

MINUTES

Special Meeting of the

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Corvallis School District 509J

1555 SW 35th Street

Corvallis, OR 97333

NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE UNADOPTED; THEY ARE SCHEDULED FOR ADOPTION BY THE BOARD AT ITS 11/6/06 MEETING.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair O'Malley called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. at the Corvallis Depot, 700 SW Washington, Corvallis, Oregon. The secretary recorded those present as listed below.

<u>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT</u>
Nell O'Malley, Chair	Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent
Kari Rieck, Vice Chair	Kathy Rodeman, Business Services Director
Helen Higgins	Julie Catala, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Matt Donohue	
Donna Keim	
Sara Gelser	
Blake Rodman	

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

II. LOCAL OPTION LEVY: DECISION REGARDING TAX RATE AND SERVICES

Business Services Director introduced the topic by asking the Board to think strategically as to how they would like the District to look in the coming ten years. If the District has additional resources where should they go? What is not working? She also asked that they think about the theme that was suggested and whether or not they would like to use it: rigor, relevance, and relationships. Those two things mesh together in terms of helping them decide what kind of services might be included within the levy.

She continued by stating a way to begin the levy discussion would be to determine the areas of focus, identify what those would include, determine the total and its corresponding tax rate. She explained that the 5-year District levy that provided revenue beginning in 2000, has expired. The District will not receive funding from it next year. 2006 is an even-numbered election year which does not require a double-majority for passage, a benefit. A double-majority would require that at least half of the voters vote with a majority of those in favor for a measure to pass.

Discussion ensued with these points being made:

- If wait until 2008 for levy, funds would be used to prevent further cuts as opposed to adding back some services that would be possible now. Could build up now for programmatic reserve. In 2008 will be in deficit mode.
- If specific areas are named to receive funding over the five years of the levy and the District's financial picture changes, either for better or worse, need to be able to re-evaluate how levy funds are used. Do not want to have the District's hands tied nor be vague to voters. Provide identified needs list as an example. Could identify specific uses a few years out.
- For flexibility, give identified areas of focus to political action committee but not with specific dollar amounts tied to specific items.
- Use list of identified items for political action committee. Dollar amounts are estimates used to arrive at as baseline.
- Constituents say: Every conversation has bond levy over heads but cannot afford any more taxes for education, even though are supporters. Initial standpoint is that need to be realistic about how far have stretched taxpayers; make sure they know difference between operating and capital levy.
- Have to know that not anyone paying that exact levy amount, it differs by property
- Items identified as needs went through a prioritization process in the Budget Committee. Things on the list are key concerns of the superintendent. Acknowledge that some of them have been raised by various processes such as the athletic issue. Executive staff reviewed the list as well.
- Need to identify what has been lost.
- Board could determine whether to levy the full amount each year.
- Suggested levy amount is not the most the District can ask. Previous presentation used \$1.50 as an example.
- Even if went out for maximum levy could not put back all that was lost since early 90's.

Directors reviewed the list of needs and organized their selections under four areas of focus that would benefit from the levy. (See Supplemental Item #VI-4 in the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.)

MOTION #84: Referring to the upcoming proposed operating levy, Director Donohue moved, Director Higgins seconded, to set the option levy tax rate at \$1.50. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION #85: Referring to identifying the themes of items covered by the proposed operating levy, Director Rieck moved to approve the following as to how dollars will be spent over the next five years of the tax operating levy:

1. Sustain Strength Of District Programs.
2. Health, Wellness And The Arts
3. Secondary Education: Academics And Pathways
4. Supporting Academic Success With Vital Building Blocks

Director Higgins seconded the motion.

After some discussion, Director Higgins called the question.

Regarding the motion, Director Rieck stated in clarification that the intent of the starred items from the presented "Local Option levy input from budget committee meeting" list could be used as examples of the identified themes, with no dollar amounts attached. (See Supplemental Item #VI-4 in the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.)

Director Gelser voted in opposition to the motion; all others voted in favor. The motion passed by a vote of 6-1.

III. ADJOURN

Being no further business, Chair O'Malley adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Kari Rieck, Chair*

Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent

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

Prepared by Jolene Shute

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