

MINUTES

Special Meeting of the

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Central Administration Building, 1555 SW 35th Street, Corvallis, Oregon. The secretary recorded those present as listed below.

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Rieck led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

III. BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Director Rodman reported that he is the board representative on a new advisory group regarding the public access TV station, Channel 29. He said the City of Corvallis and the Corvallis School District have a joint committee looking at areas both agencies have in common; the advisory board and the district's involvement grew out of that committee work. The advisory board does not set policy; the group just discusses matters relating to the public access channel. Director Rodman said the local cable company collects funds from its subscribers and designates them for use on a variety of public access media, resulting in the availability of approximately \$130,000 per year. He said the school district's interests are: looking for opportunities to partner with the city on any number of issues; bringing some

cutting edge video and digital equipment to the school system that it cannot currently afford; providing opportunities for the high schools to build some sort of broadcasting program; providing opportunities to bring the public into schools where the equipment is, and; providing service-learning opportunities for students who have developed some expertise in video programming that they can then share with members of the community who want to produce things for the public access channel.

Director Higgins reported that she attended last weekend's Mr. CV pageant, which raised over \$35,000 for agencies including the Jackson Street Youth Shelter and the Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis. She said the amazing event doesn't result in a "winner"; it's about kids working together as a team.

Director Schuster announced that the Mr. Spartan event will occur this weekend. She also reported having attended the drama "In Tandem" at CHS, noting that students worked since December and wrote their own script, made their own costumes, etc. She noted that there was a lot of improvisation in the show, so it was different every night.

Chair Rieck said she attended the Adams Elementary art show and was very impressed with the quality of the work, including some incredible biographies by students in the older grades.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Student Achievement Award – The Crescent Valley High School Mr. CV Pageant Program received the University of Oregon College of Education Alumni Association Student Achievement Award. The award was presented at the Oregon Capitol Building earlier this month.

Auxiliary Services Director – Fred Wright will be able to return to work beginning tomorrow, but will be working part time. Superintendent Tarzian will continue implementing some of the support plan to ensure that expectations can be met. She recognized Noel Mingo, who had risen to the challenge during Mr. Wright's absence.

Watershed Institute Summit – Superintendent Tarzian has been in conversation with Oregon State University (OSU) about the Inavale property. On June 14 a Watershed Institute Summit will be held at the site, and community members, neighborhood residents and OSU and district staff will meet to discuss potential partnerships between the district, the university and landowners for use of the Inavale property. Some of the ideas that will be explored are setting up a study center for watershed studies, applied sciences, natural resources, environmental sustainability, and rural education. She hopes the university can use the site to conduct ongoing research and that the district could retain one or two classrooms to allow K-12 students to come and be integrated into that research and study alongside OSU staff. Part of the dream is to have the center open on some Saturdays to allow kids to bring other kids and family members out to repeat experiments or experiences they had there. Superintendent Tarzian's vision is that the center would be open to all Corvallis students and that possibly partnerships could be developed with Philomath and Albany to help defray costs. She said this is not a new idea; it

was generated by a number of Inavale community and staff members a year ago. There's ongoing interest and a mutual goal on the part of many to see something like this available in that part of our community.

Literacy Coaches – The district hired eight literacy coaches for next year: eight half-time positions, equating to 4.0 FTE. All the literacy coaches are current teachers in the district. The positions were set up to support teachers with the implementation of the new curriculum; support administrators and teachers with analysis of data and the implementation of Response to Intervention (RTI); to provide coaching and training assistance for teachers, especially with kids in subgroups that are currently struggling, and particularly to support some of our newer teachers. The coaches will receive a lot of training.

In response to a question from Director Schuster about whether the positions are permanent, Superintendent Tarzian said the discussion is ongoing at this time. She noted that two competing interests are at play: staff development toward all of the supports the reading coach position is designed to address, and; the extra time some students may need to learn to read. She said discussion is underway about the resource being used to extend the day or provide for summer school. The district will be looking at the impact of reading coaches on student learning, and assessing whether or not to continue or adjust them – either due to tremendous success or because the positions haven't impacted student learning as desired. Superintendent Tarzian said continuing turnover in staff is anticipated; being ready to train teachers in the use of the curriculum and the coaching support, as well as the support to monitor student progress, are something that the district would like to institutionalize, whether that be through reading coach positions or through the work that is naturally done.

African American Youth Leadership Conference (AAYLC) – The goal of the event, sponsored by Hewlett Packard, was to introduce students to the PRIDE theme: Proud, Responsible Individuals Dedicated to Excellence. Particularly targeted for this event were children of African American or biracial backgrounds. Approximately 50 district students participated as well as several staff. The goals of the day were to raise awareness on how to achieve personal goals, to emphasize the value of education, to empower future leadership of these youth, to establish a sense of community, and to increase personal self esteem and affirm cultural awareness. It was the first time this has occurred in our region. Feedback from staff and students was that this was a wonderful opportunity to get together with a large number of what are traditionally minority students in our various schools, and to find out what strong community there is and the potential that exists for future leadership.

Family English Language Learner Advocate – This position is currently held by Angie Stambuk, M.D., who had been a counselor at Garfield Elementary. The position was created two years ago through the Linn Benton Lincoln Education Service District (LBL ESD). Superintendent Tarzian said it feels like a really established resource for district staff and the community; she distributed to each board member a brochure about the resource.

Suzanne Dalton, New CHS Principal – Superintendent Tarzian introduced Suzanne Dalton, newly hired principal for CHS beginning July 1. Superintendent Tarzian outlined some of the highlights of Ms.

Dalton's career and shared a few highlights from the conversations she had with staff, parents and students during her site visit to Newport High School, where Ms. Dalton is the principal. Ms. Dalton said she is honored and excited to serve as the incoming principal of CHS.

**V. AWARD OF WESTLAND DEMOLITION CONTRACT BID NO. 14-0607-
WESTLAND-DEMO-FW**

MOTION #41: It was moved by Director Higgins to approve the award of the Westland Demolition Project.

Business Services Director Kathy Rodeman drew the board's attention to an addendum at their places (filed as Supplemental Item #II-3 in the Official 2006-07 Board Minutes), which indicated that if the district had proceeded with the original bid as advertised, it's very likely that the City of Corvallis would require a conditional development application that would slow down the process. The addendum indicated:

The City of Corvallis originally determined that there was no need for a Conditional Development Permit. However, when the District added an overlay of existing asphalt to the scope of this project, the City Planning Department then determined that the totality of the scope of the work planned did require a Conditional Development Permit from the City Planning Department. District Staff and the engineers were of the opinion that the demolition work only contemplated an overlay of existing asphalt and that the City would not conceive this as construction.

Ms. Rodeman said staff is asking the board to reject all bids for this project. Staff would then work with its engineers to develop the specifications more tightly to omit any ambiguity for the City. She said the project, including demolition of the building, would follow the same timeline; we'd just need to reject these bids and go out for bid again. Ms. Rodeman assured the board that there will be no new construction; the building will be demolished and the area will just be filled in to prevent a safety hazard.

Director Higgins withdrew Motion #41.

MOTION #42: Director Higgins moved that all bids for the Westland Demolition project be rejected and that the project be resubmitted for the demolition of Westland.

Ms. Rodeman drew the board's attention to the "action requested" portion of the addendum and asked that it be referenced in the board's decision. She added that it is very unusual to reject all bids and start over; the district's attorney drafted the language of the addendum to ensure that the district is in compliance with all state statutes.

Director Higgins amended her motion to include all of the following language from the addendum as follows:

It is requested that the Board find it is in the public's best interest to reject all bids and direct District Staff to prepare new bid documents to reflect that the work to be performed is demolition with public safety as the primary goal, with no site enhancement, and any demolition work will be done in such a manner as to avoid the creation of any unsafe conditions such as the utilization of back fill and gravel which would avoid leaving holes in the ground due to ground excavation. The District declares that it has no planned construction for this site and demolishing the buildings and preparing the site as safe is the District's primary objective.

It is further requested that the Board find it is in the public's best interest to proceed as outlined above and accept the recommendation by District Staff. It is requested that the Board further finds and directs that all bids received by the District on the Westland Middle School Demolition Project be rejected.

It is lastly requested that the Board further find that it would be in the District's best interest that the new demolition project be rebid as soon as practicable in order to complete the work as close to the original project timeline as is feasible in order to create a safe site. (OAR 137-049-0440, ORS 279A.065, 279C.375, 279C.380, 279C.395, 279A.105 and 279A.110).

Director O'Malley seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

**VI. AWARD OF BUILDING AUTOMATION SYSTEMS PACKAGE #3 CONTRACT
BID NO. 18-0607-BAS III-KM**

District Energy Manager Noel Mingo drew the board's attention to an addendum for this item. (Filed as Supplemental Item #II-4 in the Official 2006-07 Board Minutes.) He indicated that staff split the bid into separate packages to achieve better pricing; there are separate awards and three separate contractors, each completing separate packages for each of the schools.

MOTION # 43: It was moved by Director O'Malley to approve the Award of Building Automation Systems Package #3 Contract Bid No. 18-0607-BAS III-KM in accordance with the action requested by staff in the addendum as follows:

Superintendent Tarzian and Business Manager Kathy Rodeman recommend that the board authorize staff to enter into contracts with the three low bidders to complete the Building Automation Systems #3 work during the summer of 2007.

Director Rodman seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

VII. SPECIAL REPORTS

A. SERVICE-LEARNING

Technology Services Manager Duane Jager provided a demonstration on the soon-to-be-implemented e-Folio system. Before the presentation began, Superintendent Tarzian noted that the use of e-Folio will ensure that students meet graduation requirements for extended application.

Mr. Jager introduced two staff members from the Willamette Education Service District (WESD): Marcellus Tryk, Application Developer, and Rod Aust, Chief Information Officer. Mr. Jager indicated that the e-Folio application is still in the development stage; the plan is to have a pilot start on May 10 with juniors at Crescent Valley High School, and to have another pilot at Corvallis High School soon. Students and staff members will provide feedback for refinement and implementation of e-Folio at the start of next school year.

During the demonstration, Mr. Jager noted that e-Folio includes four major components: Personal Education Plan and Profile (PEPP), Career Related Learning Standards (CRLS), Career Related Learning Experiences (CRLE), and Extended Application.

Director O'Malley provided a perspective of her experience working with new college students who often have difficulty tracking their transcripts and records. She asked if students would use the e-Folio system for their college applications, and what happens to the information after the students graduate high school. Mr. Jager said the committee hasn't had that discussion. He said the information will be available to students when they create a resume and they save it in the system. The students have been using the Career Information System (CIS); his next step is to work with the CIS staff members to see if some of the information students are entering there can just be put directly into the e-Folio application, via a direct link.

Responding to a query from Vice Chair Keim, Mr. Tryk indicated that students have access to only the current year's data; they cannot retroactively change their information, nor can they work into future years.

In response to a question from Vice Chair Keim about which staff members will assist students as they create their individual e-Folio, Mr. Jager said a position will be added at each of the high schools to support and develop this system in the schools. Superintendent Tarzian added that every staff member needs to be aware and support this process because every student will need to do this every year. She said this is an on-line program so parents will be able to look at their student's profile; this will hopefully bring students and parents together for an annual conversation about goals, dreams, etc.

Responding to a question from Director Schuster, Mr. Jager said the e-Folio program is custom made for the district, integrating state guidelines. He said district staff has worked closely with WESD to design this system.

Director O'Malley asked what counseling options are going to be available for students and what staff interventions are going to be expected. Mr. Jager replied that the new staff positions will play a key role in that regard and that staff development training will be provided for teachers; training will be especially important for the teachers who'll incorporate these standards into their classes.

Responding to a question from Director O'Malley about how students who have been home schooled or have attended private school will be integrated into the use of the e-Folio system, Mr. Jager said that issue as well as how to integrate students who move into the district in, for example, 11th grade, will be examined.

Superintendent Tarzian acknowledged the partnership with WESD, indicating that their participation was instrumental in getting this far. Mr. Aust said this product is a direct benefit of the assistance of the Corvallis School District, so 509J will not have to pay to use this system.

Service-Learning Coordinator Shari Maksud introduced Claire Crosby and Laura Warn, AmeriCorps members that work with service-learning at CVHS and CHS. Ms. Maksud said their assistance has allowed much to be accomplished this year.

Ms. Maksud explained that service-learning is not just a project that one does and then puts away, it's about what students are doing in their classrooms that they can extend out into the community. She shared information about one of the projects that 509J students presented at PeaceJam this past weekend to Nobel Laureate Betty Williams.

Ms. Crosby provided a demonstration of the district's service-learning Web site, which provides resources for teachers and students. Ms. Warn then talked about the master report for all service-learning projects district-wide.

Ms. Maksud indicated that more than 50% of 509J students have service-learning opportunities and said documenting them will be critical. She noted that research shows that kids who are connected stay in school longer, turn down drugs, etc., and service-learning is a huge way to connect kids. Superintendent Tarzian said the on-line tool allows staff to assess where teachers are implementing service-learning.

Ms. Maksud said service-learning is just a way of teaching curriculum in class; it's what is being documented for high school graduation. Director Rodman said he would like to see kids intrinsically motivated for civic engagement.

B. RESULTS OF TELEPHONE SURVEY FOR TRANSITIONING INVALE STUDENTS

Ms. Rodeman drew the board's attention to a document they had received, which outlined the results of a survey of former Inavale students who were transitioning to another 509J school this year. (Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-24 in the Official 2006-07 Board Minutes.) She said parents of students in

first through seventh grade were surveyed; 110 were contacted and 86 responded. The survey was intended to determine how the district had done in helping students transition, whether the new schools were meeting their needs and whether they were feeling included, and then getting the information to principals so they could take action and try to improve situations where they weren't ideal. She said a similar survey was conducted after the closures of Harding Elementary, Fairplay Elementary and Highland View Middle Schools. Ms. Rodeman noted that this summary was prepared after a request was received from the Muddy Creek Charter School organizers.

C. CITY'S REQUEST REGARDING SCHOOL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT CHARGES (SDC) LEGISLATION (SB 366 AND SB 1036)

Chair Rieck said this issue was raised during a recent joint City of Corvallis/509J collaboration committee meeting, and the city requested that it be brought to the board's attention. The city is going to oppose these bills and has asked for the board's support.

Ms. Rodeman referenced several other bills in addition to SB 366 and SB 1036 (SB 45, SB 735, HB 2525), saying that all the bills relate to school districts and might trigger a tax or charge that could pay for public improvements for schools. Ms. Rodeman had provided information to the board prior to the meeting that included:

"The idea behind the bills is that the school district would collect money from new construction that would offset the cost of adding facilities to serve new kids in new neighborhoods. We would be unlikely to realize enough from SDCs over a period of several years to realistically pay for a new school. It seems that this would make future capital improvement bond elections more difficult as some people would feel that they have already paid their share. Also, we typically don't see the direct impact of increasing students from new housing developments."

Ms. Rodeman said that when she and Auxiliary Services Director Fred Wright looked at the bills, they felt none would be of great benefit to the district, primarily because there is not enough new construction or enough direct linkage to new students coming from new construction. Ms. Rodeman explained that SB 1036 would limit the amount of taxes to a percentage of construction; there are some other limits in the other bills. She said the city already has systems development charges and doesn't want limits placed by the legislature about what they can charge.

Chair Rieck said this information is just to keep board members aware that these bills could impact the district; she encouraged board members to better understand what the bills mean for the district.

Director Rodman noted that the city brought this issue to the board as a courtesy because on the surface it appears that they're opposing something that would be good for the district; it's really more just allowing flexibility in the use of the funds.

D. UPDATE ON STATE FUNDING

Ms. Rodeman referenced the Ways and Means Committee co-chairs' proposed 2007-09 state budget of \$6.245 billion, and the recommendation that was made to make a portion of that – between \$245 and \$260 million – allocated on competitive grants for school districts. If that amount were allocated equally, Corvallis' estimated portion would be \$1.4 million from the School Improvement Fund. The concern is that by allocating the funds on a competitive basis, it'll become inequitable for certain districts. There are a number of problems with that type of funding: if it's short term funding, such as all-day kindergarten, and it's only for two years, it will be difficult to determine whether it has had enough of an effect. She said the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA) is committed to not having this funding awarded competitively; but newspaper reports indicate that it will be competitive.

Chair Rieck encouraged board members to follow this issue closely.

In response to a question by Director Schuster about whether Corvallis could be competitive, Superintendent Tarzian said the district might not be competitive because it just passed a local option levy.

VIII. LOCAL OPTION LEVY TAX RATE

MOTION #44: It was moved by Vice Chair Keim and seconded by Director Higgins to set the local option levy tax rate at \$1.10 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Ms. Rodeman referenced the board's discussion at its April 2, 2007 meeting, and said that due to an increase in Corvallis property values, the voter-approved local option levy tax rate of \$1.50 would have generated significantly more than what the voters were expecting to pay. Tonight's vote is really about the guidance the board will give to the budget committee. She said the extra money would be incorporated as a contingency, especially in the first year.

Vice Chair Keim explained that she recommends approving the \$1.10 rate because if the district can tell the public that it's giving something back by not seeking the maximum but is still getting a little bit more than anticipated, it will help the district pass future levies.

Ms. Rodeman confirmed that a tax rate of \$0.99/\$1,000 of assessed value would be the district's break-even point.

Director O'Malley said she will vote in opposition to the motion because there is a sense of urgency with class size; kids cannot be told that the district is sort of bargaining with its voters. She said class sizes are an outrage and the best thing to do to improve test scores is to lower class size. She said she feels we should be asking for the maximum; she cannot look the children in the eye and say that we aren't doing so for political reasons. She said she cannot vote for a mediocre amount under these

conditions.

Director Rodman said he shares the concern expressed by Director O'Malley. He said he thought the district had earmarked a fairly good chunk of the levy money for the contingency. Ms. Rodeman clarified that it's not a hedge against collections on the levy, it's a hedge for funding from the state and decreased enrollment. Director Rodman wondered aloud whether the additional funds collected could be used to buy more teachers.

Director Higgins sought confirmation of her belief that the board could give guidance to the budget committee that the increased funds not be put into the contingency fund. Ms. Rodeman provided that confirmation, and reiterated that the board could increase the tax rate if needed in future years.

Chair Rieck reminded the board of its commitment to the voters to use the local option levy dollars in certain ways, saying that the board must be accountable to the voters. Director O'Malley said that the commitment didn't extend to indicating the number of middle and high school teachers the district would hire to lower class sizes.

Chair Rieck said she is worried about Benton County's upcoming levy because their services are at risk; she would like to revisit the rate next year.

Director Rodman offered an **amendment to Motion #44**, that the budget include the additional money for further class size reduction.

The board requested Superintendent Tarzian's opinion. Superintendent Tarzian said she feels she is between a rock and a hard place because the very fact that tax values have increased tells her there are real costs to the citizens in this community. She said she considered what the district requested to run its system; she believes there are limited resources and there are needs beyond the district that reflect similar levels of pain in other systems. She said that talking about levying the full amount because of the ability to do so makes her feel out of integrity with the community about what was communicated about the district's needs; but when she says those words she still thinks, "Wouldn't it be nice?"

Chair Rieck called the question. **The motion was voted on. Director O'Malley voted in opposition to the motion; all others voted in favor of it. The motion passed by a vote of 5-1.**

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

Kari Rieck, Chair

Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent

Prepared by: Julie Catala

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