

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 TenPas called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. in the library of the Western View Middle School, 1435 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
Barbara Ross, Member
Ron Miller, Member
Joan Demarest, Member sworn in during
this meeting

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

Nancy Raskauskas

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

Chair TenPas announced Item XA1, Acceptance of Jay Dixon Resignation and Swearing in of Joan Demarest, would take place after the Pledge of Allegiance. He also announced Jo Anne Trow would be coming to the meeting around 8 p.m. and the agenda order would be altered accordingly.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A flag was not present so the Pledge was omitted.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Ford reported

- The Consolidation and Closure Committee minutes will be posted on the district web-site
- Laverne Pitts will begin as the Corvallis Public Schools Foundation Director on June 1
- At the recent Superintendent's Retreat he spoke with superintendents from Benton and Linn counties. They were not interested in participating in our CIMC though some felt they were paying for services they were not seeing from their ESD. He will be working with some of these superintendents to see how they can get the most value out of their agreements. Hopefully by next year will have the \$7 million more skillfully spent.

IV. COMMITTEE/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Chair TenPas reported that members Cyrel Gable, Robert Baldwin & himself have been speaking to PTA's regarding budgets, facilities, consolidation and closure, and middle school siting. He also stated some members of the Board toured a school in Eugene looking at ways they dealt with larger schools and K-8 schools.

V. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Nancy Raskauskas said she had been talking with CHS students and the student council regarding the CHS building. She wished she had one solid way to report their views but about 40% were for remodeling, 40% for rebuilding, and about 20% didn't care. Those that wanted to remodel wanted to preserve its historic exterior beauty. The student council would like a few Board members to participate in a panel discussion on the topic in the near future.

VI. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (Combined with Item X.B.4, 30-Minute Open Forum Regarding CHS Remodel/Modernize or Construct New at Existing Site)

Chair TenPas stated he had not received any cards indicating any citizens wanted to speak but he orally asked if anyone would like to at this time since he was combining the public speaking times. Three citizens spoke:

Patrick Collins, 4997 SW 53rd, stated he was impressed with the Corvallis High School architecture when he first arrived in Corvallis and believes the high school computers could be interconnected wirelessly, therefore negating one of the reasons listed for rebuilding.

Gus Baker, 2611 NW Fillmore Avenue, urged that whether considering the middle school or the high school, rebuilding or remodeling, using energy conservations and renewables and to use a design team including an HVAC engineer and lighting designer, not just a single architect. He stated you can get a return on your money when using energy conservation techniques and offered to help.

Joanne Hunter, 7165 SW Deerhaven Drive, spoke to the use of modulars. She doesn't want to see students in modulars in middle school and then again in high school nor does she want to have her children say they graduated from a modular school so she urges the Board to consider these thoughts when planning construction for the secondary schools.

VII. STAFF PARTICIPATION

L. Gail Cape, 6th Grade Cheldelin Middle School Teacher, spoke to the difficulties in moving 6th graders back to elementary schools. Her list included:

- as kids get older their range of abilities broadens, in middle school they can change teachers which is not as easy in elementary school
- middle school uses special equipment not as available in elementary schools
- elementary schools would provide less time to devote to lesson plans for specialized classes
- exploratory days for electives would not be as available
- textbooks are shared on semester basis which would be more difficult to monitor for elementaries
- 6th grade students work towards 8th grade benchmarks, teachers work together to formulate flow of instruction, at this time 6th grade teachers have hardly any contact with their 5th grade colleagues
- if only 7th and 8th grades at a building it would be hard to develop school culture

She also asked if it is deemed there will be only one 6th – 8th school, would the Board consider providing transportation? She also stated difficulties arise when 6th grades are approved at elementary schools at the end of the year as it may cause the middle school to lose a teacher. This causes difficulties in cooperation to the elementary school.

VIII. CONSOLIDATED ACTION

Motion #42: Bob Johnson moved and Robert Baldwin seconded to approve the consolidated action items. Ron Miller asked for Item D4, "Renewal of Intergovernmental Agreement between LBCC and 509J for the use of selected facilities for educational classes," be held out for discussion. Consolidated action items, with the exception of Item D4, passed with unanimous approval.

It was discussed whether utility cost changes were a part of this LBCC contract. Facilities Director Fred Wright said there were looking at that now and are notifying users we may be passing additional costs onto them if the Board approves. He stated it would be added to this contract.

Motion #43: Ron Miller moved and Cyrel Gable seconded to approve Item D4, Renewal of Intergovernmental Agreement between LBCC and 509J for the use of selected facilities for educational classes. It was approved unanimously.

IX. CONSOLIDATED INFORMATION

There were no questions on the Consolidated Information Items.

X. OTHER DISTRICT BUSINESS

A. ACTION ITEMS

1. Acceptance of Jay Dixon Resignation Effective April 30, 2001, Swearing in of Joan Demarest

Motion #44: It was moved by Bob Johnson and seconded by Ron Miller to accept the resignation of Jay Dixon. Barbara Ross stated she appreciated his time on the Board. The Board voted unanimously to accept his resignation.

Motion #45: It was moved by Barbara Ross and seconded by Bob Johnson to appoint Joan Demarest to the Board, filling Jay Dixon's vacancy. The Board voted unanimously to her appointment. Chair TenPas swore Joan onto the Board.

2. 2001-2002 School Year Calendar

The 2001-2002 calendar presented differs in only one respect from the last version presented at a previous Board meeting. The Early Release days were moved to the end of the weeks instead of occurring on Wednesdays.

Motion #46: Cyrel Gable moved and Ron Miller seconded to pass the 2001-2002 calendar as presented. Passed unanimously with the exception of Bob Johnson who abstained.

It was pointed out that this year's last day of school will be June 15, 2001, not June 19 as appeared on the first version of the calendar.

3. Ratification of Contract with Corvallis Education Association (CEA) and the Mid-Valley Bargaining Council

Motion #47: Ron Miller moved and Robert Baldwin seconded and it was unanimously approved to ratify the contract.

4. Acceptance of Criteria for School Consolidations/Closures

Jo Anne Trow came for the presentation of the proposed "Prioritized Criteria for Consolidation/Closure Process." The difference between this version and the version that left the Board previously for review by the Consolidation and Closure Committee was the addition of "Diversity" under Item 1. There is now a "Step One" and a "Step Two." The emergency shelter use consideration is Item 9 in Step Two; it was inadvertently omitted from the copy.

Motion #48: Bob Johnson moved and Robert Baldwin seconded and the Prioritized Criteria list passed unanimously.

B. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Election Timeline Replacement Middle School Bond Issue

Ron Miller stated he thoroughly supported delaying the bond issue until after the Consolidation and Closure recommendations were heard. He feels we need a complete package to go before citizens, not piecemeal. Member Gable agreed. Chair TenPas stated if we do delay we might not be able to propose a bond until 2002.

2. Architectural Selection Committee – Replacement Middle School

It was suggested by Fred Wright to have a separate process for middle school and high school buildings. If the district will be going out for a bond in 2001 the process would need to start this month. He will likely use the same process as used for the Osborne Aquatic Center. He does need to know if the district will be going out for a bond in 2001. Bob Johnson said either way, 2001 or 2002, we will need the committee so to go ahead and get started. The Board agreed.

3. Corvallis High School Remodel/Modernize or Construct New at Existing Site

It was remembered past discussions revealed remodeling would have so many constraints built in that the design would be hampered. Director Baldwin stated his perception was that most members felt to rebuild was the way to go. Director Gable stated she felt the Board was leaning towards rebuilding as well, stating the current footprint is very disjointed and an inefficient use of space. She added the district would have limited flexibility over the next 25 to 50 years if remodel and to do so might be pennywise but pound foolish.

Chair TenPas stated the building is historic and interesting. It fits the neighborhood and has wonderful windows but there are definitely negatives such as those stated on pages 82 and 83 of the Board packet. He'd rather not have modulars used, which would likely be necessary if remodeled.

Director Ross asked for the cost differences between remodeling and rebuilding to be clarified. Fred Wright stated it would be about \$44-46 million to rebuild, 36.5 to renovate, an \$8-10 million dollar difference.

Director Baldwin stated the process is such that we have to make decisions on general assumptions.

Director Johnson suggested if we had short set of criteria regarding safety, electrical, and educational needs that we examined we might generate more public input. He thinks this issue is important to people though we didn't get much response tonight

The possibility of having public forums to receive input on this issue was discussed but with a very full consolidation and closure schedule including four forums and forums for the middle

school siting and bond it was deemed resources would be spread too thin to manage and the public may be unwilling to appear many times for input as well.

Director Ross stated that going to the public in June for input would make a very tight schedule

Motion #49: Director Baldwin stated there doesn't seem to be lot of polarization around this issue and that the Board knows enough about this issue to vote tonight, thereby simplifying. He moved and Director Gable seconded to vote to construct new Corvallis High School. Director Johnson said would vote against, as it was not planned to be an action item tonight, though he is in favor of constructing new.

Those in favor: Robert Baldwin, Joan Demarest, Barbara Ross, Bill TenPas

Those opposed: Cyrel Gable, Bob Johnson, Ron Miller

Motion passes to build a new high school at the existing site.

4. 30-Minute Open Forum Regarding CHS Remodel/Modernize or Construct New at Existing Site

See Item #VI Citizen Participation.

5. Policies IF Curriculum Development and JECC Starting New Schools – First Reading

Director Gable introduced the item and stated that perhaps groups of parents could propose changes. It could include new schools with an autonomous administration or schools within schools without an autonomous administration, so perhaps with a few wording and title changes this policy could apply to both.

Chair TenPas stated if the Board has suggestions for the policy to direct them to Cathi Alden or Jeanne Holmes. Director Miller said it has been questioned whether our district is one or we have entrepreneurial centers competing. To some this is disturbing, to others healthy. Where to draw the line?

Superintendent Ford responded by stating to start by having 4 goals like we do, be culturally tight and organizationally loose, that nobody wants to be like everybody else. Marketing and competition are not words we're using. We have room to have dual language school. We're not trying to take away from the rest of district, why can't Inavale have use of Finley Wildlife Refuge? They'll never be like Garfield.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board met in Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. under ORS 192.660 (1) (d) Labor Negotiations.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.