

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 7:10 p.m. in the Central Office Board Room, 1555 SW 35th Street. Chair TenPas dispensed with the calling of the roll and the secretary recorded those present as listed below.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Barbara Ross, Member
Ron Miller, Member

EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

Jim Ford, Superintendent
Ron Corbell, Assistant Superintendent
Jeanne Holmes, Assistant to Superintendent
Cathi Alden, Teaching and Learning
Kathy Rodeman, Business Director
Deborah Dineen, HR Director
Rod Aust, Chief Information Officer
Fred Wright, Director of Auxiliary Services
Jolene Shute, Board Secretary

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Nancy Raskauskas - present
Jenny McBride - absent

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

Chair TenPas changed the order of the agenda to accommodate the Mt. View Elementary students' presentation.

Chair TenPas announced there would be no ESL report tonight.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair TenPas led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. TECHNOLOGY COORDINATION

The district will not be outsourcing technology at this time to the Willamette ESD. There was an error in the newspaper. The district is looking at a co-leadership model with Duane Jager and Debra Murray, school district employees. Dr. Ford stated the district is looking at a \$100,000 savings in that area for next year.

B. PRINT SHOP OUTSOURCE PROPOSAL

Rod Aust reported the print shop operates outside of the general fund. The Xerox contract we've had for the last five years is oversized for the district and so is not cost-effective to maintain internally. A larger regional usage, with more school districts participating, would be more cost-effective. The proposal before the Board has revenue sent back to our district from an outside source to offset the five years of cost that have accumulated. The cost per copy will drop dramatically with initial savings of 1.5¢ per copy. After 36 months the margin will be even wider.

C. CIMC UPDATES

Jim Ford reported we were under serious negotiation with Linn-Benton-Lincoln ESD to explore the possibility of having them take over the operation of our Central Instructional Media Center. It will not be happening this year. They are not ready to commit until they have a chance to view the facility, which has been arranged for the next monthly superintendent's meeting. The best case scenario would have this transfer of materials and operations take place for the 2002-3 school year. It could result in a half-million dollar yearly savings.

IV. COMMITTEE/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

In deference to time likely needed for later topics members abstained from reporting at this meeting.

V. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES - no report

VI. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Twelve citizens spoke.

Laura Evensen, 3855 NW VanBuren, Corvallis spoke to what she perceives as a fragmented vision of the district. Having individual schools tout their unique programs provides options to some students but perhaps has weakened the entire system. Combined with the open enrollment it pits one school against another, making principals marketing directors. She said 16% of students are in charter schools and schools of choice, so what's wrong with regular schools? She said there is no public forum for discussing these issues.

Larry Weymouth, 415 NW Merrie Drive, Corvallis, spoke to keeping the number of elementary and middle schools the same, maintaining the standards of quality we have in this district, saying finances aren't everything. He said this community is well enough off judging by the cars, cable TV's, etc. and it takes a whole village to raise a child. Christine Stillger, 249 NW 31st St., Corvallis, spoke to the desire to have neighborhood schools with smaller populations, especially in light of recent school shootings where lack of connectedness was cited as a reason for the event.

Bob Devine, 925 NW Witham, Corvallis spoke to his experience of having parents resisting one large school but embracing that same school if it were one building with two schools inside resulting in cost savings and smaller "school" size.

Six citizens, all of Corvallis, spoke on behalf of siting a single middle school at the Highland View location. The six were:

Stephanie House, 605 NW 4th St.

Joe Zaworski, 7810 NW Oxbow Drive

Dan Buster, 1324 NW 19th

Karen Nelles, 2237 NW Dixon

John Harrison, 3872 NW Camas Place (also a Highland View teacher)
and two minors.

The citizens named these reasons:

- Academically advanced students can take classes at CHS
- Mentoring by high school students can take place more easily
- After school care at Boys and Girls club an advantage because this age group is too old for day care but need supervision as substance abuse and premature physical activities increase without it
- Middle school students would not want to ride a bus to reach this service
- Close to Osborne Aquatic Center
- More city buses stop at Highland View
- Not near large, heavy truck usage
- More students can bike and walk, school is amongst more neighborhoods
- Parks are close by
- Life Skills class uses pool, if at Western View would have to be bussed losing an hour of class time
- More population in north part of town

Joanne Hunter, 7165 SW Deerhaven, Corvallis, spoke on behalf of siting the single middle school at the Western View location stating that it is served by a bus that goes to Harding and on to the Boys and Girls Club. She also stated it might be safer to have the students housed at varied locations in case of emergency so that they were not all affected by an adverse situation. Perhaps higher level classes could be taught at the middle school precluding students need to take classes at the high school.

Bob Devine, 925 NW Witham Drive, Corvallis, also spoke about CHS and urged a prompt remedy in light of its unsafe seismic condition, suggesting a bond in 2002 at the latest. Stella Meinzer, 6031 SW Grand Oaks Drive, Corvallis, urged promptness also and portables were suggested, as well as distance learning for the interim.

Joe Zaworski, 7810 NW Oxbow Drive, Corvallis, also voiced that the decisions facing the Board are difficult and they should solicit advice from experts and the community. He would like to see a summary in the newspaper of decisions made, not too detailed, not too light, on why the Board chooses the options they do and the research behind it so the public can understand the Board's decisions.

Chair TenPas thanked the presenters.

VII. STAFF PARTICIPATION

Highland View Principal James Wickman presented his idea of placing the new school on his site while leaving the existing school intact during construction. It would call for closing Cleveland Street.

Corvallis High School teacher Pat Canon spoke to his desire to have the revised CHS building remain on site due to its central location and his photo evidence of nearly 100 bikes in the school racks.

VIII. SPECIAL REPORTS

- A. ESL PROGRAM - Report not available.
- B. MT. VIEW ELEMENTARY

Four students from Mt. View Elementary narrated a PowerPoint Presentation of their experience with the "Jason XII: Hawaii" project. The students compared Mt. View watershed with a watershed in west Maui. Albany Research Center Scientists are also working with the students on this project.

IX. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT - No report

X. BUDGET UPDATE

Kathy Rodeman provided a brief budget update stating she asked each school to create a budget based on 3%, 5%, and 7% budget reductions. At the 3% level, cuts are not likely to include teacher reductions, more likely decreased supplies and support staff. The budget shortfall could range anywhere from \$800,000 to \$1.8 million, with a likely scenario at \$1.3 million.

XI. CONSOLIDATED ACTION

Item D was misplaced on the agenda. Action was expected regarding facilities though no information was provided in the Board packet on this item so it was not considered in the "Consolidated Action."

Motion #30: Director Johnson moved and Director Baldwin seconded approval of the Consolidated Action items, with the above exception. It was unanimously approved to carry the following:

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 5, 2001 Regular Board Meeting were approved as presented.

B. SUPPORT SERVICES ITEMS

1. Superintendent's Licensed Personnel Recommendations (Supplemental Item #IV-19 of the Official 2000-2001 Board Minutes)

2. Board Policy JFCJ -- Weapons in the Schools (Students)-- Revision-Second Reading

The Board approved the policy, which reflected a reporting requirement for weapons and destructive devices on school grounds as well as a definition of destructive devices. The change was made to reflect Oregon law.

3. Board Policy GBJ -- Weapons in the Schools (Employees) -- Revision-Second Reading

The Board approved the policy, which reflected a reporting requirement for weapons and destructive devices on school grounds as well as a definition of destructive devices. The change was made to reflect Oregon law.

4. Donations

The Board accepted the donations. (Supplemental Item #IV-20 of the Official 2000-2001 Board Minutes)

C. OTHER - Interdistrict Transfer Requests

Approved as submitted.

XII. CONSOLIDATED INFORMATION - There were no questions on these items.**A. CORRESPONDENCE****B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ITEMS - Extended Field Trip Information**

The Board received information on seven extended field trips. (Supplemental Item #IV-21 of the Official 2000-2001 Board Minutes)

C. SUPPORT SERVICES ITEMS

1. Non-Licensed Personnel Information (Supplemental Item #IV-22 of the Official 2000-2001 Board Minutes)

2. Unaudited Financial Statements

The Board received the unaudited statements of revenues, expenditures, and fund balances of the various funds of the District for the period ending January 31, 2001. (Supplemental Item #X-9 of the Official 2000-2001 Board Minutes)

3. Check Register

The detailed check distribution ledger is on file in the Business Services Office and is available for information at any time.

D. ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION JC - OPEN ENROLLMENT/SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS - REVISION

The Board received copies of this regulation, which showed the deletions and additions as updated for clarity.

XIII. OTHER DISTRICT BUSINESS

Chair TenPas rearranged the order of the items to "C," "A," "D," "B," then "E."

A. NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL SITE DISCUSSION

Level of Community Input

Discussion took place on whether a vote should commence to build one or two middle schools or if public comment should be solicited, as well as on naming a single site, if that were the choice. Considerations were public acceptance of outcome, fiscal responsibility, timeliness, mixed views and the absence of two Board members.

Director Gable recommended collecting community input regarding siting as opposed to the Board deciding tonight which location (Western View or Highland View) would be preferred. She said her understanding was that we would have a public process in April for the bond levy so she was suggesting the site location could also receive public input during that time. Director Baldwin agreed. Director Dixon stated it couldn't be postponed very long, as citizens would need to know what they were being asked to fund the bond for. Chair TenPas responded he felt it would cause problems such as leading people to believe a school would be built in their area and it would reduce the time we need to develop plot plans, explore safety issues, transportation, and construction housing. He felt directors have addressed almost every issue and many have

had input all along the way via phone, e-mail, letters, and in person. He suggested giving a single site plan and answering concerns would be more appropriate. Director Gable questioned if we approached public with every decision made, what input are we asking for? She questioned whether the Board could have considered all of the reasons there are for one location versus another. She felt the Board deserved to hear from the citizens. She noted we are also missing two Board members this evening so is hesitant to cast a vote. Chair TenPas responded by stating we have had input from seismic studies, from staff, and facilities studies. Director Gable fears we are setting ourselves up to fail if we go to the community with the decision made.

Director Gable felt public input could be gathered in four to six weeks using the applicable parts of the consolidation process presented earlier. (Board speaking to civic groups, public forums, written one-page input pieces gathered at various community meetings such as Rotary). Director Johnson suggested that public input about the bond levy be done after input on elementary consolidations and middle school sitings as those will give insight as to what people will support. This will give the bond more likelihood of succeeding. He felt all three issues (elementary consolidation, middle school siting, and bond measure) were too much for the public to discuss/absorb in parallel forums.

Director Johnson asked Jeanne Holmes if it was possible to have two to three forums on middle school siting, two to three on the bond measure and three for elementary school consolidation, pushing the bond measure decision out a month. She was concerned people may get burned out of meetings. Director Johnson said we've been talking about safety for a year and a half and have had about an average of four people come to those meetings, versus a roomful tonight for consolidation/closure. Director Baldwin stated there will be passion about this issue and suggested a forum at each Western View and Highland View middle schools.

Chair TenPas asked the Board if they would like one forum at each Highland View and Western View. Directors Gable and Dixon stated they wanted more than just parents to be represented as only about 20-25% of community are parents and it will likely be non-parents who will object to the sites. Jeanne Holmes reminded the Board that one of their requests was to have the community process for the November bond levy completed by June so that the public wouldn't feel we "pulled one over on them" during the summer when involvement is more difficult. If we decide to provide more forums it would be a trade-off for that consideration. Director Gable felt we could still make the decision on May 7 for the bond and the site.

Naming Middle School Site

Director Dixon stated either location would likely require a conditional use permit and the City might prefer one site to the other. Fred Wright stated it is a three to four month process, if there are questions or appeals, could take longer, up to a year. It is advisable we take one plan. Director Gable responded that it might be desirable to work out what's acceptable to the community beforehand to allow the process to go smoother.

Superintendent Ford questioned whether it was true that we wouldn't have to name the proposed middle school site until September 6. Chair TenPas stated it would be hard to work on it passing if the site weren't known until then.

Director Dixon questioned whether we could ask the city to tell us conceptually what we would have to do on both sites because we could want to build on both sites in the future.

Director Dixon suggested plans be funneled through Fred Wright so they would be easier to evaluate. Chair TenPas agreed.

Motion #31: Director Gable moved that we replace Highland View and Western View with a single facility with site to be determined. Director Baldwin seconded. Motion failed.

Chair Ten Pas felt the failure of the motion indicated a desire for the Board to solicit input from the community. Director Dixon suggested that with the split views and the absence of two Board members the vote be postponed until all members could be present.

Chair TenPas expressed his view that he doesn't think the Board can ask the community for input on one thing (school siting) but not another (whether to build one middle school or two). Director Gable said she sees differently. Concern about finances was so great last time the Board met it seemed a consensus was reached to build one middle school. She thinks it is important to listen to public input but not advisable to take a slew of questions to the public as it makes it too complex. Director Baldwin reminded those present that regardless of how we all value small, community schools it would be very irresponsible to pretend that building two middle schools is a viable option. Even if they were built we don't have the funds to operate them.

B. SCHOOL CHANGES BEING EXPLORED

Superintendent Ford will be meeting with several elementary principals in the morning who are exploring changes in their building. Jefferson is considering a 6th grade option as is Fairplay and Harding. Franklin is considering an additional 6th grade. Wilson is considering core knowledge. There are some discussions about international or bilingual education at Garfield. The impact to the entire system and value of these changes are to be determined by March 23, as well as considering if it makes sense to start now in light of other changes. He can give the Board an update after meeting with the principals.

Director Gable questioned if Board approval were needed. Dr. Ford said some might necessitate a Board decision. He added that in surveys about 20% say they want K-8 so it would be nice to match our offerings with what the community wants. He felt grade configuration changes would be Board decisions, though changing a theme of school, perhaps not. Fairplay may talk about adding only 6-8 students so its affect on Cheldelin would be minimal. He'll have Board decision items ready in April.

C. CONSOLIDATION SCHOOL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Jeanne Holmes distributed a "Plan for 509J School Consolidation/Closure Process" which outlines a 12 week process to determine which three elementary schools should be recommended

for consolidation/closure in the next two years. Research was collected from other communities which have closed schools recently such as Portland, Eugene, Coos Bay, and North Bend. The process varied from the superintendent in North Bend announcing the schools to be closed with public hearings to follow to another community which had a year of public input prior to naming the schools to be consolidated.

Ms. Holmes went through the process as outlined which covered timeline, committee composition, decision making process, communication plan and Board involvement. She noted there would be parallel conversations taking place in the community, on the proposed tax levy for facilities renovations and also for school consolidation. Perhaps these could dovetail together under facilities planning. She added that Eugene added a notetaker to their committee so that information could be put on the website promptly. They also had a trained facilitator at the meetings to efficiently manage the process.

Director Baldwin stated he didn't want the public misled that closing schools is the entire answer to our fiscal situation, it only softens the impact.

Director Dixon stated he wasn't sure three community forums were enough.

Director Johnson was concerned that the June decision date was late to be reorganizing schools for the fall and communicating to parents. Ms. Holmes said that perhaps in the process a narrowing down of possible school consolidations could be made prior to the public forums, alleviating some of the late communications.

Director Gable pointed out that there may be a flurry of premature transfer requests from students anticipating a closure or desiring to attend a school other than what was in the plans for them. Perhaps we need to do something slightly different with out transfer process than in any normal year. Superintendent Ford stated recommendations will come from the committee on how we complete the process.

Motion #32: Director Johnson moved to adopt the "Plan for 509J School Consolidation/Closure Process" as presented with consideration given to the number of community forums as well as the potential of pulling it up (shorter timeline). Motion seconded. Passed unanimously.

D. COMMUNITY PROCESS FOR NOVEMBER BOND PROPOSAL

Jeanne Holmes distributed and reviewed the "Community Process for November Bond Levy." It contained one and two-way communication strategies. Information would be delivered on our budget situation and our need for doing this. Public input would be received via a one-page questionnaire, which could be tabulated, as well as unstructured verbal comment. Presentations and tours could be given during "Back-to-School Week" at those facilities addressed as needs in the levy. Nancy Raskauskas questioned which students groups were considered for Item 11. Ms. Holmes responded middle school and high school likely.

As the communications department was cut last year, Jim Ford stated he didn't want the Board to underestimate the complexity of providing for controlling every eventuality in this process so nearly all would be satisfied. He appreciates the Board's patience.

Director Dixon pointed out that the district's communication process needs to be objective. A PAC, that's a volunteer group of people outside of the district employees, can do the campaign.

Motion #33: Director Baldwin moved to pass the "Community Process for November Bond Levy." Director Gable seconded. Passed unanimously.

E. 1ST VIEW OF 2001-2002 DISTRICT CALENDAR

Due to the lateness of the meeting, approximately 9:30 p.m., Chair TenPas postponed the discussion until the next Board meeting.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion #34: Director Dixon moved to adjourn. It was seconded. Approved unanimously.

William TenPas, Chair

James Ford, Superintendent