

**MINUTES**

Regular 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 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  
Joan Demarest, Member  
Robert Baldwin, Member  
Sara Gelser, Member  
Nell O’Malley, Member

EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

Jim Ford, Superintendent  
Ron Corbell, Assistant Superintendent  
Jeanne Holmes, Assistant to the Superintendent  
Kim Finch, Student Services Director  
Kathy Rodeman, Business Services Director  
Fred Wright, Auxiliary Services Director  
Duane Jager, Information Services Manager  
Julie Catala, Board Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED

Robert Johnson, Member

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

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

PRINCIPALS PRESENT

Jay Conroy, Corvallis High School

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. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Board Chair Gable welcomed the new student representatives for the 2002-03 school year. Ms.

Campi thanked the Board for the opportunity and added that Crescent Valley had begun operating on a different daily schedule this school year and the year had begun well.

#### **IV. COMMITTEE/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS**

Director Gelser requested an action item entitled “Authorize Staff to Enter into an Agreement with Old Mill Center for Children and Families for Early Intervention Evaluations” be added to the Consolidated Action section of the agenda. Chair Gable responded that it would be added.

Chair Gable announced that members were given the “Explanatory Statement for Voters Pamphlet” regarding the November facilities bond as well as four statements in support of the bond which will be entered as well. No statements in opposition to the bond have been filed. (Filed as Supplemental Items IV-9 and IV-10 in the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.)

#### **V. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Superintendent Ford reported on District enrollment figures, noting the numbers are very fluid at this time of year. Current enrollment is 7,016, about 50 less than projected. Kindergarten numbers are up, while middle schools and Crescent Valley High School numbers are down. The District usually sees more students transferring in from nearby districts than going out. At this time, 108 are coming in with 105 going out. Most of those transferring out are going to the Philomath School District, reporting they are either moving to or working in Philomath or are near the border. 15 respondents list an issue with the District as their reason for transferring out.

Superintendent Ford announced:

- The District will offer commemorative events in observance of September 11. A District counselor will be in attendance at the Corvallis Public Library in the evening.
- The next regional Oregon School Boards Association event in the area will be October 2, the convention will be in November, and the National School Boards Association will meet in April on the west coast.
- The Board retreat will be October 10.
- State Senate candidate Frank Morris would like to meet with the Board.
- He had met with the high school principals regarding safety as a follow-up to a process begun with an audit last winter.

#### **VI. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Patricia VonGlahn, 3341 NW Goldenrod Place, Corvallis, requested the Board create a policy that no elementary student leaves a classroom alone to go outside of the building. She referred to the outdoor hallways at Hoover school where students must walk on an outside corridor to access the restrooms inside the building. She suggests a student buddy system. She would also like to see a test run evacuation performed using the recommendations created after last year’s bomb threat. Lack of parental notification was her biggest disappointment.

Relan Colley, 745 NW 16<sup>th</sup> Street, spoke to the siting of the proposed new Corvallis High School.

While he was in favor of the school facing Buchanan he was against siting it as far west. He noted three objections: (1) The plan does not call for closing off 16<sup>th</sup> Street, which he believes is an accident waiting to happen, especially with students running between parked cars at the many athletic events and practices. Closing 16<sup>th</sup> would allow the District to make better use of the space. (2) Siting the school as far west as proposed compounds the congestion at 16<sup>th</sup>. (3) Access to parking is awkward. He offered some suggestions.

## **VII. STAFF PARTICIPATION**

No staff wished to speak.

## **VIII. SPECIAL REPORTS**

Business Services Director Kathy Rodeman distributed a state funding update to the Board including the dollar value of possible district reductions that could be made if the worst-case scenario comes to be realized. (Filed as Supplemental Item VI-5 in the Official 2002-03 Minutes.) Members weighed in with their initial thoughts. Chair Gable stated it would be reviewed again at the work session on September 23.

## **IX. CONSOLIDATED ACTION**

Chair Gable turned the Board's attention to the Consolidate Action Items. Director Gelsner requested Agreement with LBL ESD for Evaluation Services and Authorize Staff to Enter into an Agreement with Old Mill Center for Children and Families for Early Intervention Evaluations be held. Director O'Malley requested that Resolution 02-0901 in Support of Ballot Measure 19 be held. Chair Gable requested that Siting of New Corvallis High School be held.

**Motion #9:** Director Miller moved, Director Baldwin seconded, to approve the remaining Consolidated Action Items. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Gable exercised her prerogative to alter the order of the held agenda items. She announced the held items would be handled in the following order:

Resolution 02-0901 in Support of Ballot Measure 19  
Siting of New Corvallis High School  
Authorize Staff to Enter into an Agreement with Old Mill Center for Children and Families for Early Intervention Evaluations  
Agreement with LBL ESD for Evaluation Services

### **A. SUPPORT SERVICES ITEMS**

#### **1. SUPERINTENDENT'S LICENSED PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Board approved the recommendations. (Filed as Supplemental Item IV-11, of the Official 2002-

03 Board Minutes.)

2. SITING OF NEW CORVALLIS HIGH SCHOOL

**Held for discussion. See “Consolidated Items Held for Discussion”, following.**

## 3. AGREEMENT WITH WESD FOR MIGRANT EDUCATION SUMMER SCHOOL

This agreement provides payment from the Willamette Education Service District to the Corvallis School District for education costs for fourteen migrant students in the District's summer school program, a total of \$4,282. (Filed as Supplemental Item #I-9 in the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.)

## 4. RESOLUTION 02-0901 IN SUPPORT OF BALLOT MEASURE 19

**Held for discussion. See "Consolidated Items Held for Discussion", following.**

## 5. CHAMBER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

This is a renewal agreement that provides high school students with exposure to various careers via job shadows, a youth job fair, and internships. Many of the activities to meet the requirements for Certificate of Advanced Mastery are served through this partnership. (Filed as Supplemental Item #I-10 in the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.)

## 6. AGREEMENT WITH TRILLIUM FAMILY SERVICES FOR COUNSELING

This agreement provides limited therapeutic services to students for the 2002-03 school year. (Filed as Supplemental Item #I-11 in the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.)

## 7. AGREEMENT WITH OLD MILL CENTER FOR COUNSELING

This agreement provides limited therapeutic services to students at Western View Middle School (editor's note: now called Westland Middle School) for the 2002-03 school year. (Filed as Supplemental Item #I-12 in the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.)

## 8. AGREEMENT WITH LBL ESD FOR EVALUATION SERVICES

**Held for discussion. See "Consolidated Items Held for Discussion", following.**

## 9. AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH OLD MILL CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FOR EARLY INTERVENTION EVALUATIONS

**Held for discussion. See "Consolidated Items Held for Discussion", following.**

**CONSOLIDATED ACTION ITEMS HELD FOR DISCUSSION**

## 4. RESOLUTION 02-0901 IN SUPPORT OF BALLOT MEASURE 19

This Resolution states Board support for Ballot Measure 19 to be put before the voters in the September 17, 2002, Special Election. The Measure, if approved, would authorize a \$150 million withdrawal from the Education Stability Fund to backfill 2002-03 K-12 budget cuts, provides for 18 percent of future lottery proceeds to be deposited into the fund, and creates a school capital matching

fund to assist school districts with their future capital construction and improvement needs. The Resolution urges staff, parents and the community to vote in support of Measure 19. (Resolution filed as Supplemental Item #III-6 in the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.)

Several members noted their hesitancy to vote for the Resolution because they believe the State needs to find a stable long-term funding solution, which this is not. The ramifications to school operating budgets would be keenly felt if the measure does not pass.

**Motion #10:** Director Miller moved, Director Baldwin seconded, to approve Resolution 02-0901 in Support of Ballot Measure 19. The motion passed unanimously.

## 2. SITING OF NEW CORVALLIS HIGH SCHOOL

Superintendent Ford introduced Dr. George Copa, Oregon State University School of Education Professor and New Design for Learning Director, and Dr. Susan Wolff of Wolff Designs, Educational and Facilities Planning.

Dr. Copa led the district's CHS Design Committee, comprised of over forty individuals of whom approximately half were associated with the district and half community members. Dr. Copa reviewed the "Learning Plan for the New Corvallis High School in the Corvallis School District." (Filed as Supplemental Item #VII-2 in the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.) He reported that the learning plan was compiled and then the building designed to that end. He added community input was spectacular.

Dr. Wolff, who assisted Dr. Copa in leading the Design Team, reviewed the "Community Input Report for the Learning Plan for the New Corvallis High School." (Filed as Supplemental Item #VII-3 in the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.) She reported that 95 community members were interviewed to garner desired uses for the new building outside of the school day.

The information reviewed will be available at the District Office, public library, and will be on the District's web site. Dr. Copa explained that the Design Team brainstormed for needed items and thought for the future without restraint. He added that the list in the report can be prioritized if funding is not available for everything. An added bonus to the community input was uncovering possible District partnerships.

Community representatives from the district's Design Team provided input to the Board. Representatives reported on the robust team procedures, facilities visitations, user interviews, researching flexible facilities, ample feedback opportunities, and diversity in thinking of the Team, which grew to a common end. Chair Gable thanked them for the copious amounts of time they devoted to the process.

Steve Olson, with Dull Olson Weekes Architects (DOWA), reported that the site is compact at a little over 30 acres including the Franklin School building. He reported the Scheme "C" layout would be presented this evening.

Renee Kroupa of DOWA presented diagrams showing the school building facing Buchanan at the west end of the property. She explained that this orientation allows the students to remain in the old building during construction. The junior varsity baseball fields would then be placed at the site of the old building. Most all of the current trees would remain.

Mr. Olson explained that though it might be possible to close off 16<sup>th</sup> Street at Buchanan, tying an application to do so with the new construction might hold up the process. The City has emergency vehicle concerns.

Director Gelser reported that she and Director Baldwin had attended a neighborhood meeting. She relayed that the common theme of those attending was the desire to close 16<sup>th</sup> Street. They were also concerned about the parking access chute, shortage of Buchanan Street parking, junior varsity baseballs, the football field, and inability to supervise students who congregate near the southern campus border.

**Motion #11:** Director Baldwin moved, Director Demarest seconded, to site the proposed new Corvallis High School on Buchanan Avenue near 16<sup>th</sup> Street. (Resolution #02-0902)

Chair Gable explained that tonight's decision is a general siting decision with specifics to be determined. She then read Resolution 02-0902 to that effect. (Filed as Supplemental Item #III-7 in the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.) She stated the final layout meets most input though not all. Different desires had to be weighed. She expressed the desire to continue to work with the Historic Preservation Advisory Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Gable called for a three-minute break. The meeting resumed at 9:10.

9. AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH OLD MILL CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FOR EARLY INTERVENTION EVALUATIONS

Director Gelser began by disclosing that she had one daughter served by the Linn-Benton-Lincoln ESD (Education Service District) and one by Old Mill (Old Mill Center for Children and Families). She stated that her introduction of this item is not a reflection of the work done for her by these agencies.

She outlined offices she has held in relation to special education, which included positions on several local councils related to early intervention, Governor Kitzhaber's appointee for the State Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education, speaker to many professional gatherings of individuals providing early intervention/early childhood special education services, advisor on several federal grants related to early childhood special education and her current nomination to serve on a federal advisory panel for improvements and best practices for transition from early childhood special education to kindergarten. She has twice been designated by the Oregon Department of Education to attend the National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Service (NECTAS) conference on early childhood education. Its primary purpose is to provide technical

support and assistance for all areas of implementation for federal laws and regulations in regard to early intervention.

Director Gelser expressed her respect for Student Services Director Kim Finch and stated that she feels uncomfortable approaching the contract approval this way. She added that she strongly feels the children involved would be better served at less cost to the district through a contract with Old Mill. In addition, the Old Mill Center is open year around (the ESD is not), so serving students in that time period would be possible.

She continued by saying that the ESD had initially raised its rates from \$200 to \$600 per evaluation beginning with the 2002-03 school year, but subsequently consented to a \$60 per hour fee instead. She feels the Old Mill proposal would save the District 31% to 42%. She stated the ESD rarely has a licensed therapist whereas as Old Mill would.

Ms. Gelser stated that although Old Mill may take a more medical approach to evaluations as opposed to an educational one, their employees have most recently been working at the ESD, so they would be familiar with educational evaluations. Old Mill is an educational facility and they have a relationship with the early intervention program as well as the Corvallis School District. The fuller evaluations may focus families in seeking appropriate assistance for their children, perhaps allowing the children to be more absorbing of the learning environment as students. It will also foster trust in the district that evaluations are uncovering more ways the child can be helped, as opposed to parents finding out elsewhere about methods that could have been used to support the child.

Twenty-two children are currently waiting for evaluations; ten are on a 45-day timeline so contract approval is needed this night.

Some Board members raised concerns regarding Board members introducing agenda items that have not been researched and evaluated by staff, insufficient data, and interruption of the District's relationship with the ESD. Others were confident in Director Gelser's knowledge in this area and felt the agreement might provide a better value for the district.

**Motion #12:** Director Baldwin moved, Director Demarest seconded, to authorize staff to enter into an agreement with Old Mill Center for Children and Families for Early Intervention Evaluations

It was noted that an advocate for the ESD was not present although prior notification of the meeting had been made to the agency.

Student Services Director Kim Finch addressed the Board, stating she would not advocate for the ESD but would explain why the contract was being presented at this time. Due to several factors, the ESD raised its rates for these services three-fold. Ms. Finch wanted to obtain feedback from Director Gelser and thoroughly research alternatives before committing to a different vendor. She felt she did not have the time to investigate all factors to make a valid comparison. In lieu of recommending an alternate provider for the 2002-03 school year she opted to propose continuation with the ESD, and to evaluate the cost-effectiveness with continuing data throughout the year. She believes Old Mill is the better

service provider and suspects they will provide a cost savings, although she has no data at this time to back up her opinion.

Chair Gable and Director Miller voted in opposition to the motion; all others voted in favor. The motion carried. (Old Mill proposal filed as part of the information package for the "Agreement

with LDL ESD for Evaluation Services,” Supplemental Item #I-13 of the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.)

8. AGREEMENT WITH LINN-BENTON-LINCOLN EDUCATION SERVICES DISTRICT (LBL ESD) FOR EVALUATION SERVICES

In light of the approval to have these services provided by the Old Mill Center, the following motion was made:

**Motion #13:** Director Miller moved, Director Baldwin seconded, to withdraw the Agreement with LBL ESD for Evaluation Services from consideration. The motion passed unanimously. (See Supplemental Item #I-13 of the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.)

B. OTHER

There were no other Consolidated Action Items.

X. CONSOLIDATED INFORMATION

A. CORRESPONDENCE

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

B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ITEMS

1. INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER INFORMATION

The Board received information on 19 interdistrict transfers.

C. SUPPORT SERVICES ITEMS

1. NON-LICENSED PERSONNEL INFORMATION

(Filed as Supplemental Item IV-12 of the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.)

2. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE TO LONG RANGE FACILITY MASTER PLAN

This update to the Long-Range Facility Master Plan amends plans to two buildings:

- Decreases the size of the proposed replacement Corvallis High School by 20,000 square feet and adds upgrading/refurbishing of the 1966 portion of the building, approximately 40,000 square feet.
- Adds upgrading/refurbishing of the Highland View Library to the proposed replacement middle school plan.

The update is filed as Supplemental Item #IV-13 of the Official 2002-03 Board Minutes.

**XI. OTHER DISTRICT BUSINESS**

**A. DISTRICT PLAN**

Due to the lateness of the hour, consensus was reached that Board feedback on this item would be obtained using an alternate method. The Board will review an updated version at the September 23, 2002, work session.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, Chair Gable adjourned the meeting at 10:12 p.m.

---

Cyrel Gable, Chair

---

Jim Ford, Superintendent

Prepared by: Jolene Shute and Julie Catala  
(super/julie/board/minutes/2002/sept 9.doc)