

MINUTES

Special Meeting of the

Note: This is a summary of the minutes from this meeting.

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 6:03 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</p> <p><u>BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED</u> Blake Rodman Sara Gelser</p>	<p><u>EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT</u> Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent Mary McKay, Student Services Director Jeanne Holmes, Human Resources Director</p> <p><u>PRINCIPALS PRESENT</u> Mike Strowbridge, Franklin K-8 Jay Conroy, Corvallis High School James Wickman, Linus Pauling Middle School 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.

Nell announced 40 minutes of testimony had been reserved for thoughts on the scenarios.

III. STAFF TESTIMONY

Carol Sumner, 1525 NW 14th, Corvallis, of Linus Pauling Middle School stated that she was speaking for the staff. She provided and read from written information signed by staff members stating they desire a strategy for K-8's in the District that would not predispose their school to be

“left” with non-magnet students. (See Section V in the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.) They asserted that the question should not be “Where can we move Franklin K-8” but, “Do we, as a district and community, value the middle school model?” They advocated moving Franklin K-5 to join Wilson Elementary’s core knowledge and Franklin 6-8 to Cheldelin Middle School. In this way both middle schools, Cheldelin and Linus Pauling, could establish schools within a school to serve their distinct populations. A natural fit for Garfield and Lincoln Elementaries would be to continue their dual immersion programs at Linus Pauling.

IV. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Ruth Heninger, 3390 NE Dorchester Way, Corvallis, provided background into Franklin K-8 and its core knowledge curriculum. It is articulated and sequential. She said students learn more regardless of socio-economic background, leveling the playing field. The core knowledge curriculum for Franklin was approved in 1994. There is a preschool curriculum, also. Older students can mentor younger ones. At a K-8, students, staff, and parents get to know each other better enabling transitions and a higher level of comfort. There are 3 levels of core knowledge implementation: Level 1 is Friends of Core Knowledge (such as Wilson Elementary), Level 2 is Core Knowledge, and Level 3 is Visitation Schools that serve as models for observation. Franklin K-8 is one of 42 schools in the nation that is a Visitation School. She advocated that it remain together and not be divided. She did not want to displace students at other schools in order to build a sports complex. Instead, they would like to find a permanent home that would allow expansion to two classes per grade, including those students in a small neighborhood population.

Marilyn Dilles, 3045 NW Taylor, Corvallis, parent and grandparent of children of the former Inavale K-8 school. She informed that today Inavale applied to be a charter school. She said the Board is committed and they are going to hold them to it to finish the CHS Master Plan. It has no playing field to speak of. She understands that tennis courts, baseball and soccer fields are slated to be where Franklin currently is. She asserted that physical education is important for 14-18 year olds. At that age, she had four years of physical education, 50 to a class, 200 students in the school. They supported four boys’ basketball teams and two girls’ basketball teams. She is still healthy and weighs about as much as she did when she was 17. She noted that there are a lot of obese people now. One way to turn that around is to require body movement. Girls will be mothers and they need to have exercise which is very important. Students need their diet modified so they are not eating so much fat and sugar. She said the fields are part of a comprehensive program and until the fields exist the high school is an unfinished thing. She stated that her second point is that there are no pet schools. She has been a teacher and librarian for many years, she had a sign that said, “There is only one child and the name of that child is all children.” She asked the Board to please consider Scenario 3 (Move Franklin K-8 to Wilson Elementary) and added that the superintendent needs to follow through to socio-economic diversify up to 50% of each class.

Three speakers addressed the Board, at one time, representing the College Hill Neighborhood Association. They distributed a packet of information. (See Section V of the Official 2005-06

Minutes.)

Mike Middleton, 111 NW 29th, Corvallis, (first of three College Hill Neighborhood Association presenters) stated that he was the treasurer of College Hill Neighborhood Association and that he has a particular interest as he has a 2 ½ year old and twins on the way. He gathered neighborhood input on the possibility of Franklin K-8 moving into the Harding building. He composed a letter and gathered over 350 signatures. The letter basically states that if Franklin K-8 needs to move the neighborhood would welcome it if it contained a small neighborhood attendance boundary. He also did a survey regarding neighborhood demographics.

Eric Seabloom, 112 NW 29th, Corvallis, (second of three College Hill Neighborhood Association presenters) stated that at a recent neighborhood meeting with school board members Keim and O'Malley he agreed to take inventory of new children in the (Harding) area, particularly pre-schoolers. He said he attached a map in the group's packet showing 63 pre-schoolers, not including Oregon State University's (OSU) Orchard Court housing, more than 60 K-5, and 28 middle schoolers. There are also significant numbers of private and home schoolers. The survey does not include school-age children who recently moved into the area in the last year though he could provide an update if needed. He wanted to make the Board aware of the changes in the College Hill Neighborhood.

Director Rodman arrived before 6:15 p.m.

Director Gelser arrived at 6:22 p.m.

Anne Nolin, 136 NW 28th, (third of three College Hill Neighborhood Association presenters) asked that the Board consider biking and walking lifestyles, an important part of Corvallis' 20/20 Vision. Referring to her map, she showed that the north part of Corvallis was pretty well served. Overlapping circles showed several choices of schools that students could walk to. The south though was underserved with a lot of dense population near OSU. The flip side of her map showed that the middle schools were clustered together in one part of town. Moving Franklin K-8 to the Wilson Elementary site would exacerbate the problem. Both the Franklin and Harding sites would be better walking/biking sites.

Gigi Sims, 2351 NW Nightingale Place, Corvallis, stated that she is the parent of 3 children, two who attend Hoover and one who attends Franklin as a 6th grader. She chose Franklin for her 6th grader because it is a K-8. Franklin is primarily why she is speaking. Her secondary reason is that she works in health education. She works for the State in comprehensive school education. She recently wrote a grant along with Kathy Weeks, Dana Strowbridge, and Mike Strowbridge, which they were awarded last Thursday. It is about health being core to the children and to the community. Franklin has been selected as a Healthy Kids Learn Better school, linking academics with wellness. The 3-year grant was applied for with Franklin as a K-8 school. Federal grant money is also coming in. It is in line with the District's Wellness Policy.

Ann Zukoski, 210 NW 29th St., Corvallis, stated that she was a Franklin parent and they had had a terrific year. She is excited to be part of a K-8 and that is why it was chosen. She encouraged the Board to offer parents choices. There are 17 school districts across the country that are

moving to K-8. The research is mixed. Some studies show that students who attend K-8 outperform their peers after the 5th grade level, are less likely to drop out of high school, have better student/teacher relationships, and that adolescent transitions are more supported. She strongly supports K-8 and advocated not splitting Franklin.

Deborah Lindsay, 125 NW 32nd, Corvallis, stated that her daughter, who had attended Westland Middle School and then Franklin K-8 for 8th grade, asked her to speak for her tonight. Her daughter felt that the Franklin experience helped her recover to be a good learner in high school. She encouraged her parents to send her 6th grade sibling there. Other Franklin parents encouraged Ms. Lindsay to encourage the Board to have Franklin remain a K-8.

Laurie Chaplen, 1250 NW Garfield, Corvallis, stated that Vice Chair Rieck had attended Jefferson Elementary's PTA meeting last week. Ms. Chaplen advocated for Franklin K-8 not displacing Jefferson Elementary students. She has spoken to several Jefferson Elementary and Franklin K-8 parents who feel the same.

Gary Corgan, 1564 NW Jonquil Place, Corvallis, stated that he was a Franklin parent who chose Franklin due to it being a K-8 but really does support having two programs: K-8's and middle schools.

Marion Beers, stated that she was a Wilson parent with a daughter in first grade. Ms. Beers is friends with a lot of Franklin parents and she wants them to have a good home. She understands that they want to keep the school together and also that they do not want to displace other students. They want to remain friends and they do not want to fight over a building. She noted that the Board recently made transfer rules to support neighborhood schools; but unfortunately, one of the scenarios disembowels Wilson. Fifty-seven houses will be built on Satinwood that might need a school for children to attend. She has had a fantastic experience in public schools. She had applied to Franklin once upon a time. She does not want another school to suffer because of Franklin. If real estate is the issue, keep real estate the issue. Take time to explore ideas. Wilson Elementary is not the right size for Franklin K-8. Do not move them there.

Tina Luskey, 2937 NW Garryanna, Corvallis, stated that she is parenting a Wilson 5th grader and that she has already sent the Board an e-mail that she will summarize now. Franklin has a good thing going. Wilson does, too. She asked that the Board do what they can to preserve the good at both schools and let both survive. Her grandson has had five years of core knowledge. In her work at Hewlett-Packard they need the broad-based education that core knowledge provides.

Suzanne Woods, 3781 NW Tyler Place, Corvallis, stated that she is a Franklin parent of 4, the oldest is an 8th grader who started in 1st grade. The main attraction is core knowledge along with the K-8 environment. With society's push to make kids grow up too fast she feels good about the choice and is strongly opposed to breaking up the K-8. She does not have confidence that a school within a school would work. She asked the Board to create spaces for children to continue to learn core knowledge and allow Franklin to grow as a K-8.

Lisa Corrigan, 703 NW 30th, Corvallis, who stated that she has one student at Linus Pauling

Middle School and two at Franklin K-8, distributed written information about possible future seismic grants. (See Section V of the Official 2005-06 Minutes.) She hates to see it come down to war. Under the umbrella of education for all she believes there is room in the system for each program. She asked the Board to please consider the information she provided from the State.

KetaTom, 2650 NE Asbahr, Corvallis, stated that regardless of a student's social situation core knowledge offers equity. Hawthorne Academy in San Antonio, Texas shows this. It was a low-performing school of low socio-economic students. It was ranked 23 out of 26 schools and now it is 3rd. She advocated that the Board find Franklin K-8 a permanent site where it can expand, admitting its waiting list. She sees the two best sites as its present one with modulars which interferes with the CHS master plan; the other at the Harding site.

V. BOARD DISCUSSION OF SCENARIOS ON THE FUTURE OF FRANKLIN K-8 AND THE CHS MASTER PLAN

A. ADDITIONAL MEETING?

Chair O'Malley stated that they had talked about how complex this decision is and had talked about sequencing decisions rather than addressing them all in one hour on June 5. One question is whether the District should finish the CHS master plan. As interest was shown in scheduling an additional meeting Chair O'Malley stated that she would poll members the following day for their availability. She noted that a meeting was also scheduled for May 30.

B. BOARD QUESTIONS

Chair O'Malley asked Board members to state their questions regarding the upcoming decision. The following were captured:

- How would boundaries be affected next year in relation to any changes made, especially if Franklin were to be moved? Also, how would boundaries be affected if Franklin were assigned a small boundary now, and then were to move in the future?
- What is the educational impact of completing the CHS Master Plan now or later, not extra-curricularly but within the school day?
- Are there any updates to financial forecasts?
- What are the Superintendent and Executive Team's thoughts on scenarios, especially in light of last few weeks of public testimony?

C. CHANGES IN THINKING SINCE LAST NAMED SCENARIOS DID NOT WANT TO PURSUE?

Chair O'Malley announced that at the last meeting Board members had identified which of the

- staff-recommended Scenarios,
- the scenario of moving Franklin to Harding, or
- the one of Closing Franklin

they did not want to endorse. She wanted to hear if there were any changes in their thinking since then.

Director Keim responded with her thoughts on those scenarios and related decisions that she read from a prepared statement that she said she would provide to Superintendent Tarzian. She advocated using the remaining bond dollars as soon as possible so as not to lose their buying power through inflation, utilizing the Harding site, having a facilities plan that demonstrates fiscal responsibility prior to requesting an operation levy, designing boundaries early enough to give parents adequate warning, keeping middle school classes off of the high school campus, not displacing neighborhood students, and decreasing class size at the middle and high school levels.

D. PURSUE NEWLY SUGGESTED SCENARIOS FROM THE MAY 8 MEETING?

Chair O'Malley questioned the Board whether there was any interest in pursuing last meeting's newly suggested scenarios of either:

- Temporarily moving Franklin K-8 students to the old Westland Middle School site, or
- Moving Franklin K-8 to Jefferson Elementary and Jefferson Elementary to the Harding site.

Director Gelser, who was the one who had proposed the temporary Westland scenario, took the opportunity to publicly rescind it as she re-realized how unsafe the building is.

Three members did not want staff to analyze the Franklin to Jefferson/Jefferson to Harding scenario; one did; one only wanted staff to analyze if their initial thoughts were positive, one wanted to decide whether the CHS Master Plan was to be completed first, and one wanted to analyze only if seismic funds were available.

E. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Director Higgins stated that she:

- Understands there is a Plan B for CHS fields and tennis courts if choose not to move up to the Phase II activities and that they were not promised in Phase I of the Long-Range Facilities Master Plan, that they are part of Phase II.
- Does not believe there is enough capacity in the District to move 350 students. She thinks the District would need to see what numbers it could put into Harding, not necessarily any one particular school, but the District could put children there.

Director Donohue expressed that he does not think this decision is about having playing fields or not, that it is about setting up the District to deal with financial short falls over the next few years. It is about decent education. He is not for leaving Franklin where it is. In considering:

- these next few years that the District is not expected to have cuts and could implement change in this window of opportunity that will likely not be seen again if wait for Phase II,
- the expected upcoming deficits in 2009-10, and
- that 2012 would be the earliest he sees that the District could go out for the Phase II capital bond and it will be the third year of deficit,

the District will not have the money then to move the Franklin building. The LRFMP could not specifically foresee the current financial situation five years out from Phase I. He is looking at the situation long term and would like to responsibly move Franklin now.

Vice Chair Rieck stated that she did not mind describing why she suggested moving Franklin to Jefferson and Jefferson to Harding rather than moving Franklin directly to the Harding site at the next meeting but this meeting did not have adequate time left.

VI. ADJOURN

Being no further business, Chair O'Malley adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m. wherein the members adjourned to the Budget Committee Meeting.

Kari Rieck, Chair*

Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent

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

Prepared by Jolene Shute

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