

**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 O'Malley called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Cafeteria of Linus Pauling Middle School, 1111 NW Cleveland Avenue, Corvallis, OR. The secretary recorded those present as listed below.

<p><u>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT</u>            Nell O'Malley, Chair            Kari Rieck, Vice Chair            Helen Higgins            Sara Gelser            Blake Rodman            Matt Donohue            Donna Keim</p>	<p><u>EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT</u>            Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent            Jim Hogeboom, Assistant Superintendent            Kathy Rodeman, Business Services Director            Mary McKay, Student Services Director            Jeanne Holmes, Human Resources Director            Fred Wright, Auxiliary Services Director            Debbie Bell, Accounting Supervisor            Linda Martin, Budget Analyst            Julie Catala, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent</p>
<p><u>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT</u>            Lynn Hector, Corvallis High School            Brayden Moore, Crescent Valley High</p>	<p><u>PRINCIPALS PRESENT</u>            Cheri Stroud, Crescent Valley High School            Jay Conroy, Corvallis High School            Mike Strowbridge, Franklin K-8            James Wickman, Linus Pauling Middle School            Elisabeth Harrington, Garfield Elementary</p>

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair O'Malley led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

**III. COMMITTEE/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS**

Director Rieck reported that she and Director Rodman had visited Inavale K-8's Wildlife Stewards Program trail. Students had worked with the Oregon State University (OSU) extension office to create information cards that the students can carry on the trail to identify its various flora and fauna. She noted that about 6-8 of Inavale's neighbors had donated the use of their land for like pursuits.

Director Keim reported that as a result of her involvement with the Oregon School Activities Association redistricting committee, she had met with both of the District's high school athletic directors to garner their thoughts.

Chair O'Malley stated she and Superintendent Tarzian recently had their quarterly meeting with city government leaders, including the city manager and mayor. She said that the City has several policies that affect the District. Superintendent Tarzian added that the primary purpose of the meetings is to keep the lines of communication open and talk about revenue challenges.

#### **IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Corvallis High School Representative Lynn Hector relayed that they had had a successful official school dedication and open house on December 3. She invited the Board to attend their annual spaghetti dinner.

Crescent Valley High School Representative Brayden Moore reported that his school was working on a canned food drive with the goal of collecting one ton. They are now at 1400 pounds. Their winter formal is Saturday night.

#### **V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Tarzian reported on several topics:

- Foundation Director search: The process has been revised to include a lot of networking. They have had quite positive feedback about how much the Foundation has raised. Currently, there are 15 applicants. They will be screened tomorrow, participate in phone interviews on Friday and then be scheduled for live interviews.
- Educational Service District (ESD) Savings: It was found that the ESD's calculation for the District's average daily membership had been in error. Due to the discovery by Budget Analyst Linda Martin, the District will realize \$120,000 in savings.
- CHS (Corvallis High School) Litter Patrol: The school's litter patrol, established by the student Leadership Team, has been positively noticed by neighbors who complimented the students on keeping them informed via their letter. Some neighbors will be attending the school's spaghetti dinner to which they were especially invited. Superintendent Tarzian has asked to be included in the CHS Leadership Team's e-mail list.
- Compliments from a new resident: Superintendent Tarzian related that a new-to-Corvallis mom from Seattle had expressed her appreciation for her students' welcome at both Hoover Elementary and Cheldelin Middle schools and for their adaptation to her son's special needs.
- Partnering meetings with OSU: Her most recent meeting with Oregon State University's

president reflected on ways the District and University could partner in the areas of math courses and pandemic health crises. OSU and Linn-Benton Community College are working together to provide information on how well the District's graduates are performing.

## **VI. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Jason White, 39229 Military Road, Monmouth, stated he was also speaking for his wife. He spoke to their concern that District graduates are not ready for college. Due to information gathered from contact with parents of recent graduates and middle school students, he will be pulling his three elementary children out of the District when they reach 6<sup>th</sup> grade unless they are able to receive daily math instruction, three years of science and four years of writing. He would also like to see a reduction in free periods at the high school level. He feels that 6<sup>th</sup> graders are too young to be mixed with 8<sup>th</sup> graders. He shared his hope that while the Board is looking at reconfigurations they take this into consideration. Their choice would be to not leave the district.

Chair O'Malley responded that there will be some updates about instructional time.

Bob DeCarolis, 3248 NW Huckleberry Place, Corvallis, and Randy Huber, 5675 NW Foothill Place, Corvallis, stated they were addressing the Board to promote installation of an artificial turf field at Crescent Valley (CV) High School as one of the uses of the remaining bond dollars. They related that CHS has been inundated with requests to use their new artificial turf field. CHS supports a like field at CV. The gentlemen distributed a list of advantages to the artificial playing surface which included annual maintenance cost savings (\$30,000-\$60,000 along with elimination of watering expenses) and lessening student injuries. (See Correspondence, Section V, of the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes) They noted that students are attracted by the "wow" factor as evidenced by the increased enrollment experienced by newly constructed Linus Pauling Middle School and Corvallis High School. Without the artificial turf field they felt the enrollment discrepancies between the two high schools would be exacerbated.

Chair O'Malley commented that there would be a report that evening on the remaining bond dollars. In response to Director Gelser's question of cost, Mr. Huber responded the estimate is \$650,000 to \$750,000, less a local contractor's in-kind donation of \$150,000.

Garfield Elementary playground committee representatives [parents Heidi Garza (chair), 1495 NW Penny Lane, Albany; Sally Thierstein, 2201 NW Maser Drive, Corvallis; Sandra Panshin, 1420 NW Hillcrest Drive, Corvallis] spoke to the playground deficiencies at their school which makes the non-blacktop parts inaccessible during wet weather due to flooding. It also has poor accessibility for wheelchair bound students. Students are sometimes not allowed an outdoor recess due to its condition and parents notice the change in their children when they do not receive the benefits of active outdoor play. The playground, which was built in 1960, does not meet current safety standards. Parents established a playground committee which has raised \$34,500 to purchase and install new cushioned surfaces and equipment. They are asking the District to fix the drainage problem which has been estimated in-house to be about \$35,000.

Director Gelser thanked them for revising their brochure (see Correspondence, Section V, of the

Official 2005-06 Board Minutes) at her request and asked them to let the public know that though Life Skills students are no longer taught at Garfield there are students in many schools who are in wheelchairs. She did not want the perception established that if accessibility was addressed at Garfield that it would not be necessary to provide accessibility at other schools as well.

## **VII. STAFF PARTICIPATION**

Eneke Warnke, Adams Elementary teacher, in reference to the All-Day Kindergarten Program information item in the packet (Item X.B.3), questioned the inclusion of teacher pay for conference time in the calculations for the 5-day and 3-day kindergarten tuition rates. She stated that full-time teachers are already paid for that time and that the 3-day program conference rate was the same whether conferences took a half or full-day, depending on the size of the class.

## **VIII. SPECIAL REPORTS**

### **A. FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Business Services Director Kathy Rodeman commented that an enrollment report is provided to the Board annually, about this time of year. In addition, this year the Board received an average class size report created by volunteer Denise Cardinali. This report had been requested in the certified staff contract. Ms. Cardinali reviewed her elementary and middle school enrollment reports. (See Supplemental Item #VII-8 in the Official 2005-06 minutes.) She noted that her report was begun pre-Program and Resource Review Committee so there may be discrepancies in figures due to what classes each considered to be included in the category of core classes (language arts, math, science, and social studies). She offered that any questions can be directed to her through Executive Assistant Julie Catala. Ms. Rodeman expressed her appreciation of Ms. Cardinali's time and work.

Ms. Rodeman announced that the evening's report would be in relation to the District's general fund. She introduced Accounting Supervisor Debbie Bell and Budget Analyst Linda Martin. The three narrated a PowerPoint presentation. (See Supplemental Item #VII-9 in the Official 2005-06 minutes.)

Ms. Bell informed the Board about funding from the State since Measure 5. The period showed great volatility in reductions. By building reserves and contingencies, the District was able to smooth financial support for services. It was noted that the District does not know what its actual revenues will be from the State until eleven months following the close of each fiscal year. The District will learn in May 2006 what its formula revenues will be for 2004-05.

Ms. Martin spoke to the District's finances for the current and following year. While some factors created shortfalls, others increased available funds resulting in \$452,000 more than had been anticipated for the 2005-06 school year. Staff recommend that this additional revenue be used first to offset increased costs in the current year, contributing the remainder to the beginning balance in the next year's budget. For the 2006-07 school year, no increase in revenue is expected nor any cuts to existing programs. Any new programs would have to be offset by cuts elsewhere in the budget.

Ms. Rodeman reviewed the assumptions in her 10-year District financial forecast leading to a stagnant revenue forecast for the next five years. Her report highlighted that the predicted nearly \$8 million deficit between General Fund Resources and Expenditures in the year 2015-16 would have been \$20 million had the certified contract not been revised last Spring.

In response to questions, Ms. Rodeman stated:

- There would be costs associated with the new State-mandated graduation requirements but the amount is an unknown at this time. She will gather determining information from the principals. Superintendent Tarzian noted that 50% of high school seniors took 4 years of math, 20% took 3 years.
- Confirmation that 2006-07 is anticipated to be the first year that the District has not had to make reductions since 1991.
- An increase in PERS rates is scheduled for July 1, 2007. She has forecasted the rate to be about 26.7 percent. This year the rate is 20.92 percent. Savings have and will be sought in relation to PERS funding by such methods as participation in unfunded pools allowing refinancing of the debt and paying premiums in June at older lower rates as opposed to July, saving nearly 6%. The \$1.4 million PERS savings held in reserve could be utilized to offset the upcoming increase, easing the PERS expenditures in '07-08 and '08-09.
- 2007-08 would be the year that the District would need to consider implementing facilities changes akin to those described in the Program and Resources Review Report or continue making reductions as have in the past

Chair O'Malley complimented the thorough report that went back to 1990.

#### B. LONG-RANGE FACILITIES MASTER PLAN (LRFMP) AND REMAINING BOND DOLLARS

Auxiliary Services Director Fred Wright gave the Board a PowerPoint presentation that began with the background of the Long-Range Facilities Planning Board Sub-Committee's inception in 2001, highlighted the three phases of its Master Plan, and ended with naming the unresolved issues of the Corvallis High School (CHS) Master Site Plan along with the amount of remaining bond funds, \$5.25-\$5.5 million. (See Supplemental Item #VII-10 in the Official 2005-06 minutes.) He referenced a spreadsheet "Facilities Improvement Bond, Potential Additional Projects, Updated December 5, 2005" showing possible facilities projects to be undertaken with the remaining Phase I bond dollars or delayed to Phases II or III. (See Supplemental Item #VII-11 in the Official 2005-06 minutes.) He stated that most Phase I projects are complete with the remainder scheduled for completion fall 2006, so for all practical purposes Phase II would begin in five years, per the three-phase timeline of the LRFMP.

Questions and responses revealed:

- The 5% of bond funds remaining can be spent over a long term
- The demolition of Westland Middle School was budgeted under the replacement middle school, a Phase I item. It is not part of the remaining bond dollars. The building can be demolished this summer or next, depending on board direction.
- Though reverse osmosis was part of the bond projects, Mt. View Elementary's well servicing

- would need to be addressed using operating funds.
- Corvallis High School athletic staff have said that four tennis courts are not enough for a P.E. program. Building four at Corvallis High School instead of the recommended 8 would still not yield enough space to place a JV baseball field on site.
- Phase II funds were designated in part to buy recommended land surrounding CHS to have all athletic fields on-site.
- Model CHS tennis courts were on display for the community, pre-election. Pre-election was also pre-design. The design committee ultimately recommended not including tennis courts because 8 could not be included.
- The Crescent Valley (CV) synthetic field was not shown as a part of bond dollars. It was considered to be at task force level. Probably the largest reason for that was the number of dollars going to activities rather than buildings and CV has a lot of acreage which allows them to rejuvenate their fields more easily.
- Though CHS Principal Jay Conroy had not heard of CHS losing baseball players to CV due to lack of equitable ball fields he has heard of students not going out due to transportation issues.

Chair O'Malley called a break at 9:07 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:15 p.m.

Mr. Wright stated that it became apparent that Phases II and III of the LRFMP might change after discussions were held with maintenance staff, interested groups, and administration.

The discussion on use of the remaining bond funds continued. Mr. Wright referred to the spreadsheet of "Facilities Improvement Bond, Potential Additional Projects, Updated December 5, 2005" stating the highlighted items are the ones recommended by the Auxiliary Services Department to be completed with the remaining Phase I bond dollars. Some are in categorized items in Phase II, but not necessarily as line items.

Mr. Wright reviewed the spreadsheet, which is sorted by school, noting that Franklin K-8 and Inavale K-8 had scheduled projects if they are going to be in use for another 5-10 years.

While all the listed items total \$11,647,133, the Auxiliary Services recommended items total \$4,391,595. Some CHS items were identified as being able to be completed with the funds budgeted for CHS, though there are some outside of that scope. Those outside the scope are not among the items recommended by the Auxiliary Services Department for completion with current remaining bond dollars. Mr. Wright believes the recommended items can all be completed with remaining bond funds.

Remaining discussions related to:

- CHS Tennis Courts
- Whether funds tagged for CHS completion items could be directed elsewhere
- Westland track slated for improvement or removal. It is used mostly by the community.
- ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessibility of playgrounds
- Playground safety and flood checks. Mr. Wright reported that liability carriers inspect and

make recommendations. Grounds foremen and staff perform monthly inspections and file reports. Mr. Wright offered to provide the Board the latest recommendations and remedial and corrective actions taken as a result. Mr. Wright added that playground equipment in this day and age based on national safety standards is very expensive, as evidenced by the information that Garfield parents provided. Being in the tight budget situation that the District has been in the last 12-15 years, pieces of playground equipment have been replaced by volunteer parent groups.

- Past committees and discussions that, though they considered combining the two high schools, in the end determined two high schools was the model to follow. Director Gelser commented that at the time her committee considered the idea, the combined high school would have been one of the largest in the northwest and they did have an awareness of the expected enrollment drop.

Superintendent Tarzian requested that the Board identify at least 3 or 4 projects that the entire Board could support, so that additional costing information could be provided.

Superintendent Tarzian stated that one of the reasons the District has \$5.25 to \$5.5 million in leftover bond money to spend was due to decisions that Auxiliary Services Director Fred Wright made. She presented him with accolades and an engraved clock representing time and money saved due to superior leadership.

## IX. CONSOLIDATED ACTION

**MOTION #32:** Director Gelser moved, Director Rieck seconded, to approve the Consolidated Action Items with the exception of Item B.3. Interdistrict Transfers of Six Corvallis School District Special Education Students to Philomath School District, as Director Gelser wished the item held for discussion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

### A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Special Meeting Minutes of June 13, 2005 were approved as presented.

(Director Gelser noted after approval that the June 13, 2005 minutes should be amended to state that board member Helen Higgins was excused, not Robert Baldwin as stated. The minutes will be resubmitted with the change at the January meeting. See Item XI.C. in these minutes.)

### B. SUPPORT SERVICES ITEMS

#### 1. LICENSED PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board approved the recommendations. (Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-22 in the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.)

2. IN-KIND DONATIONS

The Board accepted the donations. (Filed as Supplemental Item #X-15 of the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.)

3. INTERDISTRICT TRANSFERS OF SIX CORVALLIS SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS TO PHILOMATH SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Held for Discussion:** Director Gelser thanked Student Services Director Mary McKay for researching and implementing a more confidential way to request approval of these agreements through the Board.

**MOTION #33:** Director Gelser moved, Director Rodman seconded, to **approve Item B.3. Interdistrict Transfers of Six Corvallis School District Special Education Students to Philomath School District** as listed in the attachment. (See Supplemental Item #I-26 in the Official 2005-06 minutes.)

The motion was unanimously approved.

4. AGREEMENT WITH LINN BENTON LINCOLN EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT (LBL ESD) FOR REGIONAL AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER SERVICES

The Board approved this agreement which funds one classified and one certified Autism Specialist to be employed by the District through LBL ESD flow-through monies. The District currently has approximately 104 students identified with Autism. (See Supplemental Item #I-27 in the Official 2005-06 minutes.)

**X. CONSOLIDATED INFORMATION**

A. CORRESPONDENCE

Filed in Section V of the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.

B. INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES ITEMS

1. INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER INFORMATION

The Board received information on 6 interdistrict transfers.

2. EXTENDED FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

The Board received information on three extended field trips. (Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-23 in the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.)

### 3. ALL-DAY KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

The Board received information on the All-Day Kindergarten Program by school. (See Supplemental Item #VII-12 in the Official 2005-06 minutes.) The information was requested to be on an annual basis at last year's December meeting. Information included how many students are paying full tuition, reduced tuition, or receiving full scholarships; the number of students on waiting lists; and the number of students who were denied a scholarship due to lack of openings at free or reduced rates. Also requested and included was the cost of teachers, conferences, materials and supplies.

Director Rieck announced that she would like the option pursued of offering all-day kindergarten district-wide, allowing for scholarships and equitable opportunity.

4. INCREASE IN CORVALLIS HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

The Board received information on a proposal to increase instructional time at CHS in Block B each day to meet the time criteria set by the State for full-time versus half-time students. The increase in time may allow the District to reap as much as \$78,150 more each year for a sum of 30 students. (See Supplemental Item #IV-24 in the Official 2005-06 minutes.)

Director Rieck suggested that the extra time be used for advisor time temporarily and to address for next year the advisor time and high school schedules to provide a more favorable situation for all high school students.

C. SUPPORT SERVICES ITEMS

1. NON-LICENSED PERSONNEL INFORMATION

(Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-25 in the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.)

2. UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Board received the unaudited statements of revenues, expenditures, and fund balances for the various funds of the District for the period ending October 31, 2005. (Filed as Supplemental Item #X-16 in the Official 2005-06 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-17 in the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.)

**XI. OTHER DISTRICT BUSINESS**

A. ADOPT 2006-07 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Human Resources Director Jeanne Holmes refreshed last year's discussion of the winter break dilemma for the 2006-07 school calendar for those in attendance. As the Christmas holiday falls on a Monday, the proposed calendar had winter break beginning that same day with students returning to school on Monday, January 8. Concern had been expressed that that schedule did not give families enough time to travel prior to the holiday. The alternative would be to have the winter break begin and end mid-week. Ms. Holmes gathered input from staff and parents whose responses were both split so the decision was made to propose full weeks which are better educationally for students, were hoped to facilitate higher attendance, and would provide a longer break due to the proximity to an additional weekend. Ms. Holmes related that Albany had not yet formally addressed their calendar and Philomath had initially proposed mid-week to mid-week, which had caused uproar. Philomath is now considering starting winter break on Monday, December 18 and adding an additional vacation day on Monday,

January 1. Oregon State University is off December 9 to January 7 which coincides with the proposed Corvallis School District 509J calendar. Assistant Superintendent Hogeboom corrected the October 13 date from a “Professional Development – No School” day to a “Non Contract/No School” day as it is a statewide in-service day and that change is in agreement with the District’s contract with the Corvallis Education Association

**MOTION #34:** Considering the prior discussion, Director Gelsler moved, Director Rodman seconded, to approve the 2006-07 calendar as presented. (See Supplemental Item #IX-1 in the Official 2005-06 minutes.)

After discussion, Chair O'Malley called for a vote.

Directors Rieck, Donohue, and Higgins voted in opposition to the motion; all others voted in favor. The motion carried by a vote of 4-3.

**B. DELIBERATE ON NEXT STEPS FOR PROGRAM AND RESOURCE REVIEW  
PROCESS**

Chair O'Malley read from a prepared statement, stating that all Program and Resource Review (PR2) Committee scenarios need to be reviewed and assessed to see which, if any, offered enough savings to be worth the upheaval implementing them would cause. She complimented all who worked on the PR2 Committee. She wanted to make sure the Board does not overstep its bounds. She thought they may be at risk of doing that. Chair O'Malley stated that there are policies in place that clearly delineate the roles of Board and staff. She proposed that at next week’s meeting, the possibility be opened that when considering all the information presented and placing dots representing what Board members prefer and cannot support, that staff be given direction on the use of the LRFMP and finances and then let staff use their expertise and institutional memory to draft scenarios to take to the public. She was not sure that spending an enormous amount of time to create new scenarios would be in the Board’s best interest. She concluded by saying that this may be in direct contrast to the expectation that the Board spend the next month determining the District’s educational goals. She said they would work as team with staff.

Chair O'Malley then referred to discussing the revised matrix that would assist in filtering scenarios. Due to the lateness of the hour, Superintendent Tarzian suggested to start the next meeting reviewing that document. She also made the suggestion that a Board member be on the calendar committee in the future so that concerns could be handled in a timely way.

Chair O'Malley stated that at Thursday’s board planning meeting that she, Vice Chair Rieck, Director Keim, and Superintendent Tarzian would work together to develop a process to narrow scenarios. Discussion revealed that members would like the process to include how the LRFMP would be incorporated, time for discussion of the process at the December 12 meeting, and a desire to view the process outline prior to the meeting, if possible.

Director Gelsler reflected that two very positive highlights of the meeting that are not usually experienced were the approximate \$5.5 million in left over bond funds for projects to improve the District and

Business Services Director Rodeman's comparison of where the District will be in 2008 compared to where it thought it would be as of last year's prediction and the fact that a successful levy could push a big financial hit out even further.

**C. MINUTES CORRECTION REQUEST**

Director Gelser requested a change to the approved June 13, 2005 minutes. She requested that the attendance record show that Director Higgins was not present, not Director Baldwin (retired).

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The board did not meet in executive session this evening.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, Chair O'Malley adjourned the meeting at 10:35 p.m.

---

Nell O'Malley, Chair

---

Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent

Prepared by Jolene Shute  
(s:\super\julie\board\minutes\2005\december 5.doc)