

MINUTES
Special Meeting of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Corvallis School District 509J

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 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> Anne Schuster, Chair Lisa Corrigan, Vice Chair Matt Donohue Blake Rodman Bill Ten Pas Greg Perry John Turman	<u>EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT</u> Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent Kathleen Walker, Student Services Director Jennifer Duvall, Human Resources Director
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A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Schuster led the group in the pledge of allegiance and invited the audience to introduce themselves.

III. NEW TEACHER MENTOR PROGRAM

Human Resources Director Jennifer Duvall, teacher mentors Sheryl White, Heather Jager, Carole Beedlow, and new teacher Zachary Lauritzen presented on the New Teacher Mentor program.

Ms. Duvall and the teachers updated the Board regarding the history of this year's new mentor program, which was distributed on a grant format, and the portions of the past program which have been retained. Ms. White, Ms. Jager, Ms. Beedlow and Mr. Lauritzen shared their personal experiences with the program this year.

Answering a question from Director Perry, Ms. Duvall informed the Board that there are 17 educators new to the District, with nine brand new educators. Whether the program will continue past this year depends on funding, though it would be ideal to continue.

IV. PUBLIC TESTIMONY REGARDING ALL-DAY KINDERGARTEN

Julie Smolarck, 26095 SW Nicole Dr., Corvallis. Ms. Smolarck said she had two children go through the all-day program and opined how wonderful the program is at Adams Elementary. She noted the importance for single parents and dual-income parents.

Sandy Nored, 2527 NW Princess, Corvallis and Helen Higgins, 2295 NW Sulphur Springs Rd., Corvallis. Ms. Nored and Ms. Higgins testified together on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club of Corvallis. They offered to partner with the District to provide an after-school program and stated they can offer services very quickly.

Questions: Vice Chair Corrigan requested information on the ratio of staff to children and ballpark price for the Boys and Girls Club program, Superintendent Tarzian Time for Art, Academics, Recreation & Sports (STARS). Ms. Higgins stated that they are certified for 1 adult to 15 children, but generally operate at a 1 adult to 12 children ratio. Ms. Nored noted they hope to staff with a program coordinator and then use interns or paid staff.

Adam Ghozeil, 3651 NW Wisteria Pl., Corvallis. Mr. Ghozeil said he has one child in Hoover Elementary in enrichment and a three-year old who he would like to place in that program. He noted the community value of education draws families and contributes to local economy, and shared some statistics from a study regarding academic success and lower-economic status.

Brooke Guillaumot, 814 NW 33rd St, Corvallis. Ms. Guillaumot said she has a child entering kindergarten at Hoover in the fall. She said she was surprised what full-day kindergarten provided her first child; couldn't believe what kindergarteners were capable of. She expressed her belief that daily dosage of concepts and practice is crucial as a foundation for learning.

Rynda Gregory, 1011 Mountain River Drive, Lebanon. Ms. Gregory said she has two children who went to full day kindergarten at Hoover. She said she is an elementary principal in a neighboring district and that district was not willing to sacrifice full-day kindergarten. Presented questions to the board and noted importance of accelerating, not decelerating, learning.

Questions:

Director Perry requested the percentage of her district's Title I kids. Ms. Gregory noted that most children are Title I, and Title I funds were prioritized to be used for full-day kindergarten

Director Ten Pas asked what was sacrificed for this program. Ms. Gregory noted it was Title I positions cut, that it was hard to do and her district is smaller than Corvallis.

John Stevenson, 2689 N Maser Pl., Corvallis. Mr. Stevenson said he has a child who went through the program at Hoover. He supports full-day kindergarten. He opined that the Boys and Girls Club is nice but is not a replacement for a teacher. He urged the Board to be creative and would rather see an increase in tuition rather than canceling the program.

John Alberte, 1150 SW Poplar Pl., Corvallis. Mr. Alberte said he has a four-year old he would like to be in extended kindergarten and had a child go through the program. He asked what other communities are doing, and asked for improved communication to parents. He said he would like to be involved in finding funding solutions.

Katie McNutt, 2809 NW Morning Glory, Corvallis. Ms. McNutt is a kindergarten teacher at the District. She shared a philosophy and current ideas from the National Association for the Education of Young Children and a book review in support of full-day kindergarten.

Jenna Tilt, 2960 NW Firwood Dr., Corvallis School District 509J. Ms. Tilt said that wanting what is best for children and being working parents are not mutually exclusive and the economic crisis is hard. She expressed that her son has seen incredible growth in his year so far. She said there is a difference between the best for a child and a holding pen for a child.

Following public testimony, Superintendent Tarzian presented information to the Board based on questions posed by the Board at the November 2, 2009 Board meeting. These questions were for a cost break down, information on other districts, and Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) data. She requested Business Director Kathy Rodeman present a tuition study that was completed a few years ago regarding comparison in child care costs.

Director Rodman asked that she refresh the reason the Board is looking at this issue prior to answering those questions.

A summary of Superintendent Tarzian's comments:

- This is a complex issue.
- Appreciate the testimony of the community; impressed with the advocacy for future children and the respect given to staff and the Board.
- This is a difficult issue for the District and the Board.
- We are at this decision point because of state-level actions in the last two years. Kindergarteners are funded at a 0.5 rate compared to 1.0 for first through twelfth graders.
- Oregon State Superintendent of Education asked the Attorney General to review statutes two years ago regarding public school ability to charge tuition that exceeds the half-day.
- The Attorney General rendered a new opinion that when school district offered more than the half day the school district may not charge tuition to participate in program.
- Governor Kulongoski signed Senate bill 1068 in 2008 which prohibits charging any tuition for those who qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch (FR Lunch or those who can prove severe hardship).

- Both of these actions at the state level forced to bring issue to Board.
- Up until this year the Board has supported the program on the condition that it pays for itself.
- The question of benefit to students was never a factor in the Board's discussion, nor was the question of whether or not the benefit to students merited using the funding we receive for first to twelfth graders to augment the kindergarten .5 funding.
- The District is not cutting from budget and saves no money. This has worked because state laws have allowed us to create something that the interpretation of statues no longer supports.
- Support advocacy for early childhood, but also feel obligated to advise the Board when and where we can afford it.
- The state does not feel they can fully fund kindergarten without affecting the education of first through twelfth grade; this recession will affect education no matter what, let alone the affect to kindergarten.
- This is the same issue at state level.
- Knowing you received recommendation from Ms. Rodeman not to add anything new to the budget without removing something from the budget brings this issue out of the budget process into a separate issue.
- Could not wait until May's budget finalization to inform the community. This gives us time to look at how we can help support.
- This is occurring now out of respect for community and teachers who have been providing this service. If we can't afford to continue we also owe them the maximum time to prepare for teaching next year or how we configure kindergarten.
- Issues of the scholarships for FR Lunch eligible kids and the unique demographic of Corvallis that also put this before the Board now.
- Some schools receive Title I funding and some do not. Garfield and Lincoln currently use Title funds for all-day kindergarten. They received notice that next year their funding will be substantially reduced.
- Before stimulus funds were received a decision was made that Title I schools must be provided there for the year. The budget was already finalized for the year and district had no set aside money for that.
- Title I schools were promised that stimulus money would be immediately cover kindergarten teachers, and that did happen.
- If we offer enrichment to non-Title I funded schools then Title I schools should have enrichment option *and* a Title I funded option, otherwise we are not using Title I funds in the way they are designed to be used.
- \$250,000 to \$300,000 needs to be set aside for those who could qualify for FR Lunch.
- If the District has no tuition-based program, Garfield and Lincoln are allowed to choose whether they want to use Title I funds to provide full-day kindergarten.
- During the last two year, while the state was deliberating, this has been priority for me and Board.
- Our Foundation stepped forward this year so we wouldn't have to use general funds. They are not hopeful to be able to sustain that level of commitment.
- Want to repeat the recommendation to the board. Only half of it was published [in the

newspaper].

- Cannot figure out how to keep kindergarten teachers in front of kids with the revenue we are being given. These are being shut down at state level. We will do all we can to create quality child care options in our school.

A summary of Ms. Rodeman's comments:

- As reported in October 5, 2009 Board meeting, the District will be facing financial crisis for next several years.
- Supplied Board with handout regarding Oregon Revenue Policy from the Oregon Legislative Revenue Office. (Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-1 in the Official 2009-10 Board Minutes.)
- Reviewed the first chart on the handout.
- District money comes through State Funding Formula (SFF); we are directly and immediately affected by things that affect the state.
- Employment not expected to recover till 2013. There won't be anything that saves us from further decline in revenue and resources and need for further reductions.
- State general fund last lost almost 20% for this biennium, almost 9% for last biennium. Seeing the same kind of start for this year.
- Projections for next year look like there will be a need to reduce \$2 to \$3 million dollars, best case. In the worst case, there may be a loss of \$7.5 to \$8 million.
- Encouraged Board to hold money until the spring.
- Encouraged the Board not to commit to anything new because it cannot be afforded. It is not just covering the program, but that doing that in addition to reductions to the entire educational budget. It will not get better soon.
- Stimulus money will not be available this year and PERS changes leave the Board with less flexibility.
- Bottom line is not new: it is time to start planning for reductions, listening to the public to weigh which programs have most long term value for education of students and how can you most wisely use the money to benefit students as long as possible.
- In the packet there is a survey to business managers in other districts regarding all day kindergarten. This is summary.
- In the packet there is also information on the finances needed if Lincoln and Garfield are included in the enrichment tuition-based program.
- Concerned if this program were supplied at each school it would take very many families backing out to shift ratios and affect funding.
- Gave the Board figures on other District's fee-based kindergarten, and noted that Corvallis is in the same range of tuition.

A summary of Board and presenter discussion:

- Thank you for the numbers. (Corrigan and Donohue)
- The Oregon State University (OSU) Faculty Senate met and received information that state funds are projected at \$80 million for the next several years, and OSU doesn't have the tuition option that we have at Corvallis District. (Perry)
- Elementary principals are deliberating on the issue of whether we can offer child care out of their sites. There has been communication with other possible providers as well. Childcare at a comparable, affordable amount does not come without problems, such as teachers sharing classrooms. We would not be able to provide the program we supply now, but it would at least allow for continuity of day and bus rides. This is confirmed as an asset for parents. That would be our first goal. But need to make sure schools have time to discuss how they can make that work within school setting and with teachers. As the Board is deliberating towards this issue staff is working on that issue simultaneously. (Superintendent Tarzian)

Chair Schuster called a break from 8:12 p.m. to 8:22 p.m.

The Board chose to delay serious deliberation over the matter until the December 7, 2009 Board meeting, citing the departure of much of the audience and their desire to have the discussion as openly before the public as possible.

Board members asked information-gathering questions to staff in order to receive the information requested at the December 7, 2009 Board meeting.

A summary of Board questions and responses:

- Can we take the funding we have and roll it together to provide a teacher for a full-day for half of the year, and then provide childcare for the other half? (Perry)
Response: That goes back to discussing research. For young children the more time put between learning experiences the more you have to redo those. Doing it in the first half of the year would cause me concern for separating child from certified teacher. I think that legitimately we have not asked our kinder teachers to accelerate curriculum; they have articulated the quality lessons when you hasten. (Superintendent Tarzian)
The state 0.5 funding requires that the kindergarteners be enrolled at the beginning of the year. (Rodeman)
- Can we follow up with Lake Oswego and Astoria School Districts? Conversations at the Oregon School Boards Association Convention make me think that there are possibly some solutions out there that we just haven't thought of or been exposed to. (Turman)
Heard that Lake Oswego had four of their programs which were fee based, and many that

were community-based at a lower cost, programs like STARS or other organizations, and they were twice as popular [as the district kindergarten]. (Corrigan)

Response: We will follow up with those districts. (Superintendent Tarzian)

- This strikes me as an emotional issue with passionate parents. If parents want to do something, launch it. It does not seem to be within the Board or District's ability to do it. (Turman)
- Would like information on facilities where do we have room and in which schools. If the economy gets worse scholarships will increase. Ms. Rodeman's figures are already dire. Need to know if Garfield and Lincoln are going to offer or not going to offer the full day program. (Ten Pas)
Response: We must budget to cover their option to have an enrichment program and then they could chose to use their Title I money for full-day kindergarten. We don't have the option of telling them no. (Superintendent Tarzian; Donohue)
- What if we change the enrichment programs to full-day kindergarten? There would be no need to budget for a contingency. Don't know if it will solve the total problem. That would at least solve one of the problems. (Donohue)
Response: The Attorney General's opinion defined three things that make kindergarten and a board does not have authority to continue these three things and charge tuition: having a kindergarten teacher, kindergarten classroom and covering curriculum. If you do those things its kindergarten, whether for half-day or longer, if you chose to do it longer you have to pay for it, with no charge of tuition. We addressed curriculum by stopping it in the second half of the day and maybe that will position us in stronger place to continue enrichment in future. The other two we couldn't change. To go back and make all schools have an all-day program would make us entirely incompliant will all three things. That wouldn't impact scholarship issue either. We tried to begin to put that firewall up to make it clear that we make it half-day. (Superintendent Tarzian)
- Then I would ask for the same information Director Ten Pas wants. (Donohue)
- The only problem with creating an enrichment-only program at Garfield and Lincoln is that we have not used general fund dollars to fund scholarships at other schools, the Foundation has. Title I funds are over-and-above what every other children get. Over-and-above is full-day kindergarten, since everywhere else we offer enrichment. If Garfield and Lincoln were able to give you a commitment and the Foundation couldn't cover scholarships, which we would recommend \$100,000 for the next school year, the question would remain "are you providing at other schools something with federal dollars that you are providing elsewhere with district dollars"? (Superintendent Tarzian)
- Can we have fleshed out alternatives [to cutting the program]? (Perry)

- Outside the budget cycle could we get the numbers for what it would cost for cuts in personnel and facility personnel split? This is a decision in a vacuum. We'll need those when making final discussion. (Donohue)
- If we do STARS or another program what are the facility costs because we've gone through study of facility cost to make it break even. We have to have some idea what those costs are. (Ten Pas)
- The Federal statues and Senate bill 1068 prevent us from using Title I funds to fund something that is offered in other schools without Title I funds; that is supplanting. (Donohue) [*Superintendent Tarzian offered Director Donohue a copy of the Senate Bill 1068.*]
- Would like information about the scholarship program at the Boys and Girls Club for those who are on FR Lunch or a sliding scale percentage. Also want to be a voice for those who have children in half-day kindergarten. A large percentage come through half-day kindergarten come into first grade enriched, excited, prepared and there are half-day teachers who want to be in their positions too. Think it is wonderful that we've been able to offer this option, but just don't want to lose that perspective. There is always another side to every issue. There are children thriving in half day programs. (Corrigan)
- I don't think anyone disagrees with what parents said [in public testimony] tonight. We try to feel what all parents feel, and appreciate the testimony. This is not a decision we like to make. Private schools are an option for some, but not for all; public schools are rich in diversity. We have to make decision for entire district, which is no easy. (Ten Pas)

V. ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION KG-AR – COMMUNITY USE OF DISTRICT FACILITIES (Now known as Facility Usage Rules and Procedures)

Facilities and Maintenance Manager Greg Lecuyer and Facilities and Maintenance Assistant and District-Wide Facilities Use Coordinator Glenda Glassner presented information to the Board regarding Administrative Regulation (AR) KG-AR- Community Use of District Facilities.

A summary of the presentation:

- This is a result of looking at a lot of different school districts and trying to take best practices from the districts researched.
- The current AR does not have a fee schedule and that is a fairly substantial omission.
- Problem of the AR not matching District current practice.
- Intent of revision was to create clear guidelines.
- The Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) reviewed this AR and endorsed it.
- Increased demand for priority use has been a huge component.
- Have been in conversation with the Boys and Girls Club and Parks and Recreation.

- Outlined several changes from the previous AR to this new AR.

A summary of Board and presenter discussion:

- Is liability coverage globally provided by leagues? (Turman)
Response: Most leagues have coverage; for some smaller users it may be added cost. (Lecuyer)
- Who gets to use the facilities for free? (Schuster)
Response: There is a list of users; #1 through #5 are clear, #6 leaves some ambiguity [for flexibility]. (Lecuyer)
- Do our K-12 students, whatever their league may be, have to pay these rates? (Corrigan)
Response: Not always; our students don't pay now. (Lecuyer)
- The FAC has discussed this on numerous occasion; huge amount of work. We feel this policy is a good policy. Unanimous recommendation to come to Superintendent Tarzian. (Ten Pas)
- This is an AR [which is under administrative jurisdiction] but I have in the past brought you things that are important to you. I benefit from your discussion and feedback because it obtains the values you have in terms of how we make our schools and grounds available to the community that owns them. Like the clarity and consistency, that it clearly requires sharing, mitigates accidental destruction or injury, scheduling time, and lists the values and priority process. (Superintendent Tarzian)
- This process has brought the community and fundraisers give us greater option for facility design in the future. (Ten Pas)

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Chair Schuster adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Anne Schuster, Chair

Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent

Prepared By: Kaela Schamp

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