



LA CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 101 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**BOARD/STAFF LINKAGE AND
WORKSHOP MINUTES**

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

3:15

HS Commons and Library

Board Members Present: Wendy Chord, Todd Jones, Eric Lindberg, Win Muffett, Cris Yaw

Board Members Absent:

Superintendent: Dave Holmes

Administrators: Peter Rosenkranz, Carol Patton, Greg Hall, Nancy Carner, Lauri Landerholm

Staff and Guests: Bill Hrdina, Carrie Lindsay, Kathy Griffith, Rebecca Morris, Nicole Andrell, Denelle Eiesland, Teresa Warnke, Kris McKinney, Bonnie Lock, Teresa Schlenz, Karen Alanko, Kate Denney, Peter Poppert, Sara Rideout, Kathy Bounds, Joyce Vierck, Tammy Brightbill, Beth Marshall, Kate Stevens, Joni Hancock, Liz Crandall, Megan Cooper, Connie Majors, Ruth Schrock, Andrew Helm, Paula Leach, Todd Brothers, Scott Holt, Andrea Austad, Kim York, Meredith Ott

Minutes taken by: Tammy Lichliter

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Jones called the board/staff linkage to order at 3:21 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Staff Linkage -The board discussed the following questions/comments from staff members: What is being considered to bring all students back to full-time in-person learning? The district is recommending that all students return on April 26th. Mr. Jones asked if there is any reason not to bring back all students full time? Staff commented that students have been on a roller coaster this year with transitions. Another change sets off a domino effect. Some students want to come back and some don't. Some teachers don't feel comfortable in returning full time. There is a lot of anxiety with transitions and there have been 3 or 4 already this year. It is very emotional for the students to have to change schedules each time. The board commented that they receive emails from parents that want their kids to return full time. Mr. Jones said that he has not had one parent ask him to not return. Parents say for their student's mental health that they need to return full time.

Teachers commented that this learning environment is not normal. Students are not allowed to work in pairs or groups. Students aren't allowed to interact and play together. Staff encouraged the board to

come to the classrooms to take a look at them for themselves. Mrs. Chord commented that there is nothing “normal” in the world anymore. School is something kids are familiar with. It is not easy, but the board must go off the advice and suggestions from other schools, and also have to consider what the voters and parents of the district would like. Student education is the most important thing and the board has to do the right thing for them. These are just different times and there will be constant changes no matter what industry you work in.

Teachers asked the board to look at the big picture because unless you have lived it, you cannot understand it. There is a lot of planning that needs to be done before kids can come back such as planning for lunch when kids cannot sit closer than 6 feet. The district needs to address logistical issues and the social emotional needs of students.

Staff wanted the board to be aware of what they are facing in the classroom. Spacing is an issue that will need to be addressed to make it a successful transition. They also wanted to know if the board shows support for the teachers when they hear concerns from the community. Mr. Holmes said that the district will not violate safety rules. With the a/b schedule there is inequity in learning. The best place for kids is in front of teachers. The board commented that they are here for the staff and do show support for them. Everyone must make the best out of a bad circumstance.

Another staff member asked if there was money from the government for this, specifically, “Is there money in the budget to purchase desks?” There is ESSER funding 1 and 2 that has been used to purchase PPE and to hire extra nurse aides. The ESSER 3 funding is designated for educational loss and recovery. It could be used for desks if necessary. All 3 of the ESSER funds are tied to Title I enrollment, which is only approximately \$400,000 for La Center. Woodland is slated to receive \$3.3 Million ESSER funds. The legislature is considering legislation to equalize funding for districts. If we don’t get more funding from the legislature, there could be serious problems. The district is down 130 students in enrollments which amounts to \$1.3 million. The district has used half of the ending fund balance this year alone. The district is not projecting more of a drop in enrollment next year since there are still houses being built in town and the new MS will open next year. We should know more regarding funding equalization by the end of April. The district will also be running a replacement levy next year and will need the support of the community to pass it.

The final comment from a staff member what shat she appreciates how hard everyone has worked. Everything about this situation has been hard this year. She has one student that did very well and one that did not do well mentally. She said that she helped a teacher bring in desks that they purchased with their own money so that the students would be able to sit 3 feet apart. Everyone is giving 110 percent every day. No one wants to let the kids down. It has been hard and everyone understands how hard it has been. The students and everyone wants to go back to how it was before this happened. She is thankful for everyone in the district and the trust from the community has been great. She is afraid of losing that support. Everyone, including parents and students have all been working so hard.

The comments on facebook were overwhelmingly in favor of bringing students back now. We are here to educate children and get them ready for the world. Right now the world keeps changing and the best place for kids is to have them in school, not only to learn, but for their mental health. This is the mission of the district.

The board thanked the staff for their questions and concerns and let them know that they can call or email the board any time.

The meeting recessed at 4:33 p.m., and resumed in the HS Library to discuss the following agenda items:

2. HS Graduation Update – Carol Patton discussed the waiver process for students that may not graduate due to not having enough credits. The board agreed that the process looks good and will consider adopting a resolution to waive credits at the April 27 board meeting.
3. [Core Measures Survey Request](#) from La Center United- The information gained from the survey would be used by La Center United to apply for grants and the district would use the information internally as well. The board agreed that the information gained from the survey would be beneficial and that the district could proceed with the request.
4. Initial Budget Presentation - Peter Rosenkranz and Nancy Carner gave a preliminary budget presentation to the board that highlighted both worst case and best case scenario numbers. The district will give the next budget update at the April 27 board meeting as there may be information available from the legislature by that time.
5. Superintendent Transition Update- Peter Rosenkranz discussed the top priorities for him are the 21-22 school year budget. He will work closely with Nancy Carner and Dave Holmes on the budget. He is also working on staffing for next year. Currently the district has 3 retirements and one resignation. Backfills on staffing will be directly related to budget. He also will be reviewing the district mission and vision and will address this item after budgeting is finalized.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board met in executive session to discuss a personnel issue. The executive session lasted 10 minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Board Secretary

Board Chair

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member