

MINUTES OF WORK SESSION OF GLADSTONE SCHOOL BOARD
SCHOOL DISTRICT #115, CLACKAMAS COUNTY
GLADSTONE, OREGON

May 3, 2017 Minutes

BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Sharon Soliday, Chair
Nicole Vera-Vera Couzens, Vice Chair
Rod Cole, Member
Kristin Eaton, Member
Jay Schmidt, Member
Bruce Wadsworth, Member

Bob Stewart, Superintendent
Natalie Weninger, Administrative Assistant

The Work Session of the Gladstone School District Board of Directors was held in the School District Administration Office on Wednesday, May 3, 2017.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Board Chair Sharon Soliday called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

2. UPDATE ON DISTRICT CIP GOALS

Mr. Stewart introduced Jeremiah Patterson, assistant superintendent, Lennie Bjornsen, director of family services and supports and Petra Hoghova, assessment and ELL coordinator. Together they presented the current District Consolidated Improvement Plan (CIP). Mr. Patterson gave a brief history around the State's development of the CIP requirement and the process used by Gladstone School District. He said a team of parents and teachers from each building went over 37 indicators set by the state. Gladstone School District met all of the indicators. From the indicators, the committee developed three CIP Goals: Equity, Formative Assessment, and Family Engagement.

Mr. Patterson reported over the last two years the focus has been on community engagement. Supports have been created for families to building fundamental parenting skills such as how to connect with teachers. A lot of work has been done at the elementary level. More resources are beginning to take place at the secondary level. This will be a big focus next year at Kraxberger. Already conversations have begun with parents about starting a middle school parent group, reactivating the WLK site council, and adding transitions success strategies.

Mr. Bjornsen reported in August 2015 a team of district leaders began an Equity Journey. In early 2016 a second cohort was added to the group. The school board also received a two day equity training. Just recently cohort 3 consisting of additional staff has started an equity journey. On August 18 the three groups will merge and prepare to lead the entire staff on this journey. Mr. Bjornsen invited the Board to the August 18 workshop.

Ms. Hoghova reported on the use of a systematic and coherent process around giving assessments and the using the data for instruction. Gains have been made through new systems such as DIBELS and Star Math. Next year 7th and 8th grade teachers will begin meeting by subject level. This will help to focus instruction and common instructional language.

Mr. Patterson asked the board what they see as next steps and priorities. What kind of feedback are they getting?

Ms. Soliday said people in the community are curious about what the career counselor role is going to look like. The community is talking about diversity (equity). There was a comment about whether we are doing enough for our kids of color to succeed in a white world? An example was given about a student going to a mostly white college. Mrs. Vera-Vera Couzens believes we are looking at the right things and should continue with them. She mentioned that the Talented and Gifted (TAG) program needs attention. She would like more students to be tested and challenged. There was a conversation about social and emotional challenges for students and the impact it has on classrooms. The behavior specialist position has been missed. The board said parent groups are important and they are looking forward to the transition work to be done. There was a comment about grade level parent nights being very successful. There was brief conversation about sex education and the new health requirements. Mr. Patterson said a committee will begin looking at the requirements on May 10. Mr. Wadsworth would like to see more focus on STEM and vocational schools. He sees the loss of mechanics, shop and home economics classes as the reason for the shortage of trade people. Mr. Schmidt agreed and added that arts, music and drama should also be available, especially when so many families cannot afford the private lessons or activities.

Mr. Patterson summarized the Board comments and thanked the board for their suggestions and insight. The administrative team will continue to look at high stress classroom environments, the TAG program, student health (new curriculum), and the district equity stance and mission as well as career pathways.

Mr. Stewart thanked the board and said the budget meeting following will reflect a realistic approach to funds allocated to education from the state. He asked board members to plan for a board special session on May 30 and possibly May 31. A process for filling board position 3 will be brought to the May 10 regular board meeting. Ms. Eaton will be out of the country.

Board chair, Sharon Soliday adjourned the work session at 6:20 PM.

ATTEST:

Sharon Soliday, Board Chair

Date

Bob Stewart, Superintendent

Date