

**Rainier School District #13**  
**Draft Minutes**  
**Board Work Session**

April 17, 2023  
5:30 PM  
Rainier School District Boardroom

**Present:** Mr. Harding, Mrs. Hendricks, Dr. Placido, Dr. Placido, Mr. Hisey, Mrs. Usher, Mr. Schimmel joined at 5:40p.m.

**I. Preliminary Matters**

- A. Call Meeting to Order at 5:37 p.m.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance: suspended
- C. Approve Agenda

Unanimous consent

**IV. Items for Board Training**

**A. Training with OSBA, Vince Adams**

- a. Level setting/Ground Rules: What do you need from this group to be here, to be safe to be here and to be able to do the work
  - i. No Yelling
  - ii. Respectful\*\*
    - 1. Speak your truth responsibly. Assume positive intent always.
  - iii. Active Listening\*
  - iv. No Judgment
  - v. Understanding
    - 1. Listen to understand.
  - vi. Honesty\*\*
    - 1. Trust (Reliability)(2 way street, has to be earned)(foundation)
  - vii. Follow the Rules
  - viii. Understanding Accountability
  - ix. Answers
  - x. Grace

Can you give a thumbs up to follow these rules tonight? All thumbs up.

2nd prompt) Why do you serve on the school board?

To make sure Rainier students have every opportunity to succeed.

To serve and better the community I was raised in

To give the kids/students a better future

To help students and their education

To improve... and give back

For the kids, want all kids to be successful

Positive impact...

## **Rainier School District #13**

### **Draft Minutes**

#### **Board Work Session**

Process it, set aside and move on. It's breaking trust. You are hurting yourselves. Resolve it.

Two takehomes:

You need to cultivate trust

Focus on Kids

Support the Superintendent

#### **7. Off Topic in Exec Session**

##### **a. Point of Order**

If it continues, raise a point of order again. You can excuse yourself from the meeting because you are in violation of the law. Any one of you can do that. Saying Point of Order is your way of working together. This protects you and the board and this disrupts the meeting.

#### **8. Investigative Powers of Individual Board Members**

- a. No operational capacity. The only time you have authority is when you are in this room in a meeting. No authority to jointly or individually do investigations. If you get a complaint, we have to retain a 3rd party, usually a legal party. A complaint is the only way an investigation occurs. You would also need board action. This includes fact finding, talking to teachers or business people. No expulsion Info prior to it coming to the board unless you are a family member. It only becomes boardwork via official complaint. Complaint process is boardwork.

Research vs Investigation: How did the implementation of a policy help the district?  
Even a board action item

- a. Supe Eval, new implementation on discipline. When he first presents his dossier, I'd love to get more info on this, can we see data? Totally fine to just ask the Supe, then info will come back to the whole board. We rely on educational professionals to do the work. We trust our professionals to be honest with us. You as a director do not get to go dig through files, or going and talking to teachers. Policy BG: All communication re staff goes through the Superintendent. You can go see a program, but staff will arrange it for you.
- b. Step 1 or 2 complaint, admin do that
- 9. Limitations of discussions in 1:1 with Superintendent
  - a. You can't discuss anything that is a violation of statute or policy. No collusion. Don't violate confidentiality. (Trust and transparency). Important info should go out to all board members.

#### **10. Asking Questions**

- a. Challenging and asking questions is not a lack of trust. We need to allow staff to be prepared for tough questions, not blindsiding them. If it's a touchy question that could be misinterpreted by the public, it could be taken out of context, hold it and ask later. If asking in a meeting, "I understand this is a tough question, so I understand if you don't have an

**Rainier School District #13**  
**Draft Minutes**  
**Board Work Session**

What is a school board without a superintendent?

A very frustrated group, we need our superintendent to work.

**What do you want for yourself on the board, the board as a whole for now and in the future?**

Camaraderie\* = Watch out for each other, Trust, Fun

Good Order = Orderly meetings, don't talk over each other

Trust

Success\*

Increased Ed Outcomes\*

Effective

Works Together\*

Informed

Guide & Support Supt

**What are you willing to give this group to get those things?**

My seat if I'm the barrier

Assume positive Intent

More Patience for understanding\*

Give Respect\*

Time & Respect

**What's our next step?**

Apply

**How?**

Move forward. The more we hold onto things we can't do that. Forget, forgive, understand. Why are we all here? We are all here for the right reasons. We all have to commit to moving forward and putting things aside.

Do we just need to be better at looking at each other and ask, is that Board work?

A well run meeting doesn't give space to what happened last week.

7 elected officials and we're supposed to be the tie between education and community. They do board work as they see their vision is. Board chair is mainly to run the meeting and allow the 7 members to express themselves as an elected official. 7 people that have a responsibility to do the work in a structured environment. I'm not their boss, they need to make up their own mind, I hold to the middle to keep the meeting moving forward.

You can ask for a recess, because if emotions are high, you aren't working effectively.

**ACTION:**

Structured Meetings\*, talk about them, what do you want them to look like?

Staying on task, staying focused for student success\*