

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 Gable called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Central Office Board Room, 1555 SW 35th 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
Kari Rieck, Member

BOARD MEMEBERS EXCUSED

Joan Demarest, Member

EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

Ron Corbell, Assistant Superintendent
Jeanne Holmes, Assistant to the Superintendent
Kathy Rodeman, Business Services Director
Fred Wright, Auxiliary Services Director
Dawn Tarzian, Teaching and Learning Director
Sharon Thornagle, Student Services Director
Duane Jager, Technology Integration Manger
Michael Ann McIlvenny, Special Education Coordinator
Julie Catala, Board Secretary

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Bethany Potts, Corvallis High School
Holly Emery-Walen, Crescent Valley High School

CITIZEN BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Julie Manning
Mark Volmert

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

II. FUTURE FUNDING OPTION: ANALYSIS OF ELECTION RESULTS – BILL LUNCH

Chair Gable introduced guest speaker Bill Lunch, a political analyst. Mr. Lunch was invited to speak about recent election results as indicators of passage of the District's renewal levy in the fall.

Mr. Lunch thanked the Board, educators, and community for their support of education. He stated the circumstances are more difficult now than when his children attended the District's schools due to state limitations on education spending. He noted there is some assistance possible through levies and sustaining limited local support is important.

He stated the Moore Information community poll recently conducted provided a good framework around the issues. Mr. Lunch provided Benton County election results for statewide Measures 28 (Temporary Income Tax Increase, January 2003) and for Measure 30 (Temporary Income Tax Surcharge, February 2004), which supported education and public services. Both measures were approved in Benton County but rejected statewide.

Mr. Lunch related that the history of voters since 1990 has been very supportive of education. He said Oregon State University is once again becoming the largest employer in town (excluding government employers) with others being Hewlett-Packard, Good Samaritan Hospital and CH2M Hill. He said Corvallis is an extremely highly educated community.

He expressed his belief that no more financial support from the State can be expected in the next three years than now exists. Due to major legislative players of the 2003 session leaving who supported K12 financing reform the focus has been decreased, resulting in the possible June special session not being as attractive as it once was.

It has been found that voters more strongly support funding when it is specifically distinguished for what the funds will be used. He surmised that in this community, and with regard to the Moore survey, presenting voters with a renewal levy even at a slightly increased amount would not make a difference in the outcome, whether or not they had just received their property tax bill (as in the fall). With regard to joining together with another entity to encourage passage of each other's ballot items, he said it would be advisable to determine prior the percentage of support for the other entities' item on the same ballot.

III. SERVICES TO STUDENTS WITH AUTISM

Student Services Director Sharon Thornagle was joined by Special Education Coordinator Michael Ann McIlvenny, Autism Specialist Shirley Lethlean, and Autism Assistant Trudy Ewing. The four narrated a PowerPoint presentation that provided the definition, spectrum, diagnosis, data, and eligibility for services for autistic students. They related that the old way of serving students was in self-contained classrooms and was time intensive. It has been found that students are better served in regular classrooms in their attendance area. Educational diagnosis of autism takes place over time and is required to receive services; a medical diagnosis, which can be determined in one visit, is not. Autism prevalence has increased. This is partly due to early and better diagnosis. The District watches the early intervention population (pre-school) to gauge possible future needs in this area. Classroom teachers are provided information one on one and regional trainings are broadcast so that teachers and parents can attend. The autism specialist is needed to plan student programs that are legally defensible, best serve students and provide a standard across the District as well.

Ms. McIlvenny gave high regards to the District's partners in serving students in the community. These included:

- Benton County Mental Health's Office of Developmental Disabilities which serves children up to age 18
- Integrated Services Network serves those over age 18

- OSU Impact (formerly Motor Fitness Clinic) for school age children
- An ad hoc group working for adult services for fitness and health
- Oregon Parent Training Inc. which provides a support system for parents and schools who are learning how to go through the Special Education processes together
- Many other vocational partners in the community.

She explained the outcome enables autistic adults the range of supported to independent living, supported employment or college degrees, and supported leisure, whether single or married with children.

IV. EQUITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Assistant to the Superintendent Jeanne Holmes and fellow Equity Committee member, parent Rae DeLay, came forward to present the committee's final report. (See Supplemental Item #VII-14 in the official 2003-04 Board Minutes.) Ms. Holmes explained the process began in November 2003 with the committee searching national literature on schools of choice and District data in categories such as talented and gifted students, individualized education plans, state test scores, and teacher salaries. They found that providing schools of choice was a big national trend with identified inequities found in providing choice information to all parents and transportation to the school of choice. The committee then reached a point of more specifically identifying what problem they were trying to solve as it applied to the District. A subgroup was formed to study the attendance area boundaries within the District. Per the committee's findings they forwarded seven recommendations to the Superintendent.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gable adjourned the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Cyrel Gable, Chair

Ron Corbell, Assistant Superintendent

Prepared by: Jolene Shute
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