**Brewster School District**

**Regular Board Meeting**

**May 20, 2024**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m., with Chairman Aparicio leading the flag salute and welcoming staff.

Board members present: Hector Aparicio, Peggy Rice, Erik Rios, Mario Camacho and Emmanuel Rubio.

Staff Present: Lynnette Blackburn, Superintendent/Secretary of the Board; Estella Martinez, Recording Secretary; Juan Hernandez, Business Manager; Kayla Johanson, Special Education Director; Jake Johanson, HS Interim Principal; Greg Austin, MS Principal; Tram Hiltz, TK-2nd Elementary Principal; Garrett Grant, 3-5th Elementary Principal; Jessica Garcia, Federal Programs Director; Jill Malone, 8th Grade Math Teacher; Alicia Pulsifer, HS/MS Music Teacher; Miranda Solorio, MS Counselor; Qristian Solorio, IT Assistant; Rebecca Terrones, HS Para; Erica Wulf, 3rd grade Teacher; Marcy Boesel, Elementary Counselor; Mario Martinez, IT Technician, Pete Rios, HVAC Technician; Gina Kelly, HS Counselor; April Ashworth, MS STEM Teacher; Monica Barker, MS/HS ELL Teacher; and Kyle Woelber, MS Language Arts Teacher.

Guests: Mayra Garcia, Derek Pulsifer, Tory Wulf, Elisabeth Shepard, Katia Sanchez, Kory Schertenleib, Anah Wulf, Paige Wulf, Brady Wulf, Claudia Thompson, Celina Aparicio, Kyona Cavadini, Naomie Peasley, Michael Heath, Dylan Gamble, and Angelica Arevalo.

**Additions & Deletions**

III. F. Executive Session – Personnel

VIII A. Amy Becker – Certified Sub

**Reports/Presentations**

Budget

Juan Hernandez, Business Manager, reported Enrollment was at 923.21 FTE as of April 30th. It is important to note the average staffing K-12 enrollment has decreased by 1.96 FTE since September.

Mr. Hernandez gave an overview of various funds listed below:

* General Fund $6,133,801
* Capital Projects $1,876,216
* Debt Services $739,690
* ASB $326,315
* Transportation $192,671

Mr. Hernandez shared both the Single Audit and the Financial Audit have been completed with the auditor not identifying any deficiencies.

**Public Comments**

Tori Wulf, spoke about his concerns towards the district’s recommendation of hiring Miranda Solorio as the new Middle School Principal/Athletic Director. He gave examples between the two remaining candidates and in his opinion asked the board to please consider hiring the better candidate for this position. He indicated Dan Vassar is the better candidate based on Mr. Vassar’s teaching experience and his involvement in the community. Mr. Wulf also asked the board to review the schools interview process, because based on his judgement, the process is not rigorous enough.

Mr. Wulf was wanting responses to the questions: Where in the process did, we lose the hiring of the Athletic Director? ‘”and” When did the position get split? He is asking the board members to improve the process to have check and balances to represent our students unbiasedly.

Jill Simmons, 8th grade Math Teacher, and one of the members of the interview committee affirmed the board members to trust the transparency of the hiring process. She emphasized every candidate was treated fairly and the process was thorough and meticulous.

Anah Wulf, former student of the school, shared her experience with Mr. Vassar explaining he has been one the best teachers she knows. His love for his career and unique way of building relationships with students make him the better candidate. She believes he would be a great Middle School Principal.

Kory Schertenleib, friend of Dan Vassar expressed Dan’s involvement and engagement in the community. He believes if we randomly choose 10 students all would agree with his views of Mr. Vassar. Mr. Schertenleib questioned the interview committee process asked the reasons why Mrs. Solorio was the successful candidate.

Alicia Pulsifer member of the interview committee and MS/HS Music Teacher answered to Mr. Schertenleib: Mrs. Solorio is involved in all areas as Mr. Vassar seems to only be involved in sports. She clarified during the interview process her answers had more quality and were more detailed. Their decision was based on the depth and experiences of both candidates leaving Mrs. Solorio with a higher understanding of all areas in dealing with all the students. Based on her detailed answers led them to believe her vision was aligned with the vision of the district.

Lynnette Blackburn, Superintendent shared the decision was made based on all areas allowing the committee to make the best decision for an academic leader.

Monica Barker, member of the interview committee and MS/HS ELL Teacher shared the hiring decision was based on finding the best academic leader.

Tory Wulf, questioned if Mrs. Solorio’s depth of knowledge and expressed Mr. Vassar’s years of teaching experience will allow him to better serve the students.

Mrs. Barker, clarifed Mrs. Solorio’s years of experience teaching the MS Health Curriculum and small groups has given her the experience necessary to support staff.

Mike Heath, guest, asked for clarification about the title of the positions: “Is MS Principal/Athletic Director-one position or two, and is HS Principal/AD Director separate positions or combined?”

Mrs. Blackburn answered, MS/Athletic Director is combined, and HS Principal was split from Athletic Director due to HS Principal Position being a lot. Athletic Director is a separate position from HS Principal.

Elizabeth Shepard, parent and member of the community, ask the board members to look around the room and see the high number of Caucasian’s attending the board meeting and stated that was clearly not a representation of the Hispanic community in our school. Ms. Shepard’s opinion is that Mrs. Solorio’s Hispanic background will grant her a greater opportunity to connect with all families.

Rebecca Terrones, HS Para Educator, shared she will not be lumped into this representation because she is a Hispanic woman with Middle School children and her connection with Mr. Vassar has been good. She indicated Mr. Vassar’s ability to build connections and relationships help students feel welcome in his classroom.

Erica Wulf, 3rd grade Teacher, expressed her disappointment towards the decision of the hiring committee. She encourages the board to look at the best candidate that will academically succeed. She believes Mr. Vassar is an outstanding teacher that shares her same goals, love, and expectations towards all students.

Angelica Arevalo, parent of a Middle School student, shared her personal experience about her son’s connection with Mr. Vassar that during a difficult time and how he helped him with his suicidal thoughts. Mrs. Aparicio suggested interviewing students for their opinion on this matter.

Naomie Peasley, parent, referee, and substitute, voiced her opinion about re-evaluating the process of the district’s hiring process. She believes the committee for the MS Principal/Athletic Director was biased. Mrs Peasley stated, Brewster is a sports town, and the topic cannot be ignored.

Claudia Thompson, parent, shared her son’s relationship with Mr. Vassar and how he has taught him how to invest in the future allowing her son to build a beneficial connection with him.

Jill Simmons, 8th Math Teacher and member of the interview committee asked Naomie Peasley to clarify being biased?

Kory Schertenleib, gave an example of how Tonasket’s hiring process for a coach position is more rigorous than ours. Advised the district to open the process to a variety of people to prevent having a committee with a lot of staff from the same building to avoid hiring a candidate that will benefit the staff in the same building.

Kayla Johanson, Special Programs Director, stated that she hopes that the same interest being represented at tonight’s board meeting will be demonstrated in the upcoming hiring process for the new Special Education Director. She questioned present guests on how these concerns have never been mentioned in the past when clearly Administrators have been assigned into administrative roles with no interview process and they weren’t questioning Jake Johanson’s hire and it was the same process.

Lynnette Blackburn, Superintendent, reviewed and explained thoroughly how the Principal Openings hiring process was organized. Every candidate was asked to attend three interviews, Interview Committee, Staff/Community Committee, and Board Committee. Mrs. Blackburn gave examples of how parents, staff and community members were asked to be a part of this process. Examples include emails, Parent Square, messages, and calls.

Anah Wulf, shared the importance having a supportive principal and how she believes Dan Vassar’s extensive teaching experience will permit him to better support the staff as a principal.

Lynnette Blackburn, assured the board members and people present the decision was not based against Mr. Vassar but solely made by the hiring committee to hire the best candidate for the job.

Marcy Boesel, Elementary Counselor, thanked the board for the opportunity to speak. She shared the importance of sharing your voice and how everything being said in the room is true about both candidates. She shared, her work experience with Ms. Solorio leaves her to believe Mrs. Solorio is a person of good integrity and has lived an inspiring life.

Dylan Gamble, member of the community, apologized for not being able to be a part of the committee after being offered an invitation from Mrs. Blackburn but spoke highly of Mr. Vassar’s business skills and good moral character.

Miranda Solorio, MS Counselor, expressed the intensive programs that she has completed to prepare herself for this new role. She has stepped in with no hesitations to fill in for Mr. Austin in occasions when he’s away. She requested the board to please consider all aspects of the position to make a considerate decision on this position.

Mrs. Solorio stated that whoever is the successful candidate will need to rebuild the disrupted trust caused by this situation.

April Ashworth, MS STEM Teacher, asked the board to keep a clear vision and to consider different perspectives from all students.

Don Becker, community member, asked who was a part of the Interview Hiring Committee:

Lynnette Blackburn, stated the following names: Lynnette Blackburn, Superintendent; Jill Simmons, 8th grade Math Teacher; Monica Barker, HS/MS ELL Teacher; Jake Johanson, Interim HS Principal; Marcy Boesel, Elementary Counselor; Carmen Rios, Parent; Karol Miller, 3rd grade Teacher; Alicia Pulsifer, HS/MS Music Teacher; Jaqueline Hentges, MS Science Teacher; Araceli Lopez, District Home Visitor; Peggy Rice, Board Member; and Jasmine Hernandez, Elementary Para-Educator.

**End of Public Comments**

**Monthly updates of Departments**

Student Board Representative

Mayra Garcia, Student Board Representative, shared high school students are preparing for the end of the school year and announced Prom was a lot of fun!

Federal Programs

Jessica Garcia, Federal Programs Director, stated she has been working on year-end reporting, applying for grants, and preparing for the up-coming summer school program.

Mrs. Garcia stated Migrant Students will be attending a few migrant fieldstrips this summer.

* Voices From the Field
* Dare to Dream Academies

Health Science Academy

Exploring your Future Academy

High School

Jake Johanson, Interim High School Principal, shared they are getting ready to wrap up SBAC testing and asked board to please approve senior trip to Silverwood.

Elementary TK-2nd

Tram Hiltz, TK-2nd Elementary Principal, shared the Elementary will be sending professional development surveys to staff. Trying to plan open house for the beginning of the 24-25 school year.

Elementary 3rd – 5th

Garrett Grant, Elementary Principal, stated Elementary is finishing the SBAC testing. He read to the board an encouraging letter that he reads to the staff and students right before state testing begins.

Special Education

Kayla Johanson, Special Education Director, shared the special education program has 127 students enrolled and the program has a few openings to fill for the next school year.

Middle School

Greg Austin, Middle School Principal, shared middle school is wrapping up state testing as well.

Athletics

Greg Austin, Athletic Director, announced all spring teams made it to Districts this season and the Track and Field Team will be taking 20 track athletes to the State Tournament in Yakima.

Superintendent

Lynnette Blackburn, Superintendent, announced the most special moment of this evening was presenting Greg Austin with a Friends of Children vital award for all his contribution to our community.

**Executive Session RCW42.30.110** – (Personnel)

Discussion about Middle School/Athletic Director Position

**Important Dates**

* June 7 Friday Graduation
* June 12 Wednesday 8th Grade Promotion
* June 14 Friday Last day of School
* June 24 Monday Board Meeting

**Curriculum and Instruction – None**

**Consent Agenda**

Director Rice moved, Director Rubio seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following:

County Treasurer’s Report

Minutes of Regular Meeting – April 23, 2024

Jessie Hammons Barnes Check No. 339695 through Check No. 339695 totaling $4,682.77.

Comp Tax Check No. 339696 through Check No. 339696 Totaling $129.92.

Payroll Check No. 339695 through Check No. 339727 totaling $1,096,498.24.

General Fund Check No. 339728 through Check No. 339818 Totaling $281,918,71.

Capital Projects Fund Check No. 339819 through Check No. 339822 Totaling $476,153.83.

ASB Check No. 339823through Check No. 339664Totaling $14,592.29.

Motion carried 5-0

**Business & Finance**

Director Rios moved, Director Rice seconded, to approve the overnight stay for the following event:

Overnight stay at FFA State Convention May 8th - 12th in Pullman, fourteen students to attend.

Students will be competing in Food Science, Meat Science, First Year Member, and BBQ contests.

Motion carried 5-0

Director Camacho moved, Director Rice seconded, to approve the out of state travel for Senior trip to Silverwood in Idaho on May 27th.

Motion carried 5-0

Director Rubio moved, Director Camacho seconded, to approve overnight stays for the 24-25 Migrant Fieldtrips.

* Voices from the Field Camp in Island on Bainbridge Island, June 20-24th, will be sending six students.
* Dare to Dream Academies

Health Science Academy at Washington State University in Spokane, June 23-28th, we will be sending two students.

Exploring your Future Academy at Washington State University in Pullman, July 14-20th, we will be sending two students.

Motion carried 5-0

Director Rios moved, Director Rubio seconded, to approve the 24-25 ESD Cisco Contract as presented.

Motion carried 5-0

Director Rice moved, Director Camacho seconded, to approve the summer school budget and staff as presented.

Motion carried 5-0

Director Rubio moved, Director Rice seconded, to approve the Highly Capable Plan as presented.

Motion carried 5-0

Director Rios moved, Director Rice seconded, to approve the WIAA Resolution No. 8-23/24.

Motion carried 5-0

**Personnel**

Certified Staff

Director Rice moved, Director Camacho seconded, to approve Jake Johanson as the HS Principal.

Motion carried 5-0

Director Camacho moved, Directors Aparicio, Rios, and Rubio seconded to opposed Miranda Solorio as the MS Principal/Athletic Director, Director Rice and Director Camacho moved to approve Miranda Solorio as the MS Principal/Athletic Director. Chair Aparicio said Miranda Solorio will not be MS/AD. Dan Vassar will be your new MS/AD we will make a special board meeting and you are all invited.

Motion not carried 3-2

Director Rios moved, Director Camacho seconded to approve the transferred of Gina Kelly to the Alternative School.

Motion carried 5-0

Director Rubio moved, Director Rice seconded to approve Marlen Guzman as a Certified Substitute.

Motion carried 5-0

Director Rice moved, Director Camacho seconded, to approve Anah Wulf as a Certified Substitute.

Motion carried 5-0

Director Rice moved, Director Rubio seconded, to approve Hortencia Rosales as a Kindergarten Teacher.

Motion carried 5-0

Director Rios moved, Director Camacho seconded, to approve Wannel Lindsey-O’Day as a Kindergarten Teacher.

Motion carried 5-0

Director Rice moved, Director Camacho seconded, to approve Karol Miller’s transfer to 2nd grade.

Motion carried 5-0

Director Rubio moved, Director Camacho seconded, to approve Shae Gamble as a Second grade Teacher.

Motion carried 5-0

Director Rice moved, Director Camacho seconded, to approve the Irving Smith, Sr as a Fourth grade Teacher.

Motion carried 5-0

Director Rice moved, Director Rubio seconded, to approve Megan Langley as a Fourth grade Teacher.

Motion carried 5-0

Director Rios moved, Director Camacho seconded, to approve the ending of Rileigh Riggan’s Teaching Contract.

Motion carried 5-0

Director Rubio moved, Director Rice seconded, to approve the ending of Alma Diaz Teaching Contract.

Motion carried 5-0

Director Camacho moved, Director Rios seconded, to approve the ending of Miranda Williams Teaching Contract.

Motion carried 5-0

Director Rice moved, Director Rubio seconded, to approve Julie Middleton Duran’s resignation.

Motion carried 5-0

Director Rice moved, Director Rios seconded, to approve Randi Robertson’s resignation.

Motion carried 5-0

Director Rice moved, Director Camacho seconded, to approve Amy Becker as a Certified Substitute.

Motion carried 5-0

Classified Staff

Director Rice moved, Director Camacho seconded, to approve Marlen Guzman as a Para Substitute.

Motion carried 5-0

Coaching Staff

None

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD SECRETARY TO THE BOARD

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DATE DATE