

**Redmond School District
School Board Special Meeting
April 22, 2015**

In Attendance: Chair AJ Losoya, Vice-Chair Rick Bailey and Director Bob Perry, Superintendent Mike McIntosh, RSD Staff; Trish Huspek, Barry Branaugh, District Legal Counsel, Lauren Lester. Community Members, Leanna Long, Bryan Long, Gina Maragas, Doug Maragas, Courtney Riding, Jamie and Media, Abby (*Bend Bulletin*) Board Directors Shane Nelson and Rhonda Etnire were excused.

Board Chair AJ Losoya called the meeting to order with a quorum of three at 3:34 p.m.

Additions and Corrections to the Regular Agenda

AJ Losoya requested that due to the attendance of several community members that a Public Comment section be added to the agenda. Board members concurred with the request.

Pubic Comments

Barry Branaugh – *Teacher and Redmond Education Association Representative* - Stated that the school district already sponsors a charter school in our district that has taken resources from the students and programs in our school system. While he isn't against charter schools he would encourage the district to be cognizant of that prior to approving additional charter schools.

Leanna Long – *Community Member*- Reported that she is in attendance to find out where the application is in the process.

Gina Maragas – *Parent* - Reported that she is in support of the charter school and is also wanting to know where the application is in the review process.

Courtney Riding – *Parent* – Reported that she is in attendance to find out more about the possible charter school because she is not happy with the options the District is offering her family. She expressed her frustration that if all kindergarten students are sent to the Hartman campus she will have children in four different campus' and that the charter school is an exciting option for her.

ACTION ITEMS

Central Oregon Family School Charter Application

Superintendent McIntosh reported that the District has received a charter school sponsor application and that we must respond to it within 30 days. "We are to review and judge it on its completeness. We established a review committee that included Superintendent McIntosh, district office staff members, a community member, and district legal counsel. The proposal was thoroughly reviewed and we have drafted a response regarding the review of the proposal. We are asking the Board to approve sending the proposal back to the charter school board with the letter that documents the findings. As a district it is fair to be aware of quality and the statute expects there will be specifics listed in the proposal. The letter outlines the deficiencies in the proposal. The proposer will have the opportunity to address those things and resubmit the application to the District."

Supt. McIntosh and Legal Counsel Lauren Lester provided an overview of the 24 elements in the proposal that were identified as not being complete.

Bob Perry asked if the Redmond Proficiency Academy (RPA) went through the same process when they applied for District sponsorship.

Superintendent McIntosh reported the RPA was worked on for 1.5 years before they opened. Charter School law and policy has changed since they began but the process was the same. The RPA keeps current as the regulations change.

Bob Perry asked for clarification regarding the 80-10-10 split of the funding per student. He asked, "Why would Bend get anything if Redmond is the sponsor district?" Superintendent McIntosh reported by statute 80% of the funding goes to the charter, 10% to the district of residence for the students and 10% to the Redmond School District as the sponsor district. There is concern that the 10% that Redmond would receive for Bend students wouldn't be enough to cover special education and administrative services.

Rick Bailey asked that since the majority of the students are from Bend, if the charter is approved by Redmond, do they have to stay with Redmond or can they go somewhere else.

Superintendent McIntosh stated that if we choose to sponsor it, it becomes our charter and then we would write the contract with a term indicated. Typically that is three years.

Lauren Lester, District legal counsel stated that at this point the Board's responsibility is to determine if the charter application has met all of the criteria so that it can be evaluated fully. "At this point it hasn't."

Superintendent McIntosh stated, "I would encourage everyone to allow the process to work. The business of education is not a simple task. I think it is fair and reasonable as a school board, if we choose to sponsor an entity, we take it seriously and to follow the process. It is intended to be thorough and we will do our best to get our questions answered and allow them to provide those answers."

Bob Perry made a motion to forward the letter listing the charter school application deficiencies to the Central Oregon Family School. The motion was seconded by Rick Bailey. Motion carried 3-0.

NOTE: After the vote, Board Vice-Chair Rick Bailey excused himself from the meeting due to a family emergency. At this point the Board did not have a quorum of Board members to continue the public meeting. However, Board Chair AJ Losoya invited guests to provide any final thoughts on the charter school proposal.

Doug Maragus – Parent – Asked Superintendent McIntosh how successful the charter schools were that the district operated in the past. Superintendent McIntosh reported:

1. The International School of the Cascades (ISC) was a district run charter that existed on a narrow band of students who were interested in the IB program and interested in receiving an IB diploma. The interest in that has decreased.
2. The Deschutes Edge Charter School was also a district run charter school that was run with grant funds. It folded because it no longer met the best interests of all of the students.
3. The RPA is a "niche school" and is different by design. The RPA isn't the right program for every child. It serves the needs for a very specific student population.

Mr. Maragus further commented that from a community and legal standpoint he would hope the Board would be helpful to this process. He further asked if there was a way that the District or ESD would be able to give them assistance in completing the proposal.

Superintendent McIntosh reported that because the High Desert ESD provides legal services for the Board it would be a conflict of interest having them involved.

Lauren Lester, District legal counsel stated that the charter school board would need to find legal representation. She further stated that there is a charter school association that could possibly provide some steering and guidance.

Superintendent McIntosh stated, “By the fact that you are asking the District to sponsor the charter it puts those kids in my camp and I need to make sure that everything is in place according to statute and District policy.”

Courtney Riding stated, “Every one of our elementary schools are at capacity and Elton Gregory is under capacity. I don’t see why you can’t open up a wing for the charter school. The school district is taking control over the students and I get why because the vast number of parents in this community don’t do their job.”

AJ Losoya thanked everyone for their attendance at today’s meeting and for sharing their thoughts. He encouraged them to watch for future Board meeting agendas where the charter school will be scheduled for Board discussion.

ADJOURN

Due to a lack of a quorum for a motion to adjourn, AJ Losoya, Board Chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:40pm.

AJ Losoya, School Board Chair

Trish Huspek, Executive Assistant