

## **MINUTES**

Regular Meeting of the

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Corvallis School District 509J  
1555 SW 35<sup>th</sup> Street  
Corvallis, OR

### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair TenPas called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Central Office Board Room, 1555 SW 35<sup>th</sup> 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  
Barbara Ross, Member  
Ron Miller, Member

#### EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

Jim Ford, Superintendent  
Fred Wright, Director of Auxiliary Services  
Kathy Rodeman, Business Director  
Jeanne Holmes, Assistant to Superintendent  
Deb Dineen, Human Resources Director  
Cathi Alden, Teaching and Learning Director  
Jolene Shute, Board Secretary

#### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Jenny McBride – absent  
Nancy Raskauskas – present

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

### **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair TenPas led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

### **III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Ford announced:

- Cheldelin Middle School Principal Bill Starnes will be retiring at the end of the school year and introduced Rick Gaultney of Eugene as his replacement.
- Adams Elementary Principal Judy Starnes will be retiring at the end of the school year and introduced Patty Pearson, currently of District Office, Elementary Coordinator, as her replacement.

- Senators Trow and Starr would be hosting a Town Hall meeting April 12 from 6:30-8:30 in the Memorial Union at OSU, focusing on education.
- Franklin Kindergarten Teacher Joan Hayes was featured in an 4/22/01 USA Weekend “Making a Difference Day” article for her work developing a wildlife habitat on the school grounds which resulted in a gift of \$2000 award to Franklin School
- Charles Creighton took his Level 4 (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> graders) Orchestra students to a competition at Mt. Hood Community College and took home 1<sup>st</sup> place. The competition included schools from 5 western states.
- Foundation Director Candidate Receptions for Betty Brose & Laverne Pitts will be held

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

Cyrel Gable reported that she and several members of the Corvallis Education Coalition traveled to Salem to meet with 10 senators and 5 members of the house to talk about education funding, particularly the status of funding expected for the Corvallis School District.

Ron Miller made two corrections to statements that had been made publicly to the Board or the press. In receiving dozens of e-mails, phone calls, and letters as Board members do he’s noticed erroneous themes emerging based on these statements.

- Looking at enrollment data provided to Board in fall – He stated fewer students are in private schooling now (8.6% 2000-2001 compared with 11% in ‘97-98 with a dramatic drop this year of almost 20%). In 1997, there were 188 students in home schooling, compared with 193 in 2000, so no significant increase. Overall, in ‘97-98 13% were either in private schools or home schools, in 2000-01 11%, so fewer students in private schools and home education in this district.
- Comments that district not having an educational vision are untrue. School of Choice is a philosophy of this district (ex. Franklin and Inavale along with two schools requesting alternative curriculum today, Garfield and Wilson). It may look fragmented because schools do look different, but we do have vision. It does not pit schools against each other, it does allow schools to respond to teachers, parents, and students.

Bill TenPas stated we would not be choosing the Consolidation and Closure Committee tonight as stated in the newspaper. Applications are not due until tomorrow. Unsure of how the statement came to be in the newspaper.

Chair TenPas thanked Board member Robert Baldwin for serving a two-year term as a representative of the Board on the Corvallis Schools Foundation Board. Now, with a new Foundation Director to begin, he felt it would be a good time to select a successor so he announced Board Member Ron Miller will be Board’s representative to the Foundation.

#### **V. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Nancy Raskauskas of CHS reported her student council has just been formed so now she has group to report to. The student representative to the Board comes from this group. She has talked to fellow students about remodeling/rebuilding CHS. There have been articles in the school newspaper as well.

## VI. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Susan Wheeler, 1827 NW Highland Drive, stated she represented her neighborhood block. She was concerned with the possible location of a new middle sited at the current Highland View site. Currently the 6 families that live on Highland (between Cleveland and Spruce, see map she provided) need to time leaving due to high traffic through the week and weekend due to school and pool use. She urged the Board to consider safety for pedestrians and cars on the both the east and the west sides of Highland.

Kathi Tucker, 1740 NW 13<sup>th</sup>, was concerned with the consolidation of two middle schools into one. One school would incur more transportation costs than two. She confirmed with the Corvallis Development Department that day that growth patterns are concentrated in south Corvallis. She stated that according to the Northwest Regional Education Lab, the ideal middle school size is no more than 600-800 students. She interpreted the Portland State University demographic study to say the combined proposed middle school population would exceed 800, so she felt a combined school would be too big. If a single middle school were to be built the supposed advantage of after school supervision at the Boys and Girls Club is not necessarily an asset as students are not supervised. They can come and go as please. The surrounding neighborhood has had increase in vandalism, trash, and general mischief by the kids after school since Boys and Girls Club came. She stated the negatives of modulars (as proposed for temporary classrooms during on-site construction at Highland) as not a good learning environment, no running water, disconnected from remainder of school. She wanted the Board to consider all these factors and preferred the building of three middle schools.

Chair TenPas stated the Portland State University study dealt with all 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders in the district. Some of those would be in K-6 or K-8 schools so PSU predicted that by 2015 there would be about 620 in each of two middle schools. He also explained we have a bulge currently moving through our middle and high school populations.

Judy Brazee, 1727 NW 11<sup>th</sup>, stated her neighborhood watch group has had a good relationship with Garfield and Highland View principals. She is concerned with elementary schools closures and Middle School consolidation. She said many have stayed in Corvallis, foregoing advancements and salary increases because wanted smaller neighborhood schools. She stated there is traffic congestion in the morning and afternoon times when trying to turn left on Cleveland. She requested Board combine elementary & middle school decisions together. She sees the Western View site as better site. Regardless of the decision made, she requests school Board meet with the neighborhood associations before final plans are made as they've had some problems in the past with district communication.

Stephanie Mehlenbacher, 1655 NW 11<sup>th</sup>, backed up what previous speakers said. She has seen increases in traffic, speeds, near accidents (pedestrians, bikes, and vehicles), vandalism, noise, and trash since "improvements" in neighbor, ie. the Boys and Girls Club and the remodel and expansion of the aquatic center.

Bruce Sorte, 526 NW 35<sup>th</sup>, commented on lack of a report describing various projections and options or a policy analysis. Until the district can provide the public a report on how they reached this decision to close schools he thinks the decision is premature. He feels if close schools more students will go to private or home schooling. In 4 out of 5 situations he's worked on such a report has redirected their decisions. They look at administrative and program adjustments as well as less facility use, but not closing facilities. It turned folks who may have opposed you. He feels socio-economic status of schools of choice is skewed towards the affluent because it is based on private transportation. He also delivered a letter from Betty Griffiths to the Board. Barbara Ross asked Bruce if he would be in favor of keeping neighborhood schools if it meant increasing class size significantly. He replied, personally, yes and suggested a survey to find out how others felt. Chair TenPas stated the Closure and Consolidation Community hoped to come up with a report that will answer some of these issues. Mr. Sorte stated his main point would be to step back a question, asking how should we handle this shortfall rather than which schools shall we close.

Jane Fleischbein, 3732 NW Wisteria Way, stated she came because of newspaper article. She felt some things should be kept off of school closure criteria list, some should be on. She also seconded Bruce Sorte's comments. She would like to see more interaction with the City noting where subdivisions are planned, transportation corridors, and neighborhood centers. When close schools it has a major impact on residential areas and affects housing costs. She doesn't see recognition of that. She doesn't envy the Board. It's a lot to do in one evening. Maybe the Board could step back and get more dialog. Board meetings are not great for dialog. Chair TenPas stated Fred Wright works with City and the City can't discuss and rule at same time. Jane said it would be helpful to get more information in the paper. Member Gable showed the thick notebook of information regarding facilities and Chair TenPas stated the Board has been open to the public.

Bruce Lentz, 1737 NW 11<sup>th</sup>, spoke to his preference for locating a single middle school at the Western View site. He encouraged the Board to think long term, considering future growth is predicted in the south. He believes the Western View site has more ground for future growth and would not have as large a flow of traffic congested in one area. He asked the Board to consider safety issues at both sites. (Highland View and Western View)

Patty Collins, 457 SW "C," said she would like to see one middle school built instead of two because of the declining enrollment. With smaller middle schools their essence and flexibility is lost. About 500 students are needed, Western View has about 400. She also relayed that a teacher asked a Western View student why they were not using the Boys and Girls Club site after school and the student replied it was Highland View turf. So, if a middle school is built on the Western View site the Boys and Girls Club will not be anyone's turf. She was concerned that the Board would be driven by the whims of people, those that muster support and those that can lobby. She asked them to be concerned about all the students.

Catherine Gipe – filled out "Request to Address the Board" but did not respond when called.

**VII. STAFF PARTICIPATION – none**

**VIII. CONSOLIDATED ACTION**

**Motion #35:** Director Johnson moved and Director Baldwin seconded approval of the Consolidated Action Items. It was unanimously approved to carry the following:

**A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the March 12, 2001 Regular Board Meeting were approved as presented.

**B. SUPPORT SERVICE ITEMS**

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

2. Donations

The Board accepted the donations (filed in Section IV of the Official 2000-2001 Board Minutes)

**C. OTHER - INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER REQUESTS**

Approved as submitted.

**IX. CONSOLIDATED INFORMATION – There were no questions on these items.**

**A. CORRESPONDENCE**

**B. SUPPORT SERVICES ITEMS**

1. Non-Licensed Personnel Information (filed in Section IV 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 February 28, 2001. (filed in Section X of the Official 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.

## **X. OTHER DISTRICT BUSINESS**

### **A. ACTION ITEMS**

#### **1. Schools of Choice**

##### **a. Garfield – Spanish Immersion**

Jim Ford explained that our current policy on new schools is out of date. This request precedes its revision. Garfield Principal Lynn Lahey, 4/5 Teacher Jerry Bryan, and ESL Teacher Jan Byers presented the case for their school becoming a Dual-Language Spanish Immersion school. Half the day would be taught in English, half in Spanish. The “Hola, Hola” program from Portland could be used for assistance.

#### **Facts:**

- Probably have enough students in Garfield now that would fill up this “School of Choice”
- Will need additional materials, will use some funding from Title 1
- 30% of students speak a language other than English
- There are 14 languages represented at Garfield

#### **Benefits presented:**

- If students become proficient in their native language (some of their Spanish speaking students are not proficient in their native language) they are more easily able to learn second language (for Spanish speakers, English)
- The native English-speaking students will benefit by learning a second language at a receptive age
- Studies have shown English-speaking children get higher academic results when exposed to 2<sup>nd</sup> language
- Will give power, pride, and feeling of inclusion to Spanish-speaking families
- Increases bilingualism in future adults
- Provide opportunity for staff development

#### **Disadvantages to Approving at Meeting**

- Has not been through Board ad-hoc process as stated in policy on Schools of Choice
- Does not go through usual policy revision procedure of presenting at one Board meeting to be approved at next.
- Budgetary implications not known
- Concern about labeling as “School of Choice” when students already there

Director Baldwin suggested they could contact the Foundation for some funding. Director Ross stated it may likely cost more than we think and asked what a delay in approval would do to the program. Principal Lahey stated kindergarten registration had begun that day and parents would like to know what they could be expecting. Principal Lahey said the staff is enthusiastic. She added in response to Director Miller’s question that it does take 5-8 years to see the affect so

checking in next year on its progress may not give a definitive answer. Chair TenPas said he could support bringing this before the Board as registration is occurring and work may have been done that wasn't shared with the Board, but he would not want changes to occur this way every time.

**Motion #36:** Director Gable moved to approve Spanish Immersion for Garfield Kindergarten classes, with full school approval postponed until next regular Board meeting. Jay Dixon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Wilson – Core Knowledge

Wilson Principal Jim Schweigert presented his request for Wilson going to Core Knowledge curriculum next year.. Parents support it and there were 120 students last year turned away from Franklin (currently has core knowledge program) due to being at capacity. Director Gable asked what the differences would be between Franklin and Wilson concerning curriculum and organizational strategies. Principal Schweigert responded Franklin has letter grades beginning in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Wilson won't. Also, Franklin wanted less group work, Wilson will continue at its current level. He explained Core Knowledge doesn't prescribe a method of teaching, classrooms don't all look the same, and teachers aren't all the same. Some people believe Core Knowledge goes back to basics, which it does, but social studies is the big curriculum difference. Director Miller asked if Principal Schweigert had an impact survey. He responded he would be happy to do an impact statement. Principal Schweigert stated the program would be K-5.

**Motion #37:** Director Johnson moved to approve core knowledge curriculum K-5 at Wilson. Director Dixon seconded. Motion passed with Director Miller abstaining.

Chair TenPas asked Principal Schweigert to meet with Director Miller to answer his questions.

2. Facilities

a. Build one or two replacement middle schools

Discussion ensued as to whether voting for one middle school meant approving 800+ single middle school or smaller. It was stated this could be looked at as a preliminary vote, that the Board will have to vote again to put bond measure before the public so if didn't like the look of the proposed school at that point could decline. Director Gable reiterated that there are lots of ways of organizing the grades. We could have some K-6, K-8 or two schools in one building.

**Motion #38:** It was moved that one middle school be built in place of Highland View and Western View middle schools. Motion was seconded. Motion passed 6 to 1.

b. Corvallis High School remodel or new construction at existing site

Chair TenPas shared his doubt that the site was large enough.

**Motion #39:** Director Dixon moved that CHS be remodeled or rebuilt on site. Director Baldwin seconded. Motion passed 6 to 1.

### 3. Weighting of Criteria for School Consolidations/Closures

Jeanne Holmes presented a listing of possible criteria for the Consolidation and Closure Committee to use for determining which schools would be affected. The items were weighted. After Board editing it will be given to the Committee, which will review, and pass back to the Board, with any changes, for approval. Discussion ensued regarding prioritizing items in lieu of weighting as too similar, adding ADA accessibility and how facility is positioned for use as an emergency shelter. Top priority items were #2 and #3 with #4 following. #1 was assumed to be a given with all schools, not a sorting factor.

**Motion #40:** It was moved and seconded that the Weighted Criteria for Consolidation/Closure Process be passed to the Consolidation and Closure Committee with the weighting factors removed, eliminating #1 with the remainder renumbered in the presented order as #1, #2, & #3, stating they were in order of priority, adding ADA accessibility and how facility is positioned for use as an emergency shelter. Passed unanimously.

### 4. Renaming Taylor Field Stadium

**Motion #41:** It was moved by Director Johnson and seconded by Director Dixon that the stadium at Taylor Field be renamed "Hansen Stadium at Taylor Field." Motion passed.

## B. INFORMATION ITEMS

### 1. 2001-2002 District Calendar

Jeanne Holmes and Cathi Alden presented the proposed calendar. They drew the Board's attention to staff development days occurring prior to the opening of the school year, conferences in October rather than November, early release days, and two full weeks of Monday through Friday off during winter break. The Board questioned childcare for early release days and most all of winter break occurring after Christmas. Jeanne Holmes responded it may be possible to offer childcare to a limited number or perhaps the Boys and Girls Club could be used. The reason the two full Monday through Friday weeks were chosen was due to an increase in absenteeism when school is in session half-weeks. The calendar will be presented again next month for approval.

### 2. School Configuration Update

#### a. Franklin 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Expansion

Principal Gail Hill presented her intention to add an additional 6<sup>th</sup> grade next year. She said they've turned away 120 families from admission. The population bubbles are in Kindergarten and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. She said the middle school needs a larger group. The teachers want it for academics; the students want it for social. Chair TenPas asked if there was room for additional 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Principal Hill said can add a 6<sup>th</sup> grade next year and if CAL (Center for Alternative Learning located in same building) moves they can add a grade each year.

Superintendent Ford said CAL is shrinking and we'll be out of the CAL business in future. He recommends this 6<sup>th</sup> grade addition as it will help alleviate larger middle schools elsewhere in the district. No objections.

3. Consolidation/Closure Appointments

a. Board Member Appointments to School Consolidation and Closure Committee

Chair TenPas stated he and Bob Johnson would serve on the School Consolidation and Closure Committee as non-voting members.

b. Board Subcommittee to Review Applications for School Consolidation and Closure Committee

Chair TenPas stated Board Members Cyrel Gable, Robert Baldwin, and himself will appoint the committee from the applications.

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board met in Executive Session at 6 p.m. under ORS 192.660 (1) (i) – Evaluate Employment-Related Performance of the Superintendent.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair TenPas declared the meeting adjourned.

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Bill TenPas, Chair

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Jim Ford, Superintendent