

Board Chair Jennifer James-Wilson called the virtual meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. PRESENT BY ZOOM: Jennifer James-Wilson, Nathanael O'Hara, Doug Ross, Jeff Taylor and Connie Welch. Also present were Superintendent Sandy Gessner-Crabtree, staff, and students.

Board Thought

Director O'Hara wished everyone a Happy New Year. He expressed appreciation for the hard work of staff and excitement about increasing the number of students attending in-person. He encouraged the District to find opportunities to bring students on campus, especially at the high school level. Referencing the events at the nation's capital yesterday, Mr. O'Hara emphasized the need to expose students to reality and teach them to seek the truth.

Agenda Approval

Chair James-Wilson expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve on the Board and appreciation for all directors working together respectfully. Director Welch moved to approve the agenda as presented. Director Ross seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Reorganization of Board

Call for Nomination for Board Chair

Superintendent Gessner-Crabtree opened the floor for nominations. Director Taylor nominated Director James-Wilson. Director James-Wilson declined the nomination. Director James-Wilson nominated Director O'Hara as Board Chair for 2021. Director Welch seconded and Director O'Hara accepted the nomination. The vote was by roll call:

Director James-Wilson: aye
Director Welch: aye
Director Ross: aye
Director Taylor: aye
Director O'Hara: aye

Election of Other Officers

Call for Nomination for Vice-Chair

Newly-Elected Board Chair O'Hara opened the floor for nominations. Director James-Wilson nominated Director Ross as Vice Chair for 2021. Director Welch seconded and Director Ross accepted the nomination. The vote was by roll call:

Director Welch: aye
Director Taylor: aye
Director James-Wilson: aye
Director O'Hara: aye
Director Ross: aye

Appointed Positions

The Board agreed by consensus to the following appointments by Chair O'Hara:
WIAA Representative: Chair O'Hara
Legislative Representative, final year of two-year term: Director James-Wilson

Auditor of Accounts Payable: Director James-Wilson with Director Welch as backup

Committee Membership:

Instructional Materials: Directors Welch and Taylor with Chair O'Hara as backup

Wellness: Directors Ross and James-Wilson

Finance: Directors James-Wilson and Taylor

Technology: Director Welch and Chair O'Hara

Recognition - None

Public Comments

PTHS Senior Class President Sorina Johnston and ASB President Finn O'Donnell presented comments requesting the removal of the Culminating Project graduation requirement for the Class of 2021.

Board Correspondence

The Board reviewed an email from PTHS Class of 2021 President Sorina Johnston regarding the Culminating Project graduation requirement. The Board also reviewed a letter of appreciation from Olympic Educational Service District 114.

Reports

ASB Representative

PTHS ASB Representative Cedar Elliott was unable to attend the meeting. ASB President O'Donnell reported that the ASB meets remotely to explore ideas for safe and enjoyable year-end events. Senior Class President Johnston reported that the class will begin meeting remotely to plan supplemental celebrations.

Affirmative Action Plan Review per Policy 5010

Director of Human Resources Laurie McGinnis presented the report, which summarized the ethnicity and gender composition of Port Townsend School District staff for 2020 and students for 2019. Discussion followed.

Culminating Project

PTHS Principal Carrie Ehrhardt explained the project requirements for this school year and the school's plan to decide next steps at semester. She provided the number of seniors who have class time to complete the requirements and the number of seniors who have completed the proposal and annotated bibliography components. Discussion followed. The Board directed Principal Ehrhardt to present her recommendation of how to proceed with the project at the January 21 Regular Business Meeting.

Superintendent Search Update

Search Liaison Director James-Wilson reminded the Board that the application window closes tomorrow. She explained that Search Consultant Hank Harris will send all applications to the directors January 10 via secure link. Directors will review the applications prior to the January 14, 2021 Special Joint Meeting with Chimacum School District Board of Directors. At that meeting, the Boards will review the slate of applicants in executive session and select semi-finalists in open session. The Boards will conduct semi-finalist interviews in executive session January 23. Community stakeholder groups

and the Boards will interview finalists the week of February 1-5 and the Boards will meet in executive session February 6 to debrief and identify preferred candidates. The Boards hope to publicly announce the new superintendents in mid to late February.

Superintendent

Superintendent Gessner-Crabtree reported on the following:

- Washington State Department of Health released COVID-19 vaccine phase guidance
- Schools will now return to remote/hybrid model followed prior to Thanksgiving
- Reopening Wellness Sub-Committee reviewed updated state guidance
- Schools will be responsible for preliminary contact tracing data
- Requested Dr. Locke's approval of small groups of high school students on campus for activities
- District representatives met with Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal leadership December 16 to continue working toward a Memorandum of Understanding
- Mailing to all families regarding Title VI Indian Education Formula Grant Program and the upcoming Inclusive OCEAN Survey
- Mandala Center for Change's professional learning series will continue in February
- Supervisor of Maintenance and Facilities Justin Gray will present a capital projects report January 21
- Commended Daniel Ferland and all students, staff and sponsors involved in the Winter Stringfest
- Staff Question and Answer session with Dr. Locke January 13
- Emailed staff guidance in light of yesterday's riots at the nation's capital
- Commended the Board for tonight's example of the democratic process at work at the local level

Old Business

Confirm Mid-Year Board Retreat Date and Format

Due to the number of upcoming meetings regarding the Superintendent Search, the Board decided to cancel the February 4 Special and Work/Study Meetings and proceed with the Mid-Year Retreat on February 11 from 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Approve Strategic Plan Update 2020-21

Director James-Wilson moved to approve the Measures of Success for 2020-21 Addendum to the Strategic Plan. Director Welch seconded and the motion carried 5-0. The Board will review the Core Beliefs and discuss the addition of an equity statement during future meetings.

New Business

Culminating Project Graduation Requirement

The Board discussed this item during the Culminating Project Report earlier in tonight's meeting.

Public Comments – None

Board Discussion and Comments

Director James-Wilson notified the Board of a request from WSSDA for Board input on whether the state should make the COVID-19 vaccine a requirement for students and staff. Director Welch

complimented Superintendent Gessner-Crabtree for the pre-holiday letter she sent to staff. The Board thanked Sorina Johnston and Finn O'Donnell for their attendance and participation in tonight's meeting.

Future Meeting Topics and Agenda Planning

January 14, 2021 – Special Joint Meeting with Chimacum School District Board of Directors, Virtual Meeting via Zoom, 5:00 p.m.

The Boards will meet in executive session to review the slate of applicants and select semi-finalists in open session.

January 21, 2021 – Regular Business Meeting, 1610 Blaine St., Room S-11 or Virtual Meeting via Zoom, 5:30 p.m.

School Board Appreciation Month and New and Re-Certified National Board Certified Staff will be recognized.

January 23, 2021 – Special Joint Meeting with Chimacum School District Board of Directors, Virtual Meeting via Zoom, 7:20 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

The Boards will meet in executive session to conduct superintendent candidate interviews.

February 1 - 5, 2021 – Special Meetings, Virtual Meetings via Zoom, 4:00 p.m.

The Board will conduct superintendent finalist interviews.

February 4, 2021 – Special Meeting, 1610 Blaine St., Room S-11 or Virtual Meeting via Zoom, 4:30 p.m.

Cancelled.

February 4, 2021 – Work/Study Meeting, 1610 Blaine St., Room S-11 or Virtual Meeting via Zoom, 5:30 p.m.

Cancelled. Reports scheduled for this meeting will be rescheduled.

February 6, 2021 – Special Joint Meeting with Chimacum School District Board of Directors, Virtual Meeting via Zoom, Time TBD

The Boards will meet in executive session to identify preferred candidates.

Executive Session

Chair O'Hara recessed the regular meeting at 7:45 p.m. for an executive session to discuss current or potential litigation with presence of legal counsel per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). The executive session is expected to last 30 minutes. At 8:15 p.m. Chair O'Hara announced a five-minute extension of the executive session. The regular meeting reconvened at 8:20 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Port Townsend School District No. 50
1610 Blaine Street
Port Townsend, WA 98368
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Board of Directors
Work/Study Meeting
January 7, 2021
Page 5 of 5

Sandy Gessner-Crabtree
Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Nathanael O'Hara
Board Chair