

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 Gable called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in Central Office Board Room, 1555 SW 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Corvallis. Chair Gable dispensed with the calling of the roll and the secretary recorded those present as listed below.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Cyrel Gable, Chair  
Ron Miller, Vice Chair  
Robert Baldwin, Member  
Sara Gelser, Member  
Nell O'Malley, Member  
Robert Johnson, Member  
Joan Demarest, Member

EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

Jim Ford, Superintendent  
Jeanne Holmes, Assistant to the Superintendent  
Dawn Tarzian, Teaching and Learning Director  
Duane Jager, Information Services Manager  
Fred Wright, Auxiliary Services Director  
Laverne Pitts, Foundation Director  
Julie Catala, Board Secretary

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Ashleigh Campi, Crescent Valley High School

PRINCIPALS PRESENT

(None)

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Gable led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. COMMITTEE/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS**

There were no items to report.

#### IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

There were no items to report.

#### V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Ford related some district awards:

- The Corvallis Camerata Orchestra, which is composed of students representing both Corvallis high schools, recently placed first at the 70-orchestra Northwest Mt. Hood Community College festival.
- The Arietta piano quartet also placed first in the chamber music division at the same festival.
- Corvallis High School received a Distinguished Service award from the Oregon School Activities Association for graciously hosting the 3A boys and girls state basketball championships the last 5 years.
- Diana Mortlock, Crescent Valley High School Counselor, recently was named Oregon School Counselor of the Year.
- Corvallis High School Swim Teach Coach Judy Storie has been nominated for Coach of the Year.

District activities Superintendent Ford reported on included:

- The Regional Board Chairs and Superintendents (REBOCS) would be meeting later in the week at the Albany School District. The group meets monthly to share their situations.
- He and Business Services Director Kathy Rodeman will be meeting with James Sager, the Governor's Education Advisor, April 16 regarding any foreseen impediments for a locally proposed personal county income tax initiative to support education and youth. They will then meet April 22 with Benton County commissioners regarding the topic.
- In spite of the district's hard times, administrators are maintaining a forward thinking outlook. They are reading Michael Fullan's book, Leading in a Culture of Change.

Chair Gable added that since the March 3, 2003 joint city council/school board meeting, a subcommittee formed from the two entities had met twice, including a county commissioner at the second meeting. The result of the meetings was to pursue a countywide solution to the education/youth-funding dilemma. As a result, the joint follow-up City Council/School Board meeting had been cancelled. Instead, the next step will be fulfilled through a county commissioners work session on April 22 to look at the possibility of an income tax. Superintendent Ford noted that Albany will have a local option on the May ballot and Chair Gable confirmed the Corvallis School Board had not yet endorsed any tax measure.

**VI. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION****A. CHECK PRESENTATION – NIKE BUSINESS ENERGY TAX CREDIT PASS THROUGH**

Nike representative Mike McBride reviewed that through the long-running Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC) program businesses were receiving tax credits for implementing energy saving measures, but non-profits had not been afforded the same incentives. About a year ago the Oregon Office of Energy approached Nike for their response to participating in extending the energy conservation program to non-profit entities. Now, nine to ten months into the program, Mr. McBride, on behalf of Nike, presented a check to the district representing a return of 27% (\$6,616) on their \$25,000 project.

**B. OTHER CITIZENS**

Ken Himes, 3179 NW Greenbriar Place, Corvallis, stated he was the father of two daughters who had gone through the Corvallis School District and he wanted to support partnerships between the district and community. He is involved in a leadership team of more than 20 Corvallis city churches who meet to serve needs in the community. Last summer 16 churches spread 365 cubic yards of bark mulch at 12 building locations in the district and helped sort and shelve library books due to the closure and consolidation process. Three years ago portions of their large Easter service collection were given to the Corvallis Public Schools Foundation: \$22,800 went to support summer at-risk youth programs and nearly \$38,000 went to community outreach for family shelters. He noted the third Thursday of each month from 11 am. until noon the group meets to pray for public schools and he invited attendance. Chair Gable thanked him for his contributions.

**VII. STAFF PARTICIPATION**

No staff wished to speak.

**VIII. SPECIAL REPORTS****A. DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE/COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

Superintendent Ford reported that with regard to Goal 2 of the District Improvement Plan: Collaborative and Innovative Culture, specifically the third item, "Expand community partnerships to create more learning options and services for students," he has begun community conversations regarding increasing partnerships with the district. The district now has a data base mapping ten areas in which volunteers assist: academics, social services, emergency & law enforcement, supervision, clerical, building and grounds, donations, career awareness, activities and sports, and medical and mental health. The current volunteer count is over 750 individuals or groups. Meetings were held in the fall with parent-teacher organization presidents to:

1. Become more systematic in acknowledging the district's contributors

2. Identify unaddressed areas for focused community support at each school
3. Develop an infrastructure that facilitates the use of partnerships in an era of diminishing resources
4. Institute a training program for principals to assist them in the cultivation of partnerships which would be launched either next year or the following

The database was reviewed with principals in February and March to share its contents and streamline its effectiveness for them. Their assistance was requested to help build relationships with the 75% of individuals who do not have children in school. Some of the ideas generated in these meetings were:

- Build a training program to create reliable volunteers, which would include retired teachers who would be familiar with school needs
- Train principals in follow-up software contact programs
- Obtain more useful data on student registration forms regarding guardian career strands and volunteerism
- Create a recognition program for community support such as the Golden Apple is for staff and publishing the number of partnerships and the value they add to the district
- Inventory the community for their willingness in delivering instructional special interest or curricular units with the possible help of retired teachers, a Central Instructional Media Center of community-delivered instructional units

Implications of this effort are that:

- Principals will understand their school's needs and be proactive accordingly, requiring community contact and staff receptivity (resource generation and management)
- A training program for principals needs to begin taking shape akin to Leadership Corvallis, perhaps training in one of the ten areas of assistance each month. Training could also include guidance in accessing the community, articulating a school vision, and database management

Related to this endeavor:

- Superintendent Ford has also had meetings with retiree groups and volunteer organizations.
- It has been suggested that retired teachers mentor new teachers. A grant program at Western Oregon State College is being investigated for this possibility.
- Businesses such as the Oregon State University Thrift Store and the Corvallis Arts Center, who rely on volunteers, may be studied for their approaches and experience.
- New volunteers could be matched with experienced volunteers in the same area.
- The school system could be inventoried for things that the community could step in and teach or do, such as a retired paleontologist assisting in the study of dinosaurs
- A partnership program may be formed with Oregon State University in which doctoral counseling candidates assist in the district.

Superintendent Ford is managing this program. One concern that has surfaced regarding the database is in sharing the knowledge between schools donors may be over utilized and schools may feel protective towards their volunteer hours.

Chair Gable acknowledged the program encompasses a different vision of what school districts could be like and it is reflective of what the state of the world is like. She thanked Superintendent Ford for bringing that vision.

## B. SERVICE LEARNING POLICY PRESENTATION

Teaching and Learning Director Dawn Tarzian introduced teacher Shari Maksud, who has been organizing and teaching service learning in the district. Ms. Tarzian explained the presentation was two-fold; to provide an update on service learning in the district and to offer an initial look at a proposed policy for adoption consideration regarding service learning. She explained that 50% of students are involved in service learning. She said when correctly done, service learning though involved, has a profound impact and provides expanded learning opportunities for students. Ms. Maksud teaches half-time and coordinates service learning half-time, providing on-site staff development as well as assisting teachers in grant writing,

Ms. Maksud began with a brief history of the service-learning curriculum in the Corvallis School District. She explained that in September of 1999 a \$10,000 service-learning grant was awarded to what was then Western View Middle School. Another \$10,000 was granted in March of that school year from the same institution due to the effective use of the initial grant. Corvallis was chosen to represent Oregon in a five-state grant award in August of 2001 in the amount of \$20,000 over a two-year period. Other grants have been received from the educational service district and SOLV, a non-profit organization that brings together government agencies, businesses and individual volunteers in programs and projects to enhance the livability of Oregon. These grants help provide funds for coordinating, professional development, and staffing service learning as well as project support. Recent district grants have been used to place high school tutors in the middle schools and middle school tutors in the elementary schools. A student-begun service learning project of donating cafeteria overruns to those in need may expand statewide from its inception in Corvallis.

Ms. Maksud explained that service learning combines meaningful community service combined with academics, personal goals, and civic responsibility. All service learning is project based though not all projects are service learning. The components of service learning are:

- Planning, with student input and organization
- Hands-on action
- Reflection and evaluation, how did it go?, what could be done better next time?
- Celebration, recognizing the students' accomplishments

Service Learning provides expanded leadership opportunities for all students whether at-risk, special needs, talented and gifted, or somewhere in between. Service Learning is listed as one of three main prevention programs as helpful for at-risk students, the other two being alternative programs and mentoring/tutoring. The district has several community partners in service learning such as Linn-Benton Community College, Oregon State University College of Education, Western Oregon State College, SOLV, Samaritan Health Services, and Corvallis Disposal.

Ms. Tarzian distributed two versions of the proposed Board policy on service learning explaining one

was more detailed than the other. She explained a policy was being proposed because of the increased teaming being sought between the district and the community. That, combined with the expected 40% teacher-turnover in the next couple of years, makes service-learning a priority staff development activity.

With 50% of the students involved in service learning a policy provides recognition as well as informs parents what can be expected. The classroom becomes bigger when students are out in the community so safety can be addressed in the policy as well.

Chair Gable explained that to allow Board members at least a month to provide feedback to the proposed service learning policy, the policy's first reading would not come before the Board until after the May 6 Board meeting, with opportunity for adoption at a later meeting

## **IX. CONSOLIDATED ACTION**

Chair Gable reported that though the agenda had been revised to include an item on Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification for new construction, the presenter was unable to attend the meeting. Therefore, the item would not be addressed at this evening's meeting but rather at the April 22 work session with action taken in May, if needed.

**MOTION #40:** Considering Item B.5., LEED Certification, New Construction, withdrawn, Director Johnson moved, Director Baldwin seconded, to approve the remaining Consolidated Action Items. The motion passed unanimously.

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

#### **1. AMENDED OCTOBER 21, 2002, BOARD MINUTES**

The amended minutes of October 21, 2002 were approved as presented. The amendment corrected the inadvertent referral of the NEA as the National Education Association to the intended National Endowment for the Arts. (Filed in the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.)

#### **2. MARCH 3, 2003, JOINT CITY/509J WORK SESSION**

The minutes were approved as presented. (Filed in the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.)

#### **3. MARCH 19, 2003, LONG RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The minutes were approved as presented. (Filed in the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.)

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

#### **1. LICENSED PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Board approved the recommendations. (Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-36 of the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.)



2. RETIRED ADMINISTRATOR EMPLOYEE'S SINGLE ASSIGNMENT CONTRACT – EXTENSION

This item extends the contract until May 30, 2003 of the administrator liaison between the Corvallis High School staff and the new high school design/construction staff. (Filed as Supplemental Item #I-32 of the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.)

3. SPECIAL TESTING AND INSPECTIONS FOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

This item awards a contract to FEI Testing and Inspection, Inc. of Corvallis for testing and inspection services related to district facilities improvement projects included in the November 2002 facilities bond. (Filed as Supplemental Item #I-33 of the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.)

4. IN-KIND DONATIONS

The Board accepted the donations. (Filed as Supplemental Item #X-28 of the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.)

5. LEED CERTIFICATION, NEW CONSTRUCTION

Withdrawn.

**X. CONSOLIDATED INFORMATION**

A. CORRESPONDENCE

Filed in Section V of the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.

B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ITEMS

1. EXTENDED FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

The Board received information on four extended field trips. (Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-37 of the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.)

2. INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER INFORMATION

The Board received information on six interdistrict transfers.

C. SUPPORT SERVICES ITEMS

1. NON-LICENSED PERSONNEL INFORMATION

(Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-38 in the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.)

**2. RESPONSE TO SECRETARY OF STATE'S AUDITS DIVISION**

This item informs of the corrective action taken to prevent over expenditure in future of a specific district fund. The Grants Fund involves estimating expenditures in advance of receipt of grant monies, an exercise with a range for miscalculation. The remedy was to increase the Grant Fund Appropriations. (Filed as Supplemental Item #VI-14 of the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.)

**3. ENGAGEMENT OF INVESTMENT SERVICES MANAGER FOR BOND PROCEEDS**

This item engages a professional investment services firm to manage the construction bond proceeds. (Filed as Supplemental Item #X-29 of the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.)

**4. UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The Board received the unaudited statements of revenues, expenditures, and fund balances of the various funds of the District for the period ending February, 2003. (Filed as Supplemental Item #X-30 in the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.)

**5. 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-31 in the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.)

**XI. OTHER DISTRICT BUSINESS**

There was no other district business.

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board met in Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. under ORS 192.660(1)(d) – Labor Negotiations and continued that meeting at the conclusion of this public meeting.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Director O'Malley announced that Phi Delta Kappa would be putting on a forum on the No Child Left Behind Act where both positive and negative views would be aired. Chair Gable added the same topic would be discussed at the April Oregon School Boards Association regional meeting.

Being no further business, Chair Gable adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

---

Cyrel Gable, Chair

---

Jim Ford, Superintendent

Prepared by: Jolene Shute

(u:/julie/board/minutes/2003/april 7.doc)