

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, May 12, 2022 – 4:30 p.m.**  
**Zoom, Baker City**

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://bakersd-org.zoom.us/j/87347313878?pwd=L3E4Vkthb3FOSjZmRHZaL2ltVDUrZz09>

**PRESENT**

● **Board**

- Claire Hobson, Chair
- Katie Lamb Treasure/Secretary
- Jessica Dougherty - Ex-Officio Member
- Andrew Bryan - Ex-Officio Member (Absent)
- Mark Witty, OIS Executive Director

**Press:** No members of the press were present

● **Staff**

- Mark Witty, OIS Executive Director
- Thomas Joseph, Ed.D., OIS Principal
- Jamie Barton, Director of Student Travel and Study Abroad
- Lindsey Bennington-McDowell, Communications
- Jason Todd, Technology Support

**Public:** No members of the public were present

**A. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance:** Chairperson Hobson called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. and had Jason Todd explain the ground rules for public comment.

**B. Review Meeting Agenda:** Chairperson Hobson reviewed the agenda for the evening, and Director Witty indicated there was no personal report to deliver; the agenda item was scratched.

**C. Public Comment:** Jason Todd opened the floor for the public comment; there were no comments.

**D. Discussion/Reports/Action**

**1. Budget Report**

Director Witty delivered the report for Angie Peterman who was busy on other business. Mr. Witty reported that our current admission was set at 34 possible students, slightly over our initial expectations. He reported to the Board that we currently have \$129,500 in new grant funding to support Ukrainian students next year.

Next, Mr. Witty updated the Board on renovations at the OIS homes; he stated we may put off painting the Washington Street home for one year and are mindful about the budget for the remodeling. Mr. Witty next explained critical differences between our Board configuration and other similar board configurations. He stated that the relationship between the OIS agreement and the 5J Board is critical to maintain a clear mission benefit back to the Baker School District. .

Chairperson Hobson asked about the curricular implications, changes, and how they relate to OIS. Dr. Joseph explained the goal is to one day have the international students and Baker students taking classes such as Writing 121 together, where the focus will be on global issues and solutions. The vision includes college level research projections and a research conference during which students will present and celebrate their hard work.

**2. Service Agreement Between OIS & BSD** Mr. Witty reviewed the draft OIS-BSD service agreement which outlines the responsibilities and powers for each entity.

### 3. Executive Director OIS Board Report

**a. IRS EIN:** Mr. Witty worked through the process to secure an EIN for Oregon International School. It is: 88-1978734.

**b. Ukrainian Project:** Mr Witty informed the Board that we have procured \$129,500 to support Ukrainian students next year. The grants breakdown as follows:

- Marie Lamfrom Foundation - \$100,000 for 10 students, full tuition;
- The Ford Family Foundation - \$25,000 to support travel and insurance for the students;
- Chaves Consulting - \$3,000 - open application of funds as needed;
- Baker Education Association - \$1,000 open application of funds as needed;
- Baker City Rotary - \$500 open application of funds as needed.

Mr. Witty further stated that OIS received letters of support around this project from the following community organizations and members:

- Baker Education Association
- Baker City Downtown
- Baker County Economic Development
- Anne and Barry Nemeec, community members and parents of Baker students/graduates
- Baker Chamber of Commerce
- Chaves Consulting
- Lions Club
- Andrew Bryan, Baker SD Board Member
- Deon Strummer, community member
- Oregon State Education Association
- Baker City Rotary

Next, Mr. Witty explained that OIS is mindful of the trauma the Ukrainian students will likely have endured, and that we are preparing for the training that our staff will need to support them. Mr. Witty also stated that an AirBnB has been donated by OIS & Baker SD Board member Bryan for some of the students, and our Ukrainian agent is screening possible adults to travel with them to supervise the students while here. Chairperson Hobson commented on the positive aspects of this opportunity and applauded the community support already around the humanitarian effort. Mr. Witty briefly explained how the project first unfolded, and that OIS envisions a service project someday, once it is safe for all to return to Ukraine.

**c. Hautlieu Staff Visitation:** Director Witty summarized the week we spent with colleagues from the Hautlieu school on the Isle of Jersey. He explained that the three visitors from Jersey had a great week and were well received around the District. They toured several buildings, spent a half day at Baker High School observing classes, and joined Mr. Witty and Dr. Joseph to solidify our safeguarding policies in case of emergency during the exchanges. The two teams also discussed next steps in getting our exchange ready for the fall.

**d. International Houses - Remodel Progress:** Next, Mr. Witty reported on the remodeling process for the OIS homes. The home on Washington Street is getting new flooring and paint. They are also creating a rec room for the students. An irrigation system is being installed and they are cleaning up the lawn for easier maintenance. This home also needs a minor foundation repair.

Mr. Witty next reported that the 2nd Street home is getting a washer and dryer for the

downstairs, which is already roughed for plumbing in the basement. OIS is investigating the egress situation in the 2nd Street home so we can utilize the basement level safely and more effectively. Finally, Mr. Witty explained our attorney is currently working with the contract for host families as well.

**e. Taiwan Contract Online Update**

Director Witty next described the formal signing with our partners in Taiwan. Present at the signing were The Mayor of Taoyuan, 15 high school principals from the region, and other distinguished guests from various levels of education and state agencies around the same. Each addressed the group with excitement about the possibility of this project, and the multimillion dollar commitment Taiwan has committed to developing the English skills among their students. Mr. Witty explained to the Board that Dr. Joseph will teach 20 students next year and is in the process of developing the curriculum, which he will largely craft himself from various District resources and drawing from his own years of experience teaching English at all secondary and post-secondary levels. Mr. Witty believes this could lead to a substantial revenue stream for the school that will then benefit the growth of the schools capacity to provide even greater opportunities for our local students.

**f. Staff from Karl Rehbein Schule Week of Oct 11, 2022** Mr. Witty will be hosting two educators from the Karl Rehbein Schule located in Germany. There school is interested in short term, semester and academic year exchanges.

**4. Principal OIS - Dr. Thomas Joseph**

a. Dr. Joseph first updated the Board on the status of our J1 student applications, which breakdown as follows:

- 8 from Cambodia
- 4 from Thailand
- 5 from Italy
- 2 from Spain
- We are seeking to secure one more J1 placement to max out our allotment.

b. OIS currently has 2 F1 students coming from Thailand and one from Spain. Dr. Joseph reminded the Board that J1 students have their tuition paid by the state, and F1 students' families cover the full tuition, room, and board.

c. Dr. Joseph next reported that we have placed 14 students in homes and have several promising leads regarding the rest. Many families have already heard about the Ukrainian project and expressed early interest in hosting them as well.

d. Next, Dr. Joseph updated the Board on the two students currently at BHS from France. Raphael Tisca and Hugo Lacaille are having a great experience thus far. They are enjoying a full academic schedule, have found places on the JV baseball team and have proven to be both skilled players and great teammates. Dr. Joseph gave special acknowledgement to Leigh and Jon Luc Metz, the host parents, who have gone above and beyond expectations when showing the boys the best eastern Oregon has to offer. Because of the boy's love for baseball, and appreciation for the sport as uniquely American, the Metz family surprised them with a trip to Seattle to see their favorite team, the Phillies play the Mariners. Dr. Joseph has prepared a small slideshow for the OIS website capturing some of these early experiences.

#### **4. Assistant Principal Update - Jamie Barton**

**a. Share ppt to explain model w/ Oregon Schools:** AP Barton presented a powerpoint around OIS strategies to engage other students throughout Oregon. She explained the financial barriers and the ways we are making our trips more affordable to Oregon students. She also explained our intentions in schools in German and Wales. She articulated the benefits our model brings, the access and equity that our model intends to provide, and detailed short term ADM costs a district might lose vs what districts gain in return.

#### **b. Beaverton Engagement and Estacada Cooperation**

Mr. Witty explained the relationships he has with Superintendents around the state, and the ways we are making our programs less threatening to their financial concerns and our intentions to partner with them so they too reap the benefits we envision for all Oregon students interested in travel abroad experiences.

#### **c. Update on Developing Sister School Relationships w/ Hosting Capacity**

**Abroad:** Assistant Principal Jamie Barton next outlined her strategies for building relations in Europe with potential partners in Wales, Spain, France, Germany and Austria. She detailed recent meetings with a few different schools and updated the Board on the current status. We are in the early developing stages with these schools, but already there is great interest in that region as well and more meetings are set to develop these ideas further.

**d. Hautlieu Visit in September:** Assistant Principal Barton explained that she has been in contact with our Hautlieu partners to get the project moving. There are many moving pieces, but both teams are committed to the success of this first project. Barton met with the 9 applicants personally to go over the very important next steps and details that must be closely followed. She is watching airfare closely, and has the group ready to order when the price is right.

#### **7. Board Reports: Chairperson Hobson called for Board reports, having none, she moved to Action Items**

#### **F. Action Items Action 1. Consent Agenda**

##### **a. Approve Minutes from April 14, 2022 Regular Board Meeting**

Member Lamb motioned to approve the minutes from the last Board meeting; the motion was seconded by Mr. Witty and passed unanimously.

**b. Chairperson Hobson next called for a motion to approve the service agreement between the 5J Board and OIS. Member Lamb motioned to approve and Director Witty seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Witty stated he will take the agreement to the 5J Board at the May 29, 2022 board meeting.**

**G. Adjourn:** There being no further business, Board Chair Claire Hobson adjourned the meeting at 5:43 p.m.

Claire Hobson  
Claire Hobson (Jul 18, 2022 15:06 PDT)

Board Chair's Signature

Meredith White  
Executive Director's Signature

Jul 18, 2022

Date

July 19, 2022  
Date

NOTE: *These minutes are a reflection of the meeting. To listen to the meeting in its entirety, contact the OIS Principal at (541) 406-5900 ext. 8005.*