

Ione School District #2

445 Spring St., P.O. Box 167, Ione, Oregon 97843

Ione School District Goals

District and Community Engagement

Ione Community School will foster and enhance relationships while continuing to improve two-way communications with students, families, staff, and community stakeholders.

School Climate

Ione Community School will create and cultivate a positive and safe school environment that promotes high levels of connection, engagement, and overall well-being throughout the school community.

Facilities Planning

The Ione School District will establish a Facilities Task Force to complete a review and analysis of the recently completed Long Range Facilities Plan. In addition, the FTC will provide long-term capital planning direction for the district.

Student Achievement

The Ione School District will continuously review and refine curriculum, instructional practices, and professional development for staff in order to support student growth and academic achievement for all students from birth through high school graduation.

IONE SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

September 5, 2023

Special Board Meeting - 5:30 PM

Ione School District Cafeteria

Lisa Rietmann, Chair
Ed Rietmann
Rob Crum
Paola Cabrera, Vice-Chair
Elizabeth Peterson

Tracey Johnson, Supt/Principal
Kim Thul, Board Secretary
Kim Gilsdorf, Business Manager

Guests Present: Several staff members and community members were in attendance

Special Board Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND FLAG SALUTE

Chair Lisa Rietmann called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

II. NEW BUSINESS

a. Board Complaints

Lisa welcomed everyone and explained that this special meeting is to address the issue of the complaints filed against board member Rob Crum. She announced that each board member would have an opportunity to speak and then members of the public will also be allowed to speak. She asked that everyone be respectful.

Rob Crum began by dispelling rumors regarding his family and some property transactions. He also voiced his concerns about a staff member's negative postings on social media about the district and community and how that might affect other staff and community members. It's difficult as a board member to deal with these kinds of things. He also admitted that he violated the chain of command by sending the emails in question and he apologized to the entire community.

Paola Cabrera thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She wants this issue to be resolved so we can focus on the students.

Liz Peterson reminded everyone the reason we are all here tonight – because of the students. She asked that everyone in attendance please be calm and respectful.

Public comment began at 5:48 pm

Alison Ogden started out by responding to Rob's accusations about the negative social media posts he previously referred to and explained her posts weren't negative towards Ione employees and one of the pictures he referred to was intended as a joke. Teachers have a right to free speech, just like everyone else. She explained that she's been a fierce advocate for students both as a teacher and parent for several years. She loves this community but felt pressured to resign after a meeting with Superintendent Tracey Johnson and Board Chair Lisa Rietmann.

Becky Rietmann – noted that her husband, Ed, has no formal complaints against him. She is a parent and a community member – not an extension of my husband. This issue should have been resolved prior to school starting. Time for change – precedent has been set on bullying. Asked Rob and Lisa to resign.

Madison Rietmann – has been part of the Ione Community School for four years and Alison Ogden has been extremely helpful as a mentor and co-worker.

Joel Peterson – we should focus on the good things. He thanked the board for volunteering – he recognizes it is a tough job being on a board. The process the board went through as far as the bond was a good process – an excellent way to improve the school. School is about the people - we need a positive supportive atmosphere to get excellent teachers and retain them. Not sure it's the boards' fault. Thank you for your service.

Gus Peterson – this is not a new problem; this has been brewing for a decade. Not one group or one person's fault. This is a group problem. It's everyone's problem. Do the right thing, what needs to be done to turn this school around to have staff and students and community feel safe when they walk into the building.

Crystal Gilbert – she moved to this community because of the school system. Supportive of Alison Ogden.

Brandi Orem – she has concerns as a staff member – feels like there is a lot of overreaches by the board. How does she know an incident like this isn't going to happen again. I want to know as a staff member that there's a plan in motion. Also wants to know what kind of training the board has had. What is the board required to do?

Liz Peterson – responded to Brandi about training – Liz has spoken with OSBA at length about this situation, she's looked at policies and school contracts. Contracts need to be revisited for staff protection. She is going to work as hard as she can to be an effective board member. Faculty members from elementary and high school should attend board meetings so they know what's going on.

Ryan Rudolf – feels like this situation should've been taken care of a long time ago – we've lost a lot of good students and a staff member due to this problem. Perception around community isn't particularly good. That needs to change.

Bob Ball – longtime community member. If things don't change tonight, we are going down the wrong path. We may not get lost students back. Challenge the board to do the right thing. Embarrassed and ashamed what has happened. Two of you know what you have to do tonight.

Adam Collin (2012 Ione Graduate) – When he was in school Ione was known for their athletics, scholars, high test scores, professionalism and we can get back to that. Anger brought us to this point and that needs to change. As a community, we can all agree there is a lot of discontent. We need to step up as a community and come back together to support our kids.

Jeff Clabaugh – has been in this community for four years. Concerned about the lack of public presence at school board meetings. The community should provide positive support ahead of time. Wants to hear more about the school improvement plan regarding school environment.

Tricia Rollins – we are in challenging times right now – let's talk and focus on the good things that are happening. We all have to be positive.

Steve Schaber – concerned we have a policy that we didn't follow. We lost some co-workers and students because policy wasn't followed. Moving forward we need to look at policy. Doesn't feel very comfortable being a teacher right now. How are we protected? I hope we can turn this around. We've had openings for two years without a single applicant. Here to support, here to help make a change whatever that is.

Erin Weedman-Rietmann – saddens me that something like this is tearing this community apart. She remembers how this community made me feel as an outsider. Ogden's have been amazing members of our community. At the August 15th meeting I was told they couldn't move forward due to legal counsel. The Board chair took it upon herself to make a decision on behalf of the board without the knowledge of all the board members.

Tracey Johnson – thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She also thanked the staff members in attendance that were there to support Alison. Alison is a great teacher. Thank you to the Board. It's been a tough two weeks. We are moving forward, and we are here for the kids and for the community. We want Ione to be the best it can be. Please come to the board meetings. Her door is always open.

Lisa clarified that board meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm and thanked everyone for their input tonight.

Liz Peterson clarified that the board did not support the emails that Rob sent to Alison and to Ed and Becky Rietmann.

Liz Peterson moved, and Paola Cabrera seconded that the Board censures Rob Crum and that the Board doesn't support the emails Rob sent.

The motion passed with Paola Cabrera, Liz Peterson and Lisa Rietmann voting yes.

Rob Crum and Ed Rietmann abstained.

Lisa Rietmann clarified that she has received a letter of no confidence signed by several members of the community. She also clarified that the conversation that happened with Alison was not completely stated accurately in the no confidence letter. She said she agreed with Alison that we would have a special board meeting. Lisa realizes that Rob violated policy, he used language that was inappropriate in his emails.

At this time, the public comment ended.

II. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm.