

ADEL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WORK SESSION
MAY 1, 2023 5PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jim Hiatt
Brilene Ortwein
Aja O’Keeffe

STAFF PRESENT:

Lane Stratton, Superintendent
Tonya Stratton, Adel Clerk
Stacey Martin, School Teacher
Robin Shine, School Teacher

PUBLIC PRESENT:

PETER OSBORNE
JASON JAEGER

OPENING

The work session was called to order at 5:23 p.m. by chair Aja O’Keeffe at the Adel School in Adel, Oregon.

Superintendent started the meeting off stating that we have had had 3 weeks to think about this Charter school proposal and to fill out the decision making tool guide. Our focus is how do we go about increasing our enrollment. The reason we want to increase enrollment is because it will benefit our educational environment and increase the academic learning in our classroom but it will also help our students socially. The challenges that I see of becoming a charter school does not guarantee that we will get more students (we could potentially lose more students), allows transfers that we would have to pay for, and the transportation for students coming and going. We could try and get an inter transfer agreement with our neighboring district. We have one with Plush (it is more of a handshake agreement). Jim Hiatt asked what would be involved with asking district #7. Would we submit a formal request in writing? Sup Stratton said if it was the board wishes he could ask district #7 for an inter district agreement. Sup Stratton got the inter district agreement for LCSD 7 and Modoc to see what it entails.

So this process began by doing some homework regarding how we could increase the numbers, setting up a meeting with Kate at ODE to learn more about charter school’s pros/cons and talking to other charter schools. If we have seats available, we can’t refuse anyone. The only refusal we could have would be if a kid was expelled or disciplined for a major disciplinary issue such as alcohol or drugs. Sitting at seven students and a decent budget we could operate for a year or so with the employees we have. Losing students would affect our budget and who we have as employees. Who is involved in this decision: the entire Warner Valley, stakeholders, stakeholders in the other areas. There is a deadline. What is at stake: we have quality education environment and community relations. What do I want: best possible school What do I want to avoid: poor decision making process or making a decision that is on our heart and not on our mind? I appreciate the process you guys have done so far.

Aja O’Keeffe stated that Lakeview put out a survey proposing a 4 day a week school. Aja felt like this could affect us from getting kids and losing kids.

Jason Jaeger asked if we could do something better for the social learning. This could be an alternative for the decision making model. Jim Hiatt stated that he feels like we could do something to help the parents that are trucking their kids to town for sports. He feels like Adel kids are at a disadvantage because of the time commitment and miles to town. It also was discussed that parents spend a lot of hours in town and several hundred dollars in fuel per month trying to give their kids opportunities physically and socially. We could potentially run an activity bus.

Mrs. Martin stated that her connections with the other small school's state that their students are starving for social interactions as well. She thought maybe we could do more collaborating with those small schools with zoom technology. She said she has great relationships with the REN teachers. Mr. Stratton is going to email the superintendents of Grant, Malheur and Harney and see if they want to do a rural school day. We could designate a day or two per month to visit others schools and organize activities and learning. Each school could be in charge of a day when schools come to visit. This could turn in to pen pals, or book club/book reviews/book discussions if each school was reading the same book. Stacey suggested math bowls monthly on fluency. Mr. Stratton suggested maybe this could be funded by REN.

The work session was adjourned at 6:03 pm.

Aja O'Keefe, Board Chair

Lane Stratton, Principal