

**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**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Central Office Board Room, 1555 SW 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Corvallis. The secretary recorded those present as listed below.

<p><u>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT</u>            Nell O'Malley, Chair            Kari Rieck, Vice Chair            Helen Higgins            Blake Rodman            Matt Donohue            Donna Keim            Sara Gelser</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            Julie Catala, Executive Assistant</p>
<p><u>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT</u>            Lynn Hector, Corvallis High School</p>	<p><u>PRINCIAPLS PRESENT</u>            Gerry Kosanovic, Wilson Elementary            Cherie Stroud, Crescent Valley High School            Jay Conroy, Corvallis High School            James Wickman, Linus Pauling Middle School            Lois Rawers, Lincoln Elementary</p>

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**III. COMMITTEE/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS**

Vice Chair Rieck related that she and Director Rodman had attended a wonderful Inavale K-8 science presentation. She was impressed with the student notebooks. She added that Franklin K-8 had invited

them to student presentations on scientists whose work had the greatest impact on them.

Director Keim reported that through participating in the Oregon School Activities Association meetings to revamp classifications she has found it refreshing to hear that coaches and referees are concerned about triple athletes (fall, winter, spring). With the new format they are hoping to reduce the length of the seasons to allow a break between sports.

Chair O'Malley thanked Vice Chair Rieck for twice this year stepping in for her with little notice. She announced that she would also be stepping out again in February-March for two weeks. She stated that she has asked Director Keim to take her place on the Wellness Committee for the District to improve the health and wellness of District students.

Vice Chair Rieck commented that she had attended the Corvallis High School theater opening and the decorations had been in place for the winter formal. The environment was pleasing.

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

No report.

Chair O'Malley exercised her prerogative and postponed the Superintendent's Report until the scheduled late arrival of Superintendent Tarzian and Director Gelser.

#### **V. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Bill Patton, PO Box 975, Philomath, stated he was on the PR2 (Program and Resource Review) Committee. He distributed a written letter that he orated from in part. (Filed in Section V of the 2005-06 Board Minutes) He stated that he is not representing any group. He is concerned about comments made at the December meeting regarding the setting aside of the PR2 report and examining Inavale K-8 in solitary mode.

Arnold Larson, 4037 NW Elmwood Drive, Corvallis, stated that he sees a disparity between what he thinks the Board articulated and what was described in the Gazette-Times concerning conclusions made regarding the findings of the PR2 Committee. He heard board members stating the significant amount of reconfiguration needed to effect significant savings was not conducive to evaluation in the month that was left in which to make a decision. He read in the newspaper that the Board deemed that the significant disruption was not worth the savings. He does not think the community has been properly informed of what went on and feels the Board still has a lot of work to do using the tools of the Committee over the next year. He spoke to weighing reconfigurations versus cutting programs or days of school. He spoke to the decision to build a new Corvallis High School (CHS) after a successful operating levy passage and community concern of continuing with two high schools after a defeated operating levy. He sees that trade-offs need to be made for having the expense of two high schools and is looking forward to the process continuing that allows weighing of possible decisions. He expressed

his dismay that the Board did not indicate which scenarios that they could not support, not necessarily to reach answers but as a method to gain insight.

Chair O'Malley commented that the Board did have a communication plan in process that he would be hearing more about later in the meeting.

Keta Tom, 2650 NE Asbahr, Corvallis, advocated for open enrollment. She feels to eliminate open enrollment would be to turn parents away from the District. She did not feel the District had learned anything from its attractive schools. She feels they mostly hear whining about parents leaving less attractive schools without finding out why. She ended by stating that open enrollment prevents flights to private schools.

Dan Brown, 3009 NW Van Buren, Corvallis, stated he has learned a lot by following the work of the PR2 Committee and Board the last few months. He approved of the open way the process was handled and stated that students attending the last meeting had the privilege to see one of the best meetings that he has ever seen. He stated that he is president of the College Hill Neighborhood Association which has an evolving feasible proposal to relocate Franklin K-8 to the centrally located Harding site. (See Section V of the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.) He thanked the Board for hearing him and stated that he has faith they and the new superintendent will take care of business.

Glenda Collier, 2810 NW Stewart, Corvallis, stated she has a student at Wilson Elementary and that volunteers have been involved in Wildcat Park, located on the school grounds, for 17 years. She loves the park that her children helped build and played upon. She is very concerned at how its closure was handled. She related that parents received a letter Friday afternoon with the students and they watched a fence go up 15 minutes later. The community who built the park did not have time to say goodbye, there was not any closure. She expressed her hope that the community will be involved in Wildcat Park's replacement. She said the architect was one of Sesame Street and she knows many parents are upset.

Julia Beaumariage, 1768 SW Otana, Corvallis, stated that she had addressed the Board a year ago on February 7. She came to request that the Board stop pondering and to come to a decision regarding the fate of Inavale K-8. She noted that it is a year later and its fate is still being pondered. She requested that the Board quit pondering and make a decision. Last year, when then Superintendent Ford came to visit the school they felt he was behind them. She stated that she may enroll her students in Zion Lutheran due to the uncertainty. She predicted that Adams Elementary will overflow if Inavale K-8 closes.

Director Gelser and Superintendent Tarzian joined the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

## **VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Tarzian apologized for Director Gelser and her lateness. They had been attending a meeting in Portland.

Superintendent Tarzian announced that the Corvallis Chamber's Corporate Round Table would be holding its next meeting at the new Corvallis High School. She and high school principals Jay Conroy and Cherie Stroud will speak to the group about some high school education initiatives including the Pathways program, which seeks relevancy for students through applied work outside of the classroom. She plans to take advantage of the CEO from Good Samaritan Hospital being in attendance to recognize his efforts in helping students through providing internships at hospitals as a good example. Student Representative Lynn Hector will provide tours of the school.

She announced that the District has contracted with Edge Design to update its website. Early February is the anticipated date for its inauguration.

Superintendent Tarzian highlighted that on the January 2 staff development day 15 teachers worked with Oregon State University on a pre-engineering program. High school math teachers joined together to coordinate their curriculum across both schools including textbooks and use of an H-P technology coordination grant.

She related that she had sat in on a high school advisory subgroup of about 12 who are working on 9<sup>th</sup> grade transitions and a comprehensive curriculum

Superintendent Tarzian reported that she and Director Gelser had attended a meeting of Oregon Business Plan today and that she would invite Director Gelser to add her comments as an elected official. What was underscored for Superintendent Tarzian was the importance of locally aligning resources so that students are prepared for the global world they will be entering. It caused her to feel an urgency to examine what is taught and how it is taught.

Director Gelser related that it was exciting to see the Oregon Business Plan devote pretty much the entire day to the importance of education. She attended a break-out session on agriculture which illustrated that even there the importance of education and the development of new technology were very critical. One item that was given attention was the importance of science and math education. Her only concern was that while it is critical and exciting to have business invest in education, as school board members and advocates for education, it is important to remember that schools do more than create workers for the future. She hopes that when moving forward educators are sure to offer children the rich course offerings that they need: playgrounds, recess, music, and art that enrich them as human beings that make decisions about communities and cultures.

## **VII. STAFF PARTICIPATION**

Business Services Director Kathy Rodeman stated there were some minor grammatical corrections to the Budget Review committee minutes included in the Consolidated Action Items. The corrections would not change the meaning of the minutes and she recommended approval with a corrected copy to be forwarded to the Board.

Ms. Rodeman expressed accolades to Accounting Supervisor Debbie Bell for her dedication in making

this the 16<sup>th</sup> year that the District has received a government finance officer's association award for excellence in financial reporting based on meeting every standard for the District's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The award is one of the factors that results in better District bond interest rates which translates into savings.

## **VIII. SPECIAL REPORTS**

### **A. DIVISION 22 STANDARDS**

Assistant Superintendent Jim Hogeboom informed the Board that the District is required annually to provide to the Oregon Department of Education confirmation that the District is in compliance with Oregon Division 22 Standards (OAR, Chapter 581 Division 22 for public elementary and secondary schools). He assured the Board that the District is in compliance with all the rules and distributed a copy of the signed assurance form and a cover letter describing the changes to the rules. (See Supplemental Item #VII-13 in the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.) He cited some of the covered topics and invited Board members to call him with questions.

### **B. REPORT ON STAFF INPUT PROCESS REGARDING POSSIBLE ISSUES FOR THE BOARD TO PURSUE**

Chair O'Malley introduced the topic by stating it was an update to the work of the Program and Resource Review Committee and the subsequent topics raised. The next hour or so would be spent hearing which topics staff had determined were the ones to address first; the following hour on what information the Board would need to make decisions on those topics by February 27, which may be to not make a decision. She noted that through this process the Board would be meeting two of its five goals.

Human Resources Director Jeanne Holmes informed the Board that staff had worked with a few board members to create timelines and develop flow charts for possible decisions. This part of the meeting would be to find if any pieces were missing from the flow charts. She noted this discussion is about the process, not deliberations on the topics.

Superintendent Tarzian noted that the District needs time to implement these possible changes and that the school year's midpoint would soon occur. She continued that several board members have noted the domino effect of the decisions and that backtracking might take place. It became clear when developing flowcharts that when one looked through an equity lens a different outcome might be seen than if one looked using another lens, such as a resource or an educational one. She is hoping to hear from the Board whether the decisions need to be implemented for the 2006-07 school year.

Assistant Superintendent Hogeboom referenced the distributed District Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) – Process and Timeline. (See Supplemental Item #VI-26 in the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.) The CIP Planning Team will be holding their first meeting January 17. He added that the CIP is a comprehensive process and will deal with some of the same issues that the Board is reviewing.

Assistant Superintendent Hogeboom then reviewed the four Key Decisions that had been identified as those to be addressed first. Each decision and its applicable data, pros and cons, and decision due dates were presented in written form, a page for each decision. (See Supplemental Item #IV-27 in the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.) The Key Decisions were:

1. Adopt CHS (Corvallis High School) Master Plan?
2. How do we use our Remaining Bond Dollars?
3. Close Inavale?
4. Modify Open Enrollment?

Regarding Key Decision #1, Superintendent Tarzian voiced that to really make that it clear, the issue is one of razing Franklin K-8 to finish CHS. The original CHS Master Plan had tennis courts not where Franklin K-8 is now. The Long-Range Facilities Master Plan (LRFMP) says to look at relocating Franklin K-8 in 5 years. The unanticipated swale requirement necessitated that CHS fields be relocated during the permit process. The Board is looking forward and since the District has remaining bond dollars the staff is asking, “Should the District take care of Franklin K-8 now?” There have not been different iterations of the CHS Master Plan; it has not changed, just the ability to implement as planned.

Members offered few suggestions for changes, omissions, and inclusions to the Key Decisions content presentation.

Assistant Superintendent Hogeboom noted that the decisions are interconnected and it would be hard to make all these decisions by February 27, so the Board may choose to prioritize them and make determinations on less than four by February 27.

Human Resources Director Jeanne Holmes distributed to the Board views garnered from principals and staff groups regarding these issues. Some provided surveys as well as prioritized lists. She included a one-page cover summary of their input. (See Supplemental Item #VII-14 in the Official 2005-07 Board Minutes.) Assistant Superintendent Hogeboom commented that the middle and high schools worked together to provide input for the Key Decision #4 regarding whether open enrollment should be modified, so there was quite a bit of agreement.

Director Rieck suggested that the prioritized list that individual Board members had made previously be compared to this information.

Ms. Holmes stated she would be asking Board members, for each Key Decision, whether they were ready to decide: if so, which of the alternatives and the desired implementation year; if not, what further information they would need.

Remarks were voiced about the inability to make a decision this evening on any of these items as public notice had not been given. Director Gelsner noted that the Board has been in more and longer meetings

than she ever remembered with fewer decisions and she was concerned with the level of progress. She understands the need to be transparent and thorough but also feels the Board needs to be more efficient. Chair O'Malley responded that she believes all Board members likely feel that way but these are large integrated decisions. She noted that February 27 is an aggressive timeline and the Board may need to meet every week.

Chair O'Malley called a break at 8:00 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:12 p.m.

Each Key Decision was then considered in turn with Board members voicing their readiness to vote, asking questions, and offering comments on their views.

Comments made during the discussion included:

Key Decision #1, Adopt CHS Master Plan?

- Further discussion on the number of tennis courts and cost over what was promised and what was actually promised is desired
- Do not believe promised these things to voters but did ask for funds to improve Franklin, not demolish.
- Completion items do not seem as crucial as other facilities' needs.
- If move Franklin now will lose opportunity for more thoughtful process for K-8.
- When vote on this will need to know what the District will be doing with Franklin.
- There is no easy solution, else it would have been found in the Program and Resource Review Committee process
- If the District did not need to consider completion of the CHS master plan, would it even consider moving Franklin? Guessing, no. If there is no great place to move Franklin, then are the tennis courts, etc, needed more than moving Franklin?

Key Decision #2: How do we use our remaining bond dollars?

- Need more information, such as a tiered approach that identifies fire/life /safety items
- A combination of the options might be best
- Would like to know more about seismic issues at Cheldelin
- Does not make sense to adopt a plan that may become obsolete if other items adopted
- Need to invite community input as different than was stated
- Need playground report

Key Decision #3: Close Inavale

- Remember last year made impassioned plea to make decision? Opinion has not changed to make a decision. If do not close, will be here every year. It is not about finances but about level of fundraising to keep it running, equity, hidden costs for district office, full-day kindergartens that cannot afford.

- Would like to know if grants can be transferred
- What if a proposal came forward to make a charter school? Feels responsibility to understand charter school process, district's responsibility and how it would benefit everyone.
- What could the District do to expand K-8's, as there is a demand? Need more K-8 information. Where would that program go and how would it affect other district programs? Need to maximize K-8 opportunities for all students in district. To have only one K-8 school, and that being core knowledge, is not providing enough options in K-8.
- Is there a single place in the district that could consolidate the two K-8's?
- Who does the District want to be? Is it important to have a rural school? What programs does the District want to have available?
- Would like to have opportunity for increased time to look at moving Inavale's science magnet program and coordinate with Franklin's move.
- Not ready to close in 2006-07 but if consensus to close, then do in 2006-07
- Need to understand that if keep open what commitment to keep viable means.
- Thinks would be difficult to say will not close ever, or even for 5 years.

#### Key Decision #4: Modify open enrollment

- Would like to modify at all levels.
- Would like to see interdistrict transportation for equity purposes
- Will change from ability to transfer to where people live. Equity would dictate that every school be exactly the same.
- Have excess capacity at elementary, just not as significant as middle and high school levels. The District is down 300 students at the elementary level from 1999-2000 predictions.
- There is a difference between open enrollment, school of choice, and capacity issues.
- Willing to change the number of students able to transfer. Transfers allow an easy way to leave problems rather than working them out. Ready to modify in a phased-in approach.
- Would like to wait one more year for elementary changes due to Continuous Improvement Plan, etc.
- When came here as a parent, was pleased to hear had open enrollment. About 40% of students at Jefferson choose to come there, the same with Garfield. Concerned by schools that have been hurt by open enrollment and may need to address those concerns.
- Should enforce capacity levels.
- Afraid of trapping certain students in certain schools

Superintendent Tarzian tallied the Board's readiness to vote results and reported back to them her findings:

#### Key Decision #1: Adopt CHS Master Plan?

Board members weighed in at 2-5 or 3-4 for and against with 2007-08 being the leaning for implementation.

#### Key Decision #2: How do we use our Remaining Bond Dollars?

The majority of the Board would like to spend Bond dollars as soon as possible to address fire/life/safety issues but they would need time, process and information to

deliberate on what those items would be. The desire is to make some decisions for 2006-07 by February 27, 2006 so there is some intense work there between now and then.

Key Decision #3: Close Inavale?

Two Board members feel definite to close, 1 to not close. There is a lot of work to do on this issue between now and February 27.

Key Decision #4: Modify Open Enrollment?

Board members weighed in at 3-4 or 4-3 as ready to vote on modifying open enrollment.

Superintendent Tarzian proposed that staff gather the needed information for the next Board meeting and propose how many hours it would take to reach a decision by February 27. Board members would need to articulate what they would need to include in the process. She predicted that the Board would need to dedicate half of the next meeting to receiving information and asking questions. She added that the list of requested information items would be e-mailed to the Board. Additions could then be sent to Ms. Holmes who could propose a calendar for addressing them.

Director Higgins questioned what items needed to be addressed to fiscally balance in the future and Director Donohue noted that the decision to pursue an operating levy could affect the decisions. Chair O'Malley responded that one of the five Board goals was to become educated about levies and suggested to pursue that at the next meeting.

Vice Chair Rieck expressed her thanks to staff for facilitating the discussion.

## **IX. CONSOLIDATED ACTION**

**MOTION 35:** Director Gelser moved, Director Higgins seconded, to approve the Consolidated Action Items with the exception of Item B.7., Agreement with Linn Benton Lincoln ESD for Severe Disabilities Program.

The motion was approved unanimously.

### **A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES – MAY 23, 2005
2. BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES – MAY 31, 2005
3. AMENDED JUNE 13, 2005 MINUTES
4. JUNE 27, 2005 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

The three sets of minutes and amendment listed above were approved as presented.

### **B. SUPPORT SERVICES ITEMS**

1. LICENSED PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board approved the recommendations. (Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-28 in the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.)

2. IN-KIND DONATIONS

The Board accepted the donations. (Filed as Supplemental Item #X-18 of the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.)

3. INCREASE IN CORVALLIS HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

The Board approved this request to increase instructional time at Corvallis High School in Block B by two minutes 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-29 in the Official 2005-06 minutes.)

4. RATIFY JOINT ADOPTION AGREEMENT WITH LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT – DENTAL AND VISION INSURANCE

The Board approved this Agreement which enables the District to meet the requirement that self-insured Districts either cover 1000 employees or join with another district. It is estimated that the District has saved between \$80,000 and \$140,000 each year without reducing dental or vision benefits to employees through self-insuring. (See Supplemental Item #I-28 in the Official 2005-06 minutes.)

5. AGREEMENT WITH WESTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY TO OFFER ENGLISH AS A SECOND OR OTHER LANGUAGE (ESOL) CLASSES ON-SITE

The Board approved this Agreement which provides an opportunity for District teachers to work towards English as a Second or Other Language Endorsement on site through services provided by Western Oregon University. (See Supplemental Item #I-29 in the Official 2005-06 minutes.)

6. ADDENDUM TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICT – INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER

The Board approved this Addendum which provides additional funds to cover the additional support services needed over the original contract for a special education transfer student. (See Supplemental Item #I-30 in the Official 2005-06 minutes.)

7. AGREEMENT WITH LINN BENTON LINCOLN ESD (EDUCATIONAL SERVICE DISTRICT) FOR SEVERE DISABILITIES PROGRAM FUNDING AND RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS

Per this Agreement the District will provide instruction to school-age children with severe disabilities and the LBL ESD will provide supplemental funding and administrative assistance for these services. (See Supplemental Item #I-31 in the Official 2005-06 minutes.)

**Held for Discussion:** Director Gelser explained that she requested this item be held from consolidated approval because she wanted to celebrate the fact that the preferable “Severe Disabilities” term had been used, replacing the former “TMR (trainable mentally retarded).”

**MOTION 36:** Director Gelser moved, Chair O’Malley seconded, to approve the Agreement with Linn Benton Lincoln ESD for Severe Disabilities Program Funding and Reciprocal Agreements.

The motion was passed unanimously.

**X. CONSOLIDATED INFORMATION**

**A. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**B. INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES ITEMS - Interdistrict Transfer Information**

The Board received information on 7 interdistrict transfers.

**C. SUPPORT SERVICES ITEMS**

**1. NON-LICENSED PERSONNEL INFORMATION**

(Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-30 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 November 30, 2005. (Filed as Supplemental Item #X-19 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-19 in the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.)

**4. COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2004-05**

The Board received information regarding the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2004-05 as

well as the report itself. The report can be reviewed in the Business Services Department.

Grove, Mueller and Swank P.C., the Board's independent external auditors, have reviewed the District's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and issued their opinion on page one of the Financial Section. The auditor's unqualified opinion is a clean audit opinion. They believe that the report fairly presents the financial position of the District at June 30, 2005.

(See Supplemental Item #X-20 in the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.)

## **XI. OTHER DISTRICT BUSINESS**

Director Gelser offered to provide levy information at the next meeting while Director Rieck suggested postponing if time allowed so that the Key Decisions could be addressed earlier.

Director Rieck questioned when she would be receiving policies to be reviewed. Superintendent Tarzian responded that she would be getting a packet of policies at the end of the next work session along with her report.

## **XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board did not meet in executive session directly before, during or after this meeting.

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, Chair O'Malley adjourned the meeting at 9:38 p.m.

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Nell O'Malley, Chair

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Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent

Prepared by Jolene Shute  
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