

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 7:00 p.m. in the Central Office Board Room, 1555 SW 35th Street, Corvallis. Chair TenPas dispensed with the calling of the roll and the secretary recorded those present as listed below.

Board Members Present

Bill TenPas, Chair
Ron Miller, Vice Chair
Robert Johnson, Member
Cyrel Gable, Member
Joan Demarest, Member
Sara Gelser, Member
Robert Baldwin, Member

Executive Staff Present

James P. Ford, Superintendent
Ron Corbell, Assistant Superintendent
Jeanne Holmes, Assistant to Superintendent
Kathy Rodeman, Business Services Director
Laverne Pitts, Foundation Director
Michael Ann McIlvenny, Special Education
Coordinator
Dawn Tarzian, Teaching and Learning
Director
Duane Jager, Technology Integration Manager
Julie Catala, Board Secretary

Student Representatives

Stacey Mitchell, CV

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. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Crescent Valley Student Representative Stacey Mitchell invited those present to a film festival at her school.

IV. COMMITTEE/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Chair TenPas announced State Representative Kelly Wirth would be stopping by during the

meeting to report on the latest from the legislature regarding the state budget and how it affects the K-12 school system. He will interrupt the agenda upon her arrival to allow her to speak at that time.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Ford announced:

- He and Chair TenPas would be hosting a “State of the District” assembly. The purpose of the assembly is to clarify information and views on various solutions in this difficult time of budget cuts.
- By January 25, Willamette Valley Community School needs to have 25 students to remain open, as provided for in state law. Assistant Superintendent Corbell provided background. He stated the school is in its second year as a public charter school endorsed by the district. The school’s current enrollment is 20. On November 24 the school was notified that they needed the 25 students by January 24 or the district would terminate the contract. He has spoken with the Department of Education in Salem. If the contract were terminated, it would be the first in Oregon.
- A new booster seat law took effect January 1. It states those children between four and six years old or who weigh between 40 and 60 pounds need to be in a booster seat when traveling in private cars. Superintendent Ford stated we have some students in middle school that weigh less than 60 pounds. He suggests all field trips be in buses as opposed to having the district monitor private car booster seat use. The regulation will be presented as a first reading in February, with action expected in March.
- The first hour of the January 28 work session of the Board will focus on the budget, the second hour would have teams from both high schools discuss their changes in schedules.
- He is trying to maximize partnerships with Lebanon and Albany districts and will host a meeting to discuss economizing expenditures and resources. One area likely to expect savings is technology.
- January is Board recognition month.

Superintendent Ford invited Board members to join him at a superintendent’s evaluation workshop presented by OSBA. The workshop will include discussions on performance-based contracts, meeting laws, and tactics for improving performance.

VI. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Emily Panter and Christina Cruz-Uribe, (students), co-presidents of the Gay-Straight Alliance at Crescent Valley, reminded the Board that last year they brought to the attention of the Board the lack of language relating to sexual orientation in the non-discrimination policy, which has since been addressed and included. They wanted to let the Board know they still support that view.

Jennifer McBride, Crescent Valley student, affirmed her belief to the Board that citizens have the right not to be discriminated against.

Jennifer Wright, 1230 NW Garfield, a teacher at Willamette Law School, representing the Mid-Valley Human Rights Coalition, followed-up briefly on her last testimony. On October 23 she gave written information to the district's attorney, Joe Richards, which was passed on to the Board members. She asks, "What can the district do, what do they have to do, what should they do?" In her opinion the district may treat the Boy Scouts as any other non-profit group, may impose content-based restrictions on what can be presented during the school day, may define its education mission as non-discriminatory, and may refuse to subsidize discriminatory groups. Also, referring to the recently heard Powell case in Multnomah County, challenges to recruitment could be made due to religious discrimination. She says the district has already chosen to take a stand on discrimination against sexual orientation, and asks whether they are going to enforce it. She hopes the Board chooses to reject discrimination.

Chair TenPas responded there are two policies before the Board on this matter. Neither one approves discrimination. She requested a copy of the two policy versions to be discussed later in the meeting and a chance to respond.

Sasha King, student, and Arielle Chilton, student, Corvallis High School, wanted to let the Board know they support the broader version of the proposed non-discrimination policy.

Keane McGee, 1245 NW Hillcrest Drive, made the point that we don't exist in a vacuum. State laws are cited at the bottom of the policy. Measure 02-06 was largely defeated which allowed for discrimination due to sexual orientation. To change the district policy outside of what is generally expected would be self-defeating in his opinion.

Linda Martin, 615 SE Viewmont, spoke to the boundary issues. She would like to see the least number of kids affected by the changes and is against sending Lincoln Elementary kids to Cheldelin Middle School. She said it is about five minutes to Western View, about 20 to Highland and bikes can be ridden to Western View, but bikes for Highland from the Lincoln neighborhood are out of the question.

VII. STAFF PARTICIPATION

L. Gail Cape, a Cheldelin Middle School teacher, spoke to the recently announced idea of co-principals at her school. She is opposed and wonders if it is fiscally sound or based on any data. She feels the present system, which includes an instructional facilitator and dean, is working well. If the co-principals are taking over the dean's role she feels the message is "it's okay to reduce certified and classified but not administrators." She opined that if Cheldelin is doing well with its current model they could continue, while Highland View/Western View could have co-principals. She says Cheldelin is losing their media specialist/instructional facilitator at the end of January, so time is of the essence. She wonders if the decision can be re-examined or if it has to be accepted. When asked how her principal feels she responded he supports Superintendent Ford, thinking it will add money to the school whereas she feels it will detract.

VIII. SPECIAL REPORTS

A. 2001-02 HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE CURRICULUM ADOPTION

Dawn Tarzian, Director of Teaching and Learning, reminded the Board that the district had set aside \$80,000 for science curriculum acquisition. As last year's textbook funds went to social science at the middle school level, it seemed only fair to grant funds at the high school level this

year. Science teachers from both high schools spoke to their use of the funds.

Corvallis High School used the funds to support textbooks for diverse groups ranging from English as a Second Language students to advanced placement students. Some teachers are writing their own lab manuals or additions to their textbooks. Others have found textbooks to support their self-designed discipline.

At Crescent Valley the teachers stated the process became much deeper than choosing textbooks. It led to an examination of their department and ended in creating a mission statement, which encompasses district, state, and national goals. The mission statement includes these concepts:

Students should:

1. Understand the nature and processes of science, basic concepts and facts;
2. Experience authentic learning (project based, practice science); and
3. Gain transferable skills learned in science (problem solving).

Teachers:

4. Need to continually refine professional skills.

They purchased a whole suite of products, mostly in technology. They are talking with Hewlett-Packard about pursuing additional phases with grants. They felt that basic laws and theories are not going to change but there is a lot of current research they want students to be able to access through the Internet and e-mail with real scientists. They purchased 19 wireless laptops and overheads. Students can support the dedicated network, create web pages, and also discover the drawbacks to technology.

IX. CONSOLIDATED ACTION

Chair TenPas directed the Board's attention to the Consolidated Action agenda and requested that Agreement with Trillium Family Services for Horse Program be held for discussion.

Chair TenPas entertained a motion on the remaining items.

Motion # 24: It was moved by Director Johnson, seconded by Director Baldwin, and unanimously carried to approve the following.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of November 5, 2001, and November 19, 2001, were approved as presented.

B. SUPPORT SERVICES ITEMS

1. SUPERINTENDENT'S LICENSED PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board approved the recommendations. (Filed in Section IV of the Official 2001-2002 Board Minutes.)

2. AGREEMENT WITH TRILLIUM FAMILY SERVICES FOR HORSE PROGRAM

Held for Discussion: Chair TenPas pulled the item because of concern for spending money on a program that affects few students. Farm Home Principal Sharon Thornagle spoke to his concern. She explained that Farm Home has had this program in the past in a different form. Farm Home School's operating budget is outside of general fund so this expenditure doesn't affect other accounts. The request is before the Board to solicit their approval of the program; the funds are provided outside of the district budget. Students at Farm Home are required to have work experience on site and this provides that opportunity. During the school day students can learn horse management, learn to ride and train horses, gain work experience, and receive recreation that is therapeutic for them. The benefits they receive compare favorably to the fee for an educational assistant. Farm Home accepts the liability if there were an accident, and pays for additional staff and barn maintenance.

Motion #25: It was moved by Chair TenPas, seconded by Director Gable, and unanimously carried to approve Agreement with Trillium Family Services for Horse Program.

3. AGREEMENT WITH LBL ESD FOR HEALTH SERVICES

The Linn-Benton-Lincoln Educational Service District (LBL ESD) and Corvallis School District 509J intend to improve health services access and availability for Medicaid-eligible children and families residing in the geographic area of the School District by utilizing the staff and resources of the School District to provide outreach, health care coordination, and other Medicaid-related administrative activities that support the administration of the Title XIX Medicaid State plan.

4. AGREEMENT WITH LBL ESD FOR TMR FUNDING

This agreement is between the LBL ESD and the District to provide instruction to trainable mentally retarded (TMR) school-age children and the ESD to provide supplemental funding and administrative assistance for these services.

5. IN-KIND DONATIONS

The Board accepted the donations. (Filed in Section X of the Official 2001-2002 Board Minutes.)

C. OTHER – There were no other items included in this meeting's Consolidated Actions.

X. CONSOLIDATED INFORMATION

A. CORRESPONDENCE

Filed in Section V of the Official 2001-2002 Board Minutes.

B. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ITEMS

1. EXTENDED FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

The Board received information on two extended field trips. (Filed in Section IV of the Official 2001-2002 Board Minutes.)

2. INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER INFORMATION

The Board received information on seven interdistrict transfers.

C. SUPPORT SERVICES ITEMS

1. NON-LICENSED PERSONNEL INFORMATION

Filed in Section IV of the Official 2001-2002 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 November 30, 2001. (Filed in Section X of the Official 2001-2002 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.

XI. OTHER DISTRICT BUSINESS

A. MIDDLE SCHOOL BOUNDARIES

Jeanne Holmes, Assistant to the Superintendent, provided updated information to the Board indicating the initial forums showed significant disfavor for Option A, which has Lincoln Elementary students attending Cheldelin, and then Corvallis High School. The committee formed to study middle school boundaries recommends Option B, which has Lincoln students attending the consolidated middle school and Corvallis High School. This option splits Jefferson Elementary students at the middle school level as opposed to the high school level as Option A does. One concern with Option B is the socio-economic discrepancies between the two schools. It is not huge, but it does need attention. Possible partial alleviators would be to keep the weighting formula and redistributing some of the Title 1 funding from the elementaries to the middle schools. Board approval tonight, however, is just for establishing the boundaries, not alleviating discrepancies.

Director Gable said this is an important decision that requires Board comment. She elaborated that this seems to be the least disruptive option and that in contrast to large city schools we are fairly homogenous socio-economically.

Motion #26: It was moved by Director Johnson, seconded by Director Baldwin, and unanimously carried to approve Option B as the established middle school boundary. (Filed in Section VII of the Official 2001-2002 Board Minutes.)

B. 2002-2003 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Jeanne Holmes, Assistant to the Superintendent, presented highlights of the 2002-2003 proposed calendar. It is based on the same format as this year. All staff development days but one are in August. This enables the August Institute to take place, which saves \$24,000. This is a first

viewing. She is continuing to collect input and is expecting to present for a Board vote in February.

C. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE (DIVISION 22 STANDARDS)

Teaching and Learning Director Dawn Tarzian reported on the district's annual compliance check of the Division 22 Standards. The State notifies the district of any new legislation affecting school policies. She had a committee review all Section 22 issues to ensure the district had policies in compliance.

D. BOARD POLICY AC--NON-DISCRIMINATION

Chair TenPas drew the Board's attention to the two proposed replacement policy versions for the District's Nondiscrimination Policy AC. Version A is a broader policy affecting all who use our facilities, Version B is a narrower one reaching only information the district furnishes. He said he would like one version forwarded tonight by consensus to a second reading.

Citizen Jennifer Wright, who had asked to be able to respond to the proposed policies, stated she is in favor of Version A and that she feels Version B's primary consideration is to allow the Boy Scouts school access, which they still may not be able to with regard to the Multnomah County Powell case.

Referring to Version A, first paragraph, last sentence, "The district seeks to avoid endorsement of or the appearance of endorsement of any activity or organization which does not adhere to these principles," and discussing whether donors would also have to pass the non-discrimination test, some members felt receiving donations would be different than endorsement. It was noted, however, that then-President Clinton returned funds because acceptance showed support for the donor.

Chair TenPas said he felt there is a difference between not discriminating against the Gay Straight Alliance than "no one can come who doesn't agree with us."

Director Gable said the primary mission of the district is to assist students in gaining knowledge. Version B makes more sense for district programs and services that we directly provide even though it may still preclude Boy Scout activities. She feels Version B clarifies the old policy. Collections of policies from around Oregon and other states most commonly referred to only their activities.

Director Miller stated the need to be clear that this district as an employer doesn't discriminate. The issue then becomes, "Will groups be disadvantaged in using facilities because they don't agree with us?" Chair TenPas added it is scary to think that those who don't agree with our policies are to be excluded. Director Gelsler stated she is comfortable with groups coming to school but not for recruitment. Chair TenPas agreed there is a difference between recruitment and education. He doesn't favor recruitment of any kind.

It was suggested the Hazelwood ruling language be used in place of the last sentence in Version A, first paragraph, if the district's attorney agrees. Director Miller recommended that if it is changed it should be in layperson language. Chair TenPas recommended Version A be forwarded to a second reading with the proposed change. Chair TenPas asked the Directors to let

him know if they weren't in agreement. There was no dissension.

E. RESOLUTION REGARDING STATE BUDGET SHORTFALL

Business Services Director Kathy Rodeman stated the purpose of the bare bones resolution is to unify the voice of district to the legislature regarding funding.

Motion #27: It was moved by Director Johnson, seconded by Director Baldwin, and unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 02-0101, Authorization to Lobby the Legislature. (Filed in Section III of the Official 2001-2002 Board Minutes.)

Chair TenPas called a 5-minute recess at 8:23 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8:27.

F. LEGISLATIVE NEWS FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE KELLY WIRTH

Representative Kelly Wirth gave an update to the latest proposed State budget. At this time, K-12 is looking at a 6% cut based on biennium representation. As there are only 18 months left of the biennium it could be translated to an approximate 11% cut for the remaining full school year. Over 3,000 state budget items were prioritized, with the #1 item being the first to be cut, the #3000+ item the first to be reinstated if additional funding is found. Representative Wirth believes some funding can be found from establishments supporting the lottery.

The governor will release another budget between January 8th and 14th. It will take into consideration other revenue options, the upper limits of Medicaid, and the State's tobacco settlement. Updates to the governor's budget will be on government web sites.

Representative Wirth stated the legislature desperately needs to hear from real people. It is a huge help to translate to them how the cuts affect the district. Not many districts interpret for them the real human impact. She can provide a list of contacts. She announced the date and time for district testimony. Superintendent Ford stated that someone from the district would testify.

Business Services Director Kathy Rodeman said other district services would be affected that are in other decreased State budgets. Under the proposed budget, school based health clinics would be closed and bed reductions would be made at youth facilities, which may put those youth in our schools as opposed to jail.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Chair TenPas adjourned the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Bill TenPas, Chair

James P. Ford, Superintendent

Prepared by: Jolene Shute and Julie Catala
(super/julie/board/minutes/2002/january 7 board meeting)