

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair TenPas at 6:59 p.m. in the Central Office Board Room, 1555 SW 35th Street. Chair TenPas dispensed with the calling of the roll and asked the secretary to record those present as listed below:

Board Members Present

Bill TenPas, Chair
Robert Baldwin, Vice Chair
Jay Dixon, Member
Cyrel Gable, Member
Robert Johnson, Member
Ronald Miller, Member

Executive Staff Present

James P. Ford, Superintendent
Ron Corbell, Assistant Superintendent
Kathy Rodeman, Business Director
Cathi Alden, Teaching and Learning
Jeanne Holmes, Assistant to
Superintendent
Julie Catala, Board Secretary
Kim Finch, Student Services Director
Fred Wright, Director of Auxiliary Services
Rod Aust, Chief Information Officer
Deborah Dineen, HR Director

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

Chair TenPas changed order of agenda to have the City of Corvallis Financial Forecast presentation (Agenda Item #VII A) precede the Superintendent's Report to accommodate the presenters' schedule.

Chair TenPas moved the two citizen requests to speak after the Willamette Valley Community School presentation (Item VII C), per the requests of the citizens.

Chair TenPas said beginning next meeting the agenda item "Committee/Board Member Items" will be moved to follow after the Superintendent's Report. He would like included interactions members have had with the district and meetings attended so that people can see what the Board does, not just here in the meetings but throughout the week.

Chair TenPas recognized Joan Demarest, Phil Smith and Elizabeth Spatafora, candidates for school board.

Chair TenPas said the ESL report (Agenda Item #VII. B) is not ready due to severe health problems incurred by the reporter.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair TenPas led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Ford announced:

- he will provide a school board candidate briefing on February 7th.
- School to Career Specialist Andrew Davis has been selected by the Oregon Association of Vocational Special Needs Personnel as the Outstanding Vocational Special Needs Support Person for the Year 2000 for his support of students who have disabilities and his outstanding commitment to vocational experiences.
- Jefferson Elementary School received a Creative Ticket School of Excellence Award from the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network in conjunction with the Oregon Alliance for Arts Education. The award was presented for outstanding achievement in arts education. Jefferson was one of five schools in Oregon so honored.
- the next meeting of the JAC and gave a brief description of its work in relation to the other committees.
- his meetings with each administrator for goals conferences and also will be doing coaching training through OSU to sharpen skills in coaching.
- in line with the creativity goal, there will a training on February 28th at the OSU Foundation Building from 8 - 10 a.m. with Sam Stern for district administrators, as well as Albany and Lebanon administrators in partnership. He is also researching a joint leadership retreat with those two districts.
- Two principal positions closed last week: Adams Elementary and Cheldelin. Hope to have those positions filled prior to Spring Break.

Dr. Ford updated:

the board on work-about by district administrators. Hope to feature the work-about in the first week of June, when Peter Senge, author of "The 5th Discipline," is in Corvallis to offer his nationally featured course on systems thinking. The CSD will be sponsoring this event and is expecting about 120 people in attendance from all over.

IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Nothing to report at this time. CHS Representative Nancy Raskauskas said that she and CV's Representative Jenny McBride are looking forward to participating in the 3rd high school discussion.

V. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Lonnie Drouhard, teacher at WVCS, 28820 Hwy 34, Corvallis, sees increased commitment from staff as a result of the recent hard times. He added the staff has come up with exciting things for this coming semester especially in relation to fostering and sustaining a viable, productive learning community. Despite all the things going on the staff is very excited about the future.

Susan Lisser, 31487 Braden Lane, Philomath, is a parent of a WVCS parent, spoke about the strong student leadership that has emerged at the school as a result of the hard times. The students are stepping up to the plate to support the school and its staff and leaders. This event has been a wake up call for a higher level of accountability, responsibility, and ownership than has been thus far. She said parents haven't swayed from their desire to send their younger children to WVCS in the future. She is pleased with how the community has responded to the crisis situation. She asked for patience and confidence from school board.

VI. STAFF PARTICIPATION-none

VII. SPECIAL REPORTS

A. City of Corvallis Financial Forecast

City Manager Jon Nelson gave a brief overview of the City's 5-7 year forecast.

He discussed the history of the Activities Levy, a possible collaborative venture between the City and the School District, an idea that began a few years ago. The cities of Lake Oswego and Ashland had such an operating levy at the time. Those cities used their taxing authority to build in funding support for certain school activities, those that couldn't be funded through the basic state formula. The communities use of these funds included enhancement of sports and arts. The levy passed after one or two votes in those communities. The City was scheduled to request the levy in November of 2002. The City's financial picture has changed so dramatically under Measure 47-50 that they do not now have the ability to fulfill projects in the community that it has committed to, as well as maintain existing services, and it will have to go out for large funding requests to the community for those projects.

Nancy Brewer, City of Corvallis, provided more detail in relation to the financial forecast (revenue projections and analysis). She said there has been a shift since 1990 from taxes being about 60/40 (60% business supported/40% residential). It is now nearly the opposite and continues to spread moving closer to a 30/70 spread. (30% business/70% residential)

Jon Nelson said that the City, County and School District will continue to discuss ways to collaborate. Chairman TenPas expressed his appreciation for the presentation.

C. Update on Willamette Valley Community School

Ron Corbell, Corvallis School District 509J Assistant Superintendent and designated liaison between CSD and WVCS, and Marion MacNamara, board chair for WVCS, spoke about the status of WVCS, including the history of the charter school creation. Marion said a large percentage of students are on IEPs and it has created some difficulties for the school, as has the doubling of enrollment and new staff members. She said Leslie Crisp, Director, resigned today; a full search for a permanent director will begin, and an interim director will be appointed. She outlined the areas of concentration by staff and leaders of the school, and the assistance provided by CSD staff to do so. Areas include: IEPs, behavior issues, and curriculum. Future focus areas are finding a more appropriate site for the school, and she asked for opportunities to use any possible vacant CSD school space. Primary focus of board and parents will be a substantial amount of fundraising (a minimum of \$30,000) for general operating funds. Four new board members joined last week. Ron Corbell said IEPs are coming under compliance with assistance from CSD student services staff and should be in place within a couple of weeks. Marion said that even though they've had bad publicity over the last three weeks they still are having students apply to attend. Bill complimented Marion for her professionalism throughout this process. Cyrel inquired about auxiliary costs in terms of time and support, etc. that CSD has given to WVCS, and a possible report on this by the end of the year. Chair TenPas said it's in the works right now, and Ron Corbell is fine-tuning the data.

VIII. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

A. School Report Cards

Cathi Alden said this is 2nd year Department of Education has issued report cards. They were made public in January and will be sent home at the end of March to all parents, with the addition of local information. She distributed a table comparing the report card ratings for each school and led review of the information. She cautioned that the report card is an extremely technical document. She said this is a snapshot of how students and schools are doing, but allows comparison with other schools in the state. She distributed sample report cards and led review of the data reported therein.

IX. CONSOLIDATED ACTION

Chair TenPas drew the Board's attention to the Consolidated Action Agenda items.

Director Ron Miller requested:

Item 2: Board Policy JFCJ - Weapons in the Schools - Revision-First Reading and

Item 3: Board Policy GBJ-Weapons in Schools-Employees-Revision-First Reading
be held for discussion.

Motion #28: It was moved by Director Bob Johnson and seconded by Director Robert Baldwin and unanimously carried to approve the following:

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 8, 2001 were approved as presented.

B. SUPPORT SERVICES ITEMS

1. Superintendent's Licensed Personnel Recommendations (filed in Section IV of the Official 2000-2001 Board Minutes)

4. Donations (various material items, filed in Section IV of the Official 2000-2001 Board Minutes)

5. Authorization to Negotiate with LBL ESD Toward Regionalization of CIMC Material and Services

6. LBL ESD Resolution Services

Held for discussion, Agenda Items #IX. B. 2. & 3: Director Ron Miller asked if the paragraph regarding school employee awareness and reporting (2nd highlighted paragraph in both items) only came into play when it occurred on district property or had broader implications. Deborah Dineen said it's relating to on or near district property at district events as expressed in the first line of the document referred to in Item 2. Director Miller then questioned the definition of "near" and perhaps it should be opened up for discussion.

Motion #29: Director Miller moved and Director Gable seconded approval of B2 and B3. Unanimously approved.

X. CONSOLIDATED INFORMATION

C.4: Elementary Class Sizes as of January 18,2001

Director Gable questioned what would be done with the data. Kathy Rodeman explained the flexibility in spending for programs and staffing that comes with larger school sizes. Somewhere between 325-340 students an elementary school has much more flexibility in terms of staffing. Each school requires office staff, library staff, playground supervision, crossing guards, etc. regardless of size. Once these basic services are covered the remaining funds can be used to implement local choices.

XI. COMMITTEE/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Chair TenPas reported:

- Julie Manning agreed to serve another term on the district's budget committee.

- Ron Miller, Robert Baldwin, and Bob Johnson have agreed to work on a negotiations subcommittee for the board.
- main discussion at retreat will be about facilities but there'll be a short executive session regarding labor negotiations.
- he, Superintendent Ford and Fred Wright, Auxiliary Services Director, met with the City and the City has asked to have a city council person present at retreat during facilities discussions.
- he attended WVCS parent meeting, and he shared his perspectives of that meeting.

Director Gable reported:

- she's attended the Leadership team meetings this year and is impressed with cohesiveness and participation in decision making that has evolved within the group. She was impressed with the amount of insight gained by administrators through the work-about. She would like to see the Board participate in the whole system at some other level than currently doing so---requested more discussion at a future date on this issue.
- groups are revving up their activities for school funding initiatives. Requested support from the Board to spread the word that helping hands are needed.

Chair TenPas thanked Rod Aust for all he's done for the district and for students within 509J.

XII. OTHER DISTRICT BUSINESS

A. Continuing Facilities Discussion – Dr. Ford reminded everyone of Board retreat relating to facilities, February 20th, at the Board Room.

B. Innovation – Discussion Regarding Programs Being Investigated

Dr. Ford reported:

- he will meet with staff at the high schools regarding what ideas are out there relating to a 3rd high school.
- he's begun the conversation with Franklin School, Wilson, and Inavale regarding core knowledge curriculum.
- he met with Garfield regarding a phase-in of a dual language school.
- Fairplay is considering adding 6th grade next year.
- an all-staff e-mail will be delivered tomorrow morning, communicating all the happenings.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION-cancelled

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, chair TenPas adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Bill TenPas, Chair

Jim Ford, Superintendent

Prepared by: Julie Catala and Jolene Shute
(super\julie\board\minutes\2001\feb 5 bd mtg.doc)