

## MINUTES

Special Meeting of the

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Corvallis School District 509J  
1555 SW 35<sup>th</sup> Street  
Corvallis, OR 97333

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Gable called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. in the Central Office Board Room, 1555 SW 35<sup>th</sup> 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  
Nell O'Malley, Vice Chair  
Sara Gelser, Member  
Helen Higgins, Member  
Kari Rieck, Member  
Joan Demarest, Member

##### EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

Jim Ford, Superintendent  
Dawn Tarzian, Assistant Superintendent  
Jeanne Holmes, Human Resources Director

##### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Robert Johnson, Member

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

#### **II. RATIFICATION OF CONTRACT WITH CORVALLIS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (CEA)**

Chair Gable opened the meeting by saying that the Board wished to honor the resolution of contract talks by taking its vote as soon as possible after the teachers' ratification. She added that three board members are out of town today, but two of them were able to join the meeting via telephone: Directors Gelser and Higgins.

Director Rieck joined the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

Chair Gable offered the following comments:

This contract negotiation has been an arduous process for all involved. The Board faces the unpleasant task of shoehorning district expenditures into an ever-shrinking shoe. And we are responsible for looking not only at the next three years over which this contract will extend, but looking out as far into the future as we can reasonably project – estimating our resources and expenditures over that longer time.

Hence, through our analysis some years ago, recently reconfirmed by a task force comprised of community members and staff, we determined that our supplemental retirement program was no longer an asset in meeting the needs of students. Asking the teachers' association to discontinue this benefit was a very difficult request. I'm glad to say that together we have been able to design a creative way of gradually discontinuing the program while honoring to the greatest extent possible the expectations of employees.

I want to extend my appreciation to everyone on the CEA bargaining team for the spirit of collaboration they showed over the past few months. And I want to thank everyone for the hard work they put into reaching this agreement.

I also want to say how much I appreciate how hard teachers, and all our employees, work. We all know that the work they do has increased over the years, and they're still doing a wonderful job. We look forward to moving ahead together as we address the real work of the district, educating kids.

**Motion #41:** It was moved by Director O'Malley and seconded by Director Rieck, to ratify the contract between Corvallis School District 509J and Corvallis Education Association.

Director Rieck extended her appreciation to the members of the CEA bargaining team. She extended many thanks to the district's bargaining team for the long hours put forth in this endeavor and for their excellent communication with the Board.

Director Gelser extended her appreciation to all employees who, during this very difficult year, continued to put the education of students first.

Director Higgins echoed the sentiments expressed by Directors Rieck and Gelser.

Director O'Malley said she is enormously relieved. She expressed gratitude to teachers, for whom there is so much respect.

The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

Superintendent Ford expressed relief that the process is finished. He said negotiations involved an enormous amount of time and were a tough road for all. He said he is looking forward to opportunities to work together again. He added that there is excitement in the air around Inavale and creating opportunities there. He is looking forward to getting on with the work.

### **III. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, Chair Gable adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

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Cyrel Gable, Chair

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Jim Ford, Superintendent

Prepared by: Julie Catala

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