

**MINUTES**

Regular 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**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Central Office Board Room, 1555 SW 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Corvallis. The secretary recorded those present as listed below.

<u>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT</u> Nell O'Malley, Chair Kari Rieck, Vice Chair Helen Higgins Blake Rodman Matt Donohue Donna Keim Sara Gelser	<u>EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT</u> Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent Jim Hogeboom, Assistant Superintendent Kathy Rodeman, Business Services Director Mary McKay, Student Services Director Jeanne Holmes, Human Resources Director Fred Wright, Auxiliary Services Director Duane Jager, Technology Services Manager Julie Catala, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
<u>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT</u> Lynn Hector, Corvallis High School	

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair O'Malley led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

**III. COMMITTEE/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS**

Director Keim reported that the Oregon School Activities Association has one more meeting scheduled regarding the change to an expanded classification system, which could further change depending on how the contemplated lawsuit unfolds. If the new classification system holds there will be new rules for championships.

Director Higgins reported as the Board's representative for the lawsuit it joined, filed March 21, 2006 against the State of Oregon. She noted that the following school districts, besides Corvallis, had joined in the suit: Coos Bay, Crow-Applegate-Lorane, Three Rivers, Eugene, and Pendleton along with three families. The lawsuit asserts failure of the State to meet its constitutional required duties to adequately fund public schools to meet the quality educational goals established in 1991. She stated that the State has 30 days to respond. She has not heard anything. She related that media response has been positive with very few exceptions. She is expecting more districts to join. Oregon is the 39<sup>th</sup> state to challenge the adequacy of school funding. 21 of the 28 cases that have been decided have been in favor of plaintiffs. She informed that Oregon's case is particularly strong because the State in 1991 established educational goals under the Oregon Educational Act of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Additionally, in 2000 voters approved a constitutional amendment requiring that the legislature provide adequate funding as defined by the Quality Education Model. It is predicted to take 2-3 years to process based on experience, though Oregon's could move more quickly. The State Education Commission said there were deficiencies.

#### **IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Corvallis High School (CHS) Student Representative Lynn Hector related:

- Mr. Spartan pageant, a big event, would be held on the 28<sup>th</sup>. It will be shorter this year.
- Student government elections will be in process all this month. She has been working to establish a strong one.
- Oregon student council retreat will be held the beginning of May. She is hoping to send newly elected officers.

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

Superintendent Tarzian reported on several items:

- Eric Wright, previously of Springfield, has been selected to replace retiring CHS Assistant Principal Joyce Wahl.
- The District has received information regarding implementation of Senate Bill 300, Expanded Options Program, to begin 2006-07. The Bill helps create a seamless education system for students enrolled in grades 11 and 12 to:
  - Have additional options to continue or complete their education
  - Earn concurrent high school and college credits
  - Gain early entry into postsecondary education

She believes the District has asked for a waiver to set aside half of what the statute requests. There were no new funds granted for the fiscal requirements of the bill. The District has budgeted \$10,000 to support students in this way, less than required by the bill.

- The District received notification that nine of its high school students, 5 from CHS and 4 from CV, are candidates for the United States Presidential Scholars Program.
- Through the work of Student Services Director Mary McKay, her staff and high school staff, Linn Benton Community College has been accepted as a GED assessment center, enabling the District to retain students they otherwise would have had to release to take the test.

- The District was awarded the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the three-year 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers grant in the amount of \$231,000. She elaborated that this grant provides support for over 100 Lincoln Elementary students in academics and extra curricular education. Staff is working with the Boys and Girls Club on a way to sustain the programs.
- Teacher Gail Gerdemann, had an article published in a math magazine. She has written grants to have after school math programs at elementary schools which are specifically designed to have parents, teachers and students in the same room to discuss learning math concepts.
- Farm Home School Head Teacher Kathleen Boatwright reported that they had 6 students graduate in 2005 and 3 complete their GED. One student had health problems and will be the first to graduate from her hospital.
- Technology Services Manager Duane Jager offered a workshop to support staff in preparing for the District's new website, which is planned to go live on April 10.

## VI. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Malcolm Rose, 1419 NW 9<sup>th</sup> St., Corvallis, stated he has an automotive shop, Malcolm's Auto Electric, and also a glass shop. After expressing his appreciation to the Board for their time volunteering he spoke to the need for an enhanced vocational education program. He feels that students are being shortchanged statewide and noted that with current funding it is hard for each school to support their own program. He suggested a regional center be set up at CHS as the arrangement there is conducive. He suggested it be given an independent name such as the Benton Skills Center to ease the stigma students from other schools, such as Alsea, might have in attending classes at a school other than their own. He also expressed that he would like to see the age dropped to perform some restricted duties from 18 to 16. He informed that if the skills center came to be it would be the first in Oregon, though Washington and other states do have them. He noted CHS's lack of equipment and corresponding software for some equipment, lack of security cameras and ample covered workspace and his understanding that there is some leftover bond money. He brought to the Board's attention that there are about 400 students in the vocational program, while students involved in the theater are fewer in number and the theater was a much larger expense. He feels there is not enough curriculum consideration in the vocational area and he would like to have enough funds so that students can receive vocational education for four years. He referenced the 1999 Oregon Covered Employment and Payroll, providing numbers of employees in vocational professions in Oregon and related them to the current lack of education in those areas. He believes vocational programs would keep students in school. He noted that CHS would be hosting a car care jamboree April 15 sponsored by local auto shops and he invited all to attend. (See a copy of his related materials in Section V of the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.)

Director Gelser noted that Oregon Labor Commissioner Dan Gardner was also interested. She had also heard it mentioned at the joint City/District meeting and noted that City Councilor Scott Zimbrick related that an incoming company may have to hire from outside the local area as qualified help was not available.

Chair O'Malley thanked Mr. Rose and stated that someone would contact him.

Arne Larson, 4037 NW Elmwood Drive, Corvallis, expressed his desire to provide additional comments over those sent in a recent e-mail to the Board regarding a possible tax levy. He hopes that the District will pursue a local option levy and he offered his assistance. He suggested that it will be easier to endorse when the areas selected for benefit are known. He stated that since talking with Business Services Director Kathy Rodeman that he cannot stand by the numbers he used in his e-mail and expressed his hope that they can get closer to being accurate. He predicted that the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) will be a large issue in the next couple of years; it still seems broken. He hopes all can understand it better and that the State can decrease costs as opposed to increasing funding. He endorsed a levy that would provide \$500 per student. He supports it in part as it gives the community more local control.

Payton James-Amberg, 6240 SW Trellis Drive, Corvallis, spoke to returning a portion of Inavale K-8's boundary to Adams Elementary as opposed to Lincoln Elementary. She noted that she does not live in this area. Though the area has been in Inavale's attendance area, most students attend Adams, so this action would not impact Adams' enrollment. She also felt that these students were receiving bus service to Adams. (See her related hand-drawn map in Section V of the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.) Ms. James-Amberg questioned if e-mails to the Board were public as she had seen some quoted in the Gazette-Times. Chair O'Malley responded that the e-mails were public and that the Gazette-Times did have a right to look at them. Ms. James-Amberg stated that it would be nice for the public to know.

Tanya Freeman, 26078 SW Nicole, Corvallis, also spoke to portioning due-to-close Inavale K-8 elementary students to Adams Elementary. She reasoned that since Adams is closer, Inavale students should be re-assigned there, not Lincoln, and other solutions to relieve Adams overcrowding should be examined. This would increase the likelihood of Inavale students attending the same school and alleviate the hardship of traveling to Lincoln for trips during the school day. She added that a look at all boundaries is warranted as there are some schools of high capacity next to low capacity. She questioned Lincoln becoming a K-8 as she was told they are redundant to the middle schools; it looks like a double standard. She suggested that with Franklin K-8 poised for reorganization, that it be a consideration. She feels that it is disrespectful to close a school for lack of funding while at the same time using money to start a new K-8.

## **VII. STAFF PARTICIPATION**

Auxiliary Services Director Fred Wright provided Chair O'Malley a plaque commemorating the bi-annual merit award given by the Masonry and Ceramic Tile Institute of Oregon for excellence in masonry tile and craftsmanship as exhibited in the newly constructed Linus Pauling Middle School building.

## **VIII. SPECIAL REPORTS - FIBER OPTIC CABLE PARTNERSHIP**

Technology Services Manager Duane Jager addressed the Board along with Robel Tadesse of the City of Corvallis to provide insight to the request for the District to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the City for fiber optic network connections. Mr. Jager related that it had been considered since

2004 and the W & H Pacific consultant's study revealed that for some schools this joint venture would be advantageous; outlying schools would be best served by remaining with Comcast. This combination is the most cost-efficient. Last year, after exploring a wireless route, it was decided that would not be a good option for the District.

The pair revealed that the County has had a similar agreement with the City since 1989. There have not been any needed repairs to the fiber since inception. Repairs could cost about \$5,000 on a 24-strand cable of which the District would pay a percentage out of the technology budget if that occurred. There are no monthly fees so if a school covered by the agreement were closed the District would not be paying for on-going unused services.

The total process would take about a year to complete. The costs would be in the neighborhood of \$384,000 +/- 5% estimated.

**MOTION #55:** Director Higgins moved, Director Keim seconded, to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement (Between the City of Corvallis, Benton County, and Corvallis School District for Fiber Optic Cable) to share fiber for the specified 15-year period. (See Supplemental Item #I-33 in the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes. Motions #57 and #58 further in the meeting relate also.)

The motion was unanimously approved.

Superintendent Tarzian acknowledged Mr. Jager, Mr. Tadesse, and the City for their collaborative work.

Chair O'Malley called a break at 8:13 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:19 p.m.

#### **IX. BOARD COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT - TIMING GUIDANCE FOR AS I SEE IT ARTICLES**

Chair O'Malley announced that the item would be postponed for consideration at a future meeting, perhaps the upcoming retreat would be more suited. More work is needed beforehand.

#### **X. INVALE K-8 CLOSURE: NEXT STEPS - SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: K-8 CONFIGURATION FOR LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS**

Superintendent Tarzian read and elaborated on her six recommendations regarding next steps for the closing of Inavale K-8 School. (See Supplemental Item #IV-37 in the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.) The six points covered:

1. Inavale K-5 students assigned to Lincoln Elementary, 6-8 students already in Linus Pauling Middle School attendance area
2. Reconfiguring Lincoln Elementary into a K-8 beginning with the 2006-07 school year on a small scale

3. Expanding the Lincoln K-8 program in 2007-08 after defining it through a committee of staff and parents, culminating in a presentation to the Board in December 2006
4. Hiring a new Lincoln School principal with input from an Inavale parent
5. Review all boundaries through a Superintendent's School District Boundary Committee after the CHS/Franklin decisions have been made. Findings to be presented to the Board by December 2006. All schools will have a boundary area, albeit some small, and a goal of no more than 40-50% of students at any one school qualifying for free and reduced lunch.
6. Review and possible revisions to Policy JECC – School Choice Program regarding an assigned attendance boundary area.

Chair O'Malley reminded everyone that the Board was not making decisions regarding this item at this time, just hearing the presentation.

Director Gelser reflected that though the goal of balancing enrollment of free and reduced lunch students is laudable, it may not be embraced. Several years ago Lincoln area families resisted the suggested assigned attendance area of Cheldelin Middle School as it was too far to be easily accessible. She stated that it will be interesting to see how it unfolds and that collaboration with the City might be helpful.

Superintendent Tarzian responded that the proposed changes speak to the concern expressed by many in the south part of town that the options are limited, especially at the secondary level, their choices are only to the north. That alone would not lead her to the suggested change; but it does help meet goals of the Board, District, and community to align resources to best educate students.

Superintendent Tarzian confirmed that Inavale boundary area students will have priority in transfers.

Director Donohue noted the short timeline for boundary decisions between the suggested committee's presentation in December 2006 and the need for citizens to know prior to submitting transfer requests beginning in January.

Chair O'Malley noted that this item would come before the Board again at next Monday's meeting.

Superintendent Tarzian clarified that the Board will be asked to approve Lincoln Elementary as a K-8 at that time; the boundary decisions will be staff responsibility.

## **XI. RESOURCE REVIEW AND PLAN - DEVELOP PROCESS/TIMELINE FOR NEXT STEPS**

Chair O'Malley asked that members voice their values and concerns regarding the resource review and plan. Each member in turn did so, naming the following items:

- Some values tread on superintendent's purview, would like to try and stay out of that area
- Equity is important, does not want to isolate large groups of kids. Diversity means equity but also offering diverse approaches which is related to choices for parents.
- Art, music, PE matter, education of the whole person relates to wellness
- Lifelong learning, focus on creating engaged citizens, engaged in learning process for life
- Community building
- Self-directed life skills

- Completing goals already set
- Continuous Improvement Plan coordination between board and staff
- CHS Master Plan
- Resolve K-8 issue for how many and how big
- Extended learning such as that suggested by Mr. Rose in Citizen Participation portion of meeting
- Value of 2 high schools.
- Class sizes, especially at middle and high school levels
- Committed to pushing state in lawsuit and levy
- Equitable parent access to schools to volunteer
- Equity for all students to participate including students with disabilities (even with declining enrollment self-contained classrooms numbers are growing, should be vital sign)
- Secondary students to have access to the same opportunities
- Limit movement of students
- Quality secondary education with as little unassigned time as possible
- Accessing every dollar
- Investment in personnel to not lose sight of professional development, good evaluation processes and celebrating their accomplishments
- Use Program and Resource Review Committee's planning capacity, understanding the tradeoff might be not having smaller capacity schools
- Want students to be able to attend 4 or 2-year university or straight to a job
- Flexibility for high school students to take more electives
- Provide well rounded education in middle school and elementary levels
- Continue focus on reading for all students
- Spend extra time looking at English Language Learners or special needs students to see what they need and plot a course for their future as well as equity and diversity
- Stability
- Concentrating on cost by necessity, making cost-effective decisions that benefit community. Seems the District has to save a ton of money over next couple of years. Tendency is to panic. Can do more harm than good by moving students around too often. Look to long-term vision of decisions.
- Board says the "what" for students to accomplish, Superintendent the "how"
- Developing students that are prepared for their next step. Anecdotal evidence across the county is that college students need remedial math, etc. One track would be college, other vocational.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills. Schools were set up for factory workers. Today's workers are knowledge workers and are creative. What is the Board and District doing to support? Things like foreign language. Life skills: customer service, finance, etc.
- Health: What is the Board and District doing to bring PE back?
- Grade Level readers
- No idle children, get rid of open blocks, including study halls.
- Flip side of diversity is consistency, do not want public to think that get better education at Hoover than Mt. View.
- Access to general curriculum for all students such as literacy instruction
- Measurable outcomes
- Not being governed by No Child Left Behind Act and standardized outcomes

- Holistic education

Chair O'Malley surmised that all the items could fall into the categories of culture, program, and outcomes. She stated she would bring back the items next week organized into a categorized version, something that could be helpful for staff to have as well. Director Rodman commented that he does not see the items as a "to-do" list but rather a list of reasons why the Board and District are doing what they are doing.

Director Donohue offered that it would be helpful to turn these brainstorming sessions into a long-term strategic plan such as was highlighted at the November Oregon School Boards Association meeting.

CHS Student Representative Lynn Hector offered her comments and concerns:

- Quality of staffing, making sure committed to what teaching and to students
- Equity in staffing so that not all great teachers are teaching Advanced Placement classes
- Career planning – making sure it ties into life, showing how classes are useful
- Opportunities for finding out what interests students

## **XII. PLANNING FOR APRIL 24 RETREAT**

Members voiced topics they would like to see on the April 24 Board (4-hour) Retreat Agenda:

- Board and Superintendent Agreement, #5 and #6
- Communication and Communication Plan, especially e-mail communications, integrating communications with the City and County, being comprehensive and flexible, whether to do "As I See It" column, etc.
- Prioritized a list of "whats" for Superintendent Tarzian to execute the "how." Buildings, facilities, and programs superintendent can do.
- Meeting preparation and organization: Planning meetings go way too long for simple agenda planning, how to start and end meetings on time but still get public input.
- Review of open meetings law
- Feedback from staff regarding amount of time spent completing Board requests
- Committees and committee chairs
- Re-looking at board agreements better at July meeting when do not have so much on plate, why now? Perhaps prioritize some for April and some for July

Chair O'Malley clarified that she saw the retreat as a time to review non-working operating procedures of the Board. She felt she could mold members' suggestions into an agenda. Superintendent Tarzian voiced that a process is needed for the Board to prioritize its work, create timelines, maintain a long-term calendar and provide the ability to communicate with the community about what they are doing.

## **XIII. CONSOLIDATED ACTION**

**MOTION #56:** Considering Item B.3. Agreement with City of Corvallis and Benton County for Fiber Optic Cable already approved, Director Rieck moved, Director Gelser seconded, to approve the

remaining Consolidated Action Items. The motion was unanimously approved.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of November 28, 2005 were approved as presented.

B. SUPPORT SERVICES ITEMS

1. LICENSED PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

No recommendations were put before the Board.

2. IN-KIND DONATIONS

The Board accepted the donations. (Filed as Supplemental Item #X-28 of the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.)

3. AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF CORVALLIS AND BENTON COUNTY FOR FIBER OPTIC CABLE

**See previous Motion #55.**

**MOTION #57:** Director Rieck moved to amend an earlier motion that would change Item B.3., the Agreement with the City of Corvallis and Benton County for the fiber optic cable, by changing the length of the agreement to 15 years. Director Keim seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved after Motion #58, at which time it was brought to the chair's attention that this item should not be approved if #58 was. The vote was retaken. All voted in opposition to this motion.

**MOTION #58:** *(Was referred to as a secondary motion to Motion #57 and was to clarify the change was seen as a typographical error in the agreement not aligning with its cover sheet and oral presentation)*

Director Donohue moved, Director Higgins seconded, to amend the Agreement with the City of Corvallis and Benton County for fiber optic cable to modify the period of time articulated in the contract as being 15 years. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. AGREEMENT WITH LBL ESD FOR VISION SERVICES FOR A PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENT

The Board approved this agreement which indebts the District to provide 17 hours of service through the Linn Benton Lincoln Educational Service District to a student attending Ashbrook Independent School for limited vision services. (See Supplemental Item #I-34 in the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.)

5. SECOND READING OF THE FOLLOWING BOARD POLICIES:

**IGBA**—Students with Disabilities—Revision

**IGBAB**—Records of Students with Disabilities—Revision

**IGBAC**—Special Education—Personnel Development—Revision  
**IGBAE**—Special Education—Participation in Regular Education Programs—Revision  
**IGBAF**—Special Education—Individualized Education Program (IEP)—Revision  
**IGBAG**—Special Education—Procedural Safeguards—Revision  
**IGBAH**—Special Education—Evaluation Procedures—Revision  
**IGBAI**—Special Education – Private Schools—Revision  
**IGBAJ**—Special Education—Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)—Revision  
**IGBAK**—Special Education—Public Availability of State Application—Revision  
**IGBAL**—Special Education—Services for Home-Schooled Students with Disabilities-Revision  
**JGDA/JGEA**—Discipline of Disabled Students—Revision

The Board approved the above policies. (See Supplemental Item #XII-18 in the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.) All were affected by changes in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) of 2004.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) of 2004 was signed into law on December 3, 2004. Most of the provisions of this law were in effect as of July 1, 2005. The Oregon School Boards Association has included recommendations to all of the District's special education policies as revised according to the new federal law. However, further revisions may be necessary once federal regulations are in place, if there is a new interpretation of IDEA by a federal or state court. Some of the policies/administrative regulations only have minor changes, such as updated legal references.

The District will submit an assurance of compliance to the Department of Education.

#### **XIV. CONSOLIDATED INFORMATION**

##### **A. CORRESPONDENCE**

Filed in Section V of the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.

##### **B. INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES ITEMS**

###### **1. INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER INFORMATION**

The Board received information on 3 interdistrict transfers.

###### **2. EXTENDED FIELD TRIP INFORMATION**

The Board received information on 4 extended field trips. (Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-38 in the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.)

##### **C. SUPPORT SERVICES ITEMS**

1. NON-LICENSED PERSONNEL INFORMATION

(Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-39 in the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.)

## 2. UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Board received the unaudited statements of revenues, expenditures, and fund balances for the various funds of the District for the period ending February 28, 2006. (Filed as Supplemental Item #X-29 in the Official 2005-06 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-30 in the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.)

## 4. ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION JC-AR—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS/TRANSFERS (FORMERLY KNOWN AS OPEN ENROLLMENT/SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS)—REVISION

The Board was provided a copy of this completely revised administrative regulation, which has been updated to address the growing concerns about the impact of the District's transfer (open enrollment) guidelines on several schools and on the district as a whole. The new guidelines will not eliminate transfers, but will set some limitations so that school populations will be more balanced and stable.

Many different options were discussed and evaluated. Because of the complete restructuring of this administrative regulation, it has been replaced in its entirety and does not show the regular editing format.

Director Rodman noted that middle students were not referenced and wondered if references to "high school" should be replaced with references to "secondary." Assistant Superintendent Hogeboom confirmed that would be the case.

## **XV. OTHER DISTRICT BUSINESS**

Chair O'Malley confirmed that consideration for a District levy would be addressed at an upcoming meeting.

## **XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board did not meet in executive session this evening.

**XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, Chair O'Malley adjourned the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

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Kari Rieck, Chair\*

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Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent

\*Chair at the time the minutes were submitted for adoption.

Prepared by Jolene Shute

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