

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Corvallis School District 509J
 1555 SW 35th Street
 Corvallis, OR 97333

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Gable called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Westland Middle School Cafeteria, 1435 SW 35th Street, Corvallis. Chair Gable dispensed with the calling of the roll and the secretary recorded those present as listed below.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Cyrel Gable, Chair
 Sara Gelser, Vice Chair
 Robert Baldwin, Member
 Nell O'Malley, Member
 Joan Demarest, Member
 Kari Rieck, Member
 Robert Johnson, Member

EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

Jim Ford, Superintendent
 Ron Corbell, Assistant Superintendent
 Jeanne Holmes, Assistant to the Superintendent
 Dawn Tarzian, Director of Teaching and Learning
 Laverne Pitts, Corvallis Public Schools Foundation Director
 Sharon Thornagle, Student Services Director
 Julie Catala, Board Secretary

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT
 Bethany Potts, Corvallis High School

PRINCIPALS PRESENT

James Wickman, Westland Middle School
 Julie McCann, Lincoln Elementary School

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Gable led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Gable exercised her prerogative and altered the order of the agenda to have the "Naming Of New Middle School" follow the "Superintendent's Report" and "Citizen Comment." She reminded those citizens who wished to address the Board to complete a comment card.

III. COMMITTEE/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Vice Chair Gelser announced she would be sending Board members an example of a paper that was translated by a Garfield Elementary School family due to that school's successful dual immersion program.

IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Corvallis High School representative Bethany Potts reported that the Mr. Spartan Pageant is underway. (The pageant raises money for a charitable cause.)

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Ford:

- Announced the Corvallis Public School Foundation has reached its goal already this year. Special recognition is due to the parent teacher organizations and presidents and to Corvallis Public Schools Foundation Director Laverne Pitts.
- Complimented Lincoln Elementary Principal Julie McCann on her school receiving a 21st Century Learning Grant. Dr. Ford invited Ms. McCann to elaborate. She explained the grant is for \$1 million over the next five years for after school and summer school programs and winter and spring break activities. The first hour after school will be academic enrichment to assist in meeting state benchmarks. The second hour will provide students opportunities to be members of clubs. The school will be partnering with 4-H Extension, Corvallis Parks and Recreation, and other community agencies.

She said that activities such as exposure to Latino music, piano lessons, and ballet would provide enrichment opportunities for students that might not otherwise be able to participate. Every Friday there will be an opportunity for students to share what they have learned and projects that they have developed with families. Once a month there will be a family evening that includes a meal and cultural sharing.

Ms. McCann said that the staff who put this process together did phenomenal work. The Board will be invited to participate in their opening celebration at the end of March or early April.

Dr. Ford said that Ms. McCann's persistence in pursuing the grant was especially noteworthy due to the fact that the application had to be presented and refined three times prior to its approval.

- Recognized Franklin School as one of eight core knowledge schools in the nation recognized as a model site. Because of this, interested visitors will be seen on site.
- Informed the Board they would be receiving a dropout report later in the evening. Crescent Valley High School has lowest rate in the state at 0.8%.
- Updated the Board on the two elementary principal vacancies the District is trying to fill. Like other districts in the State, the Corvallis School District also experiences a lack of

applicants. In any given year the District usually receives 40 to 50 applications. Two days prior to the deadline, the District had only received seven applications. Dr. Ford commented that in a post-Measure 30 year people are hesitant to be the last hired. The deadline has been extended two weeks and the District is working with colleges of education to garner additional applicants.

- Reported State Superintendent of Instruction Susan Castillo announced her agenda for the next couple of years regarding the focus of the State Department of Education. He said it was gratifying to see the striking similarity between the agenda and 509J's District Improvement Plan. He illustrated how the correlations were evident in the District. Items included early childhood education especially at Title 1 schools such as the District has at Lincoln, the District's data base which can be used as a tool in longitudinal growth targets, reading specialists in elementary schools to make every child a reader, the District's new administrator evaluation program which enhances school and district leadership, mapping of the District's partners to assist in strengthening and utilizing ties to the community and expanding options for students to gain proficiency in the community.

VI. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

A. INVITED TESTIMONY

Chair Gable reviewed that at the last meeting testimony was heard from three historians regarding the contributions and character of Linus Pauling, the possible origins of the Marys River name, and information about J. C. Avery's possible connection to the Occidental Messenger, the pro-slavery newspaper. The testimony related to the three committee-recommended names for the District's new middle school, to be completed August 2004 on the old Highland View Middle School site. At that meeting Board members expressed the need to know about J. C. Avery's contributions as well. To that end, speakers Mary Gallagher and George Edmonston, Jr. were invited to attend this meeting to add to the information already presented. Chair Gable announced citizen testimony would be received after their presentations and the Board would then deliberate on the new middle school name. (See Supplemental Item #IV-22 in the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

Chair Gable recapped that Ms. Gallagher had spoken at the previous meeting and that her background is in archeology and anthropology. Ms. Gallagher has worked on northwest excavations, was an adjunct professor of historic preservations at the University of Oregon, and for the past six years has worked at the Benton County Historical Museum as collections and library manager where she does a great deal of research and has become familiar with local history.

Mr. Edmonston is a faculty member and has been the editor of the Oregon State University alumni magazine Oregon Stater for the past 18 years. His research interests include the background of the University. He has written Tales of Oregon State Sports and is also finishing

a book on the history of the University. He has been a feature writer for the Corvallis Gazette-Times, publishing 70 articles on the history of the University.

Ms. Gallagher explained her presentation would be taken from memory as, due to an accident, the electricity went out just as she was attempting to print her document. She reported that J.C. Avery was born in Pennsylvania in 1817 and he was educated in that region. In 1839 he settled in Illinois and worked as a surveyor and was also in real estate. In 1841 he married Martha Marsh and in 1845 left for the Oregon territory, leaving Martha and their three young children at home. When he reached the Oregon Territory, he did not stay in the northern part of the state as many did. He came to this area and staked a claim approximately one mile square at the confluence of the Marys and Willamette Rivers. He built a cabin in January of 1846 and in 1847 his family joined him.

Ms. Gallagher went on to say that in 1847 J.C. Avery petitioned the provisional legislature to form a new county because the distance to government was too far. Benton County was established in 1847. The county at that time extended all the way to the California border and the Pacific Ocean to the west. It stayed that way until Lane County was formed and until 1893 on the west when Lincoln County was formed. In 1848 he left for gold fields in California. He returned in December of that year to serve a term in the legislature. In 1849 he left again for the gold fields. He bought goods in California, shipped them to Oregon and opened a store in his granary. His granary and his cabin were located on the Marys River where today the 4th Street bridge crosses the Marys River. The north bank was pretty much his home site. In 1850 he established the first post office. He also built a store at the corner of 2nd and Washington. In 1851 he platted the town of Marysville. William Dixon, his neighbor to the north, had added land to the plat to create the town. Avery worked to establish Marysville as the county seat. He and Dixon sold 40 acres of land to the county at a very nominal sum that provided land for the Benton County Courthouse as well as lots to sell to fill the county coffers.

Ms. Gallagher explained that in 1853 the town was renamed Corvallis to avoid confusion with Marysville, California. It is believed Avery coined the name Corvallis. During the 1850s he continued his business in town, building the J. C. Avery Building, which is where Robnett's Hardware is now housed. It was the first brick building in Corvallis. During the 1850s he served four terms as a territorial legislator. In 1857 he led the successful effort to incorporate the city of Corvallis. It was the fourth incorporated city in what was to become the State of Oregon. He was in business in Corvallis for 23 years. He died in 1876 at the age of 59. Ms. Gallagher explained that due to the power outage she is missing quotes listed in his obituary regarding what the people of Corvallis thought of him.

George Edmonston, Jr. explained that as part of his position as editor and work with the alumni association he helps in the preservation of Oregon State University's (OSU) institutional memory and to that end he has taken a special interest in the history of the Corvallis College. He said to study the college it is nearly impossible not to stumble upon Joseph Avery. In 1855-56 the school got a start of sorts. In that year the Methodist proposed plan was turned down. In 1856 a high school of sorts is started and the supporters used space in the town's Baptist church but it was not large enough to satisfy supporters and it went out of business. In 1858 a group is formed with no religious affiliation to start a school. Its membership included by and large the names of

the families in town who had children and were of some means. It would be a new offering to the town, not a continuation of the Baptist school of 1855. Joseph Avery and his wife eventually had eight children so at this point in time they would have been interested. In the fall of 1858, the chief supporters of the school gave birth to Corvallis College. Joseph Avery was one of its trustees. Corvallis College in its first year of operation used donated space in the town's Baptist Church and by 1859 they had raised the down payment on a school building for the college to be located on 5th Street, on the block which now houses the Moose Lodge, City Hall and the new bus mall. J. C. Avery was among the donors to the building.

Mr. Edmonston reported that land grant universities were established by the Morrill Act in 1862 and part of that legislation called for the federal government to donate land to each state, the sale of which would be used to pay tuition for students attending the land grant university. In 1868 the state legislature approved the name of Corvallis College as the State of Oregon's land grant university. A board of commissioners was appointed in late fall 1868 to carry out the mandates of identifying the location of and establishing the agricultural college. J. C. Avery was one of the commissioners. In 1870 Oregon Governor George L. Woods, a republican, left office and was replaced by a democratic governor, LaFayette F. Grover, who disbanded the old board of commissioners and named a new board, which included J. C. Avery as the only continuing member. In 1871 suitable land was found on property where the University's Benton Hall now sits. The college board of trustees that approved this purchase included J. C. Avery. The land was purchased with private funds; Mr. Avery being among the most significant donors. He and President Finley each gave \$200, which was a considerable sum of money in 1871. J. C. Avery is honored today on the ground which he helped secure for OSU with a residence coop named Avery House, between 9th and 11th Streets; also the site of OSU's first football field.

Mr. Edmonston stated that in his opinion, by Mr. Avery's actions, he was, regardless of his politics, a champion of young people and a believer in what the power of education can do to change people's lives.

Chair Gable then gave Board members the opportunity to address questions to Ms. Gallagher and Mr. Edmonston. Their responses follow.

Ms. Gallagher's responses:

- Her sense of the feeling expressed in Mr. Avery's obituary was that he was well regarded in the community and his funeral was very large. One gets the sense that he was one to make contributions to the community.
- Not much is known about J. C. Avery personally or his wife, Martha, as there were no diaries or letters found. It would be unfair to put J. C. Avery's political views onto Martha. She lived until 1911. Her obituary talks very kindly of her, but in terms of contributions she was the woman behind the man, which many women were at that time.
- Mr. Avery's political views were not obvious to Ms. Gallagher in anything she could find. In the 1850s Avery served four terms in the territorial legislature and after that he wasn't seen in the political scene nearly as much, although Ms. Gallagher wasn't looking

for that. He seemed to be more involved in business and education at that time in the 1860s.

Mr. Edmonston's comment:

Mr. Edmonston said that Ms. Gallagher's comments were right on the money and it is very hard to say how J. C. Avery was feeling about politics in the 1860s and 1870s. He stated he knew that Corvallis College, until 1886, was owned in part or whole by the Methodist Episcopal Church South, the pro-slavery wing of the church. William Finley, the first president, was a Methodist Episcopal Church South minister. Over the next 30 years the board of trustees brought to the school many confederate veterans. Later on a union veteran became president. Mr. Edmonston stated he doesn't know if this says anything about J. C. Avery's politics, but he does know that Benton County was a place where a lot of people had connections to the south, state's rights politics, etc. Mr. Edmonston said he doesn't want to suggest that Mr. Avery shared those politics. His connection to the Occidental Messenger, if there was a connection, was interesting considering that there were many people living here associating with OSU who had connections with the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

Chair Gable thanked the speakers and expressed Board's appreciation for their assistance and the extra work they put in on its behalf and behalf of the community.

B. CITIZEN COMMENT

Chair Gable asked citizens to keep their comments to five minutes or less.

Bill Patton, PO Box 975, Philomath, thanked the Board for the steps they have taken in selecting a name for the new middle school, noting their immediate response to reexamine their choice in light of allegations regarding the choice.

Sue Donna Doolen, 842 NE 2nd Street, #12, Corvallis, an educational assistant at Westland Middle School, expressed her support for naming the new middle school after Linus Pauling. She felt the Board could not do better than naming it after a man who in two respects represents the highest value of any educational institution, which is scientific inquiry and peaceful activism. She feels as the years go by his reputation will grow.

Eugene Wilson, 3977 SW Fairhaven Court, Corvallis, stated Linus Pauling was a great scientist but was also the recipient of the Lenin Peace Prize, which was formerly known as the Stalin Peace Prize. Mr. Wilson stated no one ever received the Stalin/Lenin Peace Prize unless they were a supporter of the Soviet state and their policies. Every one was either an admitted Marxist or an admitted communist or an agent of influence. A person could not get the prize unless he/she were approved by the Supreme Soviet. When Linus Pauling accepted the prize he said the United States was as much to blame as the Soviets for what was going on in the world. Mr. Wilson said it would be an abomination to name anything after Linus Pauling.

Steve Lawson, 913 SE Dorothy, Corvallis, stated he worked with Linus Pauling in California for many years and knew him quite well. He stated he wanted to talk briefly about the two issues

that have been brought up regarding his character: political affiliation and religious affiliation. He stated Linus Pauling was a registered democrat. He was not a Marxist. Pauling said many times that he knew little about Marxism. He was very happy to get the Lenin Peace Prize. He also won the Nobel Peace Prize and the Gandhi Peace Prize but that did not make him Hindu or a supporter of the caste system in place in India.

Linus Pauling relished the recognition that came for his work in peace because working for peace was something he really did not enjoy. It distracted him from his scientific and medical research and was something that he really labored over. So, when people recognized this activity that really caused him in his view to miss the structure of DNA, because his passport was revoked, he was very pleased to get the recognition.

Pauling was a great patriot. He was awarded the presidential medal of merit by Harry Truman and given a certificate by the war department for his work in WWII. He developed novel explosives to defeat Nazis and fascists. He loved America. He loved democracy. He thought representational democracy was a beautiful political system. He worked very hard to get Andrei Sakharov, a dissident soviet physicist, out of the Soviet Union, and tried to create a position for him at the Linus Pauling Institute of Science and Medicine in California. The Soviet Government did not respond to Pauling and would not let Pauling visit Sakharov. Pauling clearly did not appreciate the Soviet system of repression. The FBI had a lengthy investigation of Linus Pauling but they never found anything to support any un-American or communist activity on his part. Because he was attacked by the media for what they perceived as an unpatriotic stance in opposing atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons, which today is a quite acceptable position, he was compelled to file libel suits against many newspapers and magazines. Perhaps the most famous was against William Buckley and the National Review in the mid 1950s. There is probably a good chance that Pauling would have won the suit except for the fact that it dragged over a very long period of time and in the intervening time a case was heard by the U.S. Supreme Court that ruled that in order for a public figure to win a libel suit malice had to be proved, which is very difficult. Pauling clearly rose to his own defense and many of his friends and colleagues rose as well.

With regard to Pauling's religious beliefs, it is true that Pauling was not overtly religious but he expressed many times he felt the guiding principle that he chose to follow and something that humans could benefit from was the golden rule, "do unto others as you would have them do unto you". Mr. Lawson said he thinks Linus Pauling was a very courageous person who didn't back down on his views. When he was called by Senator Dodd to testify for the House subcommittee, and threatened imprisonment if he failed to reveal the names of scientists who had helped him gather signatures for the test ban treaty, he refused. Pauling said he would not divulge the names of the people who had helped him because they were young idealistic scientists and if he told who they were their careers would be destroyed; Linus Pauling would not be a party to that.

Mr. Lawson ended his comments by stating that Linus Pauling was a man of unusually high integrity, moral fiber and courage, and that it would be inspiring to middle school students to have their school named after him.

VII. OTHER DISTRICT BUSINESS - NAMING OF NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

Chair Gable explained to the audience the options available to the Board: uphold the decision of January 12, 2004, which named the new middle school "Joseph and Martha Avery Middle School" or to vote to rescind the January 12, 2004 action, leaving the middle school without a name until the Board chose a new name.

Motion #42: Director Baldwin moved to rescind the January 12, 2004 vote (Motion #41) that named the new middle school "Joseph and Martha Avery Middle School." Vice Chair Gelser seconded the motion.

Chair Gable asked the Board for discussion as to why it would be appropriate to rescind the above named vote.

Director Rieck stated that she appreciates what the Avery family has done for Corvallis and for what they continue to contribute and they should be honored. She said it is unfortunate that we hold a standard here today that we judge people for what was or was not acceptable at the time. She said that she struggles personally because she thinks it is wrong to discriminate against Joseph Avery for his political views, but she feels it is the wrong name for a school.

Director O'Malley stated it is dangerous to judge the actions of those in the past. She did not want to vilify the Avery name. She said the legacy of slavery has left such deep wounds. To use a name that reminds any of us of a history that is painful is counterproductive.

Vice Chair Gelser stated she feels it would be inappropriate to name the middle school after J. C. Avery. She does not see today's judgment as negating the contributions that others made in the past; however, with 20/20 vision one can look back and see whether something was right or wrong. In 2004 we can all look back and agree that slavery was wrong. Even though some part of society believed in slavery in the past, the institution of slavery was no less harmful then than it is now. She said the context of what it meant to Joseph Avery is very different than it would be today if she said she was a supporter of slavery now. She recognizes that J.C. Avery did not have the perspective that we have in understanding slavery and he certainly was not alone in Oregon. She acknowledged this as a difficult time for the community. She said she wondered what makes a human take the risk to go against the grain even if that means imprisonment or if it means a risk to your safety like Rosa Parks on the bus or Ava Helen Pauling standing up to the internment of Japanese. What is it that gives someone the ability to see that and think that? How do we encourage children? She said it would be an interesting community conversation, how do we move from being one of the many to one of the few? In order to provide commitment to learning for all, the District needs to have a building where everybody feels comfortable. It needs to be a place where people can celebrate and feel good about because it is a beautiful building. She added that she would hate to mar the opening with a name that causes great discomfort to many people in the community.

Director Johnson, also a member of the naming committee, stated he wished to state his view that the Board did follow process when choosing the name of Joseph and Martha Avery as the

new middle school name. The committee provided three names for the Board's consideration. The Board considered those three names and chose one. He said he personally made the mistake as he left the committee meeting of saying, "Why don't we let the Board know what we think in case they want to know?" Hence, their preference of the three was identified. He said he would never do that again. He reflected that it has been a great learning lesson and the Board learned a lot about the history of the community that it would not have otherwise. The Board has learned about how they make decisions and what they want to look at, and what is important to people in this community to consider. He said he thinks the Board's action showed that they did consider that and went with another process to make sure they were complete. He said he feels that the Board had three names that were worthy of consideration. Linus Pauling could be respected, someone students could value. When Board members heard from the community after the three recommendations were voiced some of them heard that citizens wanted a connection to people who really had a foundation in this community, built things in this community, started things that have really been positive contributions, which is true of the Averys. He said he thinks that influenced a lot of the Board upon coming into that first discussion. He said the Board has two people that they should honor and respect for what they have contributed. Given, there is a political bent that J. C. Avery took that people do not appreciate now, but it is not known for sure. He said the Board can honor two people who should have been and were worthy of being considered and whatever the Board's decision they will have a name that he thinks people can be proud of. He thinks a lot of projects can come out of the Pauling name as well as a lot regarding the Oregon Territory and the legislator who was a founding part of the Oregon legislature. He said he would vote against the motion, not because he is proslavery or a racist or that he wants people to face something that has been difficult in the past but based on the fact that both nominees are worthy.

Director Baldwin reported that on the day of the middle school naming vote he received a phone call that related there was considerable activity around the community supporting the name Avery over Pauling. He said he had been prepared to vote for Pauling but in sensing, what turned out to be erroneous, that there was a groundswell in the community supporting Avery he went along with it. He said he feels ashamed about that. Since then he has received 221 e-mails and the overwhelming number is about naming the school Linus Pauling. He read excerpts from a few of them who were in favor of the Pauling name. Steve Lawson, who also spoke at the meeting, referred in his e-mail to Linus Pauling's dedication to education, citing that he wrote at least five chemistry textbooks several of which were published in other translations. Another correspondent related that Linus Pauling was a victim of bullies and she liked the idea of a kid who was victimized succeeding so spectacularly to have a middle school named after him. He said the whole issue of slavery aside, one could look at honored people such as Lincoln, Jefferson, Washington, J. F. Kennedy, and Martin Luther King and find things in their past and in their conduct that is certainly at odds with Americans intent to deify them. Putting that aside, putting J. C. Avery next to Linus Pauling, what we want to name as an ideal for District students, Linus Pauling is the one.

Chair Gable clarified the reason why a new name was being sought at all for the new middle school, why one was not being sought for the new high school, and the realm of unintentional consequences surrounding the naming process. She said what has not been clear to the community is why the Board chose to select a new name for the new middle school. It has been

awhile since the District went through the closure and consolidation process and people forget that that occurred and this new building is representative of a new boundary area, drawing students from what used to be Western View and Highland View middle schools. The District wanted the students attending there to have a sense of belonging so they would not feel they were going to somebody else's school. There also may be some confusion about whether the District is looking for a new name for the replacement Corvallis High School. It is not. The school is not changing or combining in any way such as the middle school. Regarding the middle school naming process, Chair Gable stated that the Board believed they were choosing from three names, while giving weighty consideration to the superintendent's recommendation. She said the Board failed in that they did not actively enough pursue public input at that time. They were accepting public input but they didn't aggressively seek it out. The input they received reflected correspondents who assumed that the superintendent's recommendation was a done deal, that the name would be Linus Pauling. So the feedback they received was more from people who wanted it to be something different than Linus Pauling. She said she thinks that the Board was caught in a trap that is very common for public officials; that it is always very hard to know if the people you are hearing from really represent a broad section of the community or the section of the community that chose to speak out at that point in time. Since the last meeting the Board did aggressively seek feedback. They wanted to hear from people and they did. Each Board member spoke with people in the community who would speak with them. The majority was in favor of the Linus Pauling name. It was not a scientific survey. It is a survey of the people who chose to go to the trouble to speak out. She stated the Board needs to remember that when weighing public input.

Vice Chair Gelsler said she had reflected on how her vote ended up the way it did. She remembers at that time weighing the issue of knowing the committee's preference, the superintendent's recommendation, and input from others. One of the things that she has come to recognize over the course of the past several weeks is that the conversations she has everywhere with concerned citizens are hard for the public to account for as they are not documented. Early in the naming process eight to ten relayed opinions seemed like a lot. She reflected it does not seem like very much any more and she hopes the Board does not see eight to ten people as "a lot" in the future. She said it's been wonderful to receive all of the e-mails and comments and hopes that level of involvement and concern continues, adding that it is phenomenal to get this kind of guidance. She expressed a desire to look at how the Board can document input they have received that is not written. Their intention was not to override the community. There was an honest overwhelming underestimation of what the community sentiment was. When she made her vote she was trying to find a way to balance the input from the community versus the committee and superintendent's recommendations.

Superintendent Ford brought to light some of the roles regarding School Board policies. He explained the Board's role is to set and periodically review policy. His job and that of the administrative team is to administer the policies. The policies that have evolved over time in the Corvallis School District are contained in a three inch thick notebook and that every building in the district has one. Policies are updated constantly, as new legislation necessitates changes. As soon as a non-routine job needs to be done, staff looks to see if there is a policy on it first. Dr. Ford's role is to see that policy is administered; the District did just that for naming the new middle school. He commended the Board for following the process regarding the middle school

naming. The purpose of the policies is to maintain consistency when dealing with decisions. Naming new schools has not come up often here or in the state of Oregon. He said if one looks at places for counsel like the Oregon School Boards Association, which rounds up books of other districts' policies, and look at everybody else's naming policy, one would not find one that has more than 500 words in it. The state has not been in the business of building schools for a long time. It is only recently that the District and state have gotten back in. This is an optimal time to review the District's policy. The policy does not address researching potential names. One would find on websites of districts who have recently named schools scenarios similar to one this district is going through right now. That is some comfort. He acknowledged that he made a recommendation for naming the new middle school but expressed that it is entirely in the authority of the Board to say they prefer this one or that one.

Director Rieck commented that the middle school is one the community worked very hard to building; she wants the community to take pride and ownership in the school. She expressed hope that the Board will continue to aggressively seek community input, to engage people in the schools.

Chair Gable restated the motion on the table, to rescind the January 12, 2004 vote (Motion #41) that named the new middle school "Joseph and Martha Avery Middle School." No further discussion was desired.

The vote was taken. Director Johnson voted in opposition to the motion; Chair Gable and Directors Baldwin, Demarest, Gelser, Rieck and O'Malley voted in favor of it.

The motion carried.

Motion #43: Director Demarest moved to name the new middle school "Linus and Ava Helen Pauling Middle School."

Director Demarest said that even though the name was a mouthful she felt Ava Helen Pauling was inspiring to Linus' work and that, unfortunately, historically great women who happen to be married to great men are overlooked because their names together are a mouthful. She felt the District could find ways to deal with that. She compares the Paulings to the experience of the District; both strive to do remarkable things in the face of adversity. She referred to Pauling's peace activism and Vitamin C research amongst criticism and the District's forward movement in the face of budget cuts. She said he strove to boundless excellence. He knew no limits. When she went to school she knew what she had to do to get an "A" or a "B" and that was all she did. Linus Pauling strove without bounds. That is an amazing lesson. It is an amazing goal to impart to District students. There is no limit to what District students can strive for. If they can take the bullying lesson and the golden rule and follow it just a little bit more in middle school, that would be an amazing thing for this community and for the District's students.

Director Baldwin seconded Director Demarest's motion.

The Board then entered into discussion on the motion.

Director O'Malley remarked that philosophically she was in complete agreement; however, she thinks it is important to acknowledge that community input was overwhelmingly in favor of Linus Pauling Middle School and she prefers to stick with what the community has asked for, either Linus Pauling Middle School or Pauling Middle School.

Director Rieck said she would prefer to keep the name as simple as possible.

Director Johnson said he, too, enthusiastically supports the great and inspirational name but recalled that the Board said they would only support the three names recommended by the committee, one of which was Linus Pauling, and not create the option for other names.

Vice Chair Gelser stated she did not feel that adding Ava Helen went against the spirit of having a Pauling middle school. She said she has been impressed with how balanced he was. He emulated excellence in teaching scholarship, humanitarianism, and in the relationship with his wife, Ava Helen. He consistently recognized her contributions and responsibility for his great success, including when he accepted his Nobel Peace Prize. She expressed that whatever way it is named the school will be called Pauling Middle School in shorthand. Ava Helen could be recognized within that name.

Director Rieck questioned if the name could be Pauling Middle School and recognize and honor both.

Superintendent Ford stated he liked what the committee started with, Linus Pauling. He feels there are ways to memorialize Ava Helen within the building. For simplicity sake he would prefer Linus Pauling Middle School or Pauling Middle School.

Chair Gable reminded the Board the motion on the table was to name the new middle school Linus and Ava Helen Pauling Middle School. She reviewed that many good reasons were named for honoring Ava Helen as well as Linus and also that it had been noted that process-wise the Board had said they were considering Linus Pauling as one of the three.

Director Demarest questioned whether adding Martha Avery to the Joseph Avery nominated name had met with any negative feedback. Director Rieck said that it had due to it being a mouthful. Director Demarest agreed that either way, Linus Pauling Middle School or Linus and Ava Helen Pauling Middle School, it would likely be shortened.

Chair Gable expressed that she would love to honor Ava Helen Pauling but she felt a need to follow procedure. She questioned what Superintendent Ford meant when he said both could be honored in the building. Her preference would be to make sure any historical information provided in the building would include both people.

Superintendent Ford stated he agreed that the school would be referred to as Pauling Middle School and that he did not have any specific plans for honoring Ava Helen Pauling.

Vice Chair Gelser said she would vote against the motion due to the input about the mouthful though she liked the idea of finding a way to honor Ava Helen within the school.

Chair Gable recommended a vote on the motion, which she restated was to name the new middle school "Linus and Ava Helen Pauling Middle School."

Directors Baldwin and Demarest voted in favor of the motion; Chair Gable and Directors Gelser, Johnson, Rieck and O'Malley voted in opposition to it.

The motion failed.

Motion #44: Director O'Malley moved to name the new middle school Linus Pauling Middle School and somehow acknowledge Ava Helen's contributions within the school. Director Johnson seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Gable expressed her appreciation to the members of the public in attendance and her hope that they would stay actively involved in other important decisions the school board has to make, such as what to do in the face of the failure of Measure 30 that will be addressed in the coming months. She encouraged them to e-mail or attend meetings.

VIII. STAFF PARTICIPATION

There was no staff participation with the exception of Sue Donna Doolen who spoke during the Citizen Participation portion of the meeting.

IX. SPECIAL REPORTS

Chair Gable announced a change in the agenda. The District Improvement Plan Update and State Report Card Update were removed from the agenda.

A. DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

This report was removed from the agenda.

B. DROPOUT RATE IMPROVEMENT

Director of Teaching and Learning Dawn Tarzian distributed information regarding drop out rates, reasons and statistics in the Corvallis School District as well as the state. (See Supplemental Item #VII-9 in the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.) She related that Oregon's method of counting drop outs is at a higher standard than many states. The reasons students list for dropping out have been consistent for five years with the number one reason being lack of parental support for education. The other reasons listed were "too far behind in credits to catch up, working more than 15 hours a week, dysfunctional home life, and frequent discipline

referrals.” Ms. Tarzian explained that certainly under the No Child Left Behind Act, but prior as well, the District has been looking at the dropout rates for subgroups of students. She referred to the included handout entitled “Dropout rate of Latino students in the Corvallis High ESL (English as a Second Language) program for the year 2002-2003.” She explained that part of the decision to move to “magnet” ESL programs, including moving the majority of the ESL resources for high school students to Corvallis High School (CHS), was to create a program that would allow ESL students to be more involved in the whole academic program. The dramatic change from 1996 (30% ESL Latino dropout rate) to 2000 (12% ESL Latino dropout rate) is partly due to the way dropouts have been counted so the statistics need to be taken with a grain of salt. Characteristics of last year’s Latino dropouts were provided as well as ideas for improvement. The State also asked students who were at risk, per the reasons cited above, and students who were in alternative education environments why they stayed in school. The number one answer was the receiving of respect for who they were, requiring them to do their best and giving them the help they need to achieve it. Ms. Tarzian referred to the “Predictive Factors for Dropping Out” in the distributed information and correlated some of the initiatives in the District Improvement Plan that are designed to keep students in school and successful. She read District student responses garnered from all levels, elementary through high school, which described how they knew education was important and why they stayed in school. Many credited their teachers for mentoring them to success.

Director Johnson commented the improvement in the dropout rates was remarkable. He compared the current (2002-03) drop out rates of 2.1% and 0.8% at the high schools to numbers that were in the low twenties and teens five to six years ago. He remembered the District’s intent to make sure that students were known to help alleviate the phenomena and the statistics support what is being done.

Chair Gable commented that not only does Corvallis School District stand out across the state but also across the nation where four year drop out rates have reached 25%, (the District’s high schools are at 7.0% and 1.9%) even though they may count it differently.

Responding to questions, Ms. Tarzian provided additional data.

- College Hill (an alternative education program housed at the Harding Center) students are included in their associated high school data but their subgroup information could be culled.
- More boys than girls drop out in Oregon. Their most common dropout age was 16-17 years old and their reasons were leaving school for work, insufficient credits, and discipline issues. The most common age for girls was 15-16 and their reasons were related more to health and family issues.
- To her knowledge, no District middle school students dropped out last year.
- In response to the observation that two Latina students stopped coming to school shortly after the first three day CIM (Certificate of Initial Mastery) tests in the spring, she reiterated with the CHS ESL teacher and classified staff the Board’s conviction that they

need to do what is right for students even if that impacted the NCLB statistics. The District would not want students to drop out due to an assessment test, which is seen quite a bit in that ESL program.

- Expelled students would only show up as dropouts if they did not return after the expulsion was over.
- Many of the dropouts who were lacking in credits indicated they lost the most ground in 6th or 9th grade transitions.

Director Rieck said after spending some time in the transition program for 8th graders that may have a difficult time with the transition to high school, she was impressed with the program.

Superintendent Ford commented on CHS teacher Judy Storie who provides additional incentive for students to stay in school by encouraging the Latino students' involvement in the swimming program she coaches.

Director Johnson again expressed his desire to celebrate the low dropout rate more than just at the Board meeting. He suggested perhaps a forum at which students could come to talk about their experiences at the high schools, what they are really accomplishing and what is getting them there, and they could tell parents what it takes to keep kids in school. He feels the tangible influences need to be identified and built upon. He said the administrators set a tone. Classified staff also interacted with those students every day. It is an opportunity to highlight the fact that it is a broad group of people that creates a community to achieve this kind of result. The District worked at it and it made a difference.

C. STATE REPORT CARD UPDATE

This report was removed from the agenda.

X. CONSOLIDATED ACTION

Motion #45: It was moved by Director Baldwin, seconded by Director Johnson and unanimously agreed upon to approve the Consolidated Action Items.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of December 8, 2003 and January 12, 2004 were approved as presented.

B. SUPPORT SERVICE ITEMS

1. SUPERINTENDENT'S LICENSED PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board approved the recommendations. (Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-23 of the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

2. RESOLUTION NO. 04-0201 INCREASING DISTRICT CREDIT CARD LIMITS

The Board approved this resolution, which increased the District's two general purpose credit card limits from \$5,000 to \$10,000. The increase was necessary to facilitate specialized purchases and extended field trips. Card activity is closely monitored. (See Supplemental Item #III-11 of the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

3. AGREEMENT BETWEEN LBCC (LINN BENTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE) AND CORVALLIS SCHOOL DISTRICT EVEN START

This Board approved this agreement, which provides for LBCC adult education facility to furnish on-site services at Lincoln Elementary to families whose primary language is not English. (See Supplemental Item #I-19 of the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

4. AGREEMENT WITH UNIVERSITY OF OREGON FOR COMPETE GRANT TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The Board approved this agreement which provides technical support for data management and necessary reporting to the federal government to support the COMPETE grant. The grant provides the District \$699,711 over the course of four years. (See Supplemental Item #I-20 of the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

5. RETIRED EMPLOYEE'S CONTRACT – BOND CONSTRUCTION PROJECT COORDINATOR – THOMA

The Board approved this contract, which provides a half-time project coordinator to oversee review, inspection, and consultation of the drinking water systems, mechanical systems, plumbing, fire detection systems, and electrical systems of the bond construction projects. (See Supplemental Item #I-21 of the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

6. RETIRED EMPLOYEE'S SINGLE ASSIGNMENT CONTRACT - THORNAGLE

The Board approved this contract, which provides stability to the position of Student Services Director for the remainder of the 2003-04 school year. Ms. Thornagle is retiring from the position effective March 1, 2004 and this contract will retain her services for the remainder of the year. (See Supplemental Item #I-22 of the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

7. RETIRED TEACHER EMPLOYEE'S SINGLE ASSIGNMENT CONTRACT - EASON

The Board approved this contract, which provides a curriculum project coordinator for the period January 12, 2004 through June 30, 2004. This temporary contract is the result of shifting responsibilities in the offices of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. (See Supplemental Item #I-23 of the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

8. 2004-05 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board approved the meeting schedule. (See Supplemental Item #IX-1 of the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

9. IN-KIND DONATIONS

The Board accepted the donations. (Filed as Supplemental Item #X-24 of the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

XI. CONSOLIDATED INFORMATION

A. CORRESPONDENCE

Filed in Section V of the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.

B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ITEMS

1. INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER INFORMATION

The Board received information on 10 interdistrict transfers.

2. EXTENDED FIELD TRIPS

The Board received information on two extended field trips. (Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-24 of the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

C. SUPPORT SERVICES ITEMS

1. NON-LICENSED PERSONNEL INFORMATION

(Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-25 in the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

2. UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Board received the unaudited statements of revenues, expenditures, and fund balances of the various funds of the District for the period ending December 31, 2003. (Filed as Supplemental Item #X-25 in the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

3. CHECK REGISTER

The detailed check distribution ledger is on file in the Business Services Office and is available for information during business hours. (Filed as Supplemental Item #X-26 in the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board met in Executive Session under ORS 192.660(1)(i) – Superintendent’s Evaluation, and ORS 192.660(1)(d) – Labor Negotiations

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Chair Gable adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Cyrel Gable, Chair

Jim Ford, Superintendent

Prepared by: Catala/Shute
(super/julie/board/minutes/2004/february 9.doc)