

Three Rivers School Board of Directors met for a special session, Monday, February 11, 2013 at Manzanita Elementary, 310 San Francisco, Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Ron Lengwin, Chairperson of the Board, Zone V
Bob Litak, Member of the Board, Zone I PRESENT
Leslie Meier, Member of the Board, Zone III
Ron Crume, Member of the Board, Zone IV
Dan Huber-Kantola, Superintendent-Clerk
Stephanie Allen, Director of Student Services
Debbie Breckner, Director of Human Resources
Doug Ely, Director of High School Education, Maintenance and Athletics

Absent: Dave Valenzuela, Director of K-8 Education, Technology and Transportation ABSENT

Also Present: Linsay Cathey/Dailey Courier, Van Grainger, Dave Marks, Kim DeForest, Cindy Drought/OSEA Field Rep, Steve Jones, Devon Dorn, Bonnie Cameron, Kevin Marr, Danny York and Shelly Quick/Recording Secretary. ALSO PRESENT

Board Chair Ron Lengwin called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. CALL TO ORDER

Superintendent Huber-Kantola introduced the two candidates, Kevin Marr and Danny York. He then outlined the protocol for the process:

- The candidates would be interviewed one at a time. The candidate not being interviewed would be removed so that their answers would not be overheard by the other candidate. INTERVIEW ZONE II BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES
- The Board will ask each candidate the same questions.
- Reminded the patrons present that the meeting is an interview by the Board in public—it is not an interview that the public participates in.
- Ultimately it will be the Board only that votes.
- After the interviews the Board has the opportunity for discussion before making a motion to nominate an individual and vote.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola thanked both applicants for their willingness to serve on the Board during these times.

The Board asked a series of prepared questions to Kevin Marr—then Danny York.

Member Meier expressed her appreciation to both applicants for applying to be on the Board. Ms. Meier then made a motion to nominate Kevin Marr for the interim zone two board position. The position is for about four months of service and there is a big learning curve for being on the board. In terms of someone being able to jump in and be of help in these four months, Mr. Marr has the background and the service on the Budget and Rightsizing Committees which brings experience. She does not know who would be a better board member in the long-term, because the experience will eventually come by serving on the board. Whoever is elected in May will ultimately get experience by serving. In terms of filling the remainder of this four months it

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seems that it would be most useful to have someone that already has an understanding and involvement with the district.

Member Crume asked both candidates if they were willing to run in the May election? Both candidates responded that they were.

Member Litak seconded the motion, then added that the district is fortunate to have two very good candidates. Mr. Marr certainly has the experience and background, is familiar with the district, has served on the Budget Committee for quite a while, and been involved in a number of other ways. He has an outstanding background in service to other boards and leadership positions. Mr. Marr has an ideal application for a school board. He would be able to step right in due to his sophisticated level of understanding of relationships and the role of the school board. He emphasized again, that there is a very steep learning curve.

Board Chair Lengwin called for a vote and the motion failed 2-2 (Lengwin and Crume opposing).

Member Crume made a motion to appoint Danny York to the interim zone two board position. Mr. Crume stated that he knew Mr. Marr a bit from attending board meetings and knows Mr. York from seeing him around the community. Has never really had much interaction with either of them. He knows of Mr. York's business and of his involvement with the kids and feels that he has a good chance of getting elected if he runs in the May election. Mr. Crume would like to give him a chance to sit on the board for the next four months.

Board Chair Lengwin seconded the motion then called for a vote. The motion failed 2-2 (Meier and Litak opposing).

Member Meier stated she felt like she was voting against Mr. York, which was not the case. She appreciates him stepping forward and his willingness to serve.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola stated that it takes three members (a quorum) in order to pass anything at the board level—so encouraged them to continue to have discussion, other motions—but if it ends up without three for any one candidate then the board would remain as a four-person board until the election takes place in May.

Member Meier asked if there was a reason that Mr. Marr could not be supported? Mr. Crume responded that he felt Mr. Marr had a problem with him and he will not voluntarily sit on the board with that kind of hostility in a room.

Board Chair Lengwin stated that being on this board before, and going through some of that with a previous board member is very distracting. It takes away from trying to make decisions and “tip-toe through the tulips”. It is nothing against either candidate.

Member Crume then stated that we can either give Mr. York a chance to sit on the board before the election—or the board will run with four of them. He would be good with either one.

Member Meier explained that she cannot support somebody with less experience, and somebody she feels the remainder of this term they would be filling would just be about learning, because we don't know who will be elected. She encouraged both candidates to run.

Member Crume encouraged the board members to give Mr. York a try.

Member Litak then encouraged the board to give Mr. Marr a try as he is clearly the most qualified candidate. He commented that just because Mr. Crume seems to have a personal problem with Mr. Marr, he is not willing to give him a try to see if they can work together.

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Member Meier commented that it bothers her that there are two candidates that have stepped forward to serve and the board would choose to move forward without filling the position. On the other hand, it is very difficult for her to vote for the person that she does not feel is as qualified to fill in and help the board at this time. In good conscience, she cannot change her vote.

Member Litak added that he also feels that he needs to support the candidate that is most qualified, which is Mr. Marr.

Members Crume and Lengwin were not willing to change their votes as well.

ADJOURN

Board Chair Lengwin adjourned the special session at 6:45 PM and stated they would return at 7:00 PM for the regular board meeting.

Ron Lengwin
Chairperson of the Board

Dan Huber-Kantola
Superintendent-Clerk