

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the

NOTE: THIS IS A SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES.

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 Western View Middle School Library, 1435 SW 35th Street, Corvallis. Chair TenPas dispensed with the calling of the roll and asked the secretary to record 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
Kim Finch, Student Services Director
Karen Smith, Administrator for Instructional Services
Julie Catala, Board Secretary

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

No report was given.

IV. COMMITTEE/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Director Gable requested feedback from the Board regarding their preference to suggest topics individually or as a group for the OSBA spring regional meetings. Several suggested submitting individually. She informed the group that she had attended the Special Session of the Oregon legislature on Friday and Saturday defending educational financing but was not entirely successful.

Chair TenPas announced the Disney Learning Partnership was accepting nominations for teachers that exemplify creativity in teaching and inspire the joy of learning.

Chair TenPas also commented that it is the full intent of the district to use the Harding Elementary School site for district programs such as Wings and CAL. The comment was made in response to a Gazette-Times article that the Harding charter school organization, Apex, Inc., intends to link their charter school application with residence in the Harding building.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Ford made the following announcements:

To control finances, he has pursued selling the Central Instructional Media Center (CIMC) materials, housed at the district's Dixie location. He has looked at the Willamette ESD proposal to take over the media collection, with deliveries once a day to one location, likely Harding. The first five years of service would be free, as well as the first three years of managing the district's automated library system. The science kits would be housed at the Harding location. Yearly costs to operate the CIMC are \$343,435. The union was notified that positions at the facility might be eliminated. The district has had several offers for the prospect of leasing the Dixie location. At Board meetings on October 8, and December 10, 2001, he notified the board of his desire to use Harding as a multi-use facility.

Paper screening will be completed by tomorrow for the position of Corvallis High School principal. Site visits will be arranged at the candidates' current locations. Forums will be held for meeting the finalists.

Superintendent Ford complimented Auxiliary Director Fred Wright and Assistant to the Superintendent Jeanne Holmes for their response to the drinking water crisis. (Lead was found in some of the district's drinking fountain water. Those fountains whose levels were too high were capped off and alternative water supplies were provided. Letters were sent to parents co-signed by Superintendent Ford and Benton County Health Administrator Tom Eversole). Superintendent Ford notified the Board that he would be asking them at a later date for their input into his request to use \$24,000 from the district's contingency fund to test drinking water in the district.

Superintendent Ford invited Technology Integration Manager Duane Jager to speak on his recent visit to the Vancouver, Washington school district. Mr. Jager reported that upon the suggestion from Hewlett-Packard's Oregon School Liaison, he and six others visited the Vancouver school district. Since 1989 Vancouver restructured its education vision to involve the community on a large scale, developing partnerships. In an eleven-year period they have passed three school

bonds, raising \$400 million, building a number of new school buildings. Students spend about one-third of their day in individual work, one-third in small groups, and one-third in larger groups. They have access to a pilot program of "Portal Based Learning," which HP supports, where teachers deliver assignments and assessments to students through a personal student web site. Advantage of linking to the Internet is that families can see their student's progress 24 hours a day. Extended day opportunities are centralized for lap-top computer uses. Dr. Ford said he will visit the Vancouver district again on March 14 and invited Board members to join him.

Superintendent Ford announced the district has been recognized by Benton County's Emergency Management Council through Project Impact for their emergency preparedness efforts. A plaque had been presented to the district.

The district was also a finalist for Business of the Year through the Chamber of Commerce.

VI. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

All speakers, save Signe Danler, spoke to the district's proposed anti-discrimination policy change (Filed in Section XII of the Official 2001-2002 Board Minutes).

Louise Ferrell, 1212 NW Alta Vista, Corvallis, and Claudia Keith, 3740 NW Jackson, Corvallis, distributed information to the Board regarding the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) work to change the discriminatory policies of the Boys Scouts of America (BSA). (Filed in Section V of the Official 2001-2002 Board Minutes.) Ms. Ferrel stated she is pleased the district has an anti-discrimination policy. She considers the BSA a religious organization and reminded the Board to remember the importance of the separation of church and state. She hopes the BSA will become more tolerant of religious variation. Claudia Keith also supports the Unitarian stand and provided 75 signatures to the Board collected in two days of UUA members and non-members, including some Eagle Scouts, who also agree in principle with the Unitarian view and ask the district to treat the BSA as any other religious organization. (Filed with Ms. Ferrell's in Section V of the Official 2001-2002 Board Minutes.)

Mike Quirk, 2525 Centennial Blvd., Eugene, OR, a BSA regional administrator, stated claims of the BSA discriminating against youth due to sexual orientation are false. He indicated that a scout who states he is gay would not be dismissed from the organization. He added that the BSA would continue to work with that youth until behavior becomes an issue. The BSA doesn't ask prospective leaders about their sexuality; he displayed blank scout leader application forms, which he quoted from. (Filed in Section V of the Official 2001-2002 Board Minutes.) He stated a U.S. court case reflected that parents have the right to choose who their child's best leaders are. He stated the BSA believes in duty to God just as the United States does in its allegiance. Following the ban in Lane County of all youth organizations by the school district, declining numbers were experienced by all. When asked by a Board member if a declared atheist youth would be allowed to join Mr. Quirk responded it would depend on how they avowed their religious feeling or understanding.

Michelle Bojanowski, 2245 NW 14th, Corvallis, a parent and scout, voiced her opinion to retain scouting access in the schools.

Guy March, 466 S 28th Place, Philomath, Benton District BSA Chairman, a volunteer position,

provided the Board with 130 letters from scouts relating what scouting means to them. (Filed in Section V of the Official 2001-2002 Board Minutes) He stated besides currently active scouts (about 1300 youth, 600 adults) in the city there are many alumni. He feels the scouting mission is aligned with school missions. What the Board refers to as a “broad” version of the proposed policy he sees as narrow, as he feels it is limiting and would make users of the district facilities pass a litmus test. He stated the ramifications of the policy could preclude the President of the United States from visiting the schools due to his being commander in chief of an organization that has a “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy similar to the BSA. Director Baldwin questioned Mr. March on what he felt was discriminating about the current proposed policy. Mr. March referred to the last sentence in the first paragraph, “The district seeks to avoid endorsement of any activity or organization which does not adhere to these principles,” and stated it seems to have a restrictive application when considering the use of district facilities.

Bob Veazie, 4840 NW Bruno Place, Corvallis, a scout, stated the scouts could have gotten 5000 people to this meeting. He said there are 5 million youth in scouts and none have been removed due to sexual orientation. He said treating the local group as the national BSA policy setters is like citizens making the Board liable for state school spending. Besides requesting the Board table the decision to focus on the more pressing matter of school funding he requested:

- The Board not discriminate against the BSA institution and their right to use public property;
- Allow them access to schools for three hours per year,
- Omit the last sentence in the first paragraph of the proposed non-discrimination policy as well as words such as, “use of facilities” and “accommodating the public at public places” which impose the district’s view on groups outside of their legal entity.

He stated the BSA national policy has not hurt one youth, but the Board’s policy could hurt hundreds.

Jared Vanderhoff, 715 16th Place SE, Albany, a scout, disagrees with some of the policy wording, citing the last sentence in the first paragraph. He feels it is clearly targeting recruiting in the schools. If the policy passes, he feels the district would have to eliminate all groups such as 4-H, the military, Camp Fire, AYSO, Little League, etc. limiting the ability of youth to participate in community activities. He requested the parameters remain the same as they are now, allowing scouts to stand on the side at lunch distributing information and also enable them use of district facilities, similar to other youth groups. He told the Board they needn’t revise their policy just because the Mid-Valley Coalition asks them to and urged them not to approve the policy as written.

Dave Derlacki, 1836 NE Noble Avenue, Corvallis, a scout, stated though his children have graduated he has volunteered for the last 15 years in schools and eight years in scouting. He supports the comments the previous scouts made.

Mike Murphy, 2924 NE Glacier Way, Corvallis, a scout, came to talk about his experience with scouting in relation to his son who was diagnosed early with a disease, the symptoms of which led to him being ostracized in grade school. Without friends, scouting provided him the opportunity to learn he could be something. Mr. Murphy begged the Board not to remove this program from the schools as it may provide the only opportunity to help students like his son

become useful citizens. Last month his son became an Eagle Scout.

Larry Heacock, 2990 NW Princess Street, Corvallis, asked that men be picked on as opposed to little boys. He said it is not a Corvallis issue, but a national issue and it doesn't have much to do with education.

Faye Abraham discussed studies on homosexuality as well as various legal issues faced by the courts in the past. She added that if the policy is truly to serve all students regardless of their creed, national origin, sexual orientation, et al, then heterosexual students should have the same rights as homosexual students and not be discriminated against.

Ashleigh Campi, Corvallis, student, stated she is a straight member of the Gay/Straight Student Alliance and believes the policy should be there to protect all students from discrimination of any kind. She believes organizations that are discriminatory should not be allowed on campus and suggests the fairest way would be for organizations to sign a non-discrimination policy. She said students are listening to hear the message the Board sends and cited a case in Portland where an atheist was denied participation in scouts.

Skip Rung, 2265 NW Huntington Drive, Corvallis, has donated time and money to the district and feels the policy is discriminating on the grounds of non-discrimination, advancing the cause of tolerance by being intolerant, and advancing the cause of intellectual freedom by enforcing a code of political correctness. If passed, he feels more families will withdraw their children from the district and that the Supreme Court will overturn. He feels the district's non-discrimination policy should only concern how the district practices inclusion, not how they will coerce other groups whose beliefs and values are different from theirs.

Karen Anderson, 4192 NW Tamarack Drive, Corvallis, scout and mother of five children who have all been associated with scouting. All four of her boys attained the rank of Eagle Scout. She stated we all discriminate in choosing our affiliations. The Boy Scouts carry the insurance for the high school ski teams, so if they are excluded the insurance may be withdrawn and possibly cause the dissolution of the ski teams.

Gilbert Smith, 7345 NW Madrone Way, feels restricting BSA access is wrong. School enrollment is on a downward trend and he feels restricting access would accentuate the decline. He stated someone would be discriminated against no matter what action is taken, and opined that it was likely that someone felt discriminated against during the pledge of allegiance.

Jim Draper, 1811 NW Menlo, Corvallis, said he has spent many years of his life fighting discrimination of many kinds; religious, racial, and others. He said he is a friend of gays and supports their view tonight.

Paul Daghlian, 1850 NW Larch Avenue, Corvallis, stated a friend suggested to him a vote of the community would provide knowledge of what its citizens desire. He stated he is a member of the Republican Central Committee and he feels the district promotes a homosexual agenda so he is glad scouting exists to counteract.

Judy Larson, 1635 NW Highland, Corvallis, a scout, stated she has three children attending Corvallis high schools. She said it is not just scouts who recruit, but numerous organizations

such as the Corvallis Arts Center. There is not a place in the yellow pages that says “Youth Organizations,” so communication through the schools is relied upon. She is not asking the Board to endorse scouting, but rather to realize school is just a part of their lives, not their whole life.

Marcia Moore, 955 NW Highland Terrace, Corvallis and Renee Coyier, student, asked the Chair to read their comment, which supports Karen Anderson’s previously stated request to allow the Boy Scouts to continue at the schools, enabling the ski race teams to continue with the insurance arrangement.

Signe Danler, 3800 NW VanBuren, Corvallis, invited those present to a charter school panel discussion on Tuesday evening in the Corvallis High School Auditorium.

Chair TenPas reiterated he wanted to make it clear the Harding facility would not be available for use as a charter school.

Chair TenPas called a five-minute recess at 8:30 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8:35 p.m.

VII. STAFF PARTICIPATION

No staff presented information.

VIII. SPECIAL REPORTS

The Chair exercised his prerogative to change the order of the agenda and moved Transition Update prior to O.D.E. School/District Report Cards. The item numbering in these minutes reflects the change.

A. TRANSITION UPDATE

Assistant to the Superintendent, Jeanne Holmes, arranged for principals of three of the schools affected by the consolidation and closure transitioning to speak to the Board.

Marla McVay, current principal of Fairplay Elementary and next year’s principal of Mountain View Elementary, highlighted the steps that have been taken to consolidate the two schools. Attention has been given to relationships during transition, program development, and parent communications. A calendar encompassing joint school staff meetings, parent meetings, and other focus dates has been composed. In general, both schools are doing fine with the venture.

Sharon Thornagle and James Wickman, next year’s co-principals at the consolidated middle school (formerly Highland View and Western View), have been meeting weekly with the other 2002-2003 middle school co-principals, central office staff, and parents, as well as the architect for the proposed new middle school. They are close to being able to honor currently enrolled students to remain at the consolidated school if they so choose, leaving room for new students who move into the home school neighborhood. Yet to come is the combining of philosophical issues, facilities and staff planning, and choosing the new school name, colors, and mascot. Ms. Thornagle said there are ups and downs but overall it is going well. At this time the estimated enrollment for Cheldelin next year will be about 745 and for the consolidated middle school,

710.

Garfield Principal Lynn Lahey reported on the Harding Transition Group. She stated principals and PTA leaders of the involved schools have been meeting. Welcoming letters and surveys will be sent out to Harding parents with registration scheduled for early March. Tours will be given and family activities are being planned. Incoming students will be provided a pen pal.

Ms. Holmes stated a district transition team of about 25-30 staff is meeting every other week. A moving timeline is being established and a moving coordinator from Lincoln County is assisting. Duane Jager, Technology Integration Manager, is overseeing the distribution of technology, materials, supplies and their installation. Jan Deardorff, Library/Media Coordinator, is overseeing the transfer of library materials, and Students Services Director Kim Finch and Special Education Coordinator Michael Ann McIlvenny are handling the Special Education transition. Student enrollment is coming out close to Business Services Director Kathy Rodeman's projections.

B. O.D.E. SCHOOL/DISTRICT REPORT CARDS

Dawn Tarzian, Director of Teaching and Learning, highlighted aspects and trends of the district and school report cards issued by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). (Filed in Section VII of the Official 2001-2002 Board Minutes.) This is the third year the state has provided the report cards.

Looking at school results, four schools improved with three declining very slightly. All schools were rated exceptional in at least one category. SAT scores at the high schools are above the national average. Dropout rates at both high schools have declined, Crescent Valley having one of the lowest in the state. The district has the highest attendance rate of any school in the Linn-Benton-Lincoln Educational Service District. Ninety-eight percent of the students participated in the assessment. Ninety-nine percent of teachers are teaching in their area of certification and training. Seventy-two percent of females met or exceeded the state standards in math while 73% of the males did as well. The district needs to focus on elementary reading skills; a Corvallis Public Schools Foundation campaign to raise funds to ensure every student can read by third grade will be launched soon. Students will receive the report cards from their schools by March 15, which will include comments regarding their individual school.

There are important areas that are not measured by the state report cards at this time such as science, social studies, physical fitness, health, language, and arts. Others that are important that will likely never be measured include character, enthusiasm for learning, organization, teamwork, sportsmanship, respect, and patriotism.

Chair TenPas thanked Ms. Tarzian for drawing out the comparisons adding that he would like to see the information written sometime.

Director Miller questioned the juxtaposition of exceptional SAT average scores from 67% of students with 40% of students at CV not meeting state standards in reading, and wondered if the district is developing two systems. Ms. Tarzian responded that the statistics don't overlap well. Perhaps it is because the students don't take the state assessment as seriously at the SAT or that the state assessment is given to tenth graders while seniors are taking the SAT. There is concern about students not meeting the standards and both high schools are working on plans to address the matter.

The district web site will have report card information available.

Ms. Tarzian stated that if a school has 40% or more change in population the school will not receive a report card, as its purpose is not to gauge individual students but rather a school's teaching program. Because of this, next year's consolidated middle school and Mountain View Elementary will not have a report card, as well as possibly some others that have been affected by the closures. This may be why Willamette Valley Charter School did not receive one or that they didn't have six students tested in every area.

IX. CONSOLIDATED ACTION

Chair TenPas drew the Board's attention to the items on the consolidated action agenda. Director Gelsler requested that Rapid Response Structured Support Team Agreement be held for discussion.

Chair TenPas entertained a motion on the remaining items.

Motion # 28: It was moved by Director Baldwin, seconded by Director Johnson, and unanimously carried to approve the following.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of December 10, 2001; January 7, 2002; and January 28, 2002 were approved as presented. (Filed in the Official 2001-2002 Board Minutes.)

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. 2002-03 SCHOOL CALENDAR

The calendar follows the current school year format and was approved as presented. (Filed in Section IX of the Official 2001-2002 Board Minutes)

3. RAPID RESPONSE STRUCTURED SUPPORT TEAM AGREEMENT

Held for Discussion: Director Gelsler explained that while she was impressed with the program it is fairly expensive to maintain with the value not realized unless a student was found to be in crisis. While researching this program she and Ms. Finch named nearly \$100,000 in fees charged by the ESD that the district does not need. She wanted to know how the cycle could be stopped. Chair TenPas said he feels the same indignation with the ESD as Superintendent Ford does regarding this situation. Ms. Gelsler stated she wants to pass this agreement so that students are not in jeopardy this year but definitely wants to discuss prior to approval next year.

Motion #29: It was moved by Director Gelser, seconded by Director Johnson, and unanimously carried to approve the Rapid Response Structured Support Team Agreement. (Filed in Section I of the Official 2001-2002 Board Minutes.)

4. 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

Chair TenPas drew the Board's attention to the items on the consolidated information agenda.

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

2. INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER INFORMATION

The Board received information on 58 interdistrict transfers.

C. SUPPORT SERVICES ITEMS

1. NON-LICENSED PERSONNEL INFORMATION

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

2. LOBBYING EFFORTS FOR SCHOOL FUNDING

A copy of a letter by Business Manager Kathy Rodeman urging the Legislature to use all available resources and seek new taxes before cutting public school funding sent to legislators Shetterly, Wirth, and Trow was provided to the Board. (Filed in Section V of the Official 2001-2002 Board Minutes.)

3. 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 December 31, 2001. (Filed in Section X of the Official 2001-2002 Board Minutes.)

4. 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

The Chair exercised his prerogative to change the order of the agenda and moved LBL ESD Resolution Services prior to Board Policy AC - Nondiscrimination--Revision--Second Reading. The item numbering in these minutes reflects the change.

A. LBL ESD RESOLUTION SERVICES

Motion #30: It was moved by Director Johnson, seconded by Director Baldwin, to not approve the LBL ESD Resolution services for the 2002-2003 school year. (Filed in Section III of the Official 2001-2002 Board Minutes.)

Superintendent Ford stated that no district receives less value to cost of the ESD resources than Corvallis; it is not tolerable. As part of the motion he is requesting the Board authorize him to write a letter to the ESD registering his displeasure. Superintendent Ford stated if the Resolution is not passed, nothing happens to alter the usual course of business with the ESD.

The motion was voted on with all members approving with the exception of Director Demarest who abstained. Upon further clarification, Director Demarest voted in favor of the motion to not approve the Resolution so it became a unanimous decision of the Board.

B. BOARD POLICY AC - NONDISCRIMINATION--REVISION--SECOND READING

Chair TenPas drew the Board's attention to the proposed Policy AC – Nondiscrimination and entertained a motion.

Motion #31: It was moved by Director Baldwin, seconded by Director Demarest, to approve Policy AC – Nondiscrimination as revised.

Board members entered into a discussion with these comments being expressed:

- The policy does not ban any groups from using district facilities unless it bans all groups.
- Allowing a group to pay a lesser fee for using facilities equals endorsement. If a group was unable to pay the fee, perhaps the district could consider lending its name to the activity.
- “Endorsement” is too ambiguous a word.
- The district is not here to say others must agree with our principles. Pandora's Box would be opened if the revision were approved.
- The standard must be applied equally and fairly without regard to the group's message. It's the price paid for the first amendment, the tolerance of the intolerant.

- It is highly appropriate that a public institution set standards for their facilities use.
- The intent behind the last sentence of first paragraph is to show the climate to be purported in the district; it is not about banning.
- The discussion is not about banning but disadvantaging. That is as much of a problem because some groups will be damaged because they don't believe in our policies. We'll get into so many issues about private views.
- It becomes exclusive rather than inclusive. It restricts youth activities. If you don't agree, you're discriminated against.
- The policy would permit dissemination of flyers at school.

Director TenPas called for the vote. Directors Demarest, Baldwin, Johnson, and Gelser voted in favor of the motion; Chair TenPas, and Directors Gable and Miller voted in opposition.

The motion carried.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Chair TenPas adjourned the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Bill TenPas, Chair

James P. Ford, Superintendent

Prepared by: Jolene Shute and Julie Catala
(super/julie/board/minutes/2002/february 11 board meeting.doc)