

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Corvallis School District 509J
1555 SW 35th Street
Corvallis, OR 97333

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair TenPas called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the District Office, 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
Ron Miller, Member
Cyrel Gable, Member
Joan Demarest, Member
Barbara Ross, Member

EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

Jim Ford, Superintendent
Jeanne Holmes, Assistant to Superintendent
Kathy Rodeman, Business Services Director
Laverne Pitts, Corvallis Public Schools
Foundation Director
Jolene Shute, Board Secretary

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

None present (summer)

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A flag was not present so the Pledge was omitted.

III. PRESENTATIONS TO RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

Chair TenPas voiced his appreciation for former Member Jay Dixon and retiring Member Barbara Ross and presented each with a plaque from the district in recognition of their years of service. Chair TenPas stated Member Dixon would continue to work for the community in his position as a county commissioner. Other members expressed their gratitude for their work.

IV. INTERVIEW PROSPECTIVE BOARD MEMBERS, ONE TO BE APPOINTED AT JULY 2001 MEETING

The Board had been given a set of four questions to ask each prospective Board Member.

- 1) Why did you decide to apply for this interim position?
- 2) What qualifications do you have that would help convince the board to appoint you to this vacant position?
- 3) Assuming you had the individual power and authority to do so, what improvements would you make in this district?
- 4) What are this school district's current strengths? What are its current areas needing improvement?

Member Ron Miller offered a modification, which was to omit #1 and #3 and add "How would you define an effective Board/Superintendent relationship?" and "The Board must work as a team. What does this mean to you?" After a short discussion, the Board agreed to the change. Chair TenPas explained there were 11 candidates for the position. Each would be asked the same four questions, with follow-up questions possible, in a ten-minute interview with the first two being via phone as the candidates were out of town. The interviews began with candidates Mark Volmert and Scott Zimbrick via phone followed by the remaining candidates in a preselected random order. The candidates entered the room just prior to their interview and were invited to stay for the remainder of the meeting. The candidates appearing in person were Sebastian de Assis, Donna Keim, Laura L. H. King, Tom Sherry, David Eason, Kari Riech, David W. Zavaleta, Phil Smith, and Sara Gelser. The interviews were completed at 8:40 at which time Chair TenPas called for a ten-minute break.

Members reconvened at 8:50 whereupon Chair TenPas asked Members to name their top three to four candidates. At the conclusion he announced the top three choices amongst the members were Mark Volmert, Kari Riech, and Sara Gelser. He then asked the Board to narrow their choices to two. The top two choices of the Board were Kari Riech and Sara Gelser. Chair TenPas then asked each Member to name one of the two. The outcome was three for Sara Gelser (Ron Miller, Cyrel Gable, and Barbara Ross) and three for Kari Riech (Robert Baldwin, Joan Demarest, and Bill TenPas). Chair TenPas asked the Board members to each give their thoughts on the candidates and the vote was retaken with the same result, three members for Sara Gelser, three for Kari Riech. Chair TenPas asked if any Member would like to change their vote. No changes were offered. Discussion ensued for possible resolutions besides tossing a coin, which was done in a previous tie. Suggestions which were deemed unsatisfactory and their reasons were:

- contact Member Johnson in California - declined because he had not been present for the interviews
- defer to next meeting – declined because Member Ross would not be able to participate as her term would be over
- additional interviewing of the final candidates – did not meet favor with Board

As the Member needed to be selected at this meeting, Chair TenPas changed his vote to Sara Gelser to complete the appointment of a new Board Member. Therefore, Sara Gelser was named the new Board Member with votes from four members: TenPas, Miller, Gable, and Ross. Two Members voted for Kari Riech: Baldwin and Demarest.

Member Miller departed the meeting due to a back injury.

V. BUDGET - Public Hearing

Chair TenPas opened the public hearing and asked if anyone would like to address the Board. No one came forward. Chair TenPas then closed the hearing.

VI. BUDGET ACTIONS

Motion #50: Director Demarest moved to approve the 2000-2001 Supplemental Budget (Resolution #01-0606) and the 2001-2002 Budget (Resolution #01-0607). Director Ross seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion #51: Director Baldwin moved to pass Resolution 01-0605, Reallocating General Fund Appropriations, and Director Demarest seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion #52: Director Baldwin moved to pass Resolution 01-0608, Levy and Categorize Ad Valorem Property Taxes, and Director Gable seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. COMMITTEE/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

None.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Ford recalled for the Board the recent approval of a dual-language kindergarten at Garfield Elementary. He stated Garfield Principal Lynn Lahey approached him that morning with a proposal for a first grade dual-language class using Title 1 funds. He was announcing the idea to the Board and it will put on the July agenda. He distributed the information to the Board Principal Lahey had created regarding the request.

Superintendent Ford also stated he is teaching two classes at the University of Oregon for those going into administration. He is keeping his eyes open for candidates for our Teaching and Learning position that is currently open.

He stated he also (as is Member-select Gelser) is wanting to explore the effective use of our ESD dollars.

IX. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

None.

X. STAFF PARTICIPATION

Laverne Pitts, Corvallis Public Schools Foundation Director since June 1, 2001, spoke to the Board about her observations and goals thus far. She has found our donations come primarily

through two methods: 1) tax kickers and individual donations; and 2) volunteer fundraisers at schools. She wants to be able to:

- determine exactly who our donors are so they may be strategically approached by a single requestor for where they would most like to give; arts, sports, technology, etc. as opposed to being asked by several fundraisers who are not aware they've been repeatedly asked or are unaware of certain criteria the donor has
- streamline accounting procedures to allow easier access for teachers and clarity for Foundation, district, and individual school's funds
- create a tiered acknowledgement blueprint whereby recognition is given accordingly to donors. At this time a donation of \$5 or \$5000 is treated fundamentally the same. She suggested at some level of giving the donor could receive a personal phone call from the superintendent or Board Chair.
- create a newsletter showing grants at work and fundraising at schools
- establish planned giving, ie. Foundation named in wills for endowments as opposed to being used for operating costs
- solicit kicker funds through direct mail and in person to donors when they've been identified.

XI. SPECIAL REPORTS – Update on Boundary Redrawing

Business Services Director Kathy Rodeman stated she had worked with five parents, two principals, one head secretary, and Laidlaw Transit to create maps defining proposed boundaries for the new districts for the affected elementary schools, due to the closure of Harding and Fairplay. She stated they looked at natural boundaries such as busy streets and strived to keep students as close as possible to the nearest school. She stated that 63 of the 87 students who live west of 3rd Street that should attend Adams, attend Lincoln through the transfer process at this time. Those students in the proposed changes would now become Lincoln students once again, as was the case in the past before Lincoln became overcrowded. Students who are affected by the boundary changes may continue at their present school. If all students with the ability to do so continued in their current school, some schools would need modulars for the bubble in the population. Letters were sent to Harding, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Adams parents and personal phone calls were made to those who were directly affected by the change. The calls went well though concerns were voiced regarding siblings having to attend a different school, though they could apply to attend the school of their choice through our transfer process. She announced a public meeting would be held at Fairplay on Wednesday evening focused on boundary changes induced by that school's closing and at Western View on Thursday evening focusing on boundary changes induced by Harding's closing. She can then present the feedback and alterations to the plan, if any, to the Board at its July meeting. Discussion ensued about the timing of adopting the new boundaries with postponing being beneficial to allow time for public input, especially due to the vacation season, and the fact that the changes would not go into affect until the 2002-2003 school year. On the other end of the time consideration is the fact that parents may want to put in transfers prior to the August deadline this year. If the Board approves the changes in July parents would have a firmer sense of where their student would be assigned and can decide accordingly. It was agreed the boundary recommendations should be brought back to the Board in July.

XII. CONSOLIDATED ACTION

Member Gable asked Item B4 2001-2002 Board Meeting Calendar be pulled out for discussion. Chair TenPas asked Item B5 Donations by pulled for discussion.

Motion #53: Member Baldwin moved and Chair TenPas seconded to approve the Consolidated Action items with the exceptions of Items B4 and B5. Passed unanimously.

Member Gable opened the discussion regarding Item B4, 2001-2002 Board Meeting Calendar. No members proposed changes to the schedule.

Motion #54: Member Gable moved to approve the schedule as presented and Member Baldwin seconded. Passed unanimously.

Chair TenPas questioned whether the autos listed in Item B5, Donations, were donated prior to the May 1 deadline. Superintendent Ford said he had confirmed they were.

Motion #55: Chair TenPas moved to approve Item B5, Donations, as presented. Member Gable seconded. Passed unanimously.

XIII. CONSOLIDATED INFORMATION

There were no questions on the Consolidated Information items.

XIV. OTHER DISTRICT BUSINESS

A. Appoint Board K-8/Middle School Subcommittee

Chair TenPas announced the appointments to the K-8/Middle School Subcommittee as: Robert Baldwin, Chair; Cyrel Gable; Ron Miller; Lisa Ulmer; and Gretchen Babcock.

B. Appoint Board Long-Range Plan Subcommittee

Chair TenPas announced the appointments to the Long-Range Plan Subcommittee as: Bob Johnson, Chair; Joan Demarest, Sara Gelser, Greg Perry, Kari Rieck, and Tom Bailey.

Chair TenPas stated the committees could meet with Superintendent Ford to establish timetables with a likely deadline of October for the K-8 Subcommittee and later for the Long-Range Subcommittee. Superintendent Ford stated the committees could begin their work in August.

C. Board Policy DID – Property Inventories – Revision: Second Reading.

Motion #56: Member Gable moves to adopt as presented. Member Baldwin seconded. Passed unanimously.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The originally scheduled Executive Session regarding Superintendent's Evaluation (ORS 192.660 (1) (i)) was postponed to July.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair TenPas adjourned the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Bill TenPas, Chair

Jim Ford, Superintendent