

**DOLORES SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-4A
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
DISTRICT BOARD ROOM**

Friday, July 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – The Dolores School Board meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm on July 23, 2021.

ROLL CALL – Members present were: Maegan Crowley; Casey McClellan; Kay Phelps; Lenetta Shull; Clay Tallmadge. **QUORUM** was present. Also present were Doreen Jones, Finance Director; Dr. Blincoe, superintendent finalist candidate; members of the community via ZOOM.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (DSD Policy BEDB)

A motion was made by Clay Tallmadge and seconded by Casey McClellan to approve the agenda.

Votes: Crowley - aye; McClellan - aye; Phelps - aye; Shull - aye; Tallmadge - aye.

Motion Passed.

III. FINAL SELECTION INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Maegan Crowley stated that there were 11 applicants, which were narrowed down to 5 with the help of an interim superintendent search advisory committee including teachers, school administrators and one community member. This process was expedited to meet a critical time-sensitive schedule, and was accomplished with guidance from the district's attorney and with many extra hours of service from members of the board.

A motion was made by Kay Phelps and seconded by Casey McClellan to offer the position of interim superintendent for the 2021-2022 school year to Dr. James Reece Blincoe.

Discussion

Clay Tallmadge stated that the decision was difficult, because of the high quality of selection of candidates. Lenetta Shull agreed, and stated that the Board had a large pool to choose from, particularly at such a late date in the search season. All Board members expressed excitement at the prospect of working with the chosen candidate.

Votes: Crowley - aye; McClellan - aye; Phelps - aye; Shull - nay; Tallmadge - aye.

Motion Passed.

Dr. Blincoe thanked the Board from the audience, and stated that he was looking forward to working with the Board and collaborating with them to set goals for the year at their upcoming workshop.

IV. PLAN WORKSHOP WITH INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

In previous meetings the Board had discussed the importance of having workshop time with the superintendent and building that working relationship.

Clay Tallmadge proposed a timeframe of early August for a workshop in order to work on the strategic plan, and also to talk to the administrative team about the UIP, in order to determine changes that need to be made. He also suggested adding the Friday Coordinator position and the Friday programming for the four-day calendar to the agenda. He pointed out that this position is something that was brought in by the previous superintendent, and is something that a lot of families have/ will have questions about, and that needs to be worked on and understood prior to the beginning of the school year.

The Board discussed having the workshop prior to the regular board meeting on August 12th. Superintendent Blincoe asked who the board members would like to attend- members responded that it is the superintendent's purview to have parties he deems necessary at the table, but that it may be good to have the work session primarily with

A motion was made by Clay Tallmadge and seconded by Lenetta Shull to hold a Board workshop meeting on August 2nd at 9am to discuss the strategic plan.

Votes: Crowley - nay; McClellan - nay; Phelps - nay; Shull - nay; Tallmadge - aye.

Motion Failed.

Board members decided to commit, without another formal motion, to a workshop August 2nd at 5pm. They discussed that this would be a good time to establish the expectations that the board and the superintendent have of each other.

Kay Phelps and Clay Tallmadge brought up the fact that they had previously committed to working on the superintendent evaluation policy and process, and that while the superintendent's interim status may make that slightly different this year, it still needs to be worked on; all Board members agreed. The Superintendent concurred, stating that it would be preferable to know as early as possible what

the evaluation criteria and process will be, and to have set clear goals for the year. Board members agreed to add this to the agenda for the workshop.

They also discussed the need for a meet and greet to be held with the superintendent and all staff, and identified the all-staff picnic 4-7pm at Joe Rowell Park on the 9th of August as a good opportunity to hold this event.

V. APPROVAL OF THE CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION

A motion was made by Lenetta Shull and seconded by Clay Tallmadge to approve the consolidated application.

Discussion:

Clay Tallmadge asked the business manager whether there is anything that the Board needs to be aware of regarding this application, since the district has undergone major recent leadership transition. Finance Director Doreen Jones responded that the district has a little bit more funds than normal because it was not all spent this past year, because of COVID- there was some rollover. She stated that she and Alesa Reed had worked on it, and that this application can be revised if needed once reviewed by the state, but that it is good to go for now.

Votes: Crowley - aye; McClellan - aye; Phelps - aye; Shull - aye; Tallmadge - aye.

Motion Passed.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of additional SPED para position in absence of a MS SPED teacher

HS Principal Justin Schmitt explained that this is due to not having found a replacement for the MS SPED teacher who resigned at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Administration had BOCES review the school's caseload, and stated that even if a candidate can be found, the caseload would warrant a second para; they also suggested splitting the teacher position into two paras. The bottom line is that we are extremely understaffed in special education, and need more staffing.

Maegan Crowley asked whether some of the applicants from the preschool position would be qualified or eligible; Principal Schmitt stated that he will look into qualifications. Casey McClellan asked whether the position is for the middle school only- Principal Schmitt responded that it would be shared with the middle and high school. Clay Tallmadge asked what the plan would be if the SPED position remains unfilled. Schmitt responded that he has been working on contingency plans, including sharing loads

with the elementary school, and hiring paras if the ; this critical staff shortage issue is shared across the region.

Kay Phelps suggested working with the director of SPED licensure at Fort Lewis College.

A motion was made by Casey McClellan and seconded by Kay Phelps to approve the proposed para position for the Secondary School.

Votes: Crowley - aye; McClellan - aye; Phelps - aye; Shull - aye; Tallmadge - aye.

Motion Passed.

B. Approval of:

1. Brice Searles - SPED Para
2. Leslie McCoy - Preschool SPED Para
3. Brice Searles - HS Head Boys Basketball Coach
4. Joseph Gonzales - HS Asst. Football Coach
5. Amber Schwartz - Head Cheer Coach
6. Brianna Wyatt - MS Girls Head Volleyball Coach
7. Brianna Wyatt - MS Girls Head Basketball Coach
8. Autumn Steinberger - Substitute Teacher
9. Taylor Bashore - Substitute Teacher
10. Sheena Groff - Substitute Teacher

Resignation of:

Elizabeth Vigil - Preschool Para
Kady Meyer - Ag Teacher
Blake Jones - Elementary Music Teacher

A motion was made by Lenetta Shull and seconded by Kay Phelps to approve the hires listed above.

Discussion: Board members thanked the new hires for being willing to work in our district.

Votes: Crowley - aye; McClellan - aye; Phelps - aye; Shull - aye; Tallmadge - aye.

Motion Passed.

C. Approval of Laurie Arnett as the Designated Election Official for the 2021 general election

A motion was made by Lenetta Shull and seconded by Casey McClellan to approve Laurie Arnett as the Designated Election Official for the 2021 general election.


Discussion: Clay Tallmadge expressed hope that Board members and the community will keep the upcoming election in mind. Casey McClellan stated that he intends to run again, and Kay Phelps stated that she does not, because she does not have the time to commit to the position again.


**Votes: Crowley - aye; McClellan - aye; Phelps - aye; Shull - aye; Tallmadge - aye.
Motion Passed.**

Lenetta Shull stated that she wanted before adjournment to ensure that Title IX should also be on the workshop agenda; Board members acknowledged and agreed.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned by Maegan Crowley at 6:30pm.

 9/9/21
Board President Date

 9-9-21
Board Secretary Date