

**MINUTES**

Work Session of the

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Corvallis School District 509J  
1555 SW 35th Street  
Corvallis, OR

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Gable called the meeting to order at 7:08 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  
Robert Baldwin, Member  
Sara Gelser, Member  
Robert Johnson, Member  
Joan Demarest, Member

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED

Ron Miller, Vice Chair  
Nell O'Malley, Member

PRINCIPALS PRESENT

Lynn Lahey, Garfield Elementary  
Dick Behn, Crescent Valley High School  
Rick Gaultney, Cheldelin Middle School  
Julie McCann, Lincoln Elementary  
Linda Endo, Farm Home School

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES  
PRESENT

Andrew Grill, Corvallis High School  
Ashleigh Campi, Crescent Valley High  
School

EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

Jim Ford, Superintendent  
Ron Corbell, Assistant Superintendent  
Jeanne Holmes, Assistant to the  
Superintendent  
Kathy Rodeman, Business Services Director  
Duane Jager, Information Services  
Manager  
Karen Smith, Administrator for Instructional  
Services & Inavale K-8 Principal  
Fred Wright, Auxiliary Services Director  
Laverne Pitts, Foundation Director  
Linda Martin, Budget Analyst  
Dawn Tarzian, Teaching and Learning  
Director  
Julie Catala, Board Secretary

CITIZEN BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Volmert  
Charlie Tomlinson  
Shaun McKinney  
Kari Rieck

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

## **II. INTRODUCTION**

Chair Gable acknowledged the weight of the situation our nation found itself in, with war in Iraq imminent. She stated it added to the pall of the evening's solemn budget discussion. She explained there would be several budget review sessions in May that would conclude with a recommended budget for the Board's adoption in June. No binding decisions would be made at this meeting or the upcoming budget review sessions.

## **III. GUIDELINES FOR MAKING DECISIONS**

Superintendent Ford reviewed the "Principles to Guide Budget Decisions," which had been compiled by staff. (Filed as Supplemental Item #VI-11 in the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.) He stated no item was an absolute and they were not ranked.

In the discussion that followed, Director Gelser added that consideration should also be given as to how a change might affect a family's decision to enroll their students in the district or seek alternative avenues of education. If the budget decision led families to register elsewhere, the loss of per student revenue would cause a further downward spiral in the budget leading to decreased services and in turn, decreased enrollment, a negative self-perpetuating process.

## **IV. OVERVIEW OF SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS**

Kathy Rodeman, Business Services Director, reviewed the general fund budget updates as of March 14, 2003. (Filed in the Supplemental Item packet #VI-12 in the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.) She stated that \$6.2 million in cuts were expected for the district though nothing was certain. Her latest estimates were based on \$4.8 billion in state revenues though the range has been perceived to be anywhere from \$4.4 billion to \$5.2 billion. The expenditure side is also not certain, the Public Employees Retirement System being one factor.

Superintendent Ford highlighted his recommendations for cuts (Filed in the Supplemental Item packet #VI-12 in the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.) Members had also received a draft proposal of the "CEA List of Cuts: 2003-2004." (Filed as Supplemental Item #VI-13 in the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.)

## **V. CITIZEN BUDGET COMMITTEE/BOARD INPUT**

Board and Citizen Budget Committee members then suggested and discussed items to add or remove from the cut list. The outcome of the discussion left the list in tact and a suggestion to query the unions on their preferences in regard to salary freezes, cut days, or a combination. Superintendent Ford noted that in order to cut seven days at the high school level next year, as

was done this year, the high school schedule would have to be changed, involving fewer credits and bargaining.

(Corvallis High School Principal Jay Conroy entered at 8:27 p.m.)

If larger cuts are necessary they will be dealt with at the time they become apparent. Revenues from the State may not be known until July. It was suggested bargaining begin as relegating it to July would not allow enough time to have an agreement settled by September. The district will know by April 17 whether funds would have to be set aside for a possible Harding Charter School, pending a State hearing.

## **VI. NEXT STEPS**

Ms. Rodeman stated the next steps would be to allocate the budgets to the schools that would have until April 7 to review and update. The first in a series of Budget Committee meetings to review the recommended budget would be May 13.

Citizen Budget Committee Member Volmert encouraged the principals to involve parents and high school students and Director Baldwin suggested the unions talk a lot amongst themselves.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Gable thanked everyone present, especially the Citizen Budget Committee members. There being no further business Chair Gable adjourned the meeting.

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Cyrel Gable, Chair

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Jim Ford, Superintendent

Prepared by: Jolene Shute

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