



The Valley School of Southern Oregon
857 Valley View Dr. Medford, OR 97504
Special Meeting and Study Session
Wednesday, April 2, 2025; 5:00pm

Minutes:

5:00pm Call to Order

Present: Rainy Tilton, Amy Maukonen, Craig Manning, Mike Bowman, Bryan Cohee, Alan Cochran, Dan Akita
Virtual: Kim Parkerson,
Absent: Kaitie Warner, Stacy Fields
Staff: Lily Reishman, Kris Von Wald

Consent to Agenda:

Craig motioned to consent to the agenda. Bryan seconds. Motion approved.

Content Item 1:

This meeting fulfills the request of the Board for a study session to continue the discussion about the School's Dress Code policy from the 3.19.2025 meeting, which included extensive public comment. Subsequent to the 3.19 meeting, the Board was provided information requested from OSBA legal services and the ACLU to clarify current case law surrounding issues of free speech in schools and related to dress codes. In addition, the School's Civil Rights Coordinator provided a statement and the Board acknowledged receipt of several emails from a few concerned school community members. The Board is asked to conclude the discussion regarding the dress code policy and enforcement of the policy by staff and administration.

Board members were asked to voice their perspectives in turn by going around the table, asking questions and/or commenting on their read of the current situation. Board members expressed the desire to address the policy issue within the law, it being apparent in case law in Oregon and elsewhere that the slogan in question does not constitute hate speech or cause disruption in the school / classrooms sufficient to warrant a change in the policy at this time.

Rainy and Amy raised the idea of having a town hall listening event to make sure we are hearing from the school community. Not for the staff to do but for the Board to do. This is also one of the KPIs for the Board for this year and will inform the Board's work on many topics for the next year. Kris will do a doodle poll for dates between April 17 and May 15 to find a date that will work for a majority of Board members.

Adjourn: Rainy adjourned the meeting at 5.46p.

To do items:

1. Kris to do doodle poll for Board-Community town hall meeting

DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING: April 16, 2025; 5.00p to 6.30p