

**WASHINGTON STATE CENTER FOR  
DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING YOUTH  
Board of Trustees Special Meeting  
May 1, 2020**

Board Members:    Maria Christianson            (District #1)  
                         Allie Joiner                            (District #2)  
                         Nancy Sinkovitz                        (District #3)  
                         Nita Kamphuis                         (District #4)  
                         Char Parsley                            (District #5)  
                         Jennifer Acuna                         (District #6)  
                         Ariele Belo                             (District #7)  
                         Sidney Weldele-Wallace               (District #8)  
                         Nancy Fitta                             (District #9)  
                         Wes Henson                             (District #10)

Executive Director: Rick Hauan  
Superintendent:    Shauna Bilyeu  
Legal Counsel:     Tsering Cornell  
Recorder:          Erica Rader  
Interpreters:      Daniel Mroz and Emily Dahl

Guests:             Kai Matthews, Business Office Director  
                         Jessica Sydnor – Human Resources Director  
                         Kris Ching, Outreach Birth-5  
                         Carol Carruthers, Outreach K-12

Nancy Fitta, chair, called the Board meeting to order at 10:02am. It was determined a quorum was present.

Nancy Fitta explained how the Zoom meeting will work today.

- If you are hearing, you are to mute your microphone and stop your video as to make more space for the deaf participants to be visible and see the interpreter or signer.
- Deaf participants are to pin the interpreter to their screen so they are the biggest video for better communication.
- If you wish to speak, turn on your video and audio, raise your hand, and wait for the chair to call on you.

**Approval of meeting minutes**

Board Meeting Minutes from February 28, 2020 were reviewed

Page #7, Line 28 “Christensen” should be changed to “Christianson”

Page #5, Line 30, "This shall be crossed referenced" should be changed to "This shall be cross referenced"

Page #4, Line 27, "her" should be changed to "she"

Wes Henson moved to approve the February 28, 2020, meeting minutes with the corrections made. Sidney Weldele-Wallace seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and approved. Maria Christianson and Char Parsley abstained as they were not at the February meeting.

## **Board Reports**

Nancy Fitta indicated to the Board that the Finance Committee met on 4/27/2020.

### **Finance Committee Report**

Ariele provided the Finance Committee report to the Board. At the Finance Committee meeting the agency has realized a significant savings, resulting in an increase in funds due, in part, to student transportation costs being suspended due to the campus shutdown in response to the COVID-19 emergency proclamation by Governor Inslee. She indicated there will be excess funds at the end of the school year which will be returned to the state. The school will not be doing a significant spend down, as processing and shipping concerns are significant at this time.

Ariele indicated that Kai Matthews asked the Finance Committee about creating another committee called the Audit Committee. They would handle financial audits and make sure everything is following the correct processes.

Nita expressed that she feels it is prudent for CDHY not doing a significant spend down, and returning money to the state. All school districts across the state will need the help from the money going back.

### **Policy Committee Report**

Nancy Sinkovitz let the Board know she has many policies ready for review, but we are not going to be reviewing them today due to the complexity of meeting virtually. The hope is to do them in July.

Wes inquired as to any policies that may be ready in the 5000 series. Nancy S. indicated she does not have the 5000 series polices, but would send Wes the 4000 plans that are ready for review.

### **Human Resources Report**

Jessica Sydnor let the Board know that the Federation is working on MOU's to extend timelines on grievances and bargaining.

### Board Comments and Questions

- Q. Nancy F. inquired if there are any emergency powers the Board needs to invoke regarding competency-based credits and waivers for seniors who are at risk of not graduating.
- A. Rick indicated because we are different than local schools, we can adjust and meet the needs of our children. We will be applying for a waiver for school days and instructional hours from OSPI. We are currently working on a plan for graduation.
- A. Shauna indicated we have applied for a graduation credit waiver and instructional credit waiver. She also indicated she has been attending the Superintendent and Special Education Director Meetings, and we are meeting all requirements currently set out.
- Q. Nancy F. inquired if we needed another meeting in June.
- A. Rick indicated he will work with Tsering Cornell and OSPI to identify if an abbreviated Board meeting is needed, even if it is a single item agenda. He will keep the Board apprised.
- A. Tsering indicated there is no urgent need for special Board approval for anything identified at this time, but we could hold another Special Meeting in June if needed.
- A. Rick will work with the Board Chair and inform the Board of future needs. He indicated that we need to be mindful of honoring an open public forum as we move forward with our next Board meetings.

### Staff Reports

#### Rick Hauan, Executive Director

- Q. Maria asked if Rick could provide some additional information and clarification on the section relating to Bellingham Public Schools.
- A. Rick CDHY has been meeting with Bellingham School District for months. He is encouraging them to continue a relationship with Salish Sea School. Currently there are 78 deaf or hard of hearing students, 1 teacher and no audiologist. There will be 8 preschool school children who are deaf or hard of hearing in the fall, and they are scrambling to find services. They have posted positions, but we have no definitive answers.
- A. Kris Ching indicated she had a meeting with Bellingham on 4/30/2020. She indicated they are interested in setting up an ASL/Bilingual classroom. Kris encouraged them to reach out to Maria Christianson to inquire about possible candidates for the teacher of the deaf position.

Q. Nancy F. asked if the Seattle meetings are tabled.

A. Seattle meetings are on hold due to COVID-19. The current Special Education Director for Seattle has accepted a new position. A new director will be taking that place. Nicole Fitch has accepted a new position with Snoqualmie Valley School District. This district is in our East Lake Washington Co-op so we will continue to work with Nicole in the future. Consi Pedroza is still the Chief of Student Support Services in Seattle Public Schools and we are looking forward to continuing to work with her in Seattle.

Q. Allie asked if Salish Sea Deaf School and Bellingham could have regional program down the road.

A. Rick indicated it is a distinct possibility, but is cautious in the conversation as he does not want to present a conflict of interest. There are specific needs for each organization they need to address independently. It's premature to say "regional program," but we are working on linking services, and resources and they are open to exploring possibilities of a regional program or regional supports.

### **Shauna Bilyeu, Superintendent**

Shauna informed the Board they are beginning to explore options for planning a virtual graduation, senior tease, care packages and keychains for the seniors. She is hoping to get the care packages shipped out in the next week with the seniors' cap and gowns, with directions for the seniors to take videos and pictures to submit for the graduation ceremony on June 4, 2020.

After school starts, WSD is hoping to do a combined Prom/Homecoming in October. They will also try to have a live graduation ceremony in October as well.

Hotspots went out to student with no internet access and are continuing to go out. Most students can now access Zoom classes, and we are reporting to OSPI on the student engagement.

Sidney Weldele-Wallace gave a shout out to Jason Cox and April McArthur for completing their principal credentials!

Q. Sidney inquired of Shauna on how they are planning to open the school come fall.

A. Shauna indicated we are waiting on more guidance from OSPI and the Governor. We have lots of ideas but are hopeful we do come back.

*Jennifer Acuna had to leave the meeting at 11:00 for another meeting.*

## **Kai Matthews, Director of Business Operations & Technology**

Kai gives a synopsis of his report, and indicated we are saving on operating costs due to the shutdown. We will have roughly \$600,000 in excess funds. We will be doing a spend down to replace items that are needed. We need to look at financial savings going forward.

- Q. Allie asked if any employees are requesting unemployment benefits.
- A. Jess indicated that some have applied for unemployment benefits, but are confused by the process. Some of our on-call and part time staff have second jobs, and those second jobs have laid them off due to the pandemic. That is why they have reached out for unemployment benefits. We are continuing to keep all our staff meaningfully employed.
- Q. Wes inquired that since we have excess funds in the short term, can we use some of those funds to fill long term needs.
- A. Shauna indicated that we are going to be purchasing things for digital learning. We will be buying new iPads for all students and purchasing backup supplies and replacements.
- A. Kai also indicated that we are buying things in bulk and stocking up now. Such as school supplies for the next year and office supplies. We are buying IT equipment and thinking about the short term and long-term needs. We will not be able to spend down all of the excess funds the school has.

*Sidney Weldele-Wallace had to leave for another meeting at 11:30.*

- Q. Nancy F. asked for an update on the CDHY 19H fund.
- A. Kai indicated the 19H fund has exceeded the one million dollar mark for the first time and is on track with a current balance of \$1,073,000. We are still collecting revenue from districts. He cautioned that we will see a decline in what we anticipated from Outreach revenue going to 19H due to the COVID-19 shutdown. Mr. Matthews went on to say the 19H fund can help support programs and services for the short-term if we realize a drop in funding from the state.
- A. Rick added that we are also seeing an increase of future revenues at the district level. He went on to explain Kai is working on projected costs and revenues for staffing program enhancement supported by interagency agreement. Rick offered a "shout-out" to Kai and his Business Office staff!

## **Outreach – Birth to 5 program Kris Ching, Outreach Director**

Kris's report was submitted in the Board packet and no further comments were provided. Board members had no questions of Kris regarding her report.

## **Outreach – K thru 12 program, Carol Carrothers**

Carol indicated that Zoom is working really well for Outreach to continue to provide services remotely. They are engaged in a variety of professional development support activities such as a training offered by Charlene Williams for Educational Interpreters. Another such activity is a survey designed by Deidre Curl was sent out focusing on Tele-therapy and Tele-teaching. This survey went to special education directors across the state. We are excited to find out what their needs are.

- Q. Allie inquired if Carol knows the number for all the certified Interpreters in the state.
- A. Carol indicated we do not keep exact numbers of interpreters who meet standard required by the Professional Educator Standards Board. There is not a mandatory reporting requirement for interpreters or districts to CDHY or OSPI. If a complaint is lodged or Safety Net funding request then districts must attest the interpreter meets standard. Some interpreters voluntarily share their numbers, which are not shared publicly, rather we gather numbers to show trend data relating to how many interpreters have met standard and the score ranges. There are some interpreters who prefer to remain anonymous and not report. That is their prerogative. Carol indicated that 5 new interpreters have passed their certification with a 3.5 or higher.
- Q. Allie asked what the plans are to continue interpreter training and support for the next year.
- A. Carol indicated she has sent an email to Representative Dolan and has not heard back. She is hoping the 3 topics will be separated out and lumped. We are still waiting.

## **COVID-19 IMPACTS**

Jess let the Board know that all agencies have received a strong directive from State HR to keep everyone employed and working remotely during the COVID-19 shut-down. Supervisors are keeping logs of work assigned to each employee and trying to keep everyone engaged. This new normal might carve a new path for us in the future.

Rick indicated our staff have done a remarkable job. He gave a couple of examples. Our residential staff have created virtual cottages for the students to engage and support students while at home. Our Outreach consultations are continuing to work and be innovative and they have come up with new ways to provide services. We have received positive feedback from staff for the support they have received from Leadership Team and the ability to work remotely.

Shauna informed the Board we have had fundamental changes and we are working hard to provide distance learning and special education services. We have a renewed

energy around special education supports and services. We are receiving positive feedback from families. Shauna went on to explain WSD will be moving forward with accreditation next year with national accreditation from the Conference for Educational Administrators for Schools and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD) as well as with Cognia in March 2021.

Char inquired as to the Board report to the Governor this year and how that will work.

Nancy F. indicated she is working with Rick, and they will report on the agency adjustments to the shutdown, operational funds, state of the facility and a better trajectory. We will also address what we have overcome from the COVID-19 shutdown.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Due to the Board meeting being virtual, public comments were to be sent to Erica Rader by 5:00pm on 4/30/2020

Erica received one public comment via email from a proud WSD graduate, Randall Smith. She read the comment to the Board.

Randall expressed his pride in WSD and inquired as to how the school plans to improve high school numbers in the future.

## **CLOSING COMMENTS**

1. Allie suggested BizTown would be a good way to help improve high school numbers.
2. Rick informed the Board that next school year we will be holding 2 BizTown events due to the cancellation of this years BizTown. We are hoping to find a way to get summer camp back. Not this year but maybe 2021. We will look at different ways to make it work.
3. Kai indicated possible grant funding and other funding discussions for BizTown and summer camps are well in the works. We are going to have to see if we have funds available for summer camp. We are working on investments and streamlining Biztown.
4. Allie inquired if family retreats during summer could happen again, so the families can learn about our campus.
  - a. Nancy S. agreed with Allie and indicated the Family Learning Experience on WSD would be nice to see again.
5. Shauna indicated the Compensatory Education will come back. Demolition of the old buildings is set to begin in 2021. Public perception is strong and we may need assistance from the Board as to possible backlash from the community.
6. Nancy F. suggested a Compensatory Education weekend as an emergent experience for kids or distance learning.

**Adjournment**

Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:52pm



\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Fitta, Chair  
CDHL Board of Trustees

7-28-2020

Date



\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Hauan, Executive director  
CDHL Executive Director

7/28/2020

Date