

OREGON-DAVIS SCHOOL CORPORATION

**Monday, July 26, 2021
Regular School Board Meeting, 6:00 PM**

Humanities Room, Jr/Sr High School, 5990 North 750 East, Hamlet, IN 46532

The Board of School Trustees of the Oregon-Davis School Corporation met in Regular Session on Monday evening, July 26, 2021, at 6:00 PM in the Humanities Room of the Jr/Sr High School.

1. Meeting Opening

1.01 Call to Order – by Vice-President Brandie Ecker.

1.02 Pledge of Allegiance – led by Ms. Ecker

1.03 Roll Call – Brandie Ecker, Chris Lawrence, Ben Lady, Lee Nagai, by phone Kyle Hinds

1.04 Public Comment – Three parents, RaeLynn Kelin McVicar, Shala Robinson and Stephanie Robinson, signed up to ask questions of the Board and Administrators regarding social and emotional learning curriculum that will be used in the school. They expressed their concerns and Mr. Bennett assured them that the focus of the learning will be to help students learn to handle conflicts, anger, harassment and to learn to treat everyone regardless of their situation with kindness. He also said that when the curriculum for this program comes in, he will notify them and any other parents that want to come in and examine the materials that will be used. The program they are using is the Second Step curriculum funded by grant funds from the Starke County's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative. While this program is new to Oregon-Davis, Ms. Quinn commented that it has been used by the Starke County Youth Club for years. Mr. Nagai encouraged parents to examine their child's textbooks from school so that if they have questions or concerns, they can alert the school to specifics.

2. Consent Agenda

2.01 Approval of the Minutes

2.02 Approval of Financial Reports

Fund Transfer Posting 6/30/21, \$40,184.97

Deduction Checks Posting Reports, 6/25/21, 7/9/21, \$15,788.75

Vendor Claims, 6/30/21, 7/26/21, \$301,556.84

Payroll Claims, 7/9/21, 7/23/21, \$183,878.16

2.03 Approval of Travel, Facility Requests, Fundraisers, and Donations

Professional Leave

Field Trips

August 6-7, 2021, FFA Officer relations – team building, Plymouth/Oregon-Davis

Facility Use

Fundraisers

Donations

2.04 Approval of Personnel Recommendations

Non-Certified Personnel returning for the 2021-2022 School Year (lists are attached to Minutes)

New Hires

Joe Veger, Jr/Sr High School Industrial Technology Teacher
Carrie Miller, Director of Student Services

Resignations

Heather Nimon

Ms. Ecker asked for comment from Mr. Bennett. Mr. Bennett highlighted the recommendations for the new hires. Mr. Veger will be revitalizing the Industrial Technology program. He comes with experience in many areas. Mrs. Carrie Miller will be coming to the corporation from the Wanatah area and has an elementary and administrative background. She will help with Title I, High Ability and RTI and will be serving at the Dean of Students at the High School.

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Nagai and second by Mr. Lady. Motion approved 4-0.

3. Discussion/Action Items

3.01 Recommendation to Approve 2022 Budget Schedule

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Nagai, second by Mr. Lawrence. Motion passed 4-0.

4. Other Business

4.01 Representative Jim Pressel to answer questions submitted by school board and audience. Mr. Pressel began with thanking the Board Members for their service. He highlighted the increase in school funding that the legislature passed this year. A sampling of questions asked is Why are teachers not allowed to review old test questions. He did not know and had to do some research on this. There are certain questions posted online for them to review. Why is the graduation rate negatively affected by students that leave the district and either do not enroll somewhere else or do not finish with a graduation equivalency test. He felt that this would be better addressed by contacting the Department of Education and alerting them to concerns regarding this topic. Why are certain staff members left out of the 45% of tuition support, for example, media specialists, speech pathologists, counselors and psychologists? He said it was a strong nudge to get those additional dollars to teacher salaries.

5. Curriculum

5.01 Preschool Presentation – Time was given to Mrs. Cooper to present her overview of the preschool program for this upcoming school year. She had a powerpoint presentation

highlighting different learning centers that will be in the classroom from art, science, reading, and imaginative play for example. There will be no technology in the preschool, focus instead will be on developing the fine motor skills children need to learn to write, social skills for learning to get along and to learn the school routine, counting to ten and other ideas like this so that children will be better prepared for Kindergarten.

6. Reports

6.01 Superintendent Reports – Last week Mr. Nagai, Mr. Hinds and Mr. Bennett met with representatives from Emcor to discuss the building project. They are to come back with some revised quotes since they may better understand the needs that the school is looking at in the project. When those figures come in Mr. Bennett will let the board know so they can determine the direction they want to go with this project. The search for a new Athletic Director is continuing with some different options being reviewed. Mr. Bennett would like to have another Board meeting in about two weeks to bring a recommendation for Athletic Director and remaining staff that needs to be approved.

Registration is Wednesday from 10 am to 6 pm in both buildings. Online registration will open on Tuesday evening. One new item this year is parents will need to provide a proof of residency. Open house will be Wednesday, August 11. Hot dogs, chips and drinks will be served at the pavillion starting at 5:00 with rooms open for parents to drop off supplies and meet teachers starting at 5:30.

6.02 Principal's Reports – Mrs. Awald reported that there are 19 high school students attending summer school and 13 jr. high students attending. She and the administrative staff continue to work on staffing and looking for creative solutions to meet the needs of the students. Mrs. Veger highlighted Mr. Veger and let him briefly explain his plan to incorporate Skills USA, a student driven organization to develop leadership skills and compete in regional and state competitions like FFA.

Ms. Quinn reported that they are up to 39 preschoolers enrolled and will be interviewing aides for preschool assistants. Right now, there are 23 Kindergartners signed up with the expectation that number will grow after registration. Jumpstart started today with 26 children in attendance. It is expected that that number will grow. Right now, they have two candidates for third and sixth grade that they are waiting to hear back from.

7. Board Comments

No comments just a question about having another Board meeting before school starts. Mr. Bennett will be in touch with the Board to firm up the date of this meeting. The current plan will be Tuesday, August 3rd at 6:00 pm.

8. Future Meetings

8.01 Board Meeting: August 23, 2021

9. Adjournment

Ms. Ecker asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Lawrence made that motion, second was by Mr. Lady. Motion passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

