

Learning for all – no
limits, no excuses,
and unlimited
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Oak Run Elementary School District
Board of Trustees
Regular Board Minutes
Wednesday, October 9, 2024
4:00 PM
Oak Run School
27635 Oak Run to Fern Rd.
Oak Run, CA 96069

Governance Team
Shawn Hill, Board President
Dede Masala, Clerk
Candace Maurer, Member
Vacant , Member
Luke Pearson, Board Memebr

Open Session

4:00 PM

1. OPENING BUSINESS @ 4:02pm

1.1. Call to Order

1.2. Roll Call / Establish Quorum

Shawn Hill, President

Vacant , Member

Misti Livingston, Superintendent/Secretary

Dede Masala, Clerk

Candace Maurer, Member

Luke Pearson

Staff & Public in Attendance

1.3. Pledge of Allegiance

1.4. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve item 1.4 was made by Candy Maurer and Dede Masala to 2nd it. 4-0 in favor of this motion.

2. CONSENT ITEMS

Items listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and it is understood that the Administration recommends approval on all consent items. The Board of Trustees in one-motion takes action on consent items. There is no discussion of these items before the Board votes unless a Trustee, staff member, or public citizen requests specific items be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar. Each item on the Consent Calendar that is approved by the Board of Trustees shall be deemed to have been considered in full and adopted as recommended.

2.1 Approval of Consent Items

a. Minutes from Regular Board Meeting September 11, 2024, and from Special Board Meeting September 27, 2024

b. Approve Warrants

A motion to approve item 2.1a and 2.1b was made by Dede Masala and Candy Maurer to 2nd it. 4-0 in favor of this motion.

3. CELEBRATION

3.1 Recognition: Our Custodian, Tristin Helms, for doing such an amazing and thorough job!
Thank you!!!

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Agenda Items: The public may address agenda items, during Public Comment, in the Action, Non-Action, and Reports/Comments portions of the meeting, before board discussion on the topic, when recognized by the chairperson. Speakers are asked to identify themselves before they begin their comments and are allowed to speak one time per agenda item for up to three minutes.

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Non-Agenda Items: The Board will listen to public comment on any item of interest not on the agenda that is within their jurisdiction. The Board may limit public comments to no more than 3 minutes pursuant to Board policy. The Board may not respond to public comments on an item not on the agenda. Questions, concerns and requests directed to the board will usually be deferred pending administrative and board consideration at a later meeting.

Process: Comments or suggestions may be made orally at the meeting or in writing (letter or e-mail). Suggestions or Comments can be made in the Suggestion Box in the school office or by e-mailing suggestions@oakrunschool.org. Staff will report on the progress of parent/community suggestions and, if needed, they will be added to the board agenda in the future.

-Peggy spoke and asked some questions about the fine, vaccinations, slow learners, homeschool children, personnel, and ADA that she would like clarifications on.
-Lillian Gonzalez spoke: She read about her background involvement with Oak Run School, pointed some of Mrs. Livingston’s alleged wrongdoings, put forth claims that I am dividing and conquering with triangulations, claimed that the Oak Run School Board neglect their duties, stating that feels like she’s the whining wheel, and that she will be at every Board meeting.
-Leone Carey (Pony) spoke: Stated the Board members have failed to investigate Mrs. Livingston, said Mrs. Livingston has engaged in prohibited activities, implied that the Board members have consented to improprieties, lamented about approving the Superintendent’s salary with a yearly increase of \$5k/yr, and shared their attempt to recall the Board members with a petition that they passed around the community.
-Georgia DeLarge passed out the recall petitions to the Board members.
-Dolores Lucero spoke: Claimed the Oak Run School Board President has not taken the time to learn the laws, accused him of sweeping everything under the carpet, claimed that Mrs. Livingston engaged in criminal activity, encouraged him to revoke Mrs. Livingston’s contract, and claimed that he failed the children.

5. ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Action/ Discussion Item: Teacher Residency Capacity Grant from Teachers College of San Juaquin and CSU Chico

Recommendation: Approve

A motion to approve item 5.1 was made by Dede Masala and Luke Pearson to 2nd it. 4-0 in favor of this motion.

5.2 Action/ Discussion Item: Policy Updates: 4212.5-E(1), 4112.41, 4111, 4319.12-E(1), 0410, 5145.71-E(1), and 5125.1-E(1)

Recommendation: Approve

A motion to approve item 5.2 was made by Dede Masala and Luke Pearson to 2nd it. 4-0 in favor of this motion.

5.3 Action/ Discussion Item: Williams Act Report_Quarter 1_2024/2025

Recommendation: Approve

A motion to approve item 5.3 was made by Dede Masala and Candy Maurer to 2nd it. 4-0 in favor of this motion.

5.4 Action/ Discussion Item: Kim Patterson’s Resignation

Recommendation: Approve

A motion to approve item 5.4 was made by Dede Masala and Candy Maurer to 2nd it. 4-0 in favor of this motion.

5.4 Action/ Discussion Item: Morgan Cole’s Resignation

Recommendation: Approve

A motion to approve item 5.5 was made by Dede Masala and Candy Maurer to 2nd it. 4-0 in favor of this motion.

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6. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

6.1	Report:	2024-2025 Enrollment	
		TK-2 - 5	} Total – 26
		TK-2 (IS) - 1	
		3-5 - 10	
		3-5 (IS) - 2	
		6-8 - 6	
		6-8 (IS) - 2	

6.2 Report/Discussion: Mr. Rick Fauss

Spoke about enrollment and asked if they are all immunized. He answered some questions from the public and thanked Shawn Hill and Misti Livingston for meeting with SCOE representatives for about an hour. He shared his thoughts about us being up to speed and moving in the right direction to request a payment plan over 8 years, and shared when our next meeting will be and that the discussion will be around ADA and funding. He explained that if our enrollment does not increase then the school may be placed in band one which means that current staffing levels may have to be reconsidered, and about the process for hiring Board members.

7. OTHER REPORTS / COMMENTS

7.1 Information: District Leadership/District Advisory Committee / SSC

Ms. Hanna talked about the school’s event on the 25th of this month and invited everyone.

7.2 Comments: Classified / Confidential / Certificate

N/A

7.3 Comments: Director / Superintendent

Mrs. Livingston read a statement that is directed toward our community as a whole. Parts of it are presented here: My name is Misti Livingston, and I am the Superintendent, Principal, and Special Education Teacher, among many other things for Oak Run Elementary School District. I am writing to respond to a matter of significant concern regarding the recent unethical complaints that have been made by the folks herein referred to as the ‘Grumpy Bunch.’

Many of us know that Oak Run Elementary School is a small rural school located approximately 30 miles East of Redding, serving an average of 20-60 families, depending on the school-year and the migration status of some of our families. Our school faces unique challenges, with approximately 33% of our families experiencing homelessness: ie. Lacking running water; living in areas with no accessible roads; lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; having deplorable livings conditions; and/or living in multi-family households. Additionally, around 20-40% of our enrolled students utilize our Independent Study program.

There have been numerous unfounded complaints and false allegations to the county and state, and any institution that the Grumpy Bunch can freely speak to. The Grumpy Bunch is comprised of four (4) former employees” (now five as I was told in this Board meeting) “who have either resigned or have had their position terminated from Oak Run Elementary School, two (2) former employee family members, one (1) former Official, one (1) Shasta Lake resident and one (1) seperate community member.

False accusations that have been shared wide and far are grave and numerous. The unfounded allegations based on assumptions that have turned into outright lies and presented as a ‘Going Concern,’ have also created reputational harm for Oak Run School District. The accusations were printed and shared with state officials without investigation, creating confusion, panic, undue stress, and division amongst families in the community and school, as well as a loss of student enrollment. Our character and reputation, meticulously built on adherence to state laws and guidance, have been unjustly tarnished.

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Beyond the financial and reputational harm, this episode has taken a severe emotional toll on Oak Run School's staff and the Superintendent/Principal. The additional workload required to continuously prove compliance has caused significant distress, and the lack of due diligence in investigating the claims prior to publication of the matter, in the least, has further exacerbated the situation. There are so many accusations that it would be exhausting to read and include here. However, some of them will be addressed because of the recent flyer that has been put out in the community in an attempt to scare folks into signing a petition that was going around, and to limit enrollment.

I'll start by making a clear statement to counteract the renowned rumor: I have not ever taken, nor will I ever take, one single penny from this school or from the children for my own benefit other than my rightful paycheck each month, which leads me into the flyer info that I have been pleaded with to "get in front of" by many good Oak Run community folks.

In the flyer that the leader of the Grumpy Bunch is passing around, it states, like it's a bad thing, the Board has agreed to renew the Superintendent's contract and approved to promoting her annual salary from 2020 at \$67,000 to 2024 at \$82,000, with an automatic raise of \$5,000 each year.

This is accurate information, and to elaborate, I signed extremely low when I was first hired with the agreement of the Board that they would make efforts in getting me up to at least first-year Principal pay as soon as possible. I am now in my 5th year of this and just now barely reaching first-year Principal pay. First-year Superintendent pay in California is generally \$130,000/yr. First-year Principal pay in California is generally \$81,000/yr. Fifteenth-year Special Education Teachers in California get paid between \$86,000 and \$137,000/yr. Altogether that is between \$297,000 and \$348,000/yr. And not only did I sign on to do this job that many experienced folks in the education world say is the hardest job to do; I started doing it for a mere \$67,000/yr. I don't know anyone on this planet would do this. You're welcome.

The flyer also states, 'Superintendent Livingston's actions have reportedly created a debt of \$820,275 for our school district.'

The fact is that there was one single finding for Oak Run School. The Independent Study (I.S.) contracts that we used for students on I.S. were out of compliance for the last two school-years. This means that all of the mandatory verbiage issued by the state was not included in the contracts. We were completely unaware that they were not in compliance as a result of a lack of shared information. Because of this we received a fine of \$820,275. In light of this finding, I have personally asked for help/support for all office procedures throughout one entire school-year, because when our business person left us high and dry there was a huge gap of information on how the business side of things was being run. Assistance with these procedures was asked for via emails, phone conversations, and face-to-face requests, with provided lists of our needs, to no avail. The assistance that we are *currently* being afforded, one school-year later, most certainly would have brought us into compliance prior to any complaints and prevented any fines from occurring. Therefore, it is my stance that this large sum should not be ours alone to bear. However, it is ours to bear, so we will apply to the state to repay this large sum throughout a total of eight (8) years. Furthermore, there is a possibility that this fine will be forgiven or possibly reduced based on the following principals: At every County meeting I have ever attended concerning folks that are considered homeless (the identification has a list of criteria that people can meet for this) I have always been told that Districts are *required* to enroll the student *regardless* of immunization status and that there is *no* timeline for students to get immunized if they aren't already, just that the District personnel are required to do their due diligence in getting them immunized. Which we have sent out many letters and made many phone calls throughout the time they have been enrolled. Only very recently have I been made aware that there is only a 30 day timeline that we have to get students immunized or they have to go onto I.S. I was also only recently made aware that if a student does not have the proper immunizations then they may not be on campus at all. We will let our community know what happens with this.

In connection to this fine, fear is being promoted throughout the community that our property taxes will increase.

This is not how it works. Property taxes do not go up because of fines issued to schools. The District is simply charged with the repayment of the fine from the money that is already in the budget.

In conclusion, have made a personal goal to help this school and community become more positive in nature and help the students and other children grow to succeed in life in general. I, and the hired team, brought this little mountain school's academics up from being the bottom 5% of the bottom 5%, to being more average with the majority of the succeeding Shasta County Schools. Our students' social emotional growth has improved exponentially across the board since my hire. I have worked with my own hands to rebuild the integrity of this small necessary school and regained the trust of the Oak Run community in a short period of time, aside from the Grumpy Bunch

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They have continuously put efforts into trying to damage and even destroy my good name and the good reputation that we have built for this beautiful little school community. What this group is doing has put so much stress on me, our staff, students, and community that we are utterly stressed above what is necessary, we do fear for our safety but stay to support the children, as their futures and ability to grow into safe, respectful, caring, and successful adults are very important to us.

I've been investigated by the health department, I don't know how many times, investigated by the Shasta County Water Board, investigated by Law Enforcement, investigated by the department of California Teaching Credentials, investigated by the Special Education department of California, investigated by the Financial Crisis Management Team (FCMAT), and investigated by Shasta County Office of Education (SCOE); and there are no criminal charges because there is no criminal activity being performed by me.

I have the option to give the 945 pages of hard concrete evidence that tells the actual truth of these false claims, that continues to grow at this point, to the courts for a Class Action lawsuit. There are two big time lawyers that are asking to partner with me because I have an iron clad case. For now, I chose to try to bring us together. I chose to ask us to move to the same side of being good together for the children's sake. I chose to ask you to choose to be good, kind, loving, respectful, caring, and empathetic folks, and come together to do really great things for our kids so they can grow up to be amazing and productive citizens of places of their choosing. To give *them* opportunities of a lifetime and not stifle them by hindering their education and confusing them by forcing false stories on them just because you don't like someone or you assume something. This was my goal when I came here: to share love and kindness and do good things for kids, because they really don't have a choice. They are subject to what us adults choose for them. And this is still my goal, and forever will be. So, to the Grumpy Bunch, you can choose to continue in the dark and keep being negative and spread more and more lies and division, and suffer the grave consequences that will eventually come from me tiring and just submitting all of my very well documented evidences. Or you can choose to be kind, understanding, and come together as one team and build our kiddos and community up together with love and acceptance of all people. Can you imagine how amazing and intelligent all the kiddos in our community could be, would be, if you focus all of this energy onto your the kids, and growing them to be good, well-rounded people, rather than trying to cut down innocent folks. It is your choice, and I will move forward with what you choose: togetherness and unity or division.

7.4 *Comments:* Board Members

Luke Pearson spoke. An argument between him and Lucero commenced. Luke explained that he and his wife has given scholarships to Oak Run 8th graders, bought gifts for every student at Christmas time, and bought books for the library with their own money. The public had a difficult time not interrupting rudely. He also stated that he is going to resign from the Board. He pleaded with the public to remember that we are here for the kids and made it clear that the people who are causing the chaos are not here for the kids, but are here for vendettas and for themselves and it needs to stop. He made it clear that families are not enrolling their children in Oak Run School because of the folks who are causing trouble. One person who came to speak at public comment claimed that Mrs. Livingston told her daughter in law to claim she was homeless to come to school here. Mrs. Livingston didn't have an opportunity to explain that public schools have to enroll students whether they are immunized or not as long as they meet the criteria for being homeless and that no one is talking people into that. All Ms. Livingston had the opportunity to say was: "as long as they meet the criteria."

8. NEXT MEETING

8.1 Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday November 13, 2024 @ 4:00 pm

9. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION – N/A

9.1 54957 (b)(1) Personnel – To discuss the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, discipline, complaints about of dismissal of specific employee or potential employee.

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10. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION – N/A

11. ADJOURN @ 5:31 with some folks who came to speak at public comment continuing to create chaos by yelling at people to shut up along with other things. They were asked to leave several times for disrupting the Board meeting and causing stress afterward, and refused.