

**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**

Acting Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Central Office Board Room, 1555 SW 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Corvallis. Acting Chair Johnson dispensed with the calling of the roll and the secretary recorded those present as listed below.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Johnson, Member  
Cyrel Gable, Member  
Joan Demarest, Member  
Sara Gelser, Member

EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

James P. Ford, Superintendent  
Ron Corbell, Assistant Superintendent  
Fred Wright, Director of Auxiliary Services  
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  
Debbie Bell, Accounting Supervisor  
Julie Catala, Board Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED

Bill TenPas, Chair  
Ronald Miller, Vice Chair

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Stacey Mitchell, CV  
Tyler Storie, CHS

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Acting Chair Johnson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Acting Chair Johnson announced that Board Policy AC—Non-Discrimination, would be postponed due to the absence of several Board members.

**III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

No report was given.

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

Director Gable reported the State legislature is holding committee hearings regarding the state budget deficit. Local education coalitions are endeavoring to get citizens to testify. She and Business Services Director Kathy Rodeman met with Senator Cliff Trow on what the cuts would mean to Corvallis. Ms. Rodeman compiled data, which show if the deficit were shared proportionally, 509J would need to trim \$3.9 million this bi-ennium, about 9% of the budget. This equates to 80-85 teacher positions (out of the 339 the district currently has) or 25 days of school. Director Gable and Ms. Rodeman will testify what these cuts would mean on top of the ten years of education cuts already experienced.

#### **V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Ford reported:

- The District has not officially decided to delay the facilities bond for construction until November as was stated in a Gazette-Times article. Forums regarding replacing CHS will likely be scheduled in January.
- The Gazette-Times has agreed to give Dr. Ford space at no cost over the next few weeks so he may provide information and insights to the public on the various district happenings such as closures, administrative moves, boundary changes, long-range planning, and the financial condition of the district.
- Leadership Corvallis will visit the district soon for a presentation on the state of education.
- The CHS principal opening was posted this day and will close January 25. Visits to applicant work sites will be conducted.
- Dr. Ford said he envisions short term uses for the Harding site to include: Wings, CAL, and the CIMC. It is not sure at this time what CIMC can deliver next year due to a possible ESD interface. The CIMC usage has diminished due to its out of town location; a more central location is desired. Harding could accommodate the need for meeting rooms as well. Even with the above possibilities, room would still be available for other uses. The play shed is not being designated for use at this time due to interest by the City and the play shed's donors.

#### **VI. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

John Lee, 1814 NW Garryanna, spoke to the district's current and proposed Early Entry Policies. He feels they are flawed and presented his findings and recommendations in a written handout distributed to the Board. (Filed in Section V of the Official 2001-2002 Board Minutes.)

Dan Orman, 1137 NW 18<sup>th</sup>, spoke of the dual-language class at Garfield Elementary and stated that the whole experience has been positive. He reported that his child began this year not knowing any Spanish and now can count beyond 40. In English, his child has a slight speech impediment, but not in Spanish. He feels that at this rate his child will be speaking, reading, and writing bilingually by the end of 5<sup>th</sup> grade if the program is continued.

Peggy Carrick and Arne Larson, 4037 NW Elmwood, spoke to their observations of the first grade dual-language class at Garfield. They see the Spanish speakers speaking English with more confidence and the English speakers challenged to learn another language; students are developing empathy. It is a win/win situation.

Nancy Thompson, 1455 NW 13<sup>th</sup>, also supports the dual-language program at Garfield, stating that it has exceeded her expectations. The curriculum has not been compromised. Native Spanish speakers have been able to become leaders. There is more parental involvement in social events; parents are learning Spanish as well.

Sylvia and Heriberto Cisneros, 2121 NW 11<sup>th</sup> Street, are Spanish-speaking parents who came to show their support for the program. They have two children and would like the program to continue.

## **VII. STAFF PARTICIPATION**

Marianne Clausing-Lee, Coordinator of the Early Admission Program for 509J spoke to reasons for the proposed change to the related Early Admission policy.

- Less than one-third of the students tested are admitted.
- Those who are not admitted are very unhappy; that is not a desirable first contact with the schools.
- Precocious four-year-old children continue to learn even if they are not admitted. Students can be accelerated later if needed. Many high school students take college courses.

Ms. Clausing-Lee responded to issues raised, including:

- the district administers early entry tests in August to allow for maximum growth by students, rather than testing in the preceding spring. The same test is given to all kindergarten children after admission.
- school secretaries have been advised to not have children who are undergoing early entry testing attend open houses until after admission is granted.
- Some districts use a 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for TAG testing as their guide. 509J does not.

## VIII. SPECIAL REPORTS

Acting Chair Johnson exercised his prerogative to change the order of the agenda to move Extend Garfield Dual-Language Spanish/English Class Through Fifth Grade to follow Corvallis Public Schools Foundation Update.

### A. EVEN START

Lincoln and Garfield Elementary School Principals Karen Smith and Lynn Lahey, respectively, and Even Start teachers Dee Curwen and Nancy Votrain gave a presentation on the Even Start program. The program focuses on low-income families of 4-7 year olds with guardians who also need basic literacy skills. The purpose is to break the cycle of poverty. The program is located at two sites, Lincoln and Garfield. It is federally funded under Title 1B. Four components of the program are:

- adult education
- children's literacy
- parent education
- integrated family literacy

Parent participation helps children be successful in school and the improved language skills enables them to obtain medical services more easily. The program is open to all in the district.

The U.S. Department of Education provided \$175,000 for the first year of a four-year grant. Each year they will provide ten percent less at which time they may fund at 50% or another full grant can be applied for. The Benton County Commission on Children and Families has contributed over \$28,000. Other grants and gifts total nearly \$3,000.

### B. CORVALLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION UPDATE

Connie Bartlett, Foundation Chair, reported there are 13 board members, including three new members. Laverne Pitts, Director, is overseeing a reorganization, which will include fewer committees with greater responsibility. Their first-ever retreat in October has resulted in an increased feeling of teamwork.

Ms. Pitts introduced Ana Padukov, Foundation Administrative Assistant. She is assisting in making the Foundation donor-centric, streamlining the accounting system to enable schools to more easily access donated money, and improving accountability. They are providing assistance to schools in fundraising as well as donor reports. They have solicited patrons for their federal tax rebate funds, are working to accept charge card donations paid over time and are developing a comprehensive plan.

Some schools are enthusiastic about funneling their fundraising dollars through the Foundation; some have reservations. By contributing through the Foundation, donors have a record for tax purposes and the district increases their known donor base.

## EXTEND GARFIELD DUAL-LANGUAGE SPANISH/ENGLISH CLASS THROUGH FIFTH GRADE

Garfield Principal Lynn Lahey and Garfield teachers Jan Byers, Kara Day-Isaias, Leigh Santy, and Jerry Bryan gave an oral and written synopsis of why they feel it would be advantageous to extend the Spanish/English immersion class offering through fifth grade at their school. Currently, it exists in kindergarten and first grade. They would like to add a grade level each year through 2005-06.

Their reasons include:

- dual-language classes have been shown to be far superior to pull-out programs
- gives academically advanced students a challenge
- creates a dependency between students
- may assist in decreasing the Spanish speakers school drop-out rate
- enables students to score higher on CIM due to language acquisition
- will have broader baseline for assessments
- parents may contact their child's teacher directly as opposed to having to seek out a Spanish-speaking teacher to translate
- dovetails with laws prohibiting discrimination, need to eliminate language barriers, and equal access to education

Students currently in the program come from within and outside of the Garfield boundary as well as transfers from private schools. The cost to the district per year is \$8,500.

**Motion #21:** It was moved by Director Gable, seconded by Director Demarest, and unanimously carried to extend the dual-language Spanish/English class offerings through fifth grade by 2005-06 at Garfield Elementary.

## IX. CONSOLIDATED ACTION

Acting Chair Johnson drew the Board's attention to the items on the Consolidated Action agenda.

**Motion #22:** It was moved by Director Demarest, seconded by Director Gable, and unanimously approved to carry the following:

### A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board minutes of September 10, 2001; September 24, 2001; October 8, 2001; October 22, 2001; as well as the Budget Committee Minutes of June 6, 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. INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR CHAMBER/EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP**

This is a renewal of a program that provides work learning experiences to students in the Corvallis and Philomath school districts.

**3. INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH ODE (OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION) FOR DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR**

This agreement formalizes a contract for our district's distinguished educator. The contract requires the district to reimburse the educator at state rates for travel. The district can then seek compensation from the Oregon Department of Education.

**4. DONATIONS**

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

**5. BOARD POLICY BDDH—PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – REVISION – SECOND READING**

The Board approved policy BDDH. This policy change was enacted to ensure first amendment rights at public meetings when complaints or charges are made against district employees. (Filed in Section XII of the Official 2001-2002 Board Minutes.)

**6. BOARD POLICY IIBGA—ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM – REVISION – SECOND READING**

The Board approved policy IIBGA. The policy was changed to include technology protection measures and an Internet safety policy. The changes will comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), which took effect on April 20, 2001. (Filed in Section XII of the Official 2001-2002 Board Minutes.)

**7. BOARD POLICY JEBA—EARLY ENTRANCE – REVISION – SECOND READING**

The Board approved policy JEBA. The purpose of this policy is to eliminate the testing of four-year olds for early entrance into kindergarten. This will eliminate the need to hire a team of kindergarten teachers to perform these assessments in August for a savings of \$2,000. (Filed in Section XII of the Official 2001-2002 Board Minutes.)

**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 three extended field trips.

**2. INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER INFORMATION**

The Board received information on two 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 October 31, 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.

**4. COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Board was provided a copy of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the accompanying review by the district's external auditors, Pauly, Rogers and Company. The auditors' opinion is that of a clean audit. They believe that the report fairly represents the financial position of the District at June 30, 2001.

**XI. OTHER DISTRICT BUSINESS****A. EXTEND GARFIELD DUAL-LANGUAGE SPANISH/ENGLISH CLASS THROUGH FIFTH GRADE**

Acting Chair Johnson exercised his prerogative to move this item to follow Corvallis Public Schools Foundation Update.

**B. ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, CORVALLIS HIGH SCHOOL REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

After interviews were held with five selected firms, out of eleven who submitted proposals, the Selection Committee recommended two firms to the Superintendent for consideration. At the direction of the Superintendent, staff began contract negotiations with the two firms. Based on this information and reference checks the committee recommended the firm of Dull Olson and Weekes Architects for their services for the Corvallis High School Replacement Project.

**Motion #23:** It was moved by Director Gelsler, seconded by Director Gable, and unanimously approved to authorize the Superintendent to work with the district's legal counsel to enter into a contract with Dull Olson & Weekes Architects for architectural/engineering services for the Corvallis High School Replacement Project.

Information will be obtained from the facility sub-committee and public forums prior to moving forward with planning and design.

**C. MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL BOUNDARIES**

Assistant to the Superintendent Jeanne Holmes gave an update to the boundary proposals. Much feedback was given at the three late November forums at which a total of approximately 125 people attended. Of most concern was Lincoln students attending Crescent Valley. The committee reconvened on December 3 and modified the original proposal to have Lincoln students attend Cheldelin, then Corvallis High School.

A second option was formulated. Option B dismissed transferring Lincoln students to the northerly locations and having the middle school boundaries aligned with the high school boundaries. Currently, Jefferson students are divided between CHS and CV. This plan would divide them at middle school. More transportation options would be available to Jefferson transfer students in this scenario.

Two more forums will be held. They are at Highland View from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on December 17 and 19. Ms. Holmes will report again at the January 7, 2002 meeting.

No high school boundary changes were proposed.

The Life Skills program, currently located at Highland View and Crescent Valley, will have to be examined as to which locations would be best for short-term (during school construction phases) and long-term operations.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, Acting Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

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Robert Johnson, Acting Chair

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James P. Ford, Superintendent

Prepared by: Jolene Shute and Julie Catala  
(super/julie/board/minutes/2001/dec 10 board meeting )