

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Corvallis School District 509J

1555 SW 35<sup>th</sup> Street

Corvallis, OR 97333

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Gable called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in Central Office Board Room, 1555 SW 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Corvallis. Chair Gable dispensed with the calling of the roll and the secretary recorded those present as listed below.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Cyrel Gable, Chair  
Sara Gelser, Vice Chair  
Robert Baldwin, Member  
Nell O'Malley, Member  
Robert Johnson, Member  
Joan Demarest, Member  
Kari Rieck, Member

EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

Jim Ford, Superintendent  
Jeanne Holmes, Assistant to the Superintendent  
Fred Wright, Director of Auxiliary Services  
Kathy Rodeman, Business Services Director  
Dawn Tarzian, Director of Teaching and Learning  
Sharon Thornagle, Student Services Director  
Duane Jager, Information Services Manager  
Julie Catala, Board Secretary

PRINCIPALS PRESENT

James Wickman, Westland Middle School  
Dawn Corliss, Cheldelin Middle School

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Gable led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### III. COMMITTEE/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

It was announced:

- Director O'Malley had attended the Senate Budget hearing, providing written testimony on behalf of the district.
- The high school orchestra would be playing in November at the Oregon School Board's Association meeting.
- Director Rieck would be the Board liaison to the Corvallis Public Schools Foundation.
- Director Rieck was asked to serve on an ad hoc committee to study how other districts name buildings and portions of buildings and comparing to this district's current policy.

### IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Ford reported:

- He had met with Oregon State University's new president, Dr. Ray, and spoke to him of the budding partnerships between the district and the university regarding counselors and e-school.
- Franklin Principal Mike Strowbridge was coordinating the counseling partnership involving six elementary schools and university doctoral students.
- New hires for the district included Jennifer Duvall as a Human Resource Specialist, Elisabeth Harrington as Assistant Principal at Westland, and Cherie Stroud as Assistant Principal at Cheldelin.

He distributed the proposed agenda for the Board retreat scheduled to be held in September.

### V. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Bob Newton, 420 NW Conifer Blvd., Corvallis, retired Oregon State University Director of Business Affairs, expressed his concern regarding what he sees as inadequate reporting of the district's \$86 million bond fund earnings. He understands several contracts have been entered into which were for less than anticipated. He hears of the escalating costs for Corvallis High School due to delays but nothing about the offset earnings investments of those funds due to the delays. He wanted to know what additional projects would be planned with the surplus monies.

Chair Gable responded that some information is available on the district's website and mailers have been sent to the district's key communicators. She stated it is her understanding that due to the economy investments were not yielding much. Decisions about surplus funds, if any, will not be decided until the end.

Denise Cardinali, 6017 SW Grand Oaks Drive, Corvallis, expressed her concern regarding the decentralized management of elementary schools. She sees it as one school in competition with another, as if nine businesses are competing. She feels it may be a workable structure in better economic times but not equitable at the current level of school funding. She would like to see principals spend less time on fiscal issues. She questioned whether there was a standard for instructional time and personnel knowledge of medical care and computer skills.

Chair Gable responded that the district is looking into some equity issues this coming year and Director O'Malley stated that it was an historical choice to allow site control of facilities.

## **VI. STAFF PARTICIPATION**

No staff wished to speak.

## **VII. SPECIAL REPORTS**

Chair Gable exercised her prerogative to alter the order of the agenda and selected the "Corvallis High School Project Update" to be heard prior to the "Personal Income Tax - Spending Outline" enabling the guest speaker, Mr. Al Johnson, to depart earlier from the meeting.

### **A. CORVALLIS HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT UPDATE**

Auxiliary Services Director Fred Wright introduced Al Johnson of Johnson and Sherton Attorneys at Law. Mr. Johnson is acting as the district's land use attorney and he provided the Board with timeline scenarios regarding the proposed replacement Corvallis High School and the City's appealed decision to proceed.

If the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) affirms the City's decision and that decision is not appealed, the district could be informed by November 21, 2003. If that decision is appealed and other deadlines are met the Court of Appeals could render a decision by April 15, 2004. The next appeal step would be to the Oregon Supreme Court, which denies land use hearings about 95% of the time. If they were to hear the case, their decision could be rendered June 30, 2004. Mr. Johnson stated all of these timelines could be stretched by a month or two.

If LUBA or the Court of Appeals should disagree with the City's decision the City could render an alternative decision 90 days later that would again be subject to appeal.

The decisions made by LUBA or the Court of Appeals do not have to reflect that they would have made a different decision, but that the City made decisions and applied standards based on what was presented and considered all that was needed. Mr. Johnson further explained that the process from this point on is akin to a court of appeals process; no further public testimony would be heard though arguments would be presented by attorneys representing both positions.

Mr. Wright then provided information regarding the timing of construction contracts, especially as they relate to the appeals. The original plan was to have a site development contractor work this summer and fall of 2003 ending around November. This would be overlapped by the general contractor, who would begin around October. The award of the site development bid was scheduled around the City Council's denial of the appeal of the planning commission's conditional use decision. Due to the further appeal to LUBA, the district has not issued notice to proceed to the site development contractor. Because of the delays, site development will likely be combined in one package to the general contractor to allow the best use of his resources and time. The district is working with legal counsel to determine what financial liability the district has to the already selected site contractor.

Regarding the interior designs, Mr. Wright reported that architects Dull Olsen Weekes have been trying to create a bid schedule per Mr. Johnson's predicted timelines. Methods to remain flexible regarding the bids are being considered such as holding the top three (lowest) bids for 60 days to stay on target for the portion to be occupied August 2005.

#### B. PERSONAL INCOME TAX - SPENDING OUTLINE

Superintendent Ford introduced this topic by referring to his recommended allocations for spending the citizen-initiated KIDS! personal income tax levy funds, should they come to pass in the September election. (See Supplemental Item #VI-1 in the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.) The levy is expected to bring in approximately \$6 million to the Corvallis School District per year, depending on economic conditions.

Because specifics are not known for the level of state funding to schools for this coming year nor subsequent years, it was felt unwise to firmly state specific allocation amounts for spending though the need was perceived to state intent lest the district be seen as non-planning or vague. Chair Gable stated she sees the allocations as a piece of the district's budget and as such reflecting those same priorities. Ms. Rodeman stated the allocations incorporate spending in the categories consistently named in local surveys such as more classroom teachers, more support staff in classrooms, PE, counseling, music, replacement of old textbooks, and restoration of athletics. After much discussion, it was agreed to put forth the Superintendent's recommendations with noted assumptions regarding state funding levels.

**Motion #12:** Director Johnson moved, Director Baldwin seconded, that (District) staff provide to KIDS! a communication piece that provides the public an understanding of the Board's intent to utilize funds should the levy pass. Under the assumption that State funding would be in the range of \$4.9 to \$5.1 billion and that the District would receive approximately \$6 million dollars, the District would intend to follow the superintendent's written recommendation provided this day. Should the amount be less, the District would review and allocate accordingly. (See Supplemental Item #VI-1 in the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

The motion passed unanimously.

#### C. ADMINISTRATIVE RETREAT

Superintendent Ford reported on the recent Board retreat, summarizing five good outcomes:

1. Focused work for the year; reviewed and prioritized the District Improvement Plan which has been passed on to the Board this evening
2. Amended administrative evaluations to include a second yearly meeting, allowing the one evaluated time to work on feedback suggestions. Added Teaching and Learning Director Dawn Tarzian to Superintendent Ford and Assistant Superintendent Corbell as an evaluator.
3. Intent to form a Board Policy Review Sub-committee in September with Board and administrative members. This subcommittee would review equity issues in the District.
4. Alignment of administrative meetings to gain mileage and exposure. Leadership meetings will take place once a month as opposed to twice, all meetings will be after school and at a school rather than at District Office. Superintendent Ford will try to attend the first thirty

minutes of levels (elementary, middle, high) meetings, and one administrator from each level will be invited on a rotational basis to his weekly “cabinet” meetings.

5. Team building through the retreat’s existence and honest conversations

#### D. DISTRICT VISIONING EVENT

Board members expressed their gratification that community members at the District Visioning Event were supportive of the District’s direction in aiming for self-directed learners and community partnerships, even in light of their wide range of viewpoints. Those attending reported that it was fulfilling and exciting. It evidenced affirmation of the District Improvement Plan. Chair Gable stated credit was due to Superintendent Ford for keeping the District on a very positive forward-progressing state of mind.

### VIII. CONSOLIDATED ACTION

**Motion #13:** Director Johnson moved, Director Baldwin seconded to approve the Consolidated Action items.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of March 14, 2003; March 17, 2003; April 7, 2003; and April 22, 2003 were approved as presented.

#### B. SUPPORT SERVICES ITEMS

##### 1. SUPERINTENDENT’S LICENSED PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board approved the recommendations. (Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-4 of the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

##### 2. APPOINTMENT OF STUDENT BODY FUND CHECKING ACCOUNTS – RESOLUTION 03-0801

The Board approved a Resolution for the use of Student Body checking accounts through the approved depository (Wells Fargo Bank) for the following schools: Mountain View Elementary, Wilson Elementary, Cheldelin Middle, Westland Middle, Corvallis High, and Crescent Valley High. (Filed as Supplemental Item III-4 of the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

3. AGREEMENT WITH LINN-BENTON-LINCOLN TRAGEDY RESPONSE NETWORK

The Board approved renewal of the agreement with Linn-Benton-Lincoln Tragedy Response Network. (Filed as Supplemental Item I-3 of the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.) This agreement provides inter-district crisis network services to buildings and districts in a coordinated fashion when faced with widespread grief in the aftermath of the loss of a student(s), staff member(s), or other tragic event.

4. BOARD POLICY DFA – INVESTMENT OF FUNDS AND GUIDELINES – REVISION – SECOND READING

The Board approved this revision that aligns the district's investment guidelines with those of the Oregon Short-Term Fund Board. This amended policy will allow the District to place investments for longer than 18 months to match the anticipated construction payouts on the bond proceeds. (Filed as Supplemental Item #XII-2 of the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

C. OTHER

**IX. CONSOLIDATED INFORMATION**

A. CORRESPONDENCE

Filed in Section V of the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.

B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ITEMS

1. EXTENDED FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

The Board received information on three extended field trips. (Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-5 of the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

2. INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER INFORMATION

The Board received information on 18 interdistrict transfers.

C. SUPPORT SERVICES ITEMS

1. NON-LICENSED PERSONNEL INFORMATION

(Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-6 in the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

2. CHECK REGISTER

The detailed check distribution ledger is on file in the Business Services Office and is available for information during business hours. (Filed as Supplemental Item #X-9 in the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

## 3. MINUTES – JOINT CITY/509J SUBCOMMITTEE – MARCH 17, 2003

(Filed in the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

## 4. MINUTES – JOINT CITY/509J SUBCOMMITTEE – APRIL 1, 2003

(Filed in the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

**X. OTHER DISTRICT BUSINESS****RESOLUTION NO. 03-0802 – IN SUPPORT OF BENTON COUNTY HEALTH AND SAFETY LEVY**

Through further research in their ad hoc committee, Directors Johnson and Gelser put forth a recommendation to support the Benton County Health and Safety Levy and remain neutral on the Jail Space Rental and Corrections Program Levy. The Health and Safety Levy includes a program for youth 15 and under who are at risk of becoming serious and chronic delinquents and provides funding for prevention and early intervention services to families with children at risk for abuse, chemical dependency, delinquency and school failure. It also provides one deputy district attorney and a school resource deputy program for rural schools.

**Motion #14:** Director Johnson moved, Director Baldwin seconded, to approve the School Board's support of the renewal of Benton County's 1998 Health and Safety Levy on the September ballot as represented by Resolution 03-0802. (See Supplemental Item #III-5 in the Official 2003-04 Board Minutes.)

The motion passed unanimously.

Director Demarest shed additional light on how the jail levy could be beneficial to the district. She stated that in domestic violence cases the offender is often released in twenty minutes, as there is not enough space at the jail to hold them. She added the availability of jail space is an added deterrent for those on probation. A safer community would be better for kids.

**Motion #15:** Director Demarest moved, Director Baldwin seconded, to approve the School Board's support of Benton County's Jail Space Rental and Corrections Program Levy.

Though several Board members expressed their personal support of the measure some felt it was stepping outside of areas in which the Board should be involved.

Chair Gable and Directors Baldwin and Demarest voted in favor of the motion; all others voted in opposition.

The motion did not carry.

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board met in Executive Session at 5:45 p.m. under ORS 192.660 (1) (e) – Real Estate Transactions.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, Chair Gable adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

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Cyrel Gable, Chair

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Jim Ford, Superintendent

Prepared by: Jolene Shute  
(super/julie/board/minutes/2003/august 18.doc)