

SOUTH LANE

- B O A R D N E W S -



Regular Session December 4, 2023

M E E T I N G S U M M A R Y

Proposed changes to South Lane School District's policy regarding public comment at meetings of the South Lane School Board were presented to the Board at its Monday, Dec. 4 meeting.

Board President Taylor Wilhour explained that the suggested changes were being reviewed at the meeting because the District's legal counsel was concerned about a recent vote by the Board to limit public comment to two meetings per year.

"The lawyers didn't like that," Wilhour said of the new twice-a-year policy.

"We did have our attorneys take a look at it, and they recommended that we not limit people, because that's limiting their first-amendment rights," South Lane Superintendent Yvonne Curtis added.

Thus, at the request of legal counsel, the Board's proposed new policy struck out a passage stating that "members of the public would be limited to two times per year on the same topic. At the discretion of the Board chair, further public comment may be allowed."

On Monday night, the Board's Duane Taddei pointed out in a 'point of order' that neither himself or board members Tina Murphy and Joe Tucker were part of the Board at the time the change was adopted. The three new members were elected to the Board last May and took office in July.

Curtis said that the Oregon School Boards Association had also made several changes to its own policy regarding public comment, much of which informs South Lane's policy.

"We combined them both so it would be the most current," said Curtis, who explained that the OSBA changes were often concerned with changes in the law regarding public comment and often included language changes of a legal nature.

Monday night's review of the proposed changes was classified as a first reading; the changes will be voted upon by the Board at a subsequent meeting.

In other business, Curtis outlined the process and schedule by which the Board will analyze her own performance this winter.

Calling it a "weird cycle," Curtis explained that she'd be outlining the process because the Board set its goals in September, with a progress report regarding those goals due in January. The Board has until

March 1 to complete its evaluation of the Superintendent.

As part of the process, a targeted survey that focuses on the superintendent's goals for the District will be sent to a random sample of about 50 people who work closely with Curtis.

After she shares the results of the survey with the Board, Curtis explained, she will meet with the Board in executive session, a short summary of which will be included in a subsequent public meeting. Curtis said that her first three goals relate to goals set for the District, adding two more that relate specifically to her own performance. The five goals are as follows:

District Goal 1: Build a culture and climate of care and belonging by providing students and staff time, supports, and connection.

Superintendent Goal 1: Provide a culture of care and belonging by providing students and staff time, supports, and connection.

District Goal 2: Raise academic achievement by supporting district staff in becoming an effective Professional Learning Community

Superintendent Goal 2: Provide staff time, support and professional development to effectively utilize Professional Learning Communities as the key strategy for collectively raising student achievement.

District Goal 3: Bridge student strengths, passions and interests with the current skills and knowledge necessary to enter high wage/high demand careers reflective of the global marketplace.

Superintendent Goal 3: Provide staff time, support and professional development to bridge student strengths, passions and interests with the current skills and knowledge necessary to enter high wage/high demand careers reflective of the global marketplace.

Superintendent Goal 4: Ensure the district is in compliance with all local, state and federal regulations and reports.

Superintendent Goals 5: (Shared with Board): Develop and implement a communication and engagement strategy for informing the community about the District achievement and current work.

The full timeline for the Superintendent's evaluation is as follows (the first two scheduled items occurred in the summer of this year):

August 16 -- Retreat - Superintendent and Board read and discuss the draft of Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Process.

September 11 - Regular meeting - Board votes on Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Process

January 8 - Board Secretary - sends a targeted survey out to randomly selected individuals from the groups with whom the superintendent works most closely.

January 22 - Superintendent provides a Progress Report on her goals and a self-reflection narrative to Board members to read prior to the next (executive) meeting.

February 5 meeting - Executive Session - Superintendent and Board walk-through and discuss progress report, self-reflection on goals and results of the survey. Board leadership takes notes and writes a summary.

February 20 - Prior to the Regular meeting, Board Leadership shares the summary document with the Superintendent and the summary statement to be read at the Board meeting.

February 26 - The Board Chair reads the summary statement at the regular meeting and the Board votes to accept the statement.

Later in the meeting, Assistant Superintendent Brian McCasline provided the information on the Student Investment Account Annual Report and Integrated Guidance Agreement, which both required a vote of the Board before they were submitted to the state department. The Board unanimously voted to support both documents.

The Board also voted to support candidates for election to the Oregon School Boards Association Board of Directors. The South Lane Board gets one collective vote for these positions. It voted to support Linda Hamilton of Lane ESD for Position 6 and Judy Newman of Eugene 4J for LPC Position 6. It voted to

support the creation of a Rural School Boards Caucus and designate a seat on the OSBA Board and Legislative Policy Committee for those positions, in addition to voting to support amendments to the OSBA bylaws.

The South Lane School Board will hold its next meeting on Monday, Dec. 18.

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