

MINUTES

Work Session 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 7:07 p.m. in the Central Office Board Room, 1555 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 Sara Gelser Blake Rodman Matt Donohue Donna Keim</p> <p><u>PRINCIPALS PRESENT</u> Cherie Stroud, Crescent Valley High School Dawn Corliss, Cheldelin Middle School</p>	<p><u>EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT</u> Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent Jim Hogeboom, Assistant Superintendent Mary McKay, Student Services Director Jeanne Holmes, Human Resources Director Kathy Rodeman, Business Services Director</p> <p><u>PR2 COMMITTEE CITIZEN MEMBERS PRESENT</u> Bill Patton Michael Wynn Barbara Bull</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. PROGRAM AND RESOURCE REVIEW (PR2) COMMITTEE – FINAL REPORT TO BOARD

Chair O'Malley began the meeting by distributing certificates of appreciation to the members of the PR2 Committee signed by Superintendent Tarzian and herself.

The entire meeting was devoted to the handing over of the PR2 Committee’s work to the Board. Board members had received a binder and compact disc of the Committee’s findings, which were made available to the public at the meeting and beyond in hard copy

and compact disc. (See a bound copy of the report as Supplemental Item #VII-7 in the Official 2005-06 Board Minutes.)

PR2 Committee Chair and Board member Helen Higgins introduced PR2 Committee Citizen Member Bill Patton as the evening's presenter. Mr. Patton then introduced the other citizen, staff, and board committee members. Mr. Patton reviewed the agenda, which after his introduction included a walk-through of the Committee's scenarios by Business Services Director Kathy Rodeman followed by a discussion.

Mr. Patton stated that his goals for the meeting were that the Board:

- understands the PR2 Committee' report
- knows where to find things in the report
- identifies additional information they need

He added that the evening's meeting was:

- not for debate
- not for decision to take action
- not to weigh the merits of scenarios

Mr. Patton distributed a "tool" kit to the Board consisting of:

- An onion, which represented the layers of information the Board had been receiving from the Committee at Board presentations over the months since July
- A Rubik's cube, representing the scenario sorts by cost, utilization, etc.
- A picket fence, representing the Committee's boundaries though they did run a stick along the fence representing the process suggestions and observation sections of the report binder
- A mirror, representing that enrollment and capacity are about people

Business Services Director reviewed how the scenarios came to be, assumptions that were used, report terms, and the meaning of the column headings in the scenario sorts in the report.

Assistant Superintendent Hogeboom related that some Committee members had audited the number of high school rooms. That tour helped determine the maximum capacity of each school.

Discussion then lead members to make the following requests for information:

- Re-delivery of forum questionnaire responses as some did not seem to print fully
- Scenario input from public forum on disc
- Maximum number of students that could be put into an elementary school, would like a range as was provided for the middle school and high school levels
- What the tipping points are at the elementary level for class size that necessitates instructional space changes, looking for guide posts.
- Maximum classroom/building sizes as determined by various factors such as design capacity, fire codes, maximum number a teacher can handle, a legal number, and the number needed to pay for a teacher

- The dollar figure to reduce class size by 1 district-wide.
- Equity committee's report and their numbers associated with transportation costs
- CHS Design Team report
- Implementation for ELL (English Language Learners) and Life Skills when going from a 3 level system (elementary, middle, and high) to 4 (exact levels to be determined if this scenario option was considered)

Board members asked clarifying questions on specific scenarios.

PR2 Citizen Member Barbara Bull commented that the Committee restricted its discussion to considering the long-term. This view did not lend endorsement of filling all classrooms to capacity resulting in the maximum number of building closures. To do so would diminish the District's ability to reduce class sizes in the future.

The Board discussed the possibility of scheduling more meetings and forums to devote to discussing the results of the Committee's work and the decisions it might elicit. Chair O'Malley announced that originally it had been hoped that decisions would be made in December but that date has now been set at January 30. Superintendent Tarzian stated that whether the decisions made could be implemented for the 2006-07 school year would be determined by what actions were decided to be undertaken. Chair O'Malley reviewed a timeline that she and others had developed, noting the homework piece for the December 12 meeting was for Board members to say which scenarios they preferred and why. Several members supported also stating which scenarios they would eliminate.

When the discussion turned to extra board meetings, possibly a Saturday retreat, in addition to the Board meetings scheduled nearly once a week for eleven weeks from mid-November through January, Superintendent Tarzian voiced that the Board was right in the middle of what staff does everyday and is responsible for overseeing so staff would need to attend as well. She added that she cannot run the district without staff. She needs their attendance when teachers and students are present. If they are asked to work in addition to the hours they are already putting in it affects their other work. She stated the Board has gone beyond how a board normally operates. Their need for increasing numbers of meetings reflects the depth to which they are working in the District. She said the Board's discussion on December 12 when they are to prioritize and possibly create new scenarios would prove enlightening. She offered that if the Board were to end their deliberations by directing staff to save a determined amount of money while creating the least disruption and setting the District up for future considerations, the Board would not need this much time. She continued that if the Board tries to base its decision on which scenario is educationally best for students, they will have a difficult time and not enough time even if they meet often. She stated their task was to consider the needs and desires of the community, what scenarios can be supported politically, and what financial outcomes they desire.

It was expressed that the additional meetings would provide time for the Board to delve into questions of one or two high schools, etc. One member felt that these were the decisions for which the Board should take the heat.

PR2 citizen committee member Barbara Bull suggested possible timings and topics to solicit parent input for a strategic representation as opposed to a general invitation for input.

Concern was raised that setting a strict future schedule might be pre-mature before the opportunity for additional public input and further board discussion. The belief that building configurations would dictate the programs taught within them was questioned.

It was noted that the Board does not have to answer all the related questions outlined on pages 111-112 in the PR2 report binder by January 30. (Questions relate to open enrollment, schools of choice, adherence to the Long-Range Facilities Master Plan, etc.)

Chair O'Malley stated an additional December meeting would increase the likelihood of the Board reaching an earlier decision, relieving some community anxiety. Superintendent Tarzian offered that Board availability for an additional meeting between December 5 and 15th would be sought.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Superintendent Tarzian thanked PR2 Committee members by providing each of them with an acorn adornment. She said often educators make an investment and do not get to see the result. She said the oak tree is a symbol of strength and the acorn seed is potential. She selected an acorn as a symbol of the District's children that the Committee has helped to reach their potential.

Chair O'Malley thanked everyone for good conversation, questions, and a collaborative spirit

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

Nell O'Malley, Chair

Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent

Prepared by Jolene Shute

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