

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

Board of Directors
Work/Study Meeting
March 4, 2021
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Board Chair Nathanael O'Hara 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, ASB Representative Cedar Elliot, staff and community members.

Board Thought

Director Taylor expressed excitement for the fresh start that spring provides seasonally and educationally. He said that the COVID-19 vaccine offers hope for increased in-person opportunities for students and the hiring of a new superintendent is a new beginning for the District. He also commended current Superintendent Gessner-Crabtree for the amazing job she has done leading the District this year during such difficult circumstances.

Agenda Approval

Director James-Wilson moved to approve the agenda as presented. Director Welch seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Recognition

Hero Awards

Darlene Marmol presented PT Schools Hero Awards to PTHS Paraeducators Emily Zenz and Michael McKell in recognition of their work with students. She said Ms. Zenz works well with all students and thanked her for her energy and expertise. Ms. Marmol thanked Mr. McKell for meeting students where they are and treating them with dignity.

On behalf of the school principals, Superintendent Gessner-Crabtree presented PT Schools Hero Awards to Melissa Love, Don Oliveira, Amy Recker and Tara Clanton as leaders of the Port Townsend Education Association (PTEA) and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 925. Superintendent Gessner-Crabtree commended and thanked the leaders for their teamwork, grace, flexibility, thoughtfulness, logic and communication while problem solving and making difficult decisions for the benefit of the students this year.

Classified Employee Week

Superintendent Gessner-Crabtree explained that March 8-12 is Classified Employee Week. She listed many of the duties of and challenges faced by classified staff this year and thanked them all for their teamwork and dedication to the group effort this school year requires.

Public Comments

Linda LeBrane commented on district hiring practices.

Board Correspondence – None

Reports

Maritime Discovery Schools Program

MDS Program Director Sarah Rubenstein presented the report, which included a brief history of the program, questions for consideration in planning next steps, and goals. Discussion followed.

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Highly Capable per Policy 2190

Highly Capable Program Director Sarah Rubenstein presented the annual report of program goals and services, the identification and referral process, and the English Language Arts and Math services plans. The report included equity of access, budget, priorities, successes, and COVID-19 impacts for the program. Discussion followed.

Since Time Immemorial Curriculum

Sarah Rubenstein presented the Since Time Immemorial: Tribal Sovereignty curriculum report. The curriculum is state-mandated and approved by all federally recognized Tribes in Washington State. The report included the three approaches used in the curriculum: inquiry based, place based, and integrated approach. The report also described implementation by grade level in 2020-21, professional development, collaboration with Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, US Department of Education Indian Education Formula grants and recommended next steps. Discussion followed.

Beginning Educator Support Team (BEST)

Program Coordinator Sarah Rubenstein explained that the goal of the program is to mentor and support first and second year teachers. The report included the number of teachers participating, grant funding details, and program activities. Discussion followed.

ASB Representative

PTHS ASB Representative Cedar Elliott reported on the following:

- Senior class is fundraising with the flamingo flocking and planning prom, grad night and graduation
- They may also consider a barbeque and movie night
- Will notify the Board when ASB elections will take place

Director James-Wilson requested that Cedar notify PTHS student leadership of the availability of the Board ASB Representative and WSSDA Legislative Youth Advisory Council positions.

WSSDA Legislative Conference

Board Legislative Representative Director James-Wilson and Superintendent Gessner-Crabtree attended the conference February 21, 2021. Director James-Wilson reported that several legislators asked for stories about what is happening in schools. She mentioned that the hot topics of the conference were budgeting concerns caused by decreased enrollment and school bus ridership and the well-being of students and staff. She said more information will be available later this month on bills currently being considered by the legislature. Superintendent Gessner-Crabtree added that student advocacy and voice were included in WSSDA's work and she recognized PTHS Senior Finn O'Donnell for his contributions. She also said there is no consensus on the bills the legislature is considering regarding enrollment stabilization and transportation funding. WSSDA will host a regional planning meeting March 11 in preparation for meetings with legislators the week of March 15-19. Director James-Wilson suggested that the Jefferson Educational Partnership (JCEP) create a legislative advocacy coalition to meet with legislators as a group instead of separately. She also noted that a Department of Revenue report provided during the conference indicated that the state is not in a financial crisis. She encouraged her fellow directors to contact her to receive additional information about specific issues.

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Superintendent Search Update

Chair O'Hara reported that the search was completed February 24 with the selection of Linda Rosenbury. He expressed appreciation for each board member's participation and perspective and said hiring the superintendent is the Board's most important job. Chair O'Hara also thanked the Chimacum School District Board of Directors and community for joining in the unique joint search process. He sent thank you notes to each participant in the Port Townsend Stakeholders interviews and notified the Board of the thank you note he received from participant Katherine Baril. Director Ross requested that an official thank you be sent to the Chimacum Board. He thanked Chair O'Hara and Director James-Wilson for their leadership and guidance.

Superintendent

Superintendent Gessner-Crabtree reported on the following:

- Vaccine update – Jefferson Healthcare has appointments available for school staff
- ALE Study update - Report will be presented to the Board May 6
- OSPI Recovery Template planning meetings begin March 17
- Met with Linda Rosenbury to begin transition planning
- Spring testing still uncertain. May be local or state.
- Making phone calls to families who withdrew students this school year. Some plan to return to the district next year.
- 2020 Educational Facilities Design Award of Merit from American Institute of Architects Committee on Architecture for Education to Salish Coast Elementary and Integrus Architecture
- Reminder for each director to complete the WSSDA board self-assessment survey
- JCEP Meeting March 29, Directors James-Wilson and Ross will attend

The Board asked if staff vaccination rates will be available.

Old Business

Policy Second Review/Adoption

Policy 2410 High School Graduation Requirements

Superintendent Gessner-Crabtree said the updates allow wearing of Tribal Regalia during graduation ceremonies. Director James-Wilson moved to approve Policy 2410 High School Graduation Requirements as presented. Director Taylor seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Policy 3225 School-Based Threat Assessment

Superintended Gessner-Crabtree said that minor edits were made to the Cross References section due to recent updates to other policies' titles and content. Director Welch moved to approve Policy 3225 School-Based Threat Assessment as presented. Director Ross seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Policy 4050 Data Sharing with Local Tribes

Superintendent Gessner-Crabtree explained that the new policy is needed to move forward with creating a Memorandum of Agreement with Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. The policy provides student privacy protections not included in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Director James-Wilson moved to approve Policy 4050 Data Sharing with Local Tribes as presented. Director Ross seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

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Policy 4301 Limiting Immigration Enforcement in Schools

Superintendent Gessner-Crabtree said language was moved from one section to another on page 3 of the policy. Director Welch moved to approve 4301 Limiting Immigration Enforcement in Schools as presented. Director Taylor seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

New Business

Approve Three-Year Employment Contract for Linda Rosenbury, Superintendent, Effective July 1, 2021

Director Welch moved to approve the Three-Year Employment Contract for Linda Rosenbury, Superintendent, effective July 1, 2021 as presented. Director James-Wilson seconded. The vote was by roll call.

Director James-Wilson: aye

Director Ross: aye

Director Welch: aye

Director Taylor: aye

Chair O’Hara: aye

Chair O’Hara congratulated Ms. Rosenbury.

Public Comments – None

Board Discussion and Comments

Director James-Wilson said it was a wonderful meeting that highlighted good work and provided food for thought. Director Ross concurred. Chair O’Hara said there is a lot of work to be done, but that it is exciting. He appreciated the reports presented by Sarah Rubenstein.

Future Meeting Topics and Agenda Planning

Chair O’Hara reminded the Board of the April 1, 2021 Special Meeting to review the results of the board self-assessment and asked that each member complete the survey as soon as possible.

Next Meeting

March 18, 2021 – Regular Business Meeting, Virtual Meeting via Zoom, 5:30 p.m.

Executive Session – not needed

Adjournment

Chair O’Hara entertained a motion to adjourn. Director Ross so moved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Gessner-Crabtree

Sandy Gessner-Crabtree
Secretary

ATTEST: *Nathanael O’Hara*

Nathanael O’Hara
Board Chair