

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 8:04 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>	<u>EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT</u>
Kari Rieck, Chair	Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent
Donna Keim, Vice Chair	Jim Hogeboom, Assistant Superintendent
Matt Donohue	Julie Catala, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Helen Higgins	
Nell O'Malley	
Blake Rodman	
Anne Schuster	

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Rieck led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

III. DISCUSSION REGARDING DISTRICT VISION PROCESS AND NEXT STEPS

Jeff DeFranco of True North Consulting provided an overview of the district's vision process. He displayed a notebook filled with the raw data that was collected as part of the vision process and which is being used by the vision process Synthesizing Committee. He provided highlights of the district's vision process, including the methods for collecting input. Key were three guiding questions:

1. As a community, what knowledge and skills do we believe our students need to possess to be successful?
2. What learning experiences and opportunities should we provide for our students?
3. What kind of culture are we committed to fostering in our district?

Mr. DeFranco shared information about the work of the Synthesizing Committee. He said that some of the recommendations that will come from the committee are already being done; the

committee will just be confirming, based on the community's input, that those items are the right way to go. He said the committee will also make recommendations that will be very different from what the district is doing today because the committee was asked to be future thinkers and to look at the community data. Mr. DeFranco said that in the end it's up to the leaders of the district to decide "what first?" He said the vision plan is built long-term.

Director Rodman asked if the end product given to the board would be the same thing given to the community. Mr. DeFranco explained what the end product would be and said the report will not nail down every detail, not be a step-by-step action plan, because the board will guide the implementation; however, it will be accessible by the public and used by staff. Mr. DeFranco explained that there will also be a smaller document that gives a simple overview of the process, which could be easily read by interested persons.

In response to a question from Director O'Malley about the themes – in terms of 21st century education – found in Corvallis that weren't found anywhere else, Mr. DeFranco said that world language was a huge desire in this community. He said hands-on learning was also prominent and the community focused on delivery vs. subject. He said engineering – even at the elementary level – and service-learning were also strong themes.

Vice Chair Keim raised concern about the presentation of questions for the voting exercise during the culminating event. Mr. DeFranco said that the vision leadership group made a decision not to put in statements such as "For X dollars you could do XYZ." He said the district had already done a budget prioritization process and it would confuse people to do it again, and the District Improvement Plan was already in place. Superintendent Tarzian added that it wouldn't have felt hypothetical; it would have felt "in time."

Mr. DeFranco said the vision process won't result in an immediate "to do" list; it will be used to leverage resources over time to address things above and beyond the district's means.

At the request of Director Donohue, Superintendent Tarzian agreed to provide the board the raw data collected through the vision process.

Director Schuster asked whether sustainability was one of the themes that emerged. Mr. DeFranco said the sustainability questions received the following responses: 40% "yes"; 25% "consider"; and 24% "not enough information," so he doesn't see it as an area of opposition.

Director Schuster asked what will happen with the many interesting ideas that weren't themes. Mr. DeFranco said the synthesizing committee was directed to use all of the data, not just the themes. He said committee members even brought up things that they heard through the process.

Superintendent Tarzian said the board will receive a draft of the recommendations at the June 25 board meeting, and will take action or have more discussion at the August 13 meeting.

Superintendent Tarzian said she is pleased that the process spans the transition of the board because a lot has been invested from the community and the district; she wants this to be a tool that the board can use as it plans for the future. She said she hopes to be able to use it to communicate to our community as early as the start of the coming school year.

Superintendent Tarzian said she has received a lot of feedback over the years with a common theme of trust, or lack thereof, in what the district is doing. She said one always fantasizes that having more money will increase that trust but the reality is that it sometimes makes it harder to trust the decisions that are being made. She said she is trying to establish a practice in this district of engaging our community to provide input as to the decisions that are made, not creating a document that locks us in and stops that discussion further. She said it's been a long time since we asked the general community what they think kids need in the future, and they're paying for this future. She said she cannot present the board with some kind of a democratic document that everyone votes on; she wouldn't even want to lock the board into that kind of a process because who we are as a community is evolving and it will continue to. She said that if we establish the practice of engaging our community in regular discussion, they're going to talk to us; we won't be able to do everything they say and she hopes we don't establish that kind of precedent by wanting to review all of the information and tabulating if we got it right. She said we need to honor what we've heard from the community by publishing this document and sending it back out, listening some more and maybe wrestling with the things that we heard from a lot of people.

IV. PRESENTATION REGARDING SEVEN-YEAR ADOPTION CYCLE BUDGET FOR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Assistant Superintendent Hogeboom distributed an updated version of the State Instructional Materials Seven-Year Adoption Schedule (filed as Supplemental Item #VII-36 in the Official 2006-07 Board Minutes), which provides a big picture of the district's plan; he noted that the details continually change. He also distributed the 2007-08 Instructional Materials Adoption Proposal (filed with Supplemental Item #VII-36 in the Official 2006-07 Board Minutes). He explained that this year we estimated that our language arts adoption for K-6 would cost about \$450,000; it actually cost \$536,000 partly because of intervention materials that we purchased. A lot of the money is for intervention materials as we try to implement Response To Intervention (RTI); that's predicated on having intervention materials available, which are very expensive.

Mr. Hogeboom said \$1 million was set aside from the \$3.2 million in the five-year plan, and staff put aside \$200,000 in next year's budget; if the district puts aside \$250,000 every year, then after seven years, there would be a fund balance of \$2.46 million. He added that if all of these numbers came in over the course of seven years, there would be approximately \$758,000 left at the end of those seven years. He noted that English Language Arts is incredibly expensive but the arts, PE, and health are not that expensive. He said the district could afford to put aside \$250,000 each year; the purpose of the large document is to show where we'd be after seven years.

Superintendent Tarzian clarified that the district hasn't been on the state adoption cycle for some time, and said that when a district makes an investment and sets aside a textbook adoption fund, it's to pay forward; the problem is the district hasn't paid backward, so there are certain subject areas that are really hurting right now: world languages and social studies. She said the hope is to purchase these materials ahead of the state adoption schedule. She said the district won't buy those items on the prescribed adoption cycle; it will be 10 years before they're purchased again

because we're buying them three years early and the cycle won't repeat for seven years. She said she wants the district to be able to sustain a curriculum adoption every seven years into the future by putting aside \$250,000 a year, and she wants a record kept so that three years from now there won't be a request for additional materials from staff.

Mr. Hogeboom said the 2007-08 Instructional Materials Adoption Proposal provides more detail about next year's adoption. He said the two documents are intended to garner the board's general approval for the adoption, specifically for next year. Chair Rieck said this proposal will be part of the budget adoption at the June 25 meeting; it'll be an amendment to the budget.

Director Rodman opined that the remaining balance at the end of seven years seems substantial and asked why we wouldn't frontload some things like art education. He said the amount for art materials is so small yet it's so far out on the schedule and the district hasn't spent much money on art materials. Mr. Hogeboom said that during curriculum adoption years, a caravan visits districts, bringing materials for staff to review; the district wants to get on that cycle. He added that the district's system is overloaded in its ability to process this many books in one year; if it's a big adoption, like science, it will be piloted one year and implemented the next, so there's an advantage to being on that adoption cycle. Superintendent Tarzian said that, knowing the materials will only get more expensive as the years go by, leaving any less than the \$758,000 as an ending fund balance really compromises the idea that we're trying to put the district in the position to be on a seven-year adoption cycle. She said this plan is intended to make it possible to only dedicate \$250,000 a year to stay in this cycle, knowing there are some years when it's going to be close to \$800,000 to buy what we need. She said she hopes we don't put the district back in a position of either having to cut staff to purchase curriculum materials or to go without any curriculum materials for decades; that's what this plan is trying to address.

Director Donohue asked if we are in a good enough situation to put arts off until 2012-13, as the schedule dictates. Director O'Malley said it's a bigger question, which was discussed during the budget process. She said we have art teachers at the high school level and art electives at the middle school level; the assumption is that there's a prescribed art curriculum happening at the elementary level but there isn't. She said that if the visioning process shows a community desire for art, then the board will need to make a decision about what arts curriculum is going to be implemented; the materials need to follow. She said that right now, there's really a void; there's no point applying this much money at this time.

Mr. Hogeboom said he's asking the board two things: whether the general plan to have \$758,000 left at the end of seven years makes sense, and; for approval of the proposed seven-year adoption cycle.

Director Higgins recommended changing the language around funding from "money left over", to something that expresses that there is a plan to have money available to fund the continuing adoption cycle. She said she believes it's wise for the board to make a decision to put money into the future for this purpose.

Mr. Hogeboom said this seven-year adoption plan is his best guess about what needs to be frontloaded now to take care of the district's most pressing needs.

V. CONSOLIDATED ACTION

MOTION #: 54 It was moved by Director O'Malley and seconded by Vice Chair Keim to approve the consolidated action items. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

A. Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Corvallis for Wildcat Park

The board approved the agreement with the City of Corvallis for Wildcat Park. (Filed as Supplemental Item #I-32 in the Official 2006-07 Board Minutes.) Prior to the closure of Wildcat Park at Wilson Elementary School in January 2006, the Corvallis School District and the City of Corvallis formally cooperated in the development and maintenance of this creative play site. The agreement was terminated on September 5, 2005, based on advice from the City's Risk Management and Attorney's offices. Since January 2006, the community rallied to construct a creative play structure at Wilson Elementary School; the new Wildcat Park officially opened June 8, 2007.

B. Requirements Contract for Custodial Supplies RFP. 22-0607-Custodial Supplies-JM

The board authorized district staff to enter into an agreement with Coastwide Laboratories for Custodial Supplies to be effective July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2012. (Filed as Supplemental Item #I-33 in the Official 2006-07 Board Minutes.) Several years ago the district developed a partnership with the Greater Albany Public School District and Linn Benton Community College to solicit bids for a Custodial Stockless Requirement Contract. It was determined that by joining the combined purchasing power of the three agencies it would be much more beneficial as far as product pricing. Since that time there have been a total of 22 other public agencies which have been added to the contract purchasing capabilities.

C. Award of Westland Demolition Contract Bid No. 28-0607-WESTLAND-DEMO-FW

The board authorized staff to enter into contract with Performance Abatement Services for Demolition of Westland Middle School as outlined in Bid No. 28-0607-Westland Demo-FW. (Filed as Supplemental Item #I-34 in the Official 2006-07 Board Minutes.) In November 2002, the district passed an \$86.4 million facilities improvement bond which began the process to implement Phase I of the district's Long Range Facilities Master Plan. One of the improvement projects identified in the master plan was construction of a new middle school to replace Western View and Highland View Middle Schools, both facilities having been found to be seismically unsafe. Highland View Middle School was demolished to make way for the new school, Linus Pauling Middle School. The district is ready to proceed with demolition of the Western View building.

D. Telephone System Replacement

The board authorized staff to purchase a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephone system from Obsidian Technologies and enter into contract with Willamette ESD for installation of said system. (Filed as Supplemental Item #I-35 in the Official 2006-07 Board Minutes.) The district-wide telephone system is at the end of its life span and intermittent problems with loss of service to some buildings has occurred. As technology in the telephonic field is advancing rapidly, district staff and consultants have spent considerable time exploring the best options for replacement of this system. VoIP has been determined to best meet the district's needs.

VI. ACCEPTANCE OF ELECTION RESULTS

Four Corvallis school board positions were on the ballot for the May 15, 2007 election. In accordance with state law, the board is charged with accepting the results of the election, provided by the Benton County Elections Department. (Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-25 in the Official 2006-07 Board Minutes.)

MOTION #:55 It was moved by Director O'Malley and seconded by Director Higgins to accept the election results for the May 15, 2007 election as submitted by the Benton County Elections Department.

The motion was voted on. Chair Rieck abstained from the vote, saying that she had received information from some community members that would create a conflict of interest for her. All other board members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, Chair Rieck adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Blake Rodman, Chair*

Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent

*Chair at the time these minutes were submitted for approval.

Prepared by: Julie Catala

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