched based or approved curriculum. Anytime there is an ODE required curriculum the school district has to present it. If a student chooses to opt out, because the course is required it would not be grounds for a discrimination complaint. This information was given to Superintendent Stratton at a conference he attended that day. Richard feels this contradicts the Oregon Bill of Rights.

Mrs. Martin gave kudos to Richard that he is dedicated enough to try and understand what we are teaching at the school. Parent participation is something she stated she prides herself in with being a transparent teacher and her door is always open. Transparency is important to her and she welcomes any other questions. Teachers are trained to work on exclusiveness in the classroom. We have Rosanna Cahill help us work through any issues we have going on in the classroom before they go unattended and they can get very large.

Rosanna Cahill stated she was hired by the ESD as the school counselor and I am certified pre K-12 grade and have taught special education and physical education. With the character strong and purpose people (prek-6th grade) program it teaches self-awareness and emotional-regulation. There are

nine character traits which we are teaching; honesty, cooperation, gratitude, responsibility, perseverance, respect, courage, empathy and creativity. We teach emotional regulation. For example, what if I don't get the chair I want? What do I do if I don't finish my math and everyone is outside playing? These are some of the specifics things we teach. Most importantly I really get to know the student and really just listen to the students. I try and meet the student where they are mentally and emotionally.

Chairmen Aja O'Keefe stated that she has seen Rosanna teach when she was doing her student teaching and I never saw anything negative with it. She does fun activities, breathing exercises, or predicaments and working through them in a positive way. She does not teach gender identity.

Richard commented that Lakeview High School is an example of the negative impact SEL can have on schools and what it has created. He referred to it as a burning dumpster fire.

Lastly, Richard is asking the board if they can suspend SEL until you learn what it is.

Alaina Bradbury commented that we have the option to opt our child out when the time comes when they start looking at transgender. I also feel it is important that we have discussions with our children at home. If we ignore the emotional piece completely at school a lot of these kids, there are other things going on in children's lives and they aren't going to be able to learn.

REPORTS

TEACHER REPORT – STACEY MARTIN

- Mrs. Martin attached the picture from the paper with Quade O'Keeffe and Superintendent Stratton
- Writing Cohort Ren-Second year for Mrs. Martin. Both her and Mrs. Shine will continue in the cohort. Next year they will be focusing on writing opinion pieces.
- Ryan Tague will be having a threat assessment training Monday @ 3:15pm. Bill Cleland and Gail Woolery will be attending. They will be going over what to do in case of a threat or emergency. Mr. Tague will also be coming out on May 1st to do a water and ATV safety training for our students.
- RTI Conference-Mrs. Martin is going to attend virtually. This conference is regarding academic intervention, making connections, and receiving tools for the classroom. Mrs. Martin pointed out that there were roughly six classes to register for that pertain to academic inventions. The majority of the classes are trauma informed education, CPI and how to teach classes with kids that act out and have behavioral problems. Mrs. Martin stated that she signed up for a dyslexia class where she will gain tools to work with those students and also working with data for identifying dyslexia.
- Reading-working through informative reading and research writing. Narrative writing using sensory details. Informative writing and are on track. Bought another Kindle and have some really excited readers!
- Math K-adding and subtracting and counting to 100; 2nd problem solving using measuring tools; 3rd distributive property; 4th multiplication of whole numbers and calculating fractions.
- Science-geology and earths changes. Planning a field trip to crack in the ground. Ben bought all students crystal making kits.
- SS-Geography and regional state studies
- Costume shed-coming along with lighting and texture. Made a possible plan with how we will hang costumes back up.
- Lights-Mrs. Martin talked to Chris the electrician about getting new LED lights in the classroom. He will provide a bid on what that would cost. It would also lower our electricity bill. The strips will last 50,000 hours if we were to replace them.
- District Testing Coordinator-Mrs. Martin is the school DTC. She has the ability to change the

settings for students who have accommodations. Mrs. Martin is practicing with her students to lower the stress and kids who have modified tests can practice using their accommodations such as their microphone, speech to text.

- Interim Assessment Block-May 1st
- Lions Vision Screening-85% of students have been to the eye doctor. Lions will be providing the results.
- Dental Screenings-May 22nd. Advantage Dental will be providing permission forms
- Field Trip 15-18
- Painting this summer-everything inside the elementary and some at the preschool
- Took a field trip to Beatty Butte and then students wrote essays and picked names for the three new horses and Pete & Jim judged the essays.

PRESCHOOL REPORT-GAIL WOOLERY

- Leprechauns visited the preschool
- Preschoolers made green playdoh with gold in it. Kids also made stick horses and participated in the stick horse races during the St. Patrick's Day Parade.
- Had an Easter egg hunt with the big kids
- Science this month we are watching sweet potatoes grow in jars.
- Farm Week: Kids are going to the mustang facility and then going to Bill's to check out the new baby puppies. A chicken will be visiting the school as well.
- We will have a community service week with a trip to the fire station to check out the fire truck and ambulance. Mike Taylor the sheriff is going to try and visit sometime soon.
- Every Wednesday Rosanna Cahill has been joining us. We talked about courage and went on a bear hunt, made a courage badge and participated in team building activities along with a team drawing activity.

MAINTENANCE REPORT (TRAVIS KOEFOED) CLERK READ REPORT COMPLETED

Replaced drain in girl's bathroom and replaced some ceiling tiles in the west classroom

PRINCIPAL REPORT (LANE STRATTON)

- Early Literacy-The methods of teaching early literacy PreK-3rd grade is going to be changing. I have assigned Mrs. Fortune to keep an eye out and be a part of the process through ODE on this change so she can support our districts.
- Adel Budget-Hasn't started the budget but Mr. Stratton will be working on this shortly
- Care Solace-With the lack of mental health providers in our area it could help get support faster to all Lake County students, school board members, staff and their family members. I am working on purchasing this through the ESD. Provides a url website that people can access and within 72 hours they will recommend 2-3 providers within your insurance and needs and within 14 days you will have a session. It is not that Lake County Wellness doesn't want to help us they just can't find the people. There is not enough staff and this program has the ability to be anonymous.
-

CLERK REPORT (TONYA STRATTON)

The clerk reported that she made a teacher house claim with PACE regarding the roof. It seems as the wind has blown the metal roof up and has done some damage. Adam Young discovered this when he was doing some work. I am also in the process of getting Sharon Gregg certified to drive the suburban.

This requires a type 10 license. Mrs. Martin has created new school board email addresses for board members; this way your personal email addresses are not on the district website. The clerk also reported that she attended IPM training in Redmond. This fulfills the Division 22 standards.

PLUSH REPORTS

Plush agreed upon open enrollment in Warner Valley. Mr. Stratton voiced that we should make it more of a formal written process between both of the districts. There is no documentation stating what the agreement is. Plush could deny our students for any reason because there is no written agreement.

BOARD REPORT

None

FNANCIAL REPORT

The clerk reported the reason we are over for the K-5 programs is because the money hasn't been transferred over from the resolution, other operations & maintenance is the property tax for the teacher house. No other questions were asked.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

23-24 Calendar discussion- Division 22 standards states that from the start to end of school needs to be 265. If we start school Tuesday September 5th we could get out May 24th. If kids did not come to school on the 5th for the half day for four hours the first day they would be marked absent. Mrs. Martin asked if we could put in a PD day on October 6th for her and Robin to attend the Fall REN conference. We would have the Christmas program December 14th. After further discussion the consensus was to start on September 6th and have the last day be May 28th; possibly having the BBQ that day.

Tour de Outback-After discussion we will provide a driver for the bus and charge per hour for the driver and charge mileage. Grounds fees will \$200. Tour de Outback will provide porta potties. We will have limitations for the petroglyph's due to the road conditions. The board members agreed that there are two options that would be doable in the bus.

School Board Ethics Update-Superintendent Stratton stated that the legislature tried writing an amendment for 4,000 or less students in a school district and it isn't going to pass in time. So you have to file by the 15th and then they give you five days and after that then they give you 15 days until they start imposing the fine. Peter Osborne asked, "if they have to quit or be fined".

School Water Rights- Jason Jaeger reported that there was a meeting with the Oregon Water Board review team and local users and Jason proposed to put in a pump station on the upstream side of the bridge to pump irrigation water to Mike O'Sullivan, Myron Stewart, John Carmesin, Jason Jaeger and Lane's. He is proposing if he can run water back through the ditch so these folks can use the water. It has been years since this has happened. Adel School District has 1880 water right and the district does not pay to have that water right although if you do not use the water right in five years the state can relinquish the water right and the water would go back to the state. Users on the ditch could file nonuse on the ditch. The ditch goes through the school district and the origin ditch caved in in the 60's and has not been used since. ODFW is going to be repairing the ditch therefore, the water will be able to be used. Discussion was had that we could potentially flood irrigate the grass area and possibly recharge the well. We will put this as an action item at the next board meeting whether we are going to open up the ditch.

Increase Enrollment-Superintendent Stratton stated he feels like we need more time and asked if the board would like to do a work session to discuss more about the charter school. Increased enrollment is not a guarantee if we become charter. The clerk will be mailing out a decision making model to help

drive your questions and bring this to the work session. Discussion was had about the concern of not making a decision until the last minute similar to last year. The board wants to be sure that all stakeholders have a flyer stating when we will have a public meeting regarding increased enrollment. The clerk provided a zoom link for today's work session for the community to attend. It is hard to get the word out since we don't have a social media outlet.

Action Items

Approve Bills

Jason Jaeger made a motion to approve the March bills, Peter Osborne seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Surplus Head Start Bus

Peter Osborne made a motion to surplus the head start bus and put it out to bid for two weeks to allow equal opportunity to purchase the bus. Jim Hiatt seconded the motion and the motion carried.

OSBA Subscription

Peter Osborne made a motion to table the OSBA subscription until the clerk can find out more information regarding the policies if we end up going to charter status. Jason Jaeger seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Electrical Work-Generator Hookup

Peter Osborne made a motion to approve Finetti Electric's bid for the generator wiring at the elementary school. Jim Hiatt seconded the motion and the motion carried.

IG Grant Approval

Superintendent Stratton presented the IG application. The board opened up for public comment. There was no public comment. Jason Jaeger made a motion to approve the IG application and budget. Peter Osborne seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Adjourn

Aja O'Keefe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 pm. Jason Jaeger seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Aja O'Keefe, Board Chair

Lane Stratton, Principal