

MINUTES

Work Session of the

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair O’Malley called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Central Office Board Room, 1555 SW 35th Street, Corvallis. The secretary recorded those present as listed below.

<p><u>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT</u> Nell O’Malley, Chair Kari Rieck, Vice Chair Helen Higgins Sara Gelser Blake Rodman Donna Keim</p>	<p><u>EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT</u> Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent Jim Hogeboom, Assistant Superintendent Mary McKay, Student Services Director Jeanne Holmes, Human Resources Director Duane Jager, Technology Services Manager Julie Catala, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent</p>
<p><u>BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED</u> Matt Donohue</p>	

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

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

Chair O’Malley exercised her prerogative to alter the agenda, switching the order of Items II and III, so that the Discussion/Presentations on Board Goals would be addressed prior to the District Improvement Plan with a break following.

Chair O’Malley announced that the Corvallis High School (CHS) dedication would be held Saturday, December 3 from 2-4 p.m. in the afternoon.

Director Higgins related that she and Superintendent Tarzian had met at Crescent Valley (CV) High School last week to talk with the staff about the work of the Program and Resource (PR2) Committee that she chairs and the number of students living in the CV attendance area that transfer to CHS. Staff members shared their concerns that:

- They were not operating on a level playing field with CHS due to amenities such as a technology supportive infrastructure and an artificial playing field
- Enrollment caps were not being utilized
- \$35,000 had to be cut out of the their budget last week as they did not have the enrollment they had expected

Director Higgins invited them to attend the next PR2 forum. She related to the Board that the

CV meeting seemed to turn around when Superintendent Tarzian informed the staff they could not fix the imbalance between the two high schools by themselves. She felt that staff were eased of the burden that the sole answer was for them to be better and have better programs to achieve the balance.

Director Rieck reported that she had attended a COSA (Confederation of Oregon School Administrators) meeting that day along with Superintendent Tarzian and Assistant Superintendent Hogeboom. They were presented with six different topics that dealt with budgets, what was needed, and the Chalkboard Project. It was clear information relating the results of lots of surveys including thoughts about student readiness for the workforce and trust of principals, custodians, and school boards. She offered to share her notes and a Power Point presentation with the Board and provided each of them a handout that spoke to five issues that they should be talking about in the district.

Director Higgins, Chair of the PR2 Committee, reported that all the parent coffee presentations/discussions had been completed except for those at Adams Elementary and Lincoln Elementary, which were yet to come. The Committee held a forum last Tuesday evening and will be holding a second one this Tuesday to present information and solicit community feedback. Committee members had taken a walk-through of the high schools to determine their actual capacity. She noted that the Committee felt they had the right class size number for planning purposes at the elementary level of 25 students. She is becoming concerned that the Committee will not be able to come to the Board in November with a group of no more than seven possible scenarios. She considered that another set of forums might be needed with the Committee bringing their final scenarios to the Board in early December. She noted the Board will need its own time to work with and execute the information and wondered if there was room to extend the Committee's presentation to the Board and still reach a decision by February, the time that she understood was the latest decisions could be made to implement for the 2006-07 school year if that was the desire. She requested feedback and questions from the Board.

It was related that citizens had been appreciative of the frank presentation at the community forum and that they could record their ideas, tweak the scenarios presented, and provide feedback. The rest of the meeting comments focused on when value judgments of the Board should influence the scenarios. Having them earlier would provide the Committee direction for narrowing the scenarios but could undermine their objective criteria; having them at the end might result in fewer palatable choices to the Board and a major shift in possible options. The Committee has focused solely on data such as eliminating those scenarios that would have 21 modulars on one sight and even then tracking the list of scenarios that were tossed. Director Higgins noted the Committee was trying to keep objective as long as possible, but they are at a tipping point and she does not want the Committee to get into a value discussion. Director Higgins stated that the PR2 Committee would not be offended if the Board does not pick one of the presented scenarios; her idea is to provide a package of seven combinations that the Board can manipulate. She offered that on November 7 the Committee would talk about their tools, considerations, and criteria with the Board, taking any comments on needed course corrections, and then letting the Committee continue its work of developing scenarios.

Regarding Director Gelser's possible appointment to the state legislature, she stated that regardless of the outcome, she planned to continue her directorship with the school board.

II. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATIONS ON BOARD GOALS – Part 1

Board members drew their attention to their Board of Directors Goal Statements draft that they had been developing over several recent meetings. Their aim was to finalize the document this evening for adoption on November 7.

Discussion revealed the desire to:

- Move the goal of developing a fair and objective superintendent evaluation format and process to the Working Agreements, as it is more a task than a goal.
- Combine the two goals related to the revamped budget document and process into one
- Consider the order in which the goals were listed in, as a completed one could affect another as in the assessment of resource conditions and the updating of the Long-Range Facilities Master Plan and use of remaining bond dollars
- Analyze the list for any that could be postponed or eliminated such as the ones in regard to the District Improvement Plan and the District Strategic Plan, not that the Board desired no attention given to the matters but that they might not be initiating any in addition to what staff had provided. It was decided to wait on this paring down until after the presentation on the District Improvement Plan.

Director Gelsler noted that the fall 2006 election does not require a double-majority. The next time that would happen would be 2008. Due to that situation, she stated that it is critical to change the 2007 date to 2006 for consideration as a time for the District to seek funding from voters under the additional revenue goal.

Chair O'Malley called a break at 8:35 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 8:42 p.m.

III. DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

A. LITERACY PLAN

Assistant Superintendent Jim Hogeboom, Technology Services Manager Duane Jager, NCLB (No Child Left Behind) and TAG (Talented and Gifted) Coordinator Patty Beauchamp, and teacher and literacy coach Carrie O'Bryan addressed the Board. In turn, they reviewed the District Literacy Plan, noting the highlighted items on the distributed District Improvement Plan that related to literacy as well.

Points made in their discussion covered that:

- Each school will develop their own action plan including how parents can be involved
- It will take about two years to get all the components in line
- Reading has been taught through 3rd grade but then has been used for learning other subject matter and not given as much attention
- Principals are naming one teacher at their school to become part of the district-wide Literacy Team
- There is a correlation between struggling readers and behavior needing improvement
- PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) team is a member of the Literacy

Team. PBIS is a system based on school data, including the time and place of misbehaviors. It assists in identifying, adapting, and sustaining effective school-wide disciplinary practices. 80-90% of students will be served by its outlined universal and group academic programs; the rest need more intensive teaching and monitoring, such as one on one or buddies.

- Funding for a pilot program, DIBELS, that is underway at several elementaries, is not provided by the involved schools but by grants and the district office. The materials costs are about \$1 per student and testing and assessment is done mainly by volunteers. The cost is in time. The pilot program will be assessed by the Literacy Team.

B. EXTENDED LEARNING

Assistant Superintendent Hogeboom introduced this topic by stating that Extended Learning Coordinator Brian Flannery has had an insurmountable path when one considers the related items on the District Improvement Plan that he is responsible for overseeing. Assistant Superintendent Hogeboom reviewed the new state 2006-07 graduation requirements, which include extended learning, and noted that a staff development day with the high schools was spent reviewing them to provide clarity.

When asked whether the increased requirements for math and writing were included in the 2006-07 graduation requirements, Mr. Flannery stated that they were not but as a requirement for 2010. Director Rieck pointed out that Corvallis counts its credits differently than the State does so the minimum credits required on the State document would have to be doubled to relate.

Mr. Flannery concluded his presentation by stating that his team's focus this year has been on the new 2006-07 graduation requirements and delving into how to make them an aligned part of the whole school curriculum as opposed to an adjunct. He thinks of his team of six in groups of two serving each of the following:

- Extended Learning Specialists working on getting resources into the buildings and students into real world experiences
- COMPETE team members working with high risk students to get them ready for jobs and work experiences, supported by a grant
- AMERICORP workers, serving in conjunction with a City of Corvallis' Park and Recreation Department partnership to focus on service learning

Mr. Flannery continued by stating that there are a lot of resources in the community but with no defined name or need connecting resources with schools it has been difficult. The graduation requirements will force the issue, which matches very well with the District Improvement Plan.

Assistant Superintendent Hogeboom raised the question of whether the District might want to consider restructuring its high schools to meet this new focus. He will be exploring that question with staff and looking for an agreement by June as to how it might be approached. Many pieces are in place but not the whole puzzle.

When questioned about the financial support for the extended learning specialists at each high school, Mr. Flannery responded that they were paid for using Tier 2 funds of the educational service district which includes funds for on-line learning, the other half of their responsibilities.

Chair O'Malley called a break at 9:30 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 9:33 p.m.

IV. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATIONS ON BOARD GOALS – Part 2

After hearing the District Improvement Plan update, the Board agreed to keep its goal related to creating a district strategic plan in collaboration with staff but to reword it in light of its relationship to the Oregon Department of Education's new Continuous Improvement Plan requirements.

V. COMMUNICATION PLAN

Director Gelser presented the Board Communication and Engagement Plan along with its accompanying table of implementations and insights that she and other board members had created. She suggested that it be reviewed in the summer as to how effective and smoothly it had functioned. There were items that Board members could do on their own and others that needed to be organized. It allowed room for flexibility of individual members and could serve as a template for future boards. It was suggested that a committee be formed of board members and staff to funnel the organization. It was noted that the selected board members would need to be a part of the process as it is the Board's communication; staff would be needed to provide teamwork and consistency. Director Gelser asked that members provide feedback to her in the interim before the November regular meeting so that the plan may then be adopted.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Chair O'Malley adjourned the meeting at 10:08 p.m.

Nell O'Malley, Chair

Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent

Prepared by Jolene Shute

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