

THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT
8550 NEW HOPE ROAD
GRANTS PASS, OR 97527

BOARD MEETING

REGULAR SESSION

December 15, 2008

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Three Rivers School Board of Directors met for a regular session, Monday, December 15, 2008 at Fleming Middle School, 6001 Monument Dr., Grants Pass, Oregon, Josephine County, Oregon at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Dave Strahan, Chairperson of the Board, Zone IV
Leslie Meier, Vice-Chairperson of the Board, Zone III
Robert Litak, Member of the Board, Zone I
Jim Weaver Member of the Board, Zone II
Phil Stephens, Member of the Board, Zone V
Dan Huber-Kantola, Superintendent-Clerk
Peter Maluk, Director of Elementary Education
Debbie Breckner, Director of Human Resources
Doug Ely, Director of Student Services
John George, Director of Secondary Education

PRESENT

ABSENT

Also Present: Michael Morris/Food Service Manager, Lloyd Russell/
Maintenance Director, Kristen Robbins/HR Administrative
Assistant, Rick Jump/DO Support Services, Linda Hugle/NVHS
Principal, Greg Tardieu/Fleming Principal, Heather Yount/
Fleming Vice-Principal, Rob Saunders, HVHS Teacher, David
Fuller/Wolf Creek Principal, Elly Lengwin, Ron Lengwin, Lisa
Cross/Accounting Manager,

ALSO PRESENT

Chairperson Strahan called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

CALL TO ORDER

Due to inclement weather the Fleming Middle School band was unable to perform the Star Spangled Banner as planned. Principal Greg Tardieu played a DVD recording of a student singing the Star Spangled Banner.

Fleming Principal Tardieu played a five minute video recognizing the accomplishments of Fleming. He then announced Fleming as being recognized by the Oregon Department of Education as a 2009 Champion School.

Mr. Tardieu and Vice-Principal Heather Yount handed out plaques recognizing the Fleming teachers for the outstanding job they have done which led to Fleming being recognized as an 'Exceptional' school by the state two years in a row. They also recognized former principal John George.

FLEMING TEACHER
RECOGNITION

Debbie Breckner, Human Resources Director, recognized Chris Jelderks, Rob Saunders, Tammy Griffis, Rob Money and Greg Patch for a \$9,000 grant awarded to the Technology Advisory Committee by Qwest. The grant will be used to outfit six classrooms in the district to be the model of where we would someday like all of our classrooms to be in terms of technology.

TECH QWEST GRANT
AWARDED

Director Breckner then referred to a report from Beecher Carlson which benchmarked sixteen Oregon school districts. Director Breckner pointed out that on the average, \$4.62 is spent on liability claims per student enrolled. Three Rivers is below average

WOKERS' COMPENSA-
TION INSURANCE

BEECHER CARLSON	at \$2.19 per enrolled student. Five years ago the district was paying \$565,000 per year for Workers' Compensation insurance. The conclusion of the report states that Three Rivers School District has the best trend of all school districts in the study. Director Breckner introduced Mike Mastrone from Beecher Carlson to share additional information. Mr. Mastrone stated that five years ago we were at threat of paying \$750,00 for insurance coverage. He then shared that in all of his 22 years experience, he "has never seen a culture change so quickly with such a great financial impact", and congratulated the district.
WORKERS' COMPENSATION OVERSIGHT TEAM RECOGNIZED	Director Breckner then recognized the members of the Workers Compensation Oversight Committee: Dave Bracken, Environmental Compliance; Jim Bunge, Custodial Manager; Michael Morris, Food Service Manager; and Kristin Robbins who manages claims. Marilyn Olsen was also recognized for her participation while on the committee.
DISTRICT PRESENTED \$295,000 CHECK	<p>A retro return in the amount of \$295,042.18 was presented to the district.</p> <p>Board Chair Dave Strahan then recognized Director Breckner for her outstanding effort in this area.</p> <p>Member Stephens commented and commended the group for a great job.</p>
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT	<p>Superintendent Huber-Kantola recognized Fleming as being named a 'Champion School' and there are only nineteen schools in the state recognized as such. The State Superintendent will be making a visit to the school along with other recognition.</p> <p>Superintendent Huber-Kantola commented on the reduction in energy consumption by the district. This year the district has reduced it's energy consumption by 9.3% over 200,000 kwh.</p> <p>Superintendent Huber-Kantola then shared information regarding the retreat that was held the previous week. Various staff members participated from all levels within the district. The group mapped out milestones for students to go on to college. More information will be shared later.</p>
COMMUNITY COMMENTS	Board Chair Strahan opened up the meeting for community comments, and there were none.
POLICIES—SECOND READING	<p>Peter Maluk, Director of Elementary Education, presented the following policies for the second reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EEA—Student Transportation Services • EEAC—School Bus Safety Program • EEACC-AR—Discipline Procedures for District Approved Transportation
EEA	Director Maluk stated that he has shared these policies with the principals and asked for their input. Member Litak asked for clarification regarding expulsion or suspension.
EEAC	Director Maluk confirmed that this is from riding the bus, unless of course the action was so severe it warranted further action that led to suspension or expulsion from school.
EEACC-AR	<p>Member Meier asked about a statement in one of the policies which does not allow musical instruments on the buses. Director Maluk stated that principals have latitude, and there is flexibility. A change will be made in the policy to allow instruments at the discretion of principal provided there is room on the bus.</p> <p>Member Weaver stressed the importance of the drivers being given the revised policies,</p>

and the importance of being flexible in given situations. Director Maluk informed the Board that the drivers are met with annually. He will use some of the issues discussed tonight as 'for instances'.

TRANSPORTATION
POLICIES—

Member Stephens moved to approve the motion with the modification discussed. Member Weaver seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED

Boar Chair Strahan reported that the Wolf Creek Study Team hearing that was on the agenda for tonight cannot take place as the members of the Study Team were unable to make it due to weather. Director Breckner reported that the committee has met three times. She commented on what a great group of people the members of the team are, especially given the topic being discussed. The first meeting a bunch of questions were asked, which required getting answers to bring back to the committee. The second meeting provided the requested information which generated another list of questions. Some of the questions the committee will be asking the Board include: What number (dollar figure) does the community need to meet to save their school? The number given to them by the Superintendent was approximately \$235,000. The committee has been investigating the possibility of a charter school; They question why Wolf Creek is being discussed for closure and not Williams or Applegate? If the Charter school option is pursued, a March application deadline would need to be met, then allow another year for planning. They are also not permitted to apply for the Charter school until a letter of closure is received from the district. The committee's first option is to keep the school open, with the next choice being a Charter school. The committee is meeting again on January 6th and will prepare to address the Board at the January 12th Board meeting.

WOLF CREEK UPDATE

Member Stephens inquired as to how many potential home-schoolers are in that area. Director Breckner reported that only five have been identified in the area.

Member Litak asked that if the people are interested in a Charter school is there an option for a letter stating closure? Director Breckner stated they are exploring options for a letter.

Director Breckner provided an eSIS update. She stated that Hunter is a day or two away from having the fiber installed in the North Valley and Illinois Valley areas. The current delay is due to permitting issues with the FCC, ODOT and Josephine County. She has been provided a list of eSIS concerns by the Association and will be matching them up with work orders to ensure the issues are taken care of. The Tech department will be upgrading (doubling from 512 k to 1 GB) the RAM in all computers that utilize eSIS which should also speed things up. The large majority of errors are network speed and user error issues.

ESIS UPDATE

Superintendent Huber-Kantola presented an informational update on the new trimester system. The first handout presented a list of items that he believes should be compared to evaluate the success of the move to the trimester. This included things such as: grades, student attendance, various test/assessment scores, survey results and graduation rates. The survey has gone out to the teachers and will be going out to the parents and students after the winter break. The surveys will be conducted again at the end of the second and third trimesters. The next handout contained high school grades trimester comparison which reflected: A's = 8.4% increase, B's = 3.0% increase, C's = 1.5% decrease, D's = 2.9% decrease and F's = 3.2% decrease. Member Weaver expressed concern that there wasn't enough previous year's data being utilized, two years was not enough. Superintendent will go back four years to see if there is a significant difference in the data.

TRIMESTER UPDATE

TRIMESTER UPDATE—
CONTINUED

Member Meier stated how pleased she was that there were surveys going out at all levels (teachers, parents and students).

Superintendent Huber-Kantola presented the next handout which contained school attendance percentages. It showed that the attendance percentage was pretty much the same as last year. The last handout reflected the average teacher class load. The major significant difference was in the IV area which went from an average teacher load in 07/08 of 150 students to 96 students in 80/09. Director Breckner will be looking at this more closely over winter break. Member Meier would like to see an analysis of the class sizes as she has heard there is an issue in this area. Member Breckner stated that the Trimester Committee began working on this last week, and she is working on finalizing the data.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola was excited to share that the Trimester Implementation Committee has begun to look at solutions to issues that are being expressed. One example was in regards to uninterrupted prep time, and some options to make it work better.

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE—
UPDATE

Director John George reported on the progress of the District Athletic Committee. He is in the process of finding members to serve on the committee. Member Stephens will possibly be serving as the Board liaison.

BUDGET CALENDAR
APPROVED

Superintendent Huber-Kantola presented the budget calendar for this year. He outlined the calendar and the budget committee process. There is no sense in starting the process before March 31st as that is when we expect the first estimate from the state for school funding. (Note: error made on document that the second 'April 11' needs to be changed to 'May 11'). Member Weaver moved to approve the budget calendar. Member Meier seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

OSEA PAYROLL
DEDUCTION AUTHORI-
ZATION APPROVED

A payroll deduction authorization presented for approval by the OSEA. The funds collected go towards providing high school scholarships. Member Meier moved to approve. Member Litak seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

403(B) PLAN

Lisa Cross, Accounting Manager, presented the new 403(b) plan which is necessary due to new IRS regulations effective 1/1/2009. She stated that over the last three to four weeks we have had quite a shake up with our vendors, losing some of them. The district now has the liability to tract the contributions. We have a third-party administrator, CPI, to help us out. There is a small fee which will be absorbed by the district, it will not be passed on to the employees at this time. Member Weaver asked when an employee is 100% vested? Director Breckner stated that due to the fact that there is no employee contribution, vesting does not apply.

APPROVED
UNANIMOUSLY

Member Weaver made a motion to approve. Member Litak seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

INVESTMENT SECURITY

Ms. Cross then presented information regarding the stability of district funds held in financial institutions. She felt it was important that the Board be aware of the risks. The state has taken steps to reduce the risks, but nothing is 100% secure.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Superintendent Huber-Kantola presented the financial report which indicates that even though we have taken a \$600,000 cut from the state, the ending fund balance of \$2.45 million. The contingency fund expenditures include \$120,000 to support classrooms

and \$37,000 to support the administration of Wolf Creek. The general contingency fund amount was \$500,000. Member Litak pointed out that we are at a one million dollar deficit for this year. Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated that with the current projection from the state for next year, we will need to make drastic reductions to next year's budget to cut between one and possibly as much as \$2.5 million dollars. Member Litak asked if we were working on contingency plans for this year in case we get another cut from the state? Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated that due to the fact that so much of our money is tied up in staff, we would need to reduce staff or reduce school days. No action can be taken until we know for a fact that we are getting another cut. The three options that we would have at that time would be: absorb it and start next year with a lower ending fund balance; reduce staff; or approach the union about reducing some days.

FINANCIAL REPORT—
CONTINUED

Member Stephens commented on the fact that there were not reporters present tonight and he would like to see a press release on the money that we are getting back from the Workers' Compensation. He would like the community to see what the staff is giving back to the district.

POSITIVE PRESS

Member Litak would like to see something on the web site regarding all of the positive things presented tonight which also included the Champion school and Qwest grant.

Maintenance Director Lloyd Russell also commented on large amount of savings due to the decrease in energy consumption. Increases and decreases at various schools were discussed. Next month he will be presenting the fuel oil savings.

MAINTENANCE
REPORT

Food Service Manager Michael Morris stated he had nothing to add to his written report. Member Litak inquired as to how the trial free lunch program was going at Illinois Valley High School. Mr. Morris stated he estimates about 76% participation. He will have a true number Friday. He will evaluate whether or not the program will work at that time. Modifications are being made to accommodate the larger number of students that are being served to help increase the time in which students move through the lines.

FOOD SERVICE
REPORT

Member Meier asked that the out-of-state travel request by Julie Bickle be pulled from the consent agenda and voted on separately.

Member Weaver made a motion to approve the amended consent agenda. Member Meier seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA
APPROVED
UNANIMOUSLY

Member Litak commented that Lloyd's name was left out of the minutes.

Member Meier moved to approve the out-of-state travel request from Ms. Bickle without the district paying for the substitute. She will need to pay for the substitute herself. Member Weaver seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

ADJOURNED

Dave Strahan
Chairperson of the Board
THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dan Huber-Kantola
Superintendent-Clerk
THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT