

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 7:03 p.m. in Central Office Board Room, 1555 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

EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

Ron Corbell, Assistant Superintendent  
Jeanne Holmes, Assistant to the Superintendent  
Dawn Tarzian, Director of Teaching and Learning  
Kathy Rodeman, Business Services Director  
Michael Ann McIlvenny, Special Education Coordinator  
Julie Catala, Board Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED

Robert Johnson, Member

PRINCIPALS PRESENT

James Wickman, Westland Middle School  
Lois Rawers, Hoover Elementary  
Denise Gorthy, Jefferson Elementary

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Bethany Potts, Corvallis High School

A quorum was present and due notice had been published. The meeting was rescheduled from the January 5, 2004 date due to inclement weather conditions.

Chair Gable explained that Dr. Ford's absence was due to a previously scheduled trip. Had the meeting taken place on January 5, 2004 as planned, he would have been able to be present.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Gable led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **III. COMMITTEE/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS**

Chair Gable announced that Cheryl Brown Henderson would be the featured speaker for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day events at Oregon State University. She provided the details of the event and pointed out that the public is invited to attend.

Chair Gable reported that she, Teaching and Learning Director Dawn Tarzian and Auxiliary Services Director Fred Wright, met this morning with the Corvallis city manager, mayor, council president and vice president as they and Dr. Ford do quarterly. Discussion centered mostly on updates of the City's budget process and the School District's equity committee.

Director Gelser expressed thanks to the custodial and maintenance staff who responded so quickly during the recent storm. She noted that the downed tree limbs at Jefferson were pruned and cleaned away this morning. On a similar note, Director O'Malley stated that the Corvallis School District was the first district to report closures during the storm and provided the most comprehensive information.

### **IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Bethany Potts, Corvallis High School student representative, reported that school is going well so far this year. She added that a student council meeting would take place this week.

### **V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Assistant Superintendent Ron Corbell reported on events from the storm of the previous week. He read a list of names of "unsung heroes" in the Corvallis School District who responded to needs at various buildings during the storm: Doug Tiller, Robert Goodell, Ed Riley, Brian Nordyke, Gale Thoma, Darin Davidson, John Meyer, Duane Jager, Dennis Corliss, and Fred Wright.

Mr. Corbell encouraged those in attendance to make an informed vote on Measure 30. He pointed out that should Measure 30 fail, the Corvallis School District would see a \$1.4 million reduction of funding to the district.

Mr. Corbell noted that January is school board appreciation month. To honor the work of the District's Board member volunteers, staff hung a banner in the meeting room. Business Services Director Kathy Rodeman distributed personalized bearer bonds, expired from the 1968 Crescent Valley capital project, in the amount of "5,000 Thanks."

### **VI. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Lee Vasche, 5994 NW Rosewood Drive, stated that he is the leader of a local group called Citizens for Responsible School Funding, which seeks positive changes in the Corvallis School District to benefit students. He restated the results of a recent election in which Benton County voters rejected Measure 02-33. He said voters were directing the Corvallis School District to live within its means and to place a higher priority on students. He said the School Board must

respond to this direction accordingly. He offered the assistance of his local group in helping the School Board make the tough decisions in the future and referenced the upcoming negotiations with the teachers' union.

Dan Ziegler, 3460 NW Dimple Hill Road, said he supports the efforts of Citizens for Responsible School Funding. He referenced a packet of information he had provided Board members prior to the meeting and distributed a revised page. (Entire packet filed in Section V of the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.) He stated that the material he compiled shows a budget plan for reducing class size by 20%, and, among other things, restoring textbook funding to its full amount of prior years, with no additional funding. He outlined his plan and cited statistics he had obtained from various government agencies and school districts in Oregon. He stated his commitment to providing further information to the Board regarding the statistics he cited.

Chair Gable expressed thanks for the work Mr. Ziegler put into compiling the data. She provided a historical perspective for prior negotiations with the teachers' union and cautioned that the Board would need to determine the public's position on tough issues, including salary and benefits. Several Board members engaged in dialogue with Mr. Ziegler, posing questions and offering perspectives.

Peter Hackett, 3513 SW Willamette, spoke in support of on-the-job training and encouraged the Board to adopt language that would require contractors hired by the District for the Corvallis High School project to be Registered Training Agents with the State of Oregon's Bureau of Labor and Industries. He distributed a letter he wrote on behalf of the Carpenters of Local 1094 and Linn Benton Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee. (Filed in Section V of the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.) He explained the processes involved in such a designation. Additionally, Mr. Hackett distributed a list of volunteer projects in the mid-Valley.

Chair Gable encouraged Mr. Hackett to stay for the presentation about the District Improvement Plan, stating that it would provide information relating to the formation of expanded learning opportunities (such as internships) for students. Chair Gable indicated that the Board would confer with Auxiliary Services Manager Fred Wright and would be in contact with Mr. Hackett at a future date.

John Turman, 4227 NW Elmwood, began his comments by stating that it was merely coincidence that others spoke before him on a similar topic. He expressed his belief that most people do not take the time to become well informed about school funding. He referenced the failed ballot measure (Measure 02-33) and opined that it is clear that many people do not think that more money is the answer. He stated his surprise at what he believes is the lack of substantive Board discussion on the issues of increasing private and home school enrollment, or the increasing rejection of public school funding. He said he observed more time spent debating a survey, placing an endorsement in the voter's pamphlet, and in criticizing No Child Left Behind legislation. He stated that money has to be reallocated to reestablish taxpayer trust and said that unless the Board does something different it should expect more of the same from the voters.

Director Gelser pointed out that many public meetings take place outside of regular Board business meetings, citing budget committee meetings and equity committee meetings as examples.

Director O'Malley noted that there are processes in place through which the Board obtains community feedback.

Director Rieck encouraged Mr. Turman to attend other public meetings, such as budget committee meetings or budget forums.

Director Demarest said that even if money is not on the tongue of everyone at every Board meeting it is definitely on their minds.

Director O'Malley pointed out that Board members are not political advocates, they are charged with shaping and forming the school district.

Director Baldwin addressed the audience and expressed appreciation for the background work done by the citizenry; he suggested they visit classrooms and schools to see what the reality is and to add to their background information with real life experience. He said it is clear to him that in spite of all the work the citizens did by looking at websites and data, they have a limited understanding of the dynamics of making a classroom work and the whole team that is in place to keep a classroom running under existing imperatives.

## **VII. STAFF PARTICIPATION**

No staff presented information.

## **VIII. SPECIAL REPORTS**

### **A. DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

Teaching and Learning Director Dawn Tarzian referenced the materials she sent to Board members prior to the meeting. (See Supplemental Item #VII-7 in the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

She led review of a draft document prepared by Dr. Ford. She explained that Dr. Ford scaled back the focus to three project areas: community partnership database, extended learning coordination (internships), and work and life skills. Ms. Tarzian said that Dr. Ford has done an incredible job talking within the district and out in the community about how education could be different. She added that the draft document was helpful in terms of identifying what to accomplish in the next six months.

Ms. Tarzian then drew the Board's attention to project templates for the three areas outlined in the previous document as well as a template for the every child-connected project. She highlighted key requirements and noted major milestones for each project.

Director Rieck asked if the "Connections Grant" obtained by College Hill High School is being coordinated on a district-wide basis with the extended learning project, expressing concern that the project leaders do not include a College Hill High School representative. Ms. Tarzian replied that resources, coordinator(s), and programs are being aligned to make a best fit between the resources and needs, as many of the goals for student learning will be the same.

In response to a question, Ms. Tarzian said the district utilizes the services of a school resource officer through the Benton County Sheriff's Department for schools that lie outside the city limits (Mt. View Elementary, Crescent Valley High School, and Inavale School).

Responding to another question, Ms. Tarzian explained that the education service district would be preparing a comprehensive report with all the data it has compiled on the district. She committed to providing a copy of the report to the Board.

Referring to Mr. Hackett's testimony, Director Gable said extended learning opportunities and internships are what she felt related to apprenticeships because the term refers to significant learning opportunities outside of school. She said she was impressed with the goal that every staff member implements at least one significant extended learning opportunity, which does not necessarily mean internships.

Ms. Tarzian said the high school administrative meeting was very rich, and noted that one of the high schools is forming a "dream team" to address how the goals might be attained. She said she anticipates that the Board might be presented with some creative staff development calendars that would provide teachers at the high school level time to plan some of these experiences.

Chair Gable noted that, as a lay resource, the Oregonian newspaper is doing a series this week to highlight significant structural changes in high schools. Ms. Tarzian indicated that the newspaper articles would be sent to the Board under separate cover.

## B. DIVISION 22 STANDARDS

Ms. Tarzian explained that the Oregon Department of Education requires that by January 15 of each year, school district superintendents must report to their community the district's standing with respect to the standards for public elementary and secondary schools that are outlined in the Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) in a certain section that has come to be called Division 22. There are currently 48 different sets of OARs in that section and with their various parts, actually number closer to 60. During the last legislative session six new OARs were added to the section. These include laws regarding credit options which allow districts more flexibility in terms of programs provided to high school students, laws on alternative education programs, and new requirements about infectious diseases.

Ms. Tarzian explained that this year in particular she took extra time to disseminate the standards as they applied across the district. She expressed that she was pleased to inform the Board that the District is currently in compliance with all of the standards, though her comprehensive examination has helped to identify some areas that she would really like to revise and refine within the District's system. She anticipates over the course of the next year, she might forward

some policies to be updated to better reflect practices. The District has until February 27, 2004 to send a letter reflecting the District's findings to the Department of Education. A copy of the letter will likely be shared with the Board.

Chair Gable pointed out that this is one of the areas that the District spends significant staff time on that may or may not always improve the education of its students. Ms. Tarzian expressed that she felt it reflected the State's attempt to ensure an equitable education for all children in the state though it is a shift away from a locally controlled school district to one that is more of a statewide look.

## **IX. CONSOLIDATED ACTION**

Director Rieck requested that "Agreement with LBL ESD (Linn Benton Lincoln Education Service District) for TMR (Trainable Mentally Retarded) Funding" be held for discussion.

**Motion #39:** It was moved by Director Gelser, seconded by Director Baldwin and unanimously agreed upon to approve the remaining Consolidated Action Items.

### **A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of August 18, 2003; August 25, 2003; September 8, 2003; September 22, 2003; October 6, 2003; October 20, 2003; and November 3, 2003 were approved as presented.

### **B. SUPPORT SERVICE ITEMS**

#### **1. SUPERINTENDENT'S LICENSED PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Board approved the recommendations. (Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-18 of the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

#### **2. RESOLUTION NO. 04-0101 SPECIFYING THE AUTHORIZED USED OF BOND PROCEEDS AND AUTHORIZING PUBLICATION OF NOTICE**

The Board adopted this resolution which clarifies the District's ability per Oregon statutes to use a portion (estimated to be \$1,165,000) of the \$86,400,000 bond proceeds to purchase supplies and equipment intrinsic to the capital improvement structures for which the bond was approved. (See Supplemental Item #III-10 in the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

The definition of "supplies and equipment" can produce a substantial gray area, especially in light of restrictions created by Measure 5 and Measure 50.

Oregon law allows a government to publish a notice describing its proposed expenditures of general obligation bonds in regards to "supplies and equipment". If expenditures are not challenged within 60 days, citizens cannot subsequently protest the expenditures.

The process provides for the board to adopt a resolution that describes the expenditures and classifies the bond levy as exempt from the limits of Measure 5 and Measure 50. A public notice is then published within 15 days after the resolution is adopted. Citizens have 60 days after the resolution is adopted to file a petition in the tax court contesting the expenditure.

It benefits the District and its citizens to confirm that the uses of the District's bond proceeds will not be challenged after the District has spent those proceeds.

3. AGREEMENT WITH LBL ESD (LINN BENTON LINCOLN EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT)  
FOR TMR (TRAINABLE MENTALLY RETARDED) FUNDING

**Held for discussion:** In response to a question regarding the retroactive effective date of this agreement and some others the Board has been asked to approve, it was explained that the census count for these eligible students is taken after the start of the school year, around October 15, so that funds allocated can be distributed during that year which coincide with the number of students eligible. This puts closing of the final contract documents into nearly the middle of the year, hence the retroactive dates. It was further explained that as the District correlates its fiscal year to the school year (July 1 – June 30), agreements usually run accordingly rather than per calendar year.

The use of the acronym "TMR" in the contract language was questioned. Special Education Coordinator Michael Ann McIlvenny stated that "TMR" is old language that signifies a person with an I.Q. of 55 or lower. (She later clarified an I.Q. between 40 and 55 is considered TMR.) She clarified that the State has to update the term.

**Motion #40:** It was moved by Director Rieck, seconded by Director O'Malley, and unanimously agreed to approve the Agreement with LBL ESD (Linn Benton Lincoln Education Service District) for TMR (Trainable Mentally Retarded) Funding. (See Supplemental Item #I-17 in the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

4. AGREEMENT WITH ESCHELON TELECOM COMMUNICATIONS

The Board approved this agreement. (Filed as Supplemental Item #I-18 in the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.) In an effort to save telecom costs, the District's technology staff is reviewing a number of telecom services. These include long distance service, PRI lines (main lines that carry all District voice traffic in and out of the District), and the 93 analog phone lines that serve the District's fire and 911 emergency needs. This particular agreement relates to the 93 analog lines and replaces the present service the District has with QWEST. The agreement with Eschelon is expected to yield over \$7,000 in annual savings.

**X. CONSOLIDATED INFORMATION**

**A. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICE ITEMS****1. INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER INFORMATION**

The Board received information on 4 interdistrict transfers.

**2. EXTENDED FIELD TRIPS**

The Board received information on three extended field trips. (Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-19 of the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

**C. SUPPORT SERVICES ITEMS****1. NON-LICENSED PERSONNEL INFORMATION**

(Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-20 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 November 30, 2003. (Filed as Supplemental Item #X-22 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-23 in the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

**XI. OTHER DISTRICT BUSINESS**

Chair Gable exercised her prerogative to change the order of the agenda and moved "Appoint Two Board Members for Board Self-Evaluation" to precede "Naming of New Middle School."

**A. APPOINT TWO BOARD MEMBERS FOR BOARD SELF-EVALUATION**

Chair Gable explained that each year Board members reflect on their work as a group to make sure they are focusing their attention on the matters that need attention. Questions such as whether or not they are collaborating well in their decision-making and whether or not they are collaborating well with administration are examples of the queries they make of themselves.

Chair Gable pointed out that last year's evaluation activity prompted some interesting discussion. In an attempt to provide some continuity with last year, she asked the subcommittee members who headed the process last year to do so again this year. She said Directors O'Malley and Johnson agreed, so she appointed them to be the subcommittee for the Board self-evaluation

process. The subcommittee will develop an evaluation instrument and the evaluation will hopefully be completed by April.

## B. NAMING OF NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

Chair Gable reported that she became aware today that a number of Board members are having second thoughts about adopting the middle school naming recommendation that has been put forward in the Board information packet (Linus Pauling Middle School). She acknowledged the quality of the school naming committee process, reiterating that 59 proposals were submitted from community members. The committee arrived at three top possibilities: Marys River Middle School, Linus Pauling Middle School, and Joseph Avery Middle School.

She explained that, in order to give the Board and Superintendent some additional direction, the committee made its preference known: Linus Pauling Middle School. She pointed out that Superintendent Ford feels quite strongly that Linus Pauling would be an excellent name.

Chair Gable said that the school naming topic might seem like a small discussion when compared with budgets and salary and tax packages, but when one considers that this name will exist for 100 years or more, it is big decision and is worthy of full discussion.

Although Director Johnson was unable to attend the Board meeting, he sent his thoughts via e-mail to Chair Gable this morning. She explained that Director Johnson was on the school naming committee so he was fully aware of the entire process, although he had never commented on his personal preference when the matter was forwarded to the entire School Board. Director Johnson wished to uphold the committee process. Director Johnson's comments included the statement, "I've changed my mind and feel that Joseph and Martha Avery Middle School made a lot of sense, and the few people who've talked with me support that. They like the local connection to Corvallis."

The addition of the name of Joseph Avery's wife, Martha, then became part of the Board's discussion.

Director O'Malley said she and other Board members have received some wonderful feedback from the community. She explained that she settled on the name Joseph and Martha Avery Middle School because of the Averys' connection to the community. Further, she likes the idea of a husband and wife team name; it is worthy of the contributions they have made to the community.

Director Rieck said she has given a lot of thought to the community input. She said the Averys helped build the community here, made continued contributions to the community, and also have continued ties here.

Director Gelser voiced her preference for Joseph and Martha Avery Middle School, saying that she has received many comments from the community. However, Director Gelser said she does not feel that naming the school after Linus Pauling would have a negative impact on students;

unless it does, she said she does not feel it is appropriate to override the recommendation of a committee, even though it conflicts with her personal preference.

Director Baldwin stated his preference to follow the recommendation of the committee, but reminded those present that all three names rose to the top. He went on to state that, in naming a school, it seems that Linus Pauling's name would be more appropriate in illustrating aspirations for academic excellence. He added that since the committee came forth with its recommendation, he has heard from many people who prefer Avery, and has heard no one celebrate the selection of Pauling.

Chair Gable said the committee's charge was to forward three names to the Superintendent, who would then make a recommendation to the Board. Committee members chose to determine their preference. Chair Gable called upon Westland Middle School Principal James Wickman to address the Board regarding the committee's process.

Mr. Wickman explained the committee's selection process and confirmed that the committee's charge was to give Superintendent Ford three recommendations. He pointed out that Director Johnson, a member of the committee, suggested that the committee make a single recommendation. With a margin of four to two, Linus Pauling Middle School was determined to be the committee's preference.

In response to Director Gelser's query as to whether choosing a name different than that recommended by the committee would go against the committee process, Mr. Wickman said it is the responsibility of the Board to name schools.

Chair Gable asked Acting Superintendent Ron Corbell for his thoughts on the matter. Mr. Corbell asked Mr. Wickman how time sensitive is it to select a name at this meeting. Mr. Wickman explained that the architects told him it is fairly time sensitive, and pointed out that it is the Board's charge to consider all three names.

**Motion #41:** It was moved by Director O'Malley and seconded by Director Gelser that the new middle school be named Joseph and Martha Avery Middle School.

Director Rieck referenced the length of the proposed name and asked for clarification of the name that would be printed onto official documents (i.e., "Joseph and Martha Avery Middle School" or a shortened name such as "Avery Middle School"). Chair Gable speculated that informally the school would be referred to as Avery Middle School, but formal documents and stationery would cite Joseph and Martha Avery Middle School.

Chair Gable said it is the Board's general etiquette to honor the processes it has in place.

Director Gelser expressed relief at the knowledge that the committee's charge was to recommend three names.

Director Demarest pointed out the difficult nature of the naming decision, stating that she would support the committee process. She said the committee took it upon itself to express its

preference and then Dr. Ford adopted that as his recommendation. She said she would vote to support the committee. She said she feels it is a completely defensible position for people to vote for Avery; she simply feels a commitment to the committee process.

Director Rieck said it was interesting to her the number of people in the community who did not know who Linus Pauling was. More people seemed to know and be connected to the name Avery; she expressed her intention to vote for Avery.

Chair Gable said she has struggled quite a lot with the naming issue and expressed sympathy with the comments made by Director Baldwin about Linus Pauling as an excellent role model. She said that she is not attracted to the sound of the name Linus Pauling and she feels that the name Avery Middle School has a beautiful ring to it. She added that sometimes a name becomes detached from anything other than the school itself, such as Cheldelin, for which an origin seems to be unknown. She pointed out that although she had kept her comments to herself until the issue was raised this morning, she found herself being rather pleased with the possibility that the name might be Avery.

Director Rieck said that she also considers how the initials of names will sound together; she liked the initials for Joseph and Martha Avery Middle School.

Director O'Malley encouraged the Board to bring the matter to a close.

Chair Gable ascertained that no more Board discussion was desired.

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

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – The Board did not meet in Executive Session on this date.

### **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, Chair Gable adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

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Cyrel Gable, Chair

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Jim Ford, Superintendent