

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

Three Rivers School Board of Directors met for a regular session, Monday, October 20, 2008 at Wolf Creek Elementary, 100 Ruth Avenue, Wolf Creek, Oregon, Josephine County, Oregon at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Dave Strahan, Chairperson of the Board, Zone IV
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
John George, Director of Secondary Education
Debbie Breckner, Director of Human Resources
Doug Ely, Director of Student Services

PRESENT

ABSENT: Leslie Meier, Vice-Chairperson of the Board, Zone III

ABSENT

Also Present: Jason Boeing, Sara Baker, Ladd Abbott, Lori Purves, Joe Andrews, Margaret Quist, Marcy Small, Kelli Cowie, George Withers, Jane Withers, Steve Tetz, John Jensen, Cathy Robinson, Stephanie Allen/Principal, Applegate, Gabe Maranov, Jim Stublefield, Jason Boucher, Jennifer Boucher, Joe Boucher, Ivy Goehring, Tie Jackabowicz, Jackie Gray, MaryRae Anderson, Diane Carlton, Lana Miller, Sarah Svendsen, T. Mike Anderson, Richelle Ilman, Vetta Steel, Bruce Steel, David Fuller/Principal, Wolf Creek, Jessica Durrant/Principal, Manzanita, Tasha Kahl, Ryan Kahl, Christina Rich, Tyler Rich, Tiana Rich, Eric Rich, Janice Ventrella, Kriya Morgan, Michael Morgan, Auzlen Morgan, Donna Kennedy, Danielle Drewek, Aaron Rymer, Dylan Small, Mark Small, Coral Small, Bella Small, Nicole Shults, Marisa Boucher, Shelby Steward, Mirandah Boyer, Korbin Gott, Natalie Boyer, Jalanena Boucher, Sonny Boucher, Cherrish Plummer, Apphia Zink, Gabe Maranov, Donna Davis, Kathryn Quist, William Quisrt, Bradlee Quist, Mitchell Quist, Michael Quist, Mathew Quist, Melanie Quist, Mason Quist, Kim Black, JoLisa Blossom, Shannon Ray, Gwendolyn Ray, Sharie Andrew, Eileen Zink, Lloyd Russell/ Maintenance director, Michael Morris/Food Service Manager, Patti Richter/Grants Pass Daily Courier, and Shelly Berry/Recording Secretary

ALSO PRESENT

Chairperson Strahan called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. and led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

Superintendent Dan Huber-Kantola reviewed the District goals. An update on the PBS goal included that all elementary and secondary schools sent teams to the Southern Oregon Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) conference in Ashland. They will

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

start developing a plan to improve where they are, or getting in place a PBS system for next year. In regards to another goal of processing information with students every ten minutes he stated that he has met with all the principals and have set that expectation so that it will be a factor in teacher observations. There is also a workshop coming up on November tenth for all teachers with a group called the Kagan's, whose focus is how to develop strategies with teachers for student's to process information.

ENROLLMENT

Superintendent Huber-Kantola reported that compared to last year enrollment at the elementary level has had a very small drop, middle school was about the same. Total enrollment for the district at this time is 5,277 in general enrollment (full time in the classrooms). Last June the enrollment was 5,226. Last October was reported as 5,407 but we believe that number was inaccurate due to Alternative Education being included.

SLIDE SHOW
PRESENTATION

Wolf Creek Elementary Technology Assistant Vetta Steel presented an eight minute slide show on the history of the school.

CERTIFICATES OF
APPRECIATION

Wolf Creek elementary principal David Fuller presented certificates of appreciation to numerous community members who participated in the weekend painting of the school.

RESOLUTION #03
APPROVED

Superintendent Huber-Kantola brought forward resolution 08/09 #03 to transfer funds from contingency to the general fund in the amount of \$33,354 to cover the cost of the administrator salary for Wolf Creek Elementary. Member Weaver moved to approve the resolution. Member Stephens seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #04
APPROVED

Superintendent Huber-Kantola brought forward resolution 08/09 #04 to allow Illinois Valley High School to transfer some of their own money into a different account to cover a \$3,500 matching grant for the ASPIRE program. Member Litak moved to approve the resolution. Member Weaver seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #05
APPROVED

Superintendent Huber-Kantola brought forward resolution 08/09 #05 to transfer \$2,000 to Hidden Valley High School to match a portion of the \$7,000 grant awarded to science teacher Wayne Brown from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust for a science lab. The funds will come from an account in the Superintendent's budget. Member Stephens moved to approve the resolution. Member Litak seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #06
APPROVED

John George, Director of Secondary Education, brought forward resolution 08/09 #06 to transfer \$2,000 to pay for the cost of a band teacher for Applegate school. Mr. George stated that Applegate is the only school without a band teacher. The PTO raised \$1,000. The \$2,000 will come from a curriculum account. Member Weaver moved to approve the resolution. Member Stephens seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICY KG-AR
REVISED

Superintendent Huber-Kantola presented a revision to policy KG-AR: *Facility Use Procedures* which will allow youth organizations (4-H, youth soccer, girl scouts, etc.) to use the school facilities at no charge during regular school hours. The current AR states a use fee of \$10/ hour with a two hour minimum. Summer time use will require a minimal charge due to custodial needs., etc. Member Weaver moved to approve the change. Member Stephens seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola acknowledged the large crowd in attendance and then explained the school closure policy, emphasizing that enacting the policy does not mean the school will be closed. Enacting the policy will start the process of forming a committee made up of staff and community members to look in to this matter.

SCHOOL CLOSURE
POLICY

Superintendent Huber-Kantola then reviewed the timeline. There would be several meetings at the school and the District office prior to any action being taken by the Board.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola covered the various aspects that lead to the discussion of potential closure of the school:

- Enrollment—there are currently 61 students at Wolf Creek elementary. Last June there were 76.
- The combining of Wolf Creek and Manzanita students at Manzanita elementary. He stated there was room at Manzanita to accommodate the students. He then reviewed the personnel issue, stating that even though there are positions that would be eliminated, those personnel would be absorbed through attrition and people would go to other buildings. The merger would cut 1.5 teaching positions.
- The reduction in cost to the district overall would be approximately \$235,000.
- There would be an increased cost to the district for transportation as a bus route would have to be added.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola then discussed the largest issue concerning the school which is facility costs. He outlined the various levels of concern, and the costs for these items such as the boiler, playground, painting, ADA code upgrade requirements, electrical, etc.

Board Chair Dave Strahan then opened the meeting to community comments.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Abbott has lived in the community for 35 years and had six children go through the school. He asked that whatever can be done to please keep the school open.

Margaret Quist stated her family represents the future. She and her five grown children just moved to the area. She has eight grand-children that will be attending Wolf Creek elementary. She would like the school here for her grandchildren.

Kimber, a fifth grader at Wolf Creek, likes the school because it is small and you get to know everybody. Her mom and dad went to the school and she wants it to stay open.

Catherine Robinson commented on the long history and community involvement.

Mike Henderson had four sons go through the school. He would like the whole community to be aware that this is happening.

Jackie Gray, former Office Manager, addressed the board on the list of facility costs. She stated they are currently looking in to upgrading the playground, replacing the exterior doors and possibly re-doing the gym floor over winter break. Also, hoping to re-paint the interior doors over winter break. She has spoken to community members and plan to work on the lower field during spring time.

A women commented how her son who came to Wolf Creek in the fourth grade, and is now an eighth grader has benefited from the small school atmosphere.

PUBLIC INPUT
CONTINUED

Vetta Steel who teaches computers expressed her main concern is that the students would not get the one-on-one attention that they get at Wolf Creek,

Matthew Quist, who just moved to the area, expressed concern in the possible 1-1/2 hour bus ride. He stated that people do not have the money to drive back and forth to school if there is a problem. He is also concerned that students from Wolf Creek might get picked on because of the type of clothes they are wearing.

A woman stated that the economy has not been taken in to consideration. This area has a small town atmosphere with affordable housing and great community involvement. The community jumped in and took care of the paint job and saved the district \$51,000.

Ilene had all of her kids go through school at Wolf Creek and is also the teen center director. She would like to know how come we are not talking to People in the 'Jump Off Joe' area to bus their kids to Wolf Creek. She then asked the Board if they are certain that the Wolf Creek students could all be sent to Manzanita with no increase in cost?

Superintendent Huber-Kantola responded to her question by explaining how costs would go up due to an increase in the number of teachers and aides, but the overall combined cost would decrease.

Athea went to school at Wolf Creek. She commented on what a great school it was and how scary it was to hear 'school closure'. She hopes that the community will come together and do what it takes to keep the school open.

A women spoke of the attendance issue. She stated that 85% of the kids will not get to the bus. Their parents do not have transportation and cannot take them to school. She stated that the attendance will get worse.

Michael Morgan has a daughter that attends Wolf Creek. He stated his concern that the Wolf Creek students will have to go over two mountain passes to get to Merlin and putting a child on the bus in the snow is scary.

Chair Strahan addressed his concern stating that we have a school closure policy. He explained that there are many areas in our District that deal with inclement weather.

A man spoke that recently moved here from California. He has four children here, one at Wolf Creek, the other three at Fleming and North Valley. He stated that they were previously home-schooled and that this is the first school they would leave their kids at.

ENACT SCHOOL
CLOSURE POLICY
APPROVED 4-0

Chair Strahan ended the public comment portion of the meeting. A motion to implement the School Closure Policy was made by Member Litak. Member Stephens seconded and the motion.

COMMITTEE

Superintendent Huber-Kantola explained the make-up of the committee which would include approximately seven community members and five staff members, which would include two Wolf Creek staff, the principal of Manzanita and a representative from the District Office.

Member Litak thanked the community for showing their support by attending the meeting. He explained the overall downward trend in enrollment and that funding has to be cut—somewhere. All things have to be considered and looked at. Member Litak then asked that the potential for loss of students be looked at.

Principal David Fuller asked to explain his position. He stated that he supports Wolf Creek school and hopes that it will remain open. He likes the idea of forming a committee to go through the process, which will enable a commitment from the Board, so the subject of a school closure will not continue to come up every year.

PRINCIPAL DAVID
FULLER

The motion to enact the School Closure Policy carried unanimously.

Superintendent Huber-Kantola brought forward the request by North Valley High School senior parents to change their graduation date from Tuesday, June 2nd to Monday, June 1st. Member Weaver moved to approve the change. Member Litak seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

NORTH VALLEY HIGH
SCHOOL GRAD DATE
CHANGE APPROVED

Superintendent Huber-Kantola brought forward a request from the Library organization to allow a payroll deduction for teachers and staff. He also requested that we make an exception to allow the payroll deduction without the minimum ten people required. Member Stephens made a motion to approve the payroll deduction. Member Weaver seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

LIBRARY PAYROLL
DEDUCTION
APPROVED

Education Directors Peter Maluk and John George presented the State Report Cards and AYP Data. The Directors pointed out that Fleming Middle School and Fruitdale Elementary were both recognized by the state as 'exceptional' schools.

STATE REPORT
CARDS AND AYP

Director George pointed out that writing is an area that we need to focus on. He stated he has contacted other districts and he is looking forward to putting together a team to address the issue of writing performance.

Member Litak asked about the low math scores at the high school level. Director George stated that they are waiting for the math core standards from the state and will be working with the principals at the school level.

Director Maluk state the AYP measures are established by the government under *No Child Left Behind*. He commented how well our schools do compared to the state.

Director George acknowledged the problem in the 'Students with Disabilities' sub-category as there were numerous 'Not Met' on AYP. We will be attending a training to specifically address issues in terms of students with disabilities and looking at growth opportunities.

Director George reported on the number of inter-district transfers. He has approved 85 requests to be released from our District and 64 to enter our District. The difference is mainly those students of employees that were grandfathered in, which will continue to phase out as the grandfathered students leave the system.

INTER-DISTRICT
TRANSFERS

Superintendent Huber-Kantola's financial report stated that it is too early to project an ending fund balance. He also reported that the transportation costs for the district may come in under budget.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Maintenance Director Lloyd Russell updated his written report stating that Phase I lighting is substantially completed and should be done by the end of the week. The pony boiler is on line and running at Ft. Vannoy. He anticipates big savings. The air handling unit at Ft. Vannoy is up and running, the building has consistent heat, and the staff is happy. Hidden Valley High School is also now on their pony boiler, Manzanita is to go on line Thursday.

MAINTENANCE
REPORT

Member Stephens inquired as to the progress on an e-mail regarding the high summertime temperatures in the classrooms at Hidden Valley High School. Superintendent Huber-Kantola explained that on 100 degree days, certain rooms will be hot in September and May.

FOOD SERVICE
REPORT

Food Service Manager Michael Morris distributed a pear sample to the Board members. This was an example of a product that is being purchased locally and offered to our students. He stated that they are looking in to possibly replacing styrofoam soon. Their department is making efforts to 'go green'.

CONSENT AGENDA
APPROVED

Member Weaver moved to approve the consent agenda. Member Stephens seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. A correction to the September minutes will be made that omitted a statement from Member Litak regarding the excise tax calendar.

ADJOURNED

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Dave Strahan, Chairperson of the Board
THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dan Huber-Kantola, Superintendent-Clerk
THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT