

NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE UNADOPTED; THEY ARE SCHEDULED FOR ADOPTION BY THE BOARD AT ITS 11/6/06 MEETING.

MINUTES

Special 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 O'Malley called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. in the Construction Management Center (the old Westland Middle School library), 1435 SW 35th 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 Matt Donohue Donna Keim Sara Gelser Blake Rodman (via phone for portions of the meeting)</p>	<p><u>EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT</u> Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent Jim Hogeboom, Assistant Superintendent Jeanne Holmes, Human Resources Director Fred Wright, Auxiliary Services Director Kathy Rodeman, Business Services Director Fred Kane, Corvallis Public Schools Foundation Director Julie Catala, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent</p> <p><u>PRINCIPALS PRESENT</u> Gerry Kosanovic, Wilson Elementary Mike Strowbridge, Franklin K-8 Dawn Corliss, Cheldelin Middle School</p>
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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. BOARD DECISION-MAKING STATUS AS RELATED TO THE CHS (Corvallis High School) MASTER PLAN AND THE FUTURE OF THE FRANKLIN K-8 PROGRAM AND CURRENT BUILDING DECISIONS

Chair O'Malley Nell provided the introduction stating that tonight's efforts would work toward fulfilling Board goals that involve realigning resources to make better use of facilities in anticipation of declining enrollment and funding as well as honoring the CHS Master Plan endorsed by voters through the 2002 bond levy. She noted these last decisions are by far the most complicated and none of the choices will satisfy everyone. She implored all to maintain the long view. She stated that each board member has had a chance to think about the components of the decision-making process that they would use when they vote at next Monday's meeting. She invited Board members to weigh in on what more they would like to see in the decision-making process, or where they were in their ability to move forward.

Chair O'Malley announced that Director Rodman would be calling in to join the meeting by telephone as he was in the Midwest.

Director Higgins read from a prepared statement that expressed that though she was ready to start talking about education as opposed to buildings she understands these current decisions must be made to get to that work. As chair of the Program and Resource Review Committee she observed that their process highlighted three major areas of focus:

- Impact of the implementation of the District transfer policy
- Small size of the Inavale building
- Dependency of the CHS master site plan and the Franklin building.

She related the opposing views of those who wish the process to slow down against those who see the fiscal advantages of taking action, the opposing program-related views to disband/not disband Franklin and values of neighborhood schools. She noted the superintendent protected the successful Inavale K-8 program by moving it to the Lincoln Elementary building, informing the new leadership to develop a new K-8 program that would take the best of Inavale and make it available to all students at the school. She concluded by expressing confidence that the Board and superintendent will work hard to protect and expand what works.

At 7:43 p.m. Director Rodman called in noting that the signal was not consistent.

Director Keim reported that fiscal responsibility is very important for her but she thinks of how the northern, central, and southern areas being served. She would like to know how many families desire a K-8 configuration.

Director Donohue stated that it is important that the Board and District define why they are faced with these decisions. He stated that a lot of factors are involved. It is not a decision between an educational program and some tennis courts. He does not want anyone to get the impression that that is to what it has been reduced. It is, "What do we want and what can we afford?" and the answer is the intersection

of those. He continued that they have to make decisions that will provide an excellent education to everyone's kids. He asked, "Can we afford to expand K-8 given we have two middle schools, declining enrollment, and fiscal stresses? Whatever the decision is, he hopes that what is conveyed is that whatever is done, it is not due to animosity but taking what the District has and trying to preserve the good that it can with declining enrollment and the economic forecast. The decisions will upset a lot of people; they have to. There is no easy choice or solution. Coming to grips with that before the decision is made is essential.

Director Gelser listed the items that have been on her mind as she has re-weighed her values over the last months:

- Schools feeling under the microscope
- School of choice versus neighborhood schools and their possible displacement
- K-8 and core knowledge
- Maintaining faith with voters by not using bond dollars for the Harding site. She added that she is not saying Harding would not be a great location, just not with bond dollars.

Just before his phone signal was lost, Director Rodman stated he does not see the decision being about core knowledge or K-8, but diversity for schools to develop their own distinct culture. He stated there are families in town that want to be part of a distinct school.

Director Rieck questioned the flexibility of the District to react without changing boundaries every few years. She said it is also important to look at opportunities in education or what shifts need to be made. In addition, part of the reason for this conversation is due to leftover bond dollars. By looking at pulling up the implementation of Phase II, the Franklin building has become a focus. She stated through her experience she has learned an interesting thing, that neighborhood schools are schools that your child attends, where they feel a sense of community, though there might be a high transfer rate. That will weigh heavily with her when looking at options.

IV. DEVELOP AND ADOPT A DECISION-MAKING PROCESS TO BE USED ON JUNE 5 TO MAKE DECISIONS REGARDING THE CHS MASTER PLAN AND FUTURE OF THE FRANKLIN K-8 PROGRAM AND CURRENT BUILDING

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S INTRODUCTION

Superintendent Tarzian stated that staff will present a decision-making model that members could use as a starting point to establish the June 5 decision-making process. Members had previously been provided a draft of this process and copies were available for the audience. Superintendent Tarzian stated the 36 days of feedback from the community has influenced her first draft of the decision-making model. She noted there would be 30 minutes of public testimony time at the June 5 meeting.

Director Rodman called in at 8:05 p.m. suggesting that he would articulate his thoughts on Monday night due to the poor telephone connection.

Superintendent Tarzian continued by stating that without an operating levy the District is facing a \$700,000 shortfall in revenue in 2009-10. That shortfall increases to \$1,400,000 in 2010-2011. The District will then be right back to considering the potential of school closure to balance the budget in the very near future. The model does not take into account consideration of other issues that have been raised this year including class size; open high school periods; lack of PE, music, and art; lack of athletic funds; vocational education programs; students not reading at grade level; math courses offered for half-year; age of computers or other technology; textbooks; or lack of librarians. The District is running processes like this with only 1% of the budget going toward central support. Staff is stretched thin this across the District. She worries about staff and also more what that stretching does to the education of the District's students. The model is based upon fiscal responsibility, not only for now but for the next 5-10 years. She named the criteria she used as a sieve to create the model:

- ✓ Currently have funds budgeted to implement
- ✓ Aligns with strong community input that did not want to displace a program by putting another one in its place
- ✓ Prudently uses remaining bond dollars, including consideration of completion of CHS

She reviewed the proposed two-path decision-making model depicted in "CHS Master Site Plan/Franklin Decision Paths, June 1, 2006:"

- Path A, which would move Franklin K-8 to either Harding or Wilson in 2009-10, demolishing the building at that time, or
- Path B, which would move Franklin K-8 to either a K-5 Wilson/6-8 Cheldelin split or disbandment in 2007-08, demolishing the building at that time.

She noted that:

- It is important that the District allows creativity such as schools of choice or a baccalaureate program
- Leaving Franklin where it is does eat money due to inflation.

Superintendent Tarzian stated that a third path, displayed on the chart pack, "Path C," was being entertained. She questioned whether this discussion would be taking place if there were no remaining bond dollars and answered probably not. She then referenced Path C, which leaves Franklin K-8 where it is, reflecting its original fate in Phase I of the Long-Range Facilities Master Plan (LRFMP), where its removal is not mentioned until Phase II. Path C would give Franklin a boundary.

B. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Members asked clarifying questions, suggested language changes to more clearly depict the considerations, and suggested documenting that Path C had been considered but was not among the

choices as it did not meet the Superintendent Tarzian's criteria as well as the "Why 'Do Nothing' is Not a Viable Path" reasons on the bottom of the third page of the "CHS Master Site Plan/Franklin Decision Paths, June 1, 2006." (See Supplemental Item # VII-37 in the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes, with amendments introduced at the meeting incorporated.)

Chair O'Malley called a break at 8:53 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:02 p.m.

Superintendent Tarzian explained that her criteria to prudently use bond dollars took into consideration the fact that the scheduled Phase II bond levy of \$56 million to build another building that would either be put on the Harding property or in a location in south Corvallis might not come to pass, especially with an operating levy imminently on the agenda for this November.

MOTION #74: Director Rieck moved, Director Keim seconded, to **adopt CHS Master Site Plan/Franklin Decision Paths model to be used in the Board's decision making on Monday night (June 5, 2006) with the amendments as requested.** (See Supplemental Item #VII-37 in the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes, with amendments introduced at the meeting incorporated.)

The motion passed unanimously.

The following requested amendments to the above-referenced document were captured by the meeting recorder:

- Page 3 regarding language: Distinguish between students/program relocation and building demolition. Also, distinguish between relocation and demolition timelines.
- Talk about Wilson and Franklin as a "merger"
- Path A: Clarify that reduction to one Franklin grade at 6-8 level is one grade at a time
- Page 6, 2nd row down under "Cons": List dollar amount of "additional monetary investment," \$90,000, and whether it is required
- Page 6, 3rd row down under "Cons": Clarify that referring to four tennis courts
- Add date on bottom of each page
- Path C, Introduced at Meeting: document its existence, but remove from decision list. Also, regarding Path C:
 - Notation that it did not meet Superintendent Tarzian's three criteria.
 - Include Superintendent Tarzian's three criteria in "Additional Background Info"
 - ✓ Currently have funds budgeted to implement.
 - ✓ Aligns with strong community input that did not want to displace a program by putting another one in its place.
 - ✓ Prudently uses remaining bond dollars, including consideration of completion of CHS.
 - Relate it to comments in box at bottom of Page 3 "Why 'do nothing' is not a viable path".
 - Acknowledgement of difference between not being a viable path and not meeting criteria.

- Refrain from use of “unanimous” to describe community sentiment in not displacing one school by another.

V. BOARD POLICY BC/BCA – BOARD ORGANIZATION/BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING – REVISION – FIRST READING

The Board received a copy of the proposed change that Chair O'Malley explained would allow the Board to vote in late June on items to be effective July 1 without having to have a July board meeting. There were no questions. The policy will be voted upon at the next meeting.

VI. ADJOURN

Being no further business, Chair O'Malley adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Kari Rieck, Chair*

Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent

*Chair at the time the minutes were submitted for adoption.

Prepared by Jolene Shute

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