

MINUTES

Regular Meeting 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 7:06 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
Nell O'Malley, Vice Chair
Sara Gelser, Member
Helen Higgins, Member
Kari Rieck, Member
Robert Johnson, Member
Joan Demarest, Member

EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

Jim Ford, Superintendent
Dawn Tarzian, Assistant Superintendent and
in-coming Superintendent
Sharon Thornagle, Student Services Director
Michael Ann McIlvenny, Special Education
Coordinator
Kathy Rodeman, Business Services Director
Jeanne Holmes, Human Resources Director
Fred Wright, Auxiliary Services Director

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Marcus Annis, Crescent Valley High School
Felsha Zuschlag, Corvallis High 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

Chair Gable exercised her prerogative and announced a change to the agenda. She moved Consolidated Action Item B.4. All-Day Kindergarten Tuition to be addressed under "Other District Business." She also moved "Other District Business" to follow "Special Reports."

A. SCHOOL BOARD VISITS TO EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Director Gelser reported on her rich experiences of watching Jefferson Elementary students tell adults what they had learned about Vivaldi, covering the areas of music, history, social studies, and other discoveries.

Director Rieck reported on her impressive and varied observations of:

- Franklin 8th graders mentoring 7th graders for their upcoming Washington D.C. trip
- Franklin's 4th graders performing Camelot play
- Hoover kindergarteners performing chemistry experiments
- Garfield Elementary Spanish speaking students being mentored in reading by Crescent Valley High School Spanish students
- Crescent Valley alternative education students learning about Peace Jam through an Americorp volunteer, student-tended greenhouse providing food for the Gleaners with assistance from master gardeners, and a diversity class session

Vice Chair O'Malley reported on several extended learning opportunities she had witnessed:

- Hoover Elementary students performing jump rope routines as half-time entertainment at District and Oregon State University (OSU) athletic events
- Franklin K-8 students performing differentiated integrated simulations to increase their learning about the middle ages.
- Hoover students raising trout in their classroom and releasing them into the river as well as visiting a fish hatchery

She added that this type of hands on learning makes her proud of this District and as the District moves forward with extended learning and adding more elements of the District Improvement Plan, observers will continue to see that District students are the best prepared for the real world and higher education as she has evidenced in her position at OSU.

B. OTHER

Vice Chair O'Malley reported that she had assigned two OSU computer science majors to be on the District's Technology Advisory Committee. They are going to be doing an inventory of assisted technologies in the District and creating a website that provides training information for teachers so they can make better use of what technologies the District already has. She is currently working on a grant to fund the internships in a long-term way as this arrangement ends in June. She offered to have them make a presentation to the Board at the end of the term.

Vice Chair O'Malley announced the upcoming October visit by the executive director of the George Lucas Education Foundation to OSU. The Foundation has components that are in line with the District Improvement Plan. She is trying to arrange for him to visit the District. More information about the Foundation can be found at edutopia.org.

Vice Chair O'Malley related that drawings created by District students and students from Israel will be on display this summer in the OSU's Memorial Union. Students were asked to illustrate how they spent their leisure time. She and an Israeli colleague researched the differences.

Chair Gable announced that the District had received an award from Solar Creek for their participation in supporting renewable energy.

IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

A. EXTENDED LEARNING UPDATES

Corvallis High School (CHS) representative Felsha Zuschlag reported that as a 4th year Spanish student she has been cadet teaching at Garfield Elementary, which has additionally helped her Spanish.

Crescent Valley High School representative Marcus Annis reported that because he enjoyed mentoring so much in a past leadership class he is now mentoring students at Mt. View Elementary in math and reading. Though he was offered credit for the experience he declined.

B. OTHER

Director Johnson acknowledged Marcus Annis' wrestling tournament success and Chair Gable announced a CHS student had won first place in the state ski championship.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Ford reported that kindergarten teacher Gail Gerdemann had received the prestigious outstanding K-12 education award from the Oregon Academy of Sciences, which is typically given to secondary teachers.

Superintendent Ford also announced:

- He has been meeting with teachers who might want to be a part of a science, technology, and arts program at Inavale K-8. Through doing so he also found that a District technician, Rob Singleton, is also a GPS (global positioning system) expert who could help with mapping Muddy Creek and other riparian zones near Inavale. Mr. Singleton will also be assisting in mapping attendance boundaries for the District's upcoming Program and Resources Review.
- He will be meeting with an OSU science professor to explore large science grants
- He has met with Philomath superintendent Pete Tuana who had secured a trout grant
- There is a watershed-type grant that he is looking into for the District
- He and others are reviewing the involved schools of choice and fundraising policies in preparation for the upcoming Program and Resources Review. Clarification was made that the "schools of choice" policy differed from the "open enrollment policy."

Auxiliary Services Director Fred Wright reported that he had recently given about 60 members of the CHS neighborhood association a tour of the under-construction high school, with which they were impressed.

VI. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

David Zavaleta, 3050 NW Taylor, Corvallis, stated that he was grateful and relieved to see that the teachers' contract had been settled and that he appreciates the hard work that it took. He requested that the fact finder's report be released to the public so that all could understand how it led to an agreement between the two parties who had such different views. He said it would also be helpful information for those who did not support the last levy and alleviate contradictory

information.

Lisa Tostberg, 3111 NW Firwood Place, Corvallis, requested an immediate review of the current block scheduling systems at the high schools. She feels they are more expensive, lead to larger class sizes, and may not meet student needs. Her informal survey of over 50 educators and parents found most felt that it did not meet their child's needs. She said the time is ripe for change due to the declining budget and she offered her assistance.

Denise Cardinali, 6017 SW Grand Oak, Corvallis, expressed her safety concerns regarding student bus transportation. She is a member of SEAC (Special Education Advisory Committee) which is largely a parent group who has children in the District with special needs. She has brought up transportation concerns over the past two years with Auxiliary Services Director Fred Wright and there have been improvements. She was under the impression that the District's contract with Laidlaw (bus transportation company) was due for renegotiation so she was looking to have it reviewed for additional safety concerns. As she has come to find out, it is an extension of the contract that is being put forth and the District's attorney has advised any changes be on a separate document such as a letter. Her specific concerns include car seats and wheelchairs on buses and how the Behavior Support Plan is administered.

Auxiliary Services Director Fred Wright and Laidlaw's Corvallis manager Brian Maxwell were in the audience and stated that they had reviewed SEAC's recommendations and were in agreement with some of them. It was ascertained that the State inspects the buses yearly and performs procedural inspections on a sampling of buses with students onboard approximately every 4-5 years. Laidlaw is willing to put in writing that they will follow all state and federal regulations and Mr. Wright will oversee that the agreement is completed. Mr. Maxwell stated that the buses go through a shop inspection every 45 days and drivers receive 8 hours of training yearly outside of their time spent in obtaining first aid and CPR certification. They are to report any equipment damages to him and if a driver needs procedural assistance they are to ask. Failure to comply with his instructions could result in disciplinary proceedings.

Mr. Wright suggested that they continue to work with SEAC and bring an update to the Board, which was agreeable.

Chair Gable commented on topics brought up by the other two citizen speakers. She noted that the high schools are the ones to initially review the block scheduling. Superintendent Ford added that a high school budget committee has already been reviewing scheduling and would be making a recommendation. In regard to Mr. Zavaleta's request, Chair Gable responded that one of the items that made the agreement possible was that the fact finder's report be kept confidential. She also did not think it would be that helpful in terms of explaining election results.

VII. STAFF PARTICIPATION - REPORT – OSEA (Oregon School Employees Association) – “ALL COSTS CONSIDERED”

Alan Brown, OSEA representative, stated that he was visiting districts around the state to educate them about the dangers and pitfalls of contracting out school services. He noted that the written report he provided the District, “All Costs Considered” was an independent review of privatization that outlined chronic problems (filed in Section V of the Official 2004-05 Board Minutes). Some areas that are addressed are custodial operations, food services, and

transportation. OSEA believes there are alternatives to outsourcing and stands ready to help. He noted that once transportation is contracted out, as was done in Corvallis, it is often cost-prohibitive to bring it back.

VIII. SPECIAL REPORTS

There were no reports.

IX. OTHER DISTRICT BUSINESS

A. ADOPT LONG RANGE BOUNDARY PLAN

(See Supplemental Items #VII-4 and IV-37 filed in the Official 2004-05 Board Minutes.)

Superintendent Ford presented the Board with his “509J Program and Resources Review, 2005-06,” a four-page document that is a continued refinement of his December “School Boundaries Report.” This draft incorporated Board feedback obtained at its February 22 work session.

Superintendent Ford suggested spring break as the deadline for creating a member listing for the Board subcommittee to carry out the review. It was noted that the review was planned to be completed by November so that resulting decisions could be made in December. The subcommittee could continue its work beyond that time to formulate longer-term guides for possible re-opening of schools.

While there were areas that some Board members would like to see further defined, it was recognized that adoption of the draft would organize and focus the work that was needed to begin to set the groundwork for the review.

MOTION #42: Director Johnson moved, Director Gelser seconded, to approve **the “509J Program and Resources Review, 2005-06 as a draft plan”** as presented with the understanding that it can be further adapted. (See Supplemental Item # IV-37 filed in the Official 2004-05 Board Minutes.)

The motion passed unanimously.

B. ALL DAY KINDERGARTEN TUITION

(See Supplemental Item #X-24 filed in the Official 2004-05 Board Minutes.)

Director Gelser said she would not be participating in the discussion as she has two children who would be attending kindergarten in the next few years so it is a conflict of interest for her. She stated she has not discussed the issue with other Board members and would not be voting on any related motions per State statute unless there was a tie.

Business Services Director Kathy Rodeman provided a history of how the all-day kindergarten tuition program began and stated that parents are charged for the teacher’s time and materials over the state-funded half-day program. The tuition amount (\$240/month) covers scholarships for students on free lunch programs or reduced rates for those on the reduced fee lunch program.

At Garfield and Lincoln, Title funds also pay for the program. Though districts are not allowed to make money on the program they can factor in building and district support costs such as additional staff resources used in attending to the increased student time in such areas as discipline, health, and playground monitoring, as well as resources spent auditing, billing, and performing legal reviews. Previously, the District did not include these expenses in determining fees but would like to now. The requested increase of \$45/month (\$285/month tuition) compares favorably with private schools in the area offering all-day kindergarten.

Considering that the enrollment deadline for all-day kindergarten is March 30 and that the initial kindergarten information flyers that were distributed listed the current fees, an incremental increase was considered. Later flyers stated that fees would be decided by the Board.

MOTION #43: Director Demarest moved, Director O'Malley seconded, to approve the **proposed \$285 per month tuition for all day kindergarten** as presented (an increase in all-day kindergarten tuition to \$285 per month for the 5-day a week program, \$100 per month for students qualifying for reduced lunches, and increases in all-day kindergarten tuition to \$58 per month for the 3-day a week program, \$20 per month for students qualifying for reduced lunches.)

Director Demarest commented that she could not justify keeping tuition lower than the District's actual cost considering the disgusting economic situation. Director Rieck commented that she would vote against the motion as it is too close to registration and the old fee was distributed. She noted that kindergarten parents often support the school with volunteer time. She would favor a small incremental increase.

Director Rieck voted against the motion; Director Gelser abstained due to conflict of interest; all others voted in favor.

The motion passed by a vote of 5-1.

X. CONSOLIDATED ACTION

MOTION #44: Considering Item B.4., All-Day Kindergarten Tuition, pulled from consideration and already addressed, and that:

- B.2. Contract Extension - Laidlaw Transit, Inc.
- B.5. Adopt 2005-06 and 2006-07 District Calendars
- B.6. Resolution 05-0301 In Support of Legislation That Would Allow School Boards To Ban Concealed Weapons on Public School Property

were requested to be held for discussion, Director Gelser moved, Director Johnson seconded, to approve the remaining **Consolidated Action Items**.

The motion passed unanimously.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of October 11, 2004 and October 25, 2004 were approved as presented.

B. SUPPORT SERVICE ITEMS

1. LICENSED PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS, INCLUDING ANNUAL CONTRACT RENEWALS

The Board approved the recommendations. (Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-38 of the Official 2004-05 Board Minutes.)

2. CONTRACT EXTENSION - LAIDLAW TRANSIT, INC.

On May 8, 2000, Corvallis School District entered into a Public Contract for Pupil Transportation Services with Laidlaw Transit, Inc. The term of this contract began July 1, 2000 and continues for a term of 5 years, through June 30, 2005. Included in the original contract was the option to extend the Agreement for an additional five years beyond the initial term, upon mutual consent of both parties. This action item request is to extend the contract those five years through June 30, 2010 with an annual cost adjustment based on the Portland Consumer Price Index.

Held for Discussion: Director Gelser stated that she requested that the item be held because she wanted to recognize that despite the Auxiliary Services Department's responsiveness and ongoing work, improvement from Laidlaw has been extremely hard to get. District staff has to devote time to ensure basic student safety, which it should not. She thanked Mr. Wright and expressed her hope that Laidlaw improves its practices.

MOTION #45: Director Gelser moved, Director Higgins seconded, to approve the contract extension for **Laidlaw Transit, Inc.** as presented. (See Supplemental Item #I-26 filed in the Official 2004-05 Board Minutes.)

The motion passed unanimously.

3. AGREEMENT WITH PHILOMATH SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR STUDENT ATTENDING COLLEGE HILL HIGH SCHOOL

The Board approved this agreement which allows a Philomath School District special education student to attend the District's College Hill High School transitions program. The contract includes monetary reimbursement and defines each district's responsibilities. (See Supplemental Item #I-27 filed in the Official 2004-05 Board Minutes.)

4. ALL-DAY KINDERGARTEN TUITION

Discussed as separate item under "Other District Business." See Item IX.B. preceding.

5. ADOPT 2005-06 AND 2006-07 DISTRICT CALENDARS

Held for Discussion: Director Johnson stated that he requested this item be held as he had understood that the 2006-07 calendar would be adopted next year, after more timely public comment regarding the winter break. Human Resources Director Jeanne Holmes commented that even if it were to be adopted this evening there would be an additional chance for public comment next year.

MOTION #46: Director Johnson moved, Director Rieck seconded, to approve the **2005-06 calendar** as presented. (See Supplemental Item #IX-1 filed in the Official 2004-05 Board Minutes.)

The motion passed unanimously.

The 2006-07 calendar was left for approval next year.

6. RESOLUTION 05-0301 IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ALLOW SCHOOL BOARDS TO BAN CONCEALED WEAPONS ON PUBLIC SCHOOL PROPERTY

Held for Discussion: Chair Gable had asked that the item be held for discussion so that she could request its passage with references to Senate Bill 335 omitted, as it is no longer.

MOTION #47: Chair Gable moved, Director Higgins seconded, to approve **Resolution 05-0301 In Support of Legislation That Would Allow School Boards To Ban Concealed Weapons on Public School Property** as presented with references to Senate Bill 335 omitted, as it no longer exists. (See Supplemental Item #III-8 filed in the Official 2004-05 Board Minutes.)

The motion passed unanimously.

XI. CONSOLIDATED INFORMATION

A. CORRESPONDENCE

Filed in Section V of the Official 2004-05 Board Minutes.

B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ITEMS

1. INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER INFORMATION

The Board received information on 20 interdistrict transfers.

2. EXTENDED FIELD TRIPS

The Board received information on five extended field trips. (Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-39 of the Official 2004-05 Board Minutes.)

C. SUPPORT SERVICES ITEMS

1. NON-LICENSED PERSONNEL INFORMATION

Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-40 in the Official 2004-05 Board Minutes.

2. UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Board received the unaudited statements of revenues, expenditures, and fund balances of the various funds of the District for the period ending January 31, 2005. (Filed as Supplemental Item #X-25 in the Official 2004-05 Board Minutes.)

3. 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-26 in the Official 2004-05 Board Minutes.)

4. POLICY DJ – DISTRICT PURCHASING - REVISION – FIRST READING

State purchasing laws changed effective March 1, 2005, and District policies need to be updated to reflect the changes. Policies DJ, DJC and DJCA and their accompanying Administrative Rules are proposed to match state regulations.

The State restructured how purchasing laws were organized. This restructuring will change little in the way the public contracts are solicited, drafted, implemented or challenged. The significant change is the way the laws and rules are organized.

5. POLICY DJC – BIDDING REQUIREMENTS - REVISION - FIRST READING

State purchasing laws changed effective March 1, 2005, and District policies need to be updated to reflect the changes. Policies DJ, DJC and DJCA and their accompanying Administrative Rules are proposed to match state regulations.

The State restructured how purchasing laws were organized. This restructuring will change little in the way the public contracts are solicited, drafted, implemented or challenged. The significant change is the way the laws and rules are organized.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION DJC-AR – SPECIAL PROCUREMENTS AND EXEMPTIONS FROM COMPETITIVE BIDDING - REVISION

State purchasing laws changed effective March 1, 2005, and District policies need to be updated to reflect the changes. Policies DJ, DJC and DJCA and their accompanying Administrative Rules are proposed to match state regulations. (See Supplemental Item #XII-5 in the Official 2004-05 Board Minutes.)

The State restructured how purchasing laws were organized. This restructuring will change little in the way the public contracts are solicited, drafted, implemented or challenged. The significant change is the way the laws and rules are organized.

7. POLICY DJCA – PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACTS - REVISION - FIRST READING

State purchasing laws changed effective March 1, 2005, and District policies need to be updated to reflect the changes. Policies DJ, DJC and DJCA and their accompanying Administrative Rules are proposed to match state regulations.

The State restructured how purchasing laws were organized. This restructuring will change little in the way the public contracts are solicited, drafted, implemented or challenged. The significant change is the way the laws and rules are organized.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION DJCA-AR – PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACTS – REVISION

State purchasing laws changed effective March 1, 2005, and District policies need to be updated to reflect the changes. Policies DJ, DJC and DJCA and their accompanying Administrative Rules are proposed to match state regulations. (See Supplemental Item #XII-5 in the Official 2004-05 Board Minutes.)

The State restructured how purchasing laws were organized. This restructuring will change little in the way the public contracts are solicited, drafted, implemented or challenged. The significant change is the way the laws and rules are organized.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board met in Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2)(i) – Superintendent’s Mid-Year Evaluation prior to this meeting.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gable noted the tremendous amount of the work the Business Services Department undertook in the major overhaul of District purchasing procedures.

Being no further business, Chair Gable adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Cyrel Gable, Chair

Jim Ford, Superintendent

Prepared by: Jolene Shute

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