



Gladstone School District 115

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Bob Stewart
Superintendent

BOARD WORK SESSION TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2017 GLADSTONE SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

A Joint Session with the City of Gladstone and Gladstone School district.

The work session was held at Gladstone High School
18800 Portland Ave, Gladstone OR in the Demonstration Room.

SCHOOL BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Nicole Vera-Vera Couzens, Vice Chair
Kristin Eaton, Member
Jay Schmidt, Member
Bruce Wadsworth, Member

ABSENT:

Sharon Soliday, School Board Chair
Rob Cole, Member
Kim Sieckmann, Council Member
Tom Mersereau, Council Member

CITY OF GLADSTONE ATTENDANCE

Tammy Stempel, Mayor
Colin Black, Council Member
Steve Johnson, Council Member
Pat McMahon, Council Member
Linda Neace, Council Member
Eric Swanson, City Administrator
Jeff Smith, Volunteer Fire Coordinator
Eric Graves, Gladstone Police, SRO

SCHOOL DISTRICT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Bob Stewart, Superintendent
Jeremiah Patterson, Assistant Superintendent
Samantha Nelson, Director of Finance and Operations
Tammy Tracy, Director of Community Education/Human Resource
Lennie Bjornsen, Director of Family Services
Natalie Weninger, Administrative Assistant

1. Welcome and Dinner

Bob Stewart welcomed the group and asked everyone to begin the serving line.

2. Introductions

Bob Stewart and Eric Swanson led the group in a getting to know each other exercise and introductions were given.

3. Community School Report Including History

Tammy Tracy director of community education and human resources gave a history of the Gladstone Community Schools beginning in 1972.

Mrs. Tracy said the Community School Program began as a three way partnership between Clackamas Community College, the City of Gladstone and Gladstone School

District. In 1980, Bob Stewart was the community education director. Mrs. Tracy began her tenure with community schools in 1981. Sue Surratt who is the community school coordinator has been with the program since 1985. In the beginning approximately 50 classes were offered to 800 participants. Presently, there are 450 classes with 5,000 participants. Mrs. Tracy went over some of the classes offered including the extended day care program which has 40 plus students on a waiting list. There was discussion regarding funding for the program. Mrs. Nelson commented that the program lost revenue last year and the district supported the additional cost. Mrs. Eaton commented that the school board has been committed to keeping costs down in the community education program. The city wants to focus on output and impact on its community members not the cost. It was suggested that council members unable to attend the work session call for additional information. Mrs. Tracy said the district has worked to keep rates low so that everyone in the community can afford to take classes. In the beginning of the program, classes were free. There was a comment regarding poverty levels in the school district at nearly 50 percent. These are the numbers of students who come from families that qualify for free and reduced meals. Gladstone has the biggest community education program in the area.

4. City Issues/Opportunities

There was conversation regarding the city seeking grants for improving civic buildings such as the library. Ms. Stempel has been working with county commissioners for a path forward to a revitalization of Main Street much like our neighboring communities. Mr. Johnson reported currently underway is the possibility of a new police station across from the Gladstone High School. The police department has authorized a new officer position and a canine program. There was a brief conversation about a canine program and use at Gladstone schools. Mr. Johnson spoke about the fiber optics opportunity coming to Gladstone residents within a year's time. The city will administer it like other utilities. It will be funded by rates and does not increase taxes. Mr. Stewart asked that the school district technology committee chair, Lennie Bjornsen meet with Steve Johnson regarding school district needs for Wi-Fi hubs and access for students. Mr. McMahon reported the Gladstone Fire department has approved two new full time captain positions to increase response times. The senior director has been there over 30 years. New personnel will look at things and be trying new things. At a recent town hall meeting the community expressed a strong concern regarding the storm drains and sewer infrastructure. The city is looking at an increase to sewer and storm drain rates at 36 percent over the next two years. The rates will be based on square footage. Linda Neace is the council member liaison for urban renewal. Ms. Neace reported that grants are being looked at for store front improvements on main street and helping to get all businesses on board. Ms. Stempel reported on businesses closing, new business opening and possible housing developments. She said there are several one to one and half acre lots zoned for housing. She believes the lots cannot be smaller than 3500 square feet. Ms. Stempel talked about the revitalizations plan similar to Oregon City which will include a pedestrian bridge. There was a brief conversation regarding projects that meet the use of urban renewal funds. Mr. Swanson said our future is to grow up; we

cannot expand. He reported on the development of new safe walking areas and other cities improvement project they will model. Neighboring communities have done nice jobs of using urban renewal funds for development.

5. School District Issues/Opportunities

Jeremiah Patterson shared a story about students at a practice across the street from a game stopping to recognize the national anthem as it played. Mr. Patterson went over many things provided through the school district for community members such as the Food Pantry, agencies at the center and high school students/ senior center connections. He said being a small district is a great benefit for building synergy. Mr. Stewart shared the state funding levels for school districts. Ms. Eaton shared a story about her own daughter who graduated with very high honors not being accepted into the Naval Academy. She believes no Oregon students were accepted. Ms. Eaton shared highlights from last week's Clackamas County Educators Legislative Forum. There were 100 other education leaders in attendance. Topics including stable and adequate funding levels, graduation rates, qualified educators and pathways to college and career. Mr. Stewart and Ms. Eaton urged city leaders to contact legislators and asked them to maintain current education funding levels. Mr. Schmidt said cutting would be disastrous in these good times. Mr. Stewart recognized Officer Graves' work with the district and gave him compliments. Mr. Stewart asked that the district be able to have an employee or two sit on the selection committee for the new School Resource Officer. Mrs. Vera-Vera Couzens shared a story about her son looking up to Officer Graves.

6. Gladstone Youth Data

Mr. Bjornsen handed out youth data from Gladstone U.S. Census Data in 2000 and 2010. He went over the population changes and noted the single family household increase. Mr. Bjornsen shared statistics from the Annual Oregon Department of Education School Report Cards from 2012 through 2016 and the Oregon Health Surveys done by the State of Oregon Health Authority. Mr. Bjornsen shared the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) data for teens in 2014 and 2016. The increases to students' high ACE scores has been a focus of the school district. Gladstone administrators are working hard to create predicable, safe wrap-around services where students have a sense of belonging. There was a brief discussion regarding alcohol and drug use among Gladstone youth. Mr. Stewart stated there are not instances at school but likely outside of school. The most dangerous time for middle school age children is after school until 5:30 pm. He said the last couple of years the district has been reaching out to families hoping to build relationships early. Mr. Graves mentioned that when he talks to fellow SRO's in the county he does not have the kind of issues other officers do.

7. Closing Discussion

Sunday, May 21, the fire department is conducting a burn to learn across from Gladstone High School. All three structures will be used for training.

On Thursday, at 6:00 pm, there is an Open House at the Senior Center for discussion regarding the downtown revitalization project.

The next regular School Board meeting is scheduled at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, May 10, 2017, at the School District Administration Office.

Mr. Stewart thanked the city for joining the school board. Really good information was shared and the city is moving in the right direction.

The work session adjourned at 8:35 pm.

ATTEST:

Nicole Vera-Vera Couzens, Board Vice Chair

Date

Bob Stewart, Superintendent

Date