

Neah-Kah-Nie School District 56
Special Board Meeting
September 18, 2014
Neah-Kah-Nie School District Office Board Room

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Present

Board

Mike Tosch, Chairman
Niki Sheldon, Vice Chair
Lisa Hooley
Pat Ryan (absent)
Judy Wustenberg (absent)
Terry Kelly
Zone 6 - Vacant

District Staff

Paul Erlebach, Superintendent
Mark Sybouts, Business Manager (absent)
Kathie Sellars, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the board of directors of the Neah-Kah-Nie School District was called to order by Vice Chairperson Niki Sheldon at 6:16 p.m. Ms. Sheldon welcomed patrons and staff. All present stood for the flag salute.

APPROVE AGENDA

M-Kelly/2nd Hooley to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

INTERVIEW with Eugene Tish – Mr. Tish’s responses are abbreviated and not verbatim.
Mr. Tosch welcomed Mr. Tish and asked the first question.

1. Welcome, thank you for applying for the board position. Please share with the board your background and how your life, education, and professional experience will benefit the board?

Mr. Tish - No formal training in education. Although, experienced it for significant amount of time, graduate of George Fox University, Lewis and Clark Law School and New York University with a Master's in tax law. Practiced tax law in Portland. Served as an instructor at Lewis and Clark Law School. Chose to become involved in the hotel industry in retirement. Spent time with Garibaldi Grade School since moving to Garibaldi.

2. Please share with us why you are interested in the board position?

Mr. Tish - Served on GGS site council for two years. He would not describe it as an uplifting experience. Had not considered being on the board until Mr. Erlebach approached him. Welcomes the opportunity to deal with some of the issues that schools face on a higher level. Ms. Hooley asked what issues he sees. Mr. Tish expressed that in his opinion the district does not have what it needs to resolve the problems, you can repress some of them, but it takes a holistic approach, and they revolve around community, social-economic issues and culture. Ms. Sheldon asked how the school board could or should act as an advocate. Part of the way he has attempted to address it, is by becoming involved in the community, serving on and helping to pass the tourism tax. If we can create more jobs that provide income for our families this will help. Personally, as a member of the community, through fund raising activities.

3. Are you aware of the time commitment required to serve on the Neah-Kah-Nie School Board?

Mr. Tish - Discussed the time commitment with Mr. Erlebach, as well as the frequency and length of board meetings. Would need to cut back on some other activities, very involved in community government. In July

and August it would be difficult for him. Will not request reappointment to the tourism commission when his term is up.

4. What is the role of the school board member?

Mr. Tish – Comes in with no agenda so to speak, although he does have interests. Concerned as a businessman that at the elementary level we do not put enough resources into those students who are performing well. If we do not do the best we can for the best and brightest we will not be able to compete in a global economy to help those that are not doing well.

5. What is one problem the district is currently facing that you believe you could help with? This question was not asked.

Mr. Tish -

6. What is your impression of the Neah-Kah-Nie School District?

Mr. Tish - Trained as a lawyer, still licensed and still do some consulting; lawyers ask questions and are not used to giving answers. Impressed with the teachers and staff he has worked with on the site council. Have not heard any teacher say that they cannot get a resource that they need. Sees that as the focus moves toward the passing of tests, he could see that more resources could shift toward those that would have difficulty passing these tests and slipping away from the students who are doing well.

Ms. Hooley – Obviously spent time at GGS, have you had occasion to spend time at the other schools?

Mr. Tish – Not MS, have employed students from the HS, other than athletic functions, has not had occasion to participate in the other schools.

Mr. Tosch- Maintaining a good workforce is important, he has heard this from other business, is it a skill set that is missing that we should be concerned about?

Mr. Tish – Less of a skill set issue and more of a value system issue. Our biggest competition is government programs that will pay people not to work, makes it very hard and it is not just here. There is an element of the population that locate here because this is where they want to recreate and if forced, work here. We have some serious work ethic issues in our area.

Mr. Kelly asked Mr. Tish to tell a little about his family.

Mr. Tish – Two daughters, youngest is 46, have three grandchildren – oldest is a senior in college and the youngest is 12. Moved away from family to come to the coast, but still maintains a home near Wilsonville. One daughter still lives in the Wilsonville area and the younger daughter left the area in college.

7. Do you have any questions of us?

Mr. Tish - What do you feel is the most difficult issue you face as a board?

Mr. Kelly – finances; Ms. Hooley explained the timber funding, that timber sales are on a three year cycle so our revenue fluctuates. We carry a substantial ending fund balanced. CCSS is a big deal and is very difficult and comes with a whole host of changes. It is a burden on the teachers and administrators. We just get something implemented and some new idea comes down the pike. We never have enough time to make something work before something else is forced upon us. Ms. Sheldon and Mr. Kelly agreed. Ms. Sheldon stated that for someone who says they do not know a lot, you touched on many of the things that the board deals with, poverty, varied communities and socio-economic variables. Some of our biggest issues are societal.

Mr. Tosch shared that he feels a tension that there is always pressure to advance not only the best and the brightest, but also helping those that are not performing so well become the best they can be. It is a tension that he deals with regularly. Perplexed by how much time, energy and resources in our schools are spent on addressing our student population who have considerable needs. It is hard on staff.

Mr. Kelly – Was secretly holding out for a candidate who had children in the district. Assured in his level of dedication to the schools and knowledge of issues.

BOARD DELIBERATION AND DECISION

The board discussed Mr. Tish's response to the questions. Mr. Erlebach shared that he attended the GGS site council meetings last year and he was impressed with how Mr. Tish could really see the overall issue. He was very thoughtful and really knows a lot. He would know how to handle himself. Impressed with his loyalty.

M – Kelly/Tosch to appoint Eugene Tish to the vacant board position for zone 6. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Erlebach asked Mr. Tish to rejoin the meeting. He shared that the board deliberated and voted to appoint Mr. Tish to the position vacated by Mr. Dorn.

Mr. Erlebach conducted the swearing in of Mr. Tish.

Ms. Sheldon suspended regular session at 7:07 p.m.

ADJOURN SPECIAL BOARD MEETING TO CONVENE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Terry Kelly shared that his only reason for bringing up the issue about the extra duty contracts was because his concerns were not dealt with last spring and he did not want to just let it go by without making sure the issue from last spring was attended to. At this time Mr. Kelly excused himself before executive session was called to order.

Ms. Sheldon called executive session to order at 7:08 p.m. pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(f) for the purpose of discussing an issue related to personnel.

Ms. Sheldon adjourned executive session at 7:33 p.m.

RECONVENE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Ms. Sheldon reconvened the special board meeting at 7:35 p.m. Mr. Kelly rejoined the meeting.

Ms. Sheldon explained that it was the recommendation of the board that the district move forward with approving the extra duty contract that was removed from the consent agenda at the September 8, 2014 board meeting.

M-Tosch/2nd Hooley that we approve the recommendation to hire the softball coach. Motion carried, yea Tosch, Hooley, Sheldon, Tish. Mr. Kelly abstained.

ADJOURN

Hearing nothing more to come before the board the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.