

MINUTES

Special Meeting 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 5:11 p.m. in the Central Office Board Room, 1555 SW 35th 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
Sara Gelser
Nell O'Malley

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED

Ron Miller, Vice Chair
Robert Johnson
Joan Demarest

EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

Jim Ford, Superintendent
Ron Corbell, Assistant Superintendent
Kathy Rodeman, Business Services Director
Fred Wright, Auxiliary Services Director
Deb Bell, Accounting Supervisor
Linda Martin, Budget Analyst
Julie Catala, Board Secretary

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

II. OSBA TRAINING ON PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW

Greg McKenzie of the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) was introduced. He stated he had practiced law in Portland, had been on Wilsonville's school board for eight years and has served on the OSBA board. He noted the challenged Corvallis School Board's January Executive Session initiated his visit.

Director Demarest joined the meeting at 5:19 p.m.

Mr. McKenzie had attendees take a public meetings pre-quiz, for which he provided answers at the conclusion of the meeting.

Mr. McKenzie recommended two resources for interpreting the public meetings law:

- “A Quick Reference Guide to Oregon’s Public Meetings Law,” a brochure produced by Open Oregon: a Freedom of Information Coalition and the Oregon Attorney General’s office (Filed in Section V, date of February 10, 2003, in the 2002-03 Official Board Minutes), and
- Attorney General's Public Records and Meetings Manual produced by the State of Oregon Department of Justice (Available in the Board Secretary’s office).

He stated that though the attorney general has no jurisdiction over public meetings the Government Standards and Practices Commission (GSPC) has the ability to fine individuals up to \$1,000 per violation.

Mr. McKenzie reviewed general sections of the booklet (Filed as Supplemental Item #IV-32 in the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes) he compiled especially for this meeting noting:

- If meeting jointly with another governing body the meeting can be held within either’s geographic governing boundaries
- Training sessions can be held outside of governing boundaries. It is not a meeting unless it is for the purpose of conducting business of the governing body.
- Definitions of “governing body, executive session, public body” etc.
- Posting notices and their associated timeframe
- Reasons public bodies can meet in executive session

In the course of the instruction and discussion it was noted that:

- An executive session is required for board hearings regarding student expulsions and for the discussion of student records. The student’s name, issue, the vote, and discussion shall not be publicly disclosed. The Board can vote in executive session when it relates to expulsion of a student.
- A pamphlet “Covering Education” is sent to the media regarding the public meetings law.
- The Statute of Limitations is 60 days.
- While others may be allowed to be present at executive sessions an announcement should be made regarding the confidentiality of the session.
- Any meeting can be held by phone with proper notice and public accessibility.
- E-mail is considered as a written phone call.
- A committee that is reporting to the Board needs to post notice for meetings.
- A committee that is reporting to the superintendent does not need to post notice.

Director Demarest departed the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Chair Gable adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Cyrel Gable, Chair

Jim Ford, Superintendent

Prepared by: Jolene Shute
(super/julie/board/minutes/2003/march 3 special meeting.doc)