



## Butte Falls School District #91

P.O. Box 228 • 720 Laurel Ave • Butte Falls, OR 97522

(541) 865-3563 • Fax (541) 865-3217

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### OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MONDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2021

- DATE/TIME/PLACE:** A meeting of the School Board of Butte Falls School District 91 was held on Monday February 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in elementary gym, 239 Main Street, Butte Falls, Oregon. The meeting followed the emergency procedures for public meetings. Virtual access to the public, via YouTube was provided.
- ROLL CALL:** Present: Steve Nelson, Mark Carlton, Dan Murphy, Stephanie Pitts (via Zoom), Aaron Worman (via Zoom)
- ADMINISTRATION:** Dr. Phil Long, Dianne Gorman  
Racheal Aiken (via Zoom)
- SECRETARY:** Julie Freeman (via Zoom)
- TECHNOLOGY:** Catherine Cogdill
- PUBLIC:** Public was allowed access via Zoom for comments and via YouTube for viewing.
- CALL TO ORDER:** Board Chair Steve Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mr. Nelson led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- APPROVE AGENDA:** Mr. Carlton made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Murphy seconded. 5 aye votes, 0 opposed.
- CONSENT AGENDA/  
MINUTES:** Mrs. Pitts made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2021, regular board meeting and the January 25, 2021, work session with correction on a couple minor grammatical errors. Mr. Carlton seconded. 5 aye votes, 0 opposed.
- PUBLIC COMMENT  
ON THE MATTER  
OF REOPENING  
SCHOOL:** Dr. Long stated that he had publicly advertised the process so interested speakers could sign up to either speak to the board via zoom or submit letters concerning the reopening of on-site school. Dr. Long introduced Rob Clark to speak and was allowed two minutes to voice his comments and concerns. No one else requested to speak. His recording is available on YouTube recording at [www.buttefalls.k12.or.us](http://www.buttefalls.k12.or.us).
- Dr. Long also shared two letters submitted from parents, Katie Misfeldt and Whitney Dennis, voicing their comments and concerns about reopening of on-site school.

COMMENTS FROM  
EMPLOYEE

REPRESENTATIVES: Erin DeCarlow, President of the Oregon School Employee Association Chapter 142 read a letter on behalf of the classified staff voicing their concerns in regard to the district's reopening plan and how it could impact the health and safety of members and by extension the students.

Sarti Powell, President of the Butte Falls Education Association read a letter on behalf of the licensed staff voicing their concerns in regard to the district's reopening plan, expressing appreciation for the willingness and opportunity to work with the board and administration to ensure that students and staff are safe.

SCHOOL REOPENING  
OPTIONS & SCHEDULES  
ADJUSTMENTS FOR  
THE COMING MONTHS:

Dr. Long shared that the first cohort of students had attended Phase 1a in the reopening plan and that it went very well. He stated that by having small numbers back, it allowed the staff to make adjustments to safety protocols as needed. He noted that the students and staff seemed very happy to be back on campus.

Dr. Long stated that the buses also had their first run and monitors were available on the buses to provide visual and temperature checks to students loading the bus. He also stated that the district provided healthy snacks for the younger students and that the students did well with mask wearing and distancing. Dr. Long encouraged parents to contact him with any concerns or comments via the feedback link ([Feedback@buttefalls.k12.or.us](mailto:Feedback@buttefalls.k12.or.us)).

Mr. Nelson provided an opportunity to board members to give comments and/or feedback on the public input and input from the union representatives.

Dr. Long presented handouts showing the advisory metrics for returning to in-person instruction along with a handout that showed the current case counts for Jackson County. The handouts illustrated that the infection rates and case counts for Jackson County were declining and moving Jackson County from the Extreme Risk Level (Red) into the High Risk Level (Orange). Dr. Long pointed out that as per the advisory metrics, that the metrics recommend transition to the Hybrid Learning Model, especially at the elementary grade levels. He noted that two weeks ago, Jackson County rates were very high in the Extreme Level and that the metrics advised keeping students in Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) for that level of infection.

Dr. Long shared that the staff had been working hard, including working on weekends, to prepare for On-Site/Hybrid Learning, not only to be safe, but also to be welcoming for the students. He reminded the board that the state is allowing parents to have the right to have CDL until the end of the year, which includes new logistics for doing both in person learning and CDL. He shared that this would be yet a new structural model having students both on site and keeping the elements of CDL learning model and that the proposed one hour shorter on-campus school day, would allow time for teacher preparation and contact with CDL students.

Dr. Long reminded the board of the proposed phases presented at the last meeting. Phase 1a brought back every student to campus in cohorts for three hours once in two weeks' time. Phase 1b would bring every student back for 3 hours weekly in larger cohorts for a couple of weeks. He stated that we could potentially accelerate the process, considering the declining metrics and move to shift to a full day Hybrid model sooner than anticipated. Dr. Long stated that metrics would be a guide to help determine to continue the Hybrid model or to pull back to the CDL model.

He added that the goal was to have all students in grades K-7 back to school four days a week by the fourth quarter. He shared that the logistics of getting all the high school students back four days a week presented some challenges at this time.

Dr. Long proposed, after meeting with staff members and receiving input from parents and board members, that the district compress Phase 1b from two weeks to one week, eliminate Phase 2a and move directly to Phase 2b (two days of on-site and two days of CDL) beginning March 1 through the third quarter. He shared that the proposed transition would give adequate time for planning and stability for parents, students and staff.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve the proposed transition from CDL to on-site learning as presented by Dr. Long. Mr. Worman seconded.

Mr. Nelson invited the board to provide an opportunity for discussion on the motion made.

Mrs. Pitts stated she would like to see on-site learning to begin after spring break and would like to discuss it at the March 8, 2021 board meeting.

Mr. Worman agreed that he would like to see where the metrics were at the March 8<sup>th</sup> board meeting and move forward from there.

Mr. Carlton stated that he would like to see a decision made sooner than the March board meeting and that a more local approach should be taken rather than depending totally on the advisory metrics.

Mr. Murphy shared statistics of the Covid vaccines in Oregon and would support revisiting the transition plan at the March board meeting and revisiting the metrics.

Mr. Nelson asked Dr. Long to provide a weekly update on case rates in Jackson County to the board, along with a report of how the current reopening for students and staff was progressing.

Mr. Nelson stated that he supported Dr. Long's proposal to revisit the advisory metrics at the March 8, 2021, school board meeting and determine at that time if it would be feasible to accelerate the on-site learning after spring break.

3 aye votes. (Mr. Nelson, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Worman). 2 opposed votes. (Mr. Carlton, Mrs. Pitts)  
Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT/UPDATES:

**Natural Resource Center:** Dr. Long reported that Mr. Mathas continued making progress on projects at the N.R.C. and would present a report at the next regular board meeting.

**Enrollment:** Dr. Long shared that enrollment was at 245 students at the end of January.

**Award Contract Management/General Contractor (CM/CG) Contract for the Elementary Seismic Project:** Dr. Long reported that the CM/CG Committee would be reviewing the proposals for the elementary seismic project on Wednesday February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. He explained that the process required board approval and suggested a special meeting on Monday February 16, 2021 to give recommendations to the board from the committee.

**Revised Blue Print:** Dr. Long reported that he had submitted the revised Blue Print for Reopening to Jackson County Health Department which allows the district to get students back on campus.

REVIEW OF  
PAYMENTS:

Board members reviewed the expenditure report and asked for clarification on various expenditures. Mrs. Aiken provided answers.

FINANCIAL  
SUMMARY:

Mrs. Aiken provided the board with the current financial reports and was able to answer questions presented by the board. Mrs. Aiken stated that she had met with the administration to begin the budget process and was waiting for ODE to send the 2021-2022 estimate so she could proceed with the budget. Mrs. Aiken also stated that the district could potentially have a negative adjustment due to more people paying property taxes and she was working with the state to make the necessary adjustments. She also shared that the Covid charges had been moved to the correct grant and that the second Covid allocations should be distributed soon.

CHARTER SCHOOL/  
STAFFING UPDATE:

Mrs. Gorman stated that the Bulletin would be postponed this month so she could provide an updated reopening chart after the board meeting to parents. Mrs. Gorman shared that many students have utilized the counseling service available through SOESD and the Community Health Center.

Mrs. Gorman also shared that teachers had been working hard on plans to provide both in person and CDL learning for students. She stated that the transition reopening phase along with the additional hour at the end of each school day will be helpful for teachers to continue to make meaningful connections with those students continuing CDL.

Mrs. Gorman also shared that two temporary staff members had been hired to help with some of the required Covid protocols for reopening.

ESSA/SITE  
COUNCIL/PARENT  
INVOLVEMENT:

Mrs. Freeman reported that she continued to work with SOESD on a virtual community engagement/involvement meeting for families.

BUTTE FALLS  
COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL  
PARTNERSHIP:

Mr. Murphy stated that the pre-school continues operating within the state guidelines.

OLD BUSINESS:

**School Reopening Options & Schedule Adjustments for the Coming Months:** See discussion above.

NEW BUSINESS:

**Resolution 21-08 - Katherine Harris & Doris Pickering Donation to the NRC:** Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve Resolution 21-08 Katherine Harris & Doris Pickering donation to the NRC. Mr. Carlton seconded. 5 aye votes, 0 opposed.

**Resolution 21-09 - Classified Employee Appreciation Week March 1-5, 2021:** Dr. Long expressed his appreciation for all of the classified employee within the district. The administration and board read Resolution 21-09. Mr. Carlton made a motion to approve Resolution 21-09. Mr. Murphy seconded. 5 aye votes, 0 opposed.

**SOESD Local Service Plan for 2021-2022:** Mr. Carlton made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 SOESD Local Service Plan. Mr. Murphy seconded. 5 aye votes, 0 opposed.

**Annual Renewal, Non-Renewal, Contract Extensions and Non-Extension of Teachers and Administrators as required by Oregon Revised Statutes:** Mr. Carlton made a motion to approve the annual renewal, non-renewal, contract extensions and non-extension of teachers and administrators as presented. Mr. Murphy seconded. 5 aye votes. 0 opposed.

**PERSONNEL:** None

**COMMENTS/  
FUTURE  
ITEMS FROM  
THE BOARD:**

**Mr. Nelson:** Mr. Nelson stated that he appreciated all the input and hard work from everyone.  
**Mrs. Pitts:** Mrs. Pitts thanked everyone for their hard work and that she was looking forward to the March board meeting.  
**Mr. Murphy:** None.  
**Mr. Carlton:** Mr. Carlton stated that he was looking forward to the next board meeting and happy for the progress made towards on-site learning.  
**Mr. Worman:** Mr. Worman thanked Dr. Long for his hard work on the reopening process.

Dr. Long thanked everyone for their input and attending the meeting.

**EXECUTIVE  
SESSION:**

Chairperson Mr. Nelson placed the board into executive session at 8:19 p.m., under ORS 192.660(2)(d) "labor negotiations".

**OPEN SESSION:**

Chairperson Mr. Nelson took the board out of executive session and placed the board into open session at 8:45 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business, the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. 5 ayes, 0 opposed.