

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 7:03 p.m. in 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, Member
Sara Gelser, Member
Robert Johnson, Member
Nell O'Malley
Ron Miller, Vice Chair
Joan Demarest, Member

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
Dawn Tarzian, Teaching and Learning Director
Julie Catala, Board Secretary

PRINCIPALS PRESENT

None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Andrew Grill, Corvallis High School

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

II. EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

An open discussion began on how to provide more meaningful and diverse learning opportunities for students in the district. Discussion topics included:

- Surveying - the possibility of surveying high school parents and students about their needs; providing a path for dialog so that students could advocate for themselves; designing methods to obtain input from all those affected; and, finding out what the community is willing to support.

- The society the district finds itself in and the view of the purpose of education – choice is expected in our society; students’ boredom may stem from the delivery of education when compared with the delivery of quick media images to which students are exposed; is the function of education to prepare students for the workforce or to produce educated citizens?
- Relevance of education – what stimulates students to internalize a love of learning; areas of interest opportunities, such as band, have been decreasing due to budget constraints; alternative ways to obtain credit besides class time, such as independent projects; instilling personal connectedness to education.
- Considerations – should both high schools be the same; establishment of give and take partnerships with the community that involve time, not just dollars; consequences of stating “alternative education” on transcripts; making options more available and accepted; low morale of teachers; assignment of 45 and 90 minute time periods for best class fit; examination of policies for possible changes.
- Barriers to Flexibility – diminished resources; independence level of students; which students would be able to craft an alternative plan; rigid high school schedule; transportation challenges of Crescent Valley High School; contractual issues.
- Possible Solutions – better utilization of summer school; high school retreat for administrators/educators; tracking to ensure students are moving forward in alternative plans; alternative experience crafted so that the payback is worth the time invested; have stated expectations; providing for students so that costs such as transportation are not a limiting factor.
- Discussion Summary – expand options to make them more available and accepted.

III. BOARD SPECIAL INTEREST AREAS – FOLLOW UP FROM BOARD RETREAT

The Board revisited topics of concern that were voiced at the Board retreat but that did not fit easily into the District Plan.

Tracking of Redrawn Boundaries

Information was requested to see where students were attending school after the boundary rezoning and to see next fall how parents felt about the process in retrospect.

Teen Pregnancy

Director Gelser referenced a statistic that was shared at a CHS Design Team meeting regarding the high rate of Latina teen pregnancy in our district, and the concern that the mothers are not returning to school following the birth of their babies.

Dawn Tarzian, Director of Teaching and Learning, noted that the Teaching and Learning Committee was slated to discuss this very topic at its meeting the following day. She added that sometimes the ESL population misses being involved in certain programs, such as STARS. She pointed out that skillful planning can ensure these students are connected to the various programs available.

Chair Gable requested more information on the status of this topic at a future meeting.

Art in New Construction/Remodels

Planning for large artwork displays in the proposed new buildings and remodels was positively embraced as an extended learning opportunity that students could assist in creating. Artists-in-Residence, National Endowment for the Arts funds, and possibly the Community Art Center, local art educators and grants could work toward that end. Pursuit of this will begin upon passage of the bond.

IV. NEXT STEPS – PAYMENT SHIFT

The Board began discussion regarding a possible outcome of accepting the state payment shift method approved at the October 7, 2002, meeting. (Filed as Supplemental Item #III-8 in the Official 2002-03 Board minutes.) The conversation centered around the possibility that the postponed funds would not be realized. Also, if the January measure is not approved, another \$1.2 million would be unavailable. If either scenario were to occur, cuts would be severe. Consensus was reached that conversations could begin with the unions to discuss possible solutions. Board members Baldwin and Demarest agreed to join in the conversation with the unions. Board conversations regarding prioritizing cuts could be set for the November and December meeting.

Business Services Director Kathy Rodeman requested a Board member testify at an upcoming Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) hearing. Director Gelser agreed to testify. Ms. Rodeman will prepare a Resolution to be brought before the Board at the November 4 meeting requesting prudent PERS reform.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gable adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Cyrel Gable, Chair

Jim Ford, Superintendent

Prepared by: Jolene Shute and Julie Catala
(super/julie/board/minutes/2002/october 21 work session.doc)