

Cove School District
Regular School Board Meeting
September 20, 2016
HS Math Room

Board Members Present

- Brett Moore, Scott Spears, Steve McLean, Julie Culver-Witten, Andy Lindsey

Others Present

- Bruce Neil, Mat Miles, Amie Breshears, Lisa Murchison, Deb Hansen, John Frisch, Dan Landa, Sean & Amber Parker, DJ Fox, Lindsey Hulse, Lisa Hayes, Brendan Kelley, Donna Betts & Blake Manley

Call to Order

- Chairman, Scott Spears called meeting to order at 7:02

Flag Salute

Agenda Approval/ Emergency Adjustments

- None

Communications

- None

Good of the Order

- None

Patron Comments

- Blake Manley - took a step back from athletic director point of view to say that school/students look great overall, but certain staff of the school get criticized more than necessary.

Consent Agenda

- Brett made motion to approve meeting minutes for April 19, May 17, June 21, July 26 & August 16, Steve second the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Reports

- a. Student Body - Karley Witten
 - Overview of positives at school to date. Trying to pep up school spirit. Homecoming Dance Oct. 15th, many activities involving homecoming & games will be Friday 14th. Dan Landa requested letters to community regarding donations be updated to correct names/addresses of businesses.

FFA - Brendan Kelley

- Upcoming events:
 1. Sept 28 & 29 - Frisch's to dig soil pit for practice for soil contest.
 2. Oct 5th is Soil contest.
 3. Oct 9 & 10 District Leadership camp, all officers as well as some freshman.
 4. Oct 14 homecoming feed.
 5. Oct 22 & 23 Fall festival.
 6. December Christmas tree sale.
 7. Half a hog raised by Zach Spears & donated back to FFA, students will sell tickets & Mr. Kelley will track \$ amount sold by each student, \$ will go back to students according to how much they sold, the \$ will be used on FFA related purchases (trip fees, FFA jackets, etc)
 8. Video presentation - what agriculture education model is.
- b. Booster Club - Deb Hansen
 - Membership Breakfast Oct. 1 from 7-11 a.m.
- c. Superintendent - Bruce Neil
 - Update on student enrollment – currently at 273 students - large # in-district families move in, most elementary classes at cap.
 - Old gym remodel - project moving forward: LED lights in, lobby almost finished.
 - Subscribed to Home & School Connection - flyer that goes in Thursday folders.
 - Working on updating School District job application.
 - K-12 conferences Oct 5 & 6, early release 12:05 on Oct 5th.
 - OSBA regional training on Oct 3rd at La Grande Middle School.
- d. HS Principal - Mat Miles
 - Complimented ASB officers with what they have done this year.
 - Junior Class leadership in regards to concessions has been a challenge, but has improved significantly this fall.
 - New teachers are doing great.
 - Explained District process of how we work at connecting students to the District.
- e. Financial - Amie Breshears
 - Presentation of financial reports – Disbursement Detail Listing, Consolidated Board Report (current month & FYD). No outstanding invoices over \$500 at time of financial report preparation, no lunch program or Student Body financials because too early in the year. No questions.
- f. Athletic Director - Blake Manley
 - Football doing well, but some bumps & bruises along the way, trying to schedule more games, but at the same time following OSAA rules of quarters played, 21 athletes out for FB.
 - Oregon first state to require heads up training that all coaches have to complete.
 - Volleyball is 1 in league, 22 athletes out for VB.
 - MS Football doing good, John Frisch commented that North Powder was a class act during their recent football game.
 - MS Volleyball doing very good.

- Cross Country is doing phenomenal.
- OSAA wanted a public reminder on what it means to be a fan.
- Moving toward a different way for business' to advertise/donate to sports programs, moving away from a third party vendor who we are in the 3rd year of a 3 year contract.

Old Business/Discussion Items

a. Middle/HS Student/Parent Handbook (Student Activities Policy)

o Board Policies

1. Policy BF - Policy Development – handed out for board to review
2. Policy BFC - Adoption and Revision of Policies – handed out for board to review
3. Policy IGD & IGD-AR - Student Activities

- o Policy is adopted by the board, which has legal references on bottom. AR describes how administration is going to be in compliance with policy.
- o Scott Spears read a letter that he wrote as a concerned parent & community member, not a board member, regarding concerns he has with Policy IGD-AR. He believes it is overreaching & that the school has assumed the role of policing students rather than educating students. He did point out that he supports the intent of the policy – he does not support underage drinking.
- o Donna Betts: Does not condone underage drinking, but would like to see the District look into resources that will assist with writing a better policy.
- o Lisa Hayes: Her children do not attend parties, but have received numerous calls from their friends who ask for a ride home from a party, & her family does provide rides to intoxicated students almost year round. She believes with the current wording of this policy, specifically the definition of attendance, that her children would never have played sports because they would have been suspended for providing rides for other students.
- o Lisa Murchison: We need to be careful not to get too personal or specific about individual events when talking about this policy, which may shed negative light on reviewing this policy, but to focus on the potential upgrade of the policy.
- o Dan Landa: We do not know the home life of everyone & some students may be more comfortable calling a peer for a ride home rather than an adult. Shouldn't impact the student who is just trying to help. Believes District is overstepping when they state the student should not be the one picking other students up from parties.
- o Steve McLean: To follow the policy, if students are called to pick up another student, they should tell their parents so the parents could go

pick them up or call the Safe Kids Coalition hotline, instead of putting themselves (student) in jeopardy of violating the policy.

- Julie Culver-Witten: Agrees the policy has lots of holes in it & does need to be looked at, but also agrees the student picking someone up at a party does not need to enter the party house. If did not they would not be violating the policy.
- Shawn Parker: Sees the vagueness in the attendance portion of the policy, his suggestion would be to insert the word “illegally present” after the words alcohol or drugs to try to clear up questions regarding attendance.
- Debra Hansen: Has seen under aged individuals be sighted at parties 10 years ago & 3 months ago for attending a party, but not drinking. She believes from this past precedent that it is against the law for an under aged person to be at an under aged party, whether you are drinking or not.
- Donna Betts: We need to keep safety of our children at the for front, but we also need to keep the fiscal responsibility to the tax payers of this School District in mind. She feels this policy is a lawsuit waiting to happen.
- Lisa Murchison: The case she knows about in the past was not just hear say from the District, there was much follow up, including conversation with fellow students, to come to a conclusion in the case. Again, please don't confuse policy with a specific case.
- Amber Parker: As a business owner she has her own policies that she expects employees to follow, which may not be an actual law, but she still expects them to follow it. She believes this policy teaches students that there are rules that you have to follow in life. She does agree that the policy does have areas of unclearness.
- John Frisch: The policy, while vague, does state that you cannot be anywhere where alcohol is present & it is his understanding that the policy has to be signed by students, so whether you like the rules or not the student was aware of the rules. If you want to change it moving forward that makes sense, but what has happened is following the policy. He believes there is a safety issue on both sides of this situation in regards to young drivers picking up individuals who have been drinking. The longer we can keep kids away from alcohol the better, so anything we can do to inhibit that is good, which includes some version of this policy.
- Andy Lindsay: The intent of the policy is sound, but it definitely needs some modifications to make it workable, but these are the rules that you agree to in order to play sports. It is not a right to participate it is a privilege & if you can't follow the rules then you lose that privilege.

- Brett Moore: This policy is where participation is optional & for students who wish to represent this school in an activity where participation is optional. Question is what standards do we want to set for those students who are representing our school? How do you balance aiding & abetting the delinquency of a minor & contributing to illegal activity with trying to provide a friendly handout or providing a valuable service without giving the wrong message to those students representing the school. Two issues: language issues of policy & is there a penalty associated with attending an event where underage drinking is occurring. Per research Bruce has spoken to him about regarding other Districts in the county, if we change this policy, we would have the most lax policy in the county. Going to be a challenge to support administration to draft something that is fair, but with high standards & expectations.
- Scott Spears: We should submit current policy to ACLU & ask them to review it.
- Steve McLean: We are all in agreement that some things need to be changed, but shouldn't we agree to some changes then pass it by legal counsel?
- Dan Landa: Everyone agrees that it is about safety of the kids, we don't want a law suit, if we are not following the letter of the law & you are in violation of the law & someone chooses to sue you, you are going to lose. We need to send it out to have someone look at it to make sure we are not overstepping out boundaries of the law because we are not lawyers. If we choose not to make sure we are following the law we are opening ourselves up to possible problems.
- Scott Spears: As a parent & as a community member, I have every right to submit it to the ACLU & have them review it.
- Steve McLean: We are trying to collaborate & make this policy better.
- Brett Moore: We need to remember that we are looking at the AR, which is the administrative portion of the policy, so our job is to look at the AR & make sure it fits what the policy outlines. The process is for the administration to recommend modifications to the regulation associated with the policy. If we are concerned with the legality of that, once we have a finished product, we will run through the proper authorities, we consult with attorneys regularly for various things that come up at the District. We have to follow the correct process.
- Scott Spears: Yes we did see this policy when I was first elected to board & I said it was way too vague, but was convinced that the administration need to have leeway. No, this policy needs to be black & white, not gray.
- Julie Culver-Witten: As co-chair I believe we need to table this.

- Bruce: A lot of comments given, I will take them into consideration, along with other suggestions that may be sent to him from the board & also research with OSBA. Then we can bring it back to next board meeting. Everyone wants kids to be safe, we need to keep going back to the common ground.
 - Andy Lindsay: Bruce had mentioned that he had done some research from other Districts, if you have some of that could you forward it to the board.
 - Scott Spears: We will table to next meeting.
- b. Food Service Program
- Bruce reviewed primer for opting out which he prepared to assist the board with their decision. There are schools opting out, however they have very low poverty, so they can work with the cost of losing Oregon Department of Education assistance a little easier.
 - Amie/Bruce to research cost per meal & price increase.
 - Options were reviewed: stay status quo with what General Fund is transferring to Food Service Program, Opt out of Oregon Department of Education assistance program (reimbursement for free & reduced amount) or not offer lunch at all. Board chose to move forward as status quo.

New Business/Action Items

- a. Approving 2016/17 Middle/High School Student/Parent Handbook
- Brett made motion to approve, Julie second the motion, motion passed unanimously
- b. Hiring Middle School Boys & Girls Basketball Coaches
- Bruce recommended hiring Ron Rees as MS Boys Basketball coach, Andy made a motion, no second. Motion dies. Shortly after that hiring of the middle school basketball coach action item was re-opened. As the motion by Andy stood, Brett second the motion, motion passed unanimously.
 - Bruce recommended hiring himself as MS Girls Basketball Coach, Steve made motion, Brett second the motion, motion passed unanimously
- c. Hiring High School Boys Assistant/JV Basketball Coaches
- Bruce recommended hiring Koby Dunlap, Julie made motion, Brett second the motion, motion passed unanimously.
- d. Hiring Assistant High School Volleyball coach
- Bruce recommended hiring Jessica Reynolds, Julie made motion, Brett second the motion, motion passed unanimously
- e. Depositories of District Funds,
- Brett made a motion to approve the Depositories of District Funds at Umpqua Bank & Local Government Pool, Julie second the motion, Scott abstained, motion passed unanimously.
- f. Approving District & Board Goals for the 2016-17 School Year
- Andy pointed out a few wordsmithing items that he would like done.

- Scott would like to table this until next meeting, between now & then board can send any suggestions to Bruce regarding language changes & refining the message.

Future Agenda Items

- a. District & Board goals
- b. Student Activities Policy IDG-AR
- c. Walk through of facilities at 6:30 prior to next meeting

Motion to adjourn meeting by Julie, Andy second motion, motion passed unanimously at 8:57

Next Meeting - Oct 18th, walkthrough of facilities at 6:30 (meet in little gym), meeting to start at 7:00

Scott Spears, Board Chairman

Bruce Neil, Superintendent