

**THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
November 17, 2021**

Three Rivers School District Board of Directors met for a regular session on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at Hidden Valley High School, 651 Murphy Creek Road, Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon.

PRESENT

Jennifer Johnstun, Board Chair
Paul Kelly, Board Vice Chair
Rich Halsted, Board Member
Danny York, Board Member

Dave Valenzuela, Superintendent
Casey Alderson, Deputy Superintendent
Stephanie Allen-Hart, Director
Jessica Durrant, Director
Rob Saunders, Director

ABSENT

Jenn Searle, Board Member

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Johnstun called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. She shared how great it was to see everyone in person and announced that school board meetings are meetings held in public and they are all now video recorded and available on the district website. However, this is not a meeting with the public to engage back and forth. We provide the public an opportunity to provide testimony at these meetings – just complete and submit the yellow card. Typically, once we hear testimony the Board doesn't respond back. The Board is here to listen to feedback, but not typically an exchange. If there are questions you can email the board members. The contact information is on the Board page of the District website.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Member Kelly made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Member Halsted seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously (4-0, Member Searle absent).

SAY SOMETHING POSITIVE

Member Kelly congratulated both soccer teams from Hidden Valley it was great to see our district represented again in the state finals. The girls' soccer team at North Valley HS was #1 in 4A All Academic and #2 overall in the state (all schools). He also had the privilege to be a part of a meeting of board chairs and vice-chairs with the Southern Oregon school boards. These boards are in agreement with the issues we are facing and working closely together on accomplishing things such as local control to school boards. Member Halsted gave a shout out to Hidden Valley fall sports. Cross country and football had an awesome year. He is wearing his New Bridge High School shirt and shared that New Bridge is our Oregon Youth Authority school that falls under Three Rivers SD. He highly recommended a tour and shared that the number of graduates is extremely impressive how much that has increased over the last four years. Board Chair Johnstun shared that we have quite a few inductees into the National Honor Society tonight at North Valley High School. She's proud of those students that have continued to be excellent in their academics, even with all of the challenges that have been presented to them. Member York announced that this is his last board meeting as member of the TRSD board. He has spent almost eight years and it has been a very positive thing what they have been able to accomplish as a board. He is staying local, but will be moving out of his zone which will create a vacancy. He truly loves this district and look forward to seeing several people sign up for the honor of serving. Director Allen-Hart thanked Danny for his service to the board. She also acknowledged our special education assistants. They have been fairly short-staffed for a while and working so hard in some of the most challenging situations. Director Durrant gave a shout out to a group of 27 individuals who are student centered, courageous, focused and they are an amazing team. She is privileged to work alongside them and they are our principals and assistant principals – a lot of them are here tonight. It is a TRSD thing, and they make us stronger – the work they do is amazing! Deputy Superintendent Alderson added to the athletics that six of our teams in district were recognized as 'All Academic'. North Valley football was #2 in

the 4A, North Valley volleyball was #2 out of 4A, Hidden Valley boys soccer was #2 at the 4A level, Hidden Valley girls soccer at #10. He also shared that the district has been short-staffed for the last couple of years so our staff have gone above and beyond in a lot of different areas in making sure the needs of our students have been met. Director Saunders gave a shout out to the Tech department. They have a fantastic team that has gone through some very challenging tech-type situations over the past year and a-half. They have persevered and got creative, innovative and are a great team consisting of Pete DeVaglio, Mark Austin, Ellen Paul, DeeDee McLean, Bob Giordano and Scott Midkiff. Superintendent Valenzuela recognized staff that stepped up and filled in the gaps when we haven't had a sub – which is often. He hears story after story from administrators about how their staff is super resilient – they are exhausted, but they are still stepping up. It's a heroic effort! He then recognized Member York for his eight years of service on the TRSD Board. He keeps this board focused on the right things and advocates for kids, advocates for the district and his heart is always in the right place. We will miss this colleague. He then talked about the live parent/teacher conferences coming up and other things going on to bring normalcy back.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- *Addressing things the Board is getting questions about*
 - *CRT (Critical Race Theory)* – is not a curriculum, is not a state standard in Oregon, not a standard in any discipline and CRT is not taught at any subject or topic in Three Rivers School District.
 - *ESSER Funds* (where did \$27 million go) – The \$27 million figure represents several different things. ESSER I and II were both discussed in our Budget Committee meeting back in April. It was discussed where those funds are going and published in the budget. The ESSER III report has been publicly displayed on our website since the beginning of October when we submitted it to the state. The district provided opportunities for public input on how to spend that money. Part of that \$27m is also ESSER for YCEP, the correctional high school. That money is not spent in Three Rivers, but spent for the juvenile detention program. Some of that money also goes to charter schools and some other funding areas. When we went to distance learning we bought Chromebooks and devices for every student in the district, we got hotspots out to families and started Three Rivers virtual online school for people that weren't comfortable with coming back to in-person learning. Our district was contacted by the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) who wants to do an article on how we are spending our money because they are hearing it's appropriately spent and wisely used. He's proud of the team that engaged with staff and our community and how we are leveraging those dollars to make sure that our doors stay open.
 - *The idea that we are vaccinating students in our schools* – We are not vaccinating students against COVID19 in our schools or school-based health centers. We are not, nor do we intend to vaccinate students against COVID19 or mandate the vaccination for students. The TRSD Board would never make that mandate. TRSD currently does not mandate any COVID related requirements. We have no COVID related events in our schools – we don't do mass testing or mass vaccinating – we teach and learn.
 - Mandates that we are operating under right now are law and have been challenged multiple times in court to no avail. He knows of only one school district in the state of Oregon out of 197 that have intentionally failed to adhere to the COVID mandates and they were fined over \$11,000 as a start – they can continue to get fined or comply with the mandate. He reminded the Board Members that they took an oath as board members and as part of those oaths included upholding the Oregon state laws – not selecting which ones they would follow. The reality is that the majority of students and parents are stoked the job everyone is doing to keep the doors open. They hate wearing masks – but love coming to school. That's the important piece to take away from all of this.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items in the consent agenda will be approved by a single motion unless a member of the Board or the Superintendent requests that an item or items be removed and voted upon separately.

- Routine Personnel Items – November 2021
- Athletic Coaches – November 2021
- Out of State Travel Requests (3)
- Board Policy – Second Reading

- GCBDA/GDBDA – *Family Medical Leave*
- Member Halsted made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Member York seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Board Chair Johnstun announced that we would allow two minutes for each speaker to the large number of people requesting to address the Board.

- DD Bents/parent – Requested consistent contact method (app) for coaches to contact student athletes and allows the parent to be in the loop as well.
- Gina Yunker/parent – Addressed superintendent response to the parent survey and parent communication.
- Judy Ahrens – Putting the constitution above the state law and what medical doctors say about mandated masks.
- Rick Nelson – Commented on the recent protest at Grants Pass High School and plan to stop this happening at TRSD? Shared excerpts from the 53-page document from OHA about how to teach sexuality in the schools – feels it is abuse.
- Penni Wicks – Addressed the mandate and how it affected staff at TRSD – she has lost her job of 18 years, the TRSD complaint procedure and the letter to the governor was a terrible disappointment.
- Matt Morsa – In light of the incident at Grants Pass HS, he shared a story from when he was 35 years old, surfing and saved someone’s life – race doesn’t matter. Feels kids are being manipulated by outside organizations.
- Tamara Murphy – Making money on cell phones and cell towers – misinformation.
- Krista Schmidt – Asked questions regarding the Every Student policy, masks and vaccine exemptions.
- Charles Wilson/American Legion Post 28 – Presented information regarding a high school scholarship contest.

REPORTS – NO ACTION

- **ODOT Safe Routes to Schools – Cave Junction**
 - Director Saunders introduced Jill Roszel who presented a slide deck providing an update regarding the Safe Routes to Schools program being planned near the Lorna Byrne MS and Illinois Valley HS areas. The program is intended to support students and families and getting to school safely. It will also recommend opportunities for education and engagement to promote walking and biking to school.
- **Board Goals 2021-2022**
 - Superintendent Valenzuela revisited the board goals that were adopted at the work session.
 - Grad rates – which has evolved to *life ready knowledge and skills for students on July 1st after graduation*.
 - 85% by 2023 and 90% by 2025.
 - Will continue to establish metrics around CTE and extra-curricular involvement of high school students; career-ready; and conditions set for high school success (3rd, 5th and 8th grade level).
 - Culture of Care
 - To be measured through trainings and professional developments, EDI committee, building level plans. Indicators on students well-being taken from the Student Wellness Survey and Board/Student feedback surveys.
 - High Quality 3 C’s
 - Families and communities are engaged in school. Parent/teacher conference attendance; increased parental support outside of school; health of our PTA, booster clubs and Site Councils; TRSD’s students engaged in the community outside of school; stakeholder advisory groups.

- **ESSER II Report**
 - Director Durrant reported on ESSER (Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief) III funding. She presented a slide deck that covered:
 - Background
 - Allocations
 - Year one plan
 - Conclusion
 - The budget decisions were made with input from students, families, staff and the community through various community engagement activities, events, surveys, and meetings over the last several years.
 - At least 20% of allocated funds must be spent on addressing “unfinished learning”.
 - The ESSER III allocation for TRSD was \$16,060,506. Each of our charter schools have their own allocations based on their ADMw.
 - The plan will continually be updated and is available in English and Spanish on the district website.

- **Board Policies – First Reading**
 - GCL – *Staff Development*
 - GCL-AR – *Staff Development-Licensed* (delete current and adopt new version)
 - GCN/GDN – *Evaluation of Staff*
 - GCN-AR – *Core Teaching Standards* – DELETE
 - Deputy Superintendent Alderson presented some Human Resource policies that had some minor revisions that align with OSBA and the district’s current evaluation system and practices.

- **Board Policies – First Reading**
 - ECACB – *Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) a.k.a. Drone*
 - IIBGA – *Electronic Communications System*
 - IIBGA-AR – *Electronic Communications System*
 - Director Saunders presented an updated drone policy and the policy and AR for the district’s Electronic Communications System. He emphasized that the updated policy outlines how staff access sensitive information with their personal device.

ACTION ITEMS

- **Planned Course Statements**
 - Music in World Cultures
 - Introduction to Health Careers
 - Deputy Superintendent Alderson shared with our increased teaching capacity this year with new staff we are able to offer more classes and different classes. We are hoping to offer the music course at all three high schools. The Intro to Health Careers will be offered at North Valley HS.
 - Member Kelly made a motion to approve the planned course statements. Member York seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

- **Offer to Purchase Selma Property**
 - Superintendent Valenzuela requested the board take action to authorize the superintendent to negotiate the sale of Selma Elementary school property. In September 2021 the Board declared Selma surplus property and obsolete. The building is far beyond failing and a liability for the district in terms of repair and maintenance. The district has received an offer from a local Cave Junction resident in the amount of \$350,000.
 - Member Kelly made a motion to authorize Dave Valenzuela to negotiate the \$350,000 sale price for the Selma School property. Member York seconded the motion. There was some discussion by the board. Board Chair Johnstun called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

- **OSBA Election – Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) Position**
 - Board Chair Johnstun shared that there are two candidates listed for the position: Sara Crawford and Clement Ray Williams.
 - Member Halsted was familiar with Mr. Williams his knowledge of rural issues. He then made a motion to select Ray Williams. Mr. York seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Suggested Future Agenda Items:

- Member Johnstun thanked Member York for his eight years of service to the Board. He served during some challenging times and held a three-year term as Board Chair.
- Member Kelly shared that the regional chairs and board chairs are meeting again. They are all working on trying to get local control back to school districts. He will keep the board updated.
- Member York asked about the food service report. Things are looking positive at this time. There are some promotional initiatives coming up.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

- Board Regular Session – Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. – North Valley High School Commons

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Johnstun adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

DRAFT